

Washington Wayfarer

Washington Lodge
Number Seventy
ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

Windsor Masonry in Action

Chartered 1825

153 BROAD STREET • P.O. Box 202 • WINDSOR • CONNECTICUT • 06095

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THE WASHINGTON WAYFARER



WASHINGTON LODGE NO. 70 A. F. AND A. M.
153 BROAD STREET P. O. BOX 202 WINDSOR, CONN. 06095



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From the Editor

Brethren,

Well, the first issue of the 'new look' Wayfarer seemed to be well received, so here we go with the second! We are certainly saving substantial amounts of money by distributing this in PDF format as opposed to electronically, with just a few paper copies going out, and some for the Lodge anteroom. I have had no negative feedback on this, so I assume that all the Brethren are happy with this new arrangement.

In the last issue, I pointed out that this is YOUR magazine/ communication forum. I pointed out also that contributions to it are not just confined to the WM and his line officers – you too can submit articles on anything of masonic relevance that is on your mind. Only one (and I thank you, WB Mark) non line officer has sent me anything for this issue. I challenge you to have more 'lay' brethren than that send me something for the Fall issue. It would be especially nice to receive something from newer or younger Brethren who have recently joined our great Fraternity. What are your thoughts now that you are a Mason? Is it all that you expected? Are you pleased that you took that first step towards masonic knowledge?

Enjoy the issue Brethren. ALL comments – either positive or *constructively* critical are most welcome.

Jon R. White
Editor

From the East

Happy Spring, Brothers!

It feels good to finally come out of what seemed like an eternal winter. But as the time passes by, so too passes our Masonic Year. Much has been done, and much remains to be done. This Spring will see the return of the Shad Derby Lobster Dinner on Friday, April 28. Proceeds will go towards our scholarship funds.

On Saturday, May 20, Washington Lodge 70 will participate in the annual Shad Derby. This daylong event will include breakfast at the lodge, a CTCHIP event on the Windsor town green, and a pulled pork booth also on the green. As this is essentially a three activities in one-day event, we will need all hands on deck to ensure a successful day!

Also in May, we will receive our own Worshipful Brothers Bob Gresham and Richard Inconvati as District Deputy and Associate Grand Marshal for district 6B on Friday, May 26. I hope you will come out and join us in honoring our Brothers as they continue their journeys in Masonry by serving the Grand Lodge.

The following morning of May 27, we will sponsor another Blood Drive. Expect a phone call from WB Ron Eleveld soliciting help for this event. I know this is Memorial Day weekend, but please consider giving two hours or so of your early Saturday!

Another major event that Washington Lodge been putting on for the last few years is the Blue Lobster Fest, now entering its 4th year. This now landmark event will take place on Saturday, August 12 from 12-8pm on the Windsor Town Green. Your \$25 ticket will get you a lobster dinner and a full day of local music and vendors. Tickets will be available for purchase from members of Washington Lodge, and at several local businesses. Please contact stevematthews@ctfreemasons.net with any questions.

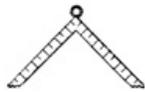
For a complete listing of all upcoming Lodge events, check the trestle board at the back of this publication, and also the calendar on our website, located at www.washingtonlodge70.org.

Steve Matthews
Worshipful Master 2017

From the South

Brethren,

We have raised some new Masons and raised a new kitchen. In true Washington Lodge form, I think we have kicked 2017 off with a bang! A famous author once said, "One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well." My brothers we must be the most intelligent, well loved and well rested men in Windsor because we have dined well!!



I'd again like to thank Matt Chmiel, Mark Fernandes and all the brothers who prepared the Washington's Birthday and Table Lodge meals. I'd also like to thank the stewards and brothers who have helped me in kitchen.

We call it labor or work, but I enjoy the time spent cooking and cleaning in the kitchen with my fellow brothers. I have become better acquainted with some of you over the past 3 months than I did in the previous 5 years. I feel it is when we come together outside of the lodge meetings to cook, clean, paint, rehearse, deliver poinsettias and pull off all our other amazing events that we are truly a brotherhood! I encourage all of you participate as much as you can.

Finally, the year is far from over and we still have much to do. There are several degree meals and the Stewards Cookout coming up before the summer break. There are also all the Shad Derby events.

Please let me know you are interested in helping out.

Joseph Difraia
Junior Warden

From The Senior Deacon

Greetings Brethren,

Welcome to the New World Order. The Anti-Masonic Party, which gained some notoriety based on misinformed sentiments after the Morgan affair, elected two state governors and caused considerable difficulty for many Lodges (including our own) before fizzling out in 1835. In the 1890s, a series of pamphlets and books written by Leo Taxil claimed, among other things, that Freemasonry worshiped Lucifer. Taxil later admitted his claims were all a hoax; but conspiracy theorists continued (and still continue) to repeat these claims. Brothers, these kind of misconceptions and hoaxes have become part of our history and our routine experience.

Any internet search for Masonic Conspiracy Theory will yield tens of thousands of results. Some of these are ridiculous, some even disturbing. I must admit to finding some of them extremely amusing. Sorry, YouTube fans, but there is no great Masonic conspiracy playing out. No Satanic worship, no world domination, not even space aliens. Brothers, I am afraid we must take all this with a grain of salt as part of our dues for membership in the greatest fraternity on the planet. There is often no arguing with a truly entrenched conspiracist. We must not let our zeal for the institution, or our basis in reality, lead us into argument. We should remain vigilant in regards to what these stories are and work to be aware of any real or potential threats to ourselves, our Brothers, or our Fraternity.

I would have really liked to meet those space aliens too.

Mark Thomas Keenan

From The Junior Deacon

Brothers,

Even though my time as Junior Deacon has been short, I have come to notice how excited the candidates are to learn and really try hard to do an excellent job on their proficiencies. I have been thinking about ways that we, as brothers all, may be able to help:

1. If the top line signer on the petitions could keep in touch with the newest brother it would help assuage some of the overt nervousness we all see and feel during the proficiencies. Having another "mentor" is always helpful.
2. Having an assigned brother that would help shepherd the newest brother through his first year in the Lodge, calling him and inviting him to special events, checking in on how he feels he is integrating into the Lodge and seeing if he is finding any difficulties would be greatly helpful and encouraging.
3. If there is a new candidate and you sat on their investigation committee and they have "dropped out" and haven't been seen in a while, a friendly call or card in the mail would go a long way to assure them that they are still valued and wanted.

Sometimes I get frustrated that we see a candidate come through for the EA degree and then just disappear into the "vast unknown." If we all took a proactive role in developing a relationship with our newest brothers, I feel it would go a long way into integrating them in to our lodge and making them feel that they are truly a part of something special. For Masonry in general, and Washington Lodge No. 70 in particular, are indeed something very special.

Harry A. "Chip" Elliott III

From the Chaplain

Real Masons

My Brothers,

One evening this Spring I went to a degree presentation for one of the Masonic bodies of which I am a member. A "core degree" was to be presented. The particular group of Brothers who were to present the degree had been having a lot of problems.

Communication was difficult, officers were not sure of what to do or when to do it.

When things were getting really confused, a group of brothers stepped up and said they would fill in for officers who could not, for one reason or another, be able to do their duties. There was a good amount of ritual involved, and the brothers did not have a lot of time for rehearsals, but they knew it had to be done. They met and rehearsed as best they could.

Some of them had not worked in this degree for years; one Brother had never worked it at all.

So, what happened? The brothers performing the ritual and floor work were inspired by the degree and were very proud to portray it. Was it perfect? No, but it was VERY good. The candidates got a lot out of it and the officers of the evening just felt terrific--I could see it in their eyes and in the smiles on their faces. I am just amazed at how inspiring that evening was. I couldn't possibly thank them enough!

The Brothers who performed that degree are REAL Masons. Why? Because they believe in the lessons we are taught and knew in their hearts that their faith in God would carry them through this difficult time.

I have been a Mason for almost 36 years and I am still amazed at some of the things I see. May God bless these Brothers and may they continue to provide an example of faith and courage.

Richard Incorvati Sr.

Secy Sayz

Recently, a brother made a free will donation of \$3500 to Washington Lodge. There was no restriction applied to the gift, so the Lodge may use it in any way it may choose. By vote of the Lodge, it was placed in the General Fund held by the Lodge Trustees, so that it would not simply be "used up" to pay routine expenses. Our trust advisors have told us in the past that our Trustee Funds are not large enough to justify the large demands we make on them every year, just to pay the rent. So anything we can add to those funds eases the strain on them. Otherwise, we just have to keep increasing dues to be sure to be able to meet our expenses without depleting our endowment. In these days of inflation and rising prices, we cannot forever live on the frugality and good management of our forbears.

So if you are able, why not consider making a gift to the Lodge to help increase our endowment.

Charles B. Fowler Jr.

From the Senior Steward

Happy Spring Brothers!

I hope this Wayfarer finds you all well and ready for our busy season coming up this spring! In addition to our regular Lodge meetings we have many events coming up such as shad derby, lobster dinners, CTCHIP events, cookouts just to name a few. Please consider coming out and lending a hand at any or all of these events as it's a great way to get to know the brothers of the lodge as well as give back to the community.

On another note as a lot of you have probably seen, our kitchens have undergone some major upgrades and renovations this past winter. I would just like to thank the group of brothers and friends who

completed this work over a number of very long nights. Without you it could not have been done. Also thanks to the Lodge for their support and overall positive reception to these changes that have been made. If you haven't checked the kitchens out yet then there's another reason for you to get out to one of our upcoming meetings or events! Hope to see you all at an upcoming event this spring!

Kevin G. Dugdale

From the Junior Steward

Brethren,

Samuel Brengle once said, "The final estimate of men shows that history cares not an iota for the rank or title a man has borne, or the office he has held, but only the quality of his deeds and the character of his mind and heart." We as Masons, meet on a level regardless of our position or tenure as a Mason. Our purpose is only for the betterment of ourselves and mankind. I am proud to call myself a Mason, but only to the fact that I am there to be something bigger than myself and for my brothers and their families. In the end, no one will care what my position in the Lodge (or perhaps Grand Lodge) may be. My duty is steadfast in my dedication to those in the Lodge, the working craft and those who support its existence.

Christopher Houde

Medicare Part "D" Prescription Drug Coverage

If you or a member of your family is having problems understanding the Medicare Part "D" Program, the Masonic Community Services (MCS) staff may be able to assist you. You can contact a member of the MCS staff at 877-4-AGELESS (877-424-3537). This is another free service of Masonicare.

From the Marshal

Brothers,

As a younger Mason, (although I am forty) I have been going over ways of how we bring light to the younger members of our fraternity. Not just within the walls of our lodge but any lodge for that matter. Our Grand Master is having a meeting amongst our younger brethren, but is that enough? As I look out at our meetings I notice that there is a disparity between the age of our members, and that sometimes, does support the assumption that we are a bunch of "old dudes" who need to get away from our wives or significant others.

What do our members who are in their twenties think about what we do? A recent cover article in CT freemasons featured a hip-hop artist that is a Freemason

and refers to ritual in his music. How do we feel about this as a fraternity? As we all know we cannot print, paint, stamp,...etc. In age of social media like Facebook and Twitter, how do we move forward with membership without giving away the very thing we are sworn to not reveal.

How do we make Masonry "cool" for lack of a better term? We face the fact that our Fraternity is secret, and that comes along with the stigma of rumors and disinformation that when I approach someone who might be of a younger age and has interest in what we do I get a negative response.

We do great things and are an awesome fraternity, and I will continue to research the approach we make for the good of the Lodge and Masonry in general.

Erik R. Nivison

Do we have your E-mail Address?

Please let our Secretary, Charles B. Fowler, Jr. PGM know what your e-mail address is so we can keep you up to date on Lodge events and changes to the Trestleboard. Send an e-mail to Bro. Chuck at cbfowler525@gmail.com

Editor

Scholarship Committee message for the Wayfarer

Washington Lodge #70 has been a major contributor of scholarship money to local high school graduates. For the class of 2017, we will award \$11,000 to worthy graduating seniors.

While most of the established scholarships are restricted to Windsor High School students, a fund has been established to support scholarships for students who do not attend Windsor High School. This fund has been growing due to generous contributions and successful programs.

The scholarship "season" is upon us, and we have available applications for those seniors who will be pursuing higher education in the fall and do not attend Windsor High School. If you have a son, grandson, or daughter, granddaughter, and want an application, contact one of the Scholarship committee members below.

Scholarship Committee
Bob Gresham
Greg Wentworth
Patrick Chagnon

The Dues Are How Much?!!

Every year I was one of those who fought increases in dues. Logic dictates that with increases in cost there needs to be increases in revenue. I always stated that I did not want Washington Lodge to become a rich man's hide out. That is not what was happening, but it sounded good for a persuasive argument.

The Lodge now has dues of \$165. That is inclusive of the Grand Lodge Assessment. So if that is the amount, how does a brother pay for it? For some of us it is the fact that they simply write a check. Maybe even add some more for the Lodge Scholarship Fund. The Lodge is blessed that there are members that can do just that. Trust us, the Lodge thanks you and encourage you to always think of adding more and contributing to the Lodge's welfare, even in your will.

There are others where writing a check for \$165 is a challenge. The budget for some of our brothers are challenged by a check of that substance. Perhaps something happened or due to illness or problems on the home front that lump sum payment may not be possible. So what does a brother do? Wait all year and hope something happens. Wait until the Lodge has sent multiple reminders to pay either by phone or mail. Or the worst option: be dropped for not paying your dues.

I have a suggestion. If you think of it, there are usually twenty meetings in a year. That means that the price of membership per meeting is only \$8.25. Now I am not suggesting that you pay your dues \$16.50 a month. I believe Brother Secretary would plan my demise because of the paperwork alone. But I am asking all of us to rethink how we put the money together to pay the whole amount at once.

All of us get paid on a regular basis; beginning of the month, first and fifteenth or every two weeks. So if a brother were to take \$10 or \$20 out of a pay check and put it in the sock drawer, you would be able to walk into Lodge and pay your dues in a very short time. No one would question that, and you would be able to pay dues every December and have little impact on your household budget.

There is nothing worse than having the secretary report at the January that a Brother was dropped for Non-Payment of Dues. So here's hoping we never hear those words again.

WB Mark Fernandes

LAST NIGHT I KNELT WHERE HIRAM KNELT

A MASTER MASONS POEM
by Pat M. Armstrong

Last night I knelt where Hiram knelt
And took an obligation.

Today, I'm closer to my God
And I'm a Master Mason.

Though heretofore my fellow men
Seemed each one like the other;

Today, I search each one apart
I'm looking for "MY BROTHER."

And as I feel his friendly grip
It fills my heart with pride;

I know that while I'm on the square
That he is on my side.

His footsteps on my errand go,
If I should such require;

His prayers will plead in my behalf;
If I should so desire.

My words are safe within his breast,
As though within my own;

His hand forever at my back,
To help me safely home.

Good counsel whisper in my ear,
And warns of any danger.

My square and compass, Brother now,
Who once would call me stranger.

I might have lived a normal life
And risen to distinctions;

Without my brothers helping hand,
And fellowship of Masons.

But God, who knows how hard it is
To resist life's temptations,

Knows why I knelt where Hiram knelt;
And took an obligation

Masonic Birthdays

Name	Raised	Name	Raised
		<u>MAY</u>	
Alfred J. LaValley	1949	John H. Sniffin	1955
Ronald D. Peaslee	1974	Brian W. Fitzsimonds	1974
Richard A. Incorvati	1981	Dennis J Paro	1989
John P. Lukens	1991	Terry J Hartl	1993
Matthew R. MacNayr	1991	James A. Tarbell	1999
Ted Kerrigan	1998	Paul I Tappenden	2000
James S. McNeely	2001	Wayne G. Mulligan	2001
Kerry G. Ruiz	2003	Ted M. Naylor	2004
Daniel P. DeMatos	2004	John G. Ellis	2006
John O. Kelling	2006	W. Stephen Matthews, Jr	2011
Micael S. George, Jr	2011	Kyle J. Pecor	2011
		<u>JUNE</u>	
George W. Dixon	1958	Frank D. Collins	1968
John A. Hammar	1970	Andrew C. MacGregor	1974
William A. Rand	1979	Darrell E. Wilcox	1983
Paul J. Hendricks	1994	Kevin A. Bach	2007
Brian A. Cosker Jr	2007	Avraham L. Weisman	2008
Tyson D. Dorman	2008	Steven R. Collins	2008
Justin T. Kollmorgen	2008	Ronald M. Backer	2009
Christopher A. Houde	2009	Sterling N. Viets	2010
Carlton A. Stidsen	2010	Joseph E. Brooks	2012
Mark T. Keenan	2012	Robert A. McGee	2012
George A. Dugdale	2013	Kevin G. Dugdale	2013
Phillip A. Davis	2014	Harry A. Elliott III	2014
Guiseppe Morfea Jr	2015	Erik R. Nivison	2015
Dylan H. Wingard	2015		
		<u>JULY</u>	
Kenneth P. Newton	1997		

Calendar of Events

Codes:

T = Tux D=Dinner P=Public C=Casual
 B=Business suit R=Refreshment L=Ladies

May 2017 Trestleboard

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Codes</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Officer in Charge</u>	
M	8	7:30 pm	B, R	Stated Communication	WM Steve Matthews
Sa	13	9:00 am	C	MM Degree Rehearsal	WM Steve Matthews
F	19	6:00 pm	C	Shad Derby Pulled Pork Preparation	WB Matt Chmiel
Sa	20	ALL DAY	C, R	SHAD DERBY	WM Steve Matthews
Su	21	6:00 pm	C	MM Degree Rehearsal	WM Steve Matthews
M	22	5:30 pm	T, D	MM Degree	WM Steve Matthews
F	26	6:30 pm	T, R	Reception for RW Gresham & WB Incorvati	WM Steve Matthews
Sa	27	7:00 am	C, R	Blood Drive	WB Ronald Eleveld
W	31	6:30 pm	B, D	Blue Lodge Council at Friendship Tuscan # 148	

June 2017 Trestleboard

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Codes</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Officer in Charge</u>	
M	12	7:30 pm	B, R	Stated Communication	WM Steve Matthews
Su	25	8:30 am	T	St. John's Day Observance: Palisado Cemetery/ Grace Church	WM Steve Matthews
M	26	6.00 pm	C, D, L	Steward's Cookout/ Scholarship Awards/ Stated Communication	JW Joseph Difraia/ WM Steve Matthews

August 2017 Trestleboard

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Codes</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Officer in Charge</u>	
F	11	2.00 pm onward	C	BLF Preparation	WM Steve Matthews
Sa	12	ALL DAY	C, R, L	BLUE LOBSTER FEST	WM Steve Matthews
Sa	19	Midday onward	C, R, L	Tri-Lodge Picnic, details TBC	