

MASTERS MESSAGE (January '18):

Hello Brothers.... Happy New Year!!! I hope you all had a great holiday and enjoyed time with family & friends. As we begin the new year I first want to thank all the Brother's that have paid their 2018 dues. It is most impressive how quickly many responded with many making an additional donation to the Lodge. Your generosity is most appreciated.

As we ended 2017, sadly we had to drop 12 Brothers for non-payment of dues for two years. If this is due to financial hardship, please let the Secretary know. There are provisions to assist such Brethren. However, for those that just forget and do not send in dues money, the Lodge still must pay the \$40 per capita to Grand Lodge each year until they are dropped. A delinquent Brother can easily be reinstated by contacting the Secretary and paying two years of back dues with the approval & vote of the Brethren.

If you have not paid your 2018 dues yet, please do so. Building maintenance, upkeep, taxes and expenses never seem to decrease, but continually rise, making it a challenge for us to "keep the lights on." **As always, donations to our Building Fund are greatly appreciated!! If within your means, an additional donation with your dues payment would be most helpful.**

Prior to the end of the year, several Brothers from our District visited the Masonic Care Community in Utica, NY. Brothers from our Lodge "passed the hat" at several meetings in November & December and we made a \$150 donation to the facility as well as donating 50 pair of new thick Army boot socks for the residents. Money was used to purchase Christmas presents for the residents. This was my first visit to the site and I was most impressed by the staff and the facility.

Our Trestle Board for January to June has been finalized and has been posted on our web page. Highlights for 2018 include a 2nd degree at West Point Lodge on 2/15 in conjunction with Hudson River Lodge and a 3rd degree on Saturday 5/5. The annual Orange-Rockland-Sullivan District Dinner Dance is set for Saturday 4/14 at the Mt. Fuji Restaurant in Suffern, NY (\$65 per person). Also, our Grand Lecturer's Convention is set at Naurashank Lodge on Thursday, 4/19 and finally Lodge elections are set for 5/17, following the Grand Lodge session.

Our Trustees still struggle with keeping reliable tenants in our three rental spaces. A concern too, is the state of our roof. Repairs are needed. Our Trustees are talking with several contractors and will decide on a course of action soon. In November we and several other building owners had hoped of obtaining a State Grant to assist in making building upgrades. However, the Mayor and Town Board voted not to pursue the grant. Thus, our Trustees may have to seek a loan to make necessary repairs. We'll keep you posted.

Finally, I wish to thank all the Brethren for their continued support and dedication. We continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday's and many Brothers gather on "off" Thursday's as well, for fellowship, education and camaraderie. So please stop by and join us.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
W.: Jack H. Moore / Worshipful Master