

## **MASTERS MESSAGE (May '18):**

Hello Brothers.... As I conclude my tenure as Worshipful Master I write my final Masters Message. We've just finished a "flurry of great Masonic activity" with more events upcoming.

On 3 May we presented Brother Mike Peters (our sitting Senior Warden) with the Distinguished Service Award from Grand Lodge for his extraordinary efforts and dedication to our great Fraternity and for his many years of outstanding work supporting our troops. He too, was subsequently appointed as the Chairman for the Military Outreach Committee for the Grand Lodge of New York. It was a great evening with me having the honor of presenting him with his DSA certificate, while W.: Ronald Buchholz, a previous DSA recipient and past Master of our Lodge presented him with his apron. The R.:W.: William Howell Jr., District Deputy Grand Master of the Orange - Rockland – Sullivan Masonic District presented Brother Peters with his name badge & pin, while Brother Peters' wife Lisa presented him with the DSA medal. In recognition of Lisa's unwavering support for her husband and West Point Lodge, the Brethren presented her with a bouquet of roses as a token of our gratitude.

Two days later on Saturday morning, 5 May we conducted a third degree for two of our brothers, Adrian DeLaRosa (a retired Army NCO) and Shadere Smith (an Army Reservist and NY Corrections Officer). A third Fellowcraft, Brother Robert Seals, a West Point Cadet, was unable to attend the degree due to required training at West Point. We'll plan on completing his 3<sup>rd</sup> degree in August or September when he returns from Army Airborne School and required summer training. Congratulations Brothers Adrian and Shadere!!

Following our Grand Lodge Convention on 7 & 8 May we congratulate and thank our Brother R.:W.: Nicholas J. Paolicelli who ended his two year tenure as our Junior Grand Warden for our Grand Lodge. His extraordinary efforts, leadership and dedication served as an inspiration and role model for us all. Thank you "Brother Nick" for your remarkable and tireless service to our great Fraternity.

We also voted and welcomed two dedicated & experienced Master Masons into West Point Lodge, W.: Rich Fredrickson and R.:W.: Joseph Passaretti. Two great additions to our Lodge... Welcome Brothers!!!

Upcoming events include a First Degree on 24 May for two West Point cadets and our Installation of Officers for our Lodge on 7 June that include Brother Mike Peters as our Worshipful Master, Billy Busse as our Senior Warden, Tom Horn as our Junior Warden and Dan Lewis and Ray Fanning as our Senior & Junior Deacons.... Congratulations to all!! And an excellent team to move our Lodge forward.

Sadly, on Saturday, 9 June we will be conducting a Masonic Funeral Service for one of our Past Masters, W:. John Woodruff who laid down his working tools and who's ashes will be buried in Cornwall, NY at the Willow Dell Cemetery.

Lastly, over the summer we will continue to meet informally on Thursday evenings allowing for brotherhood & camaraderie, as well as practice our ritual and continue our Lodge "clean up." Mark the date for our **August picnic, which is set for Sunday, 26 August** at the Round Pond camping area, beginning at noon, as we have done in years past.

Finally, as I conclude my second year as our Master, I want to thank all the Brothers for their outstanding support, advice and fun that we have had. Over the years I have met some Worshipful Masters that couldn't wait to turn over their gavel to the next Master. For them, it was a chore to "work in the quarries".... but for me, you my Brothers, have made it a fun and rewarding journey. It takes a team effort to keep the Lodge working and running smoothly and I truly appreciate all of you that stepped forward to volunteer and assist me. Thank you again for the honor and privilege to serve. I now look forward to supporting Brother Mike Peters as he takes control of the gavel and assumes his seat in the East.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  
W:. Jack H. Moore / Worshipful Master  
West Point Lodge #877