JEFFERSON LODGE NO. 15 A.F. & A.M.

NOVEMBER 2022 TRESTLE BOARD

Worshipful Master: Anthony Valenti
Lodge Location: 116 ½ Second St., Lewes, DE 19958
Lodge Mailing Address: PO Box 184, Lewes, DE 19958
Lodge Telephone: 302-645-8288
Lodge E-Mail:jeffersonlodge15@icloud.com
Lodge Web Site: https://www.jeffersonlodge15.com

Message from the East

Brethren,

We have had a busy year so far, and it is only just beginning! A reminder that our Lodge's Grand Visitation from Most Worshipful Stephen M. Tucker is Wednesday, November 2nd, 2022 at 7:30 P.M. Dress will be business casual. I hope to see many brothers there for what will be a great meeting!

Our Lodge will be joining the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Delaware for the annual Seawitch Parade in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Dress will be tuxedos for Lodge officers and business casual (Lodge shirts) for brothers. If you would like to join us for the parade, please meet at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7447 (101 State Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971) by 9 A.M. on Saturday, October 29th, 2022.

Our Lodge breakfast this coming month has changed to November 12th, 2022 from 8 A.M. to 11 A.M. at Jefferson Lodge. The Henlopen Chapter DeMolay is serving all you can eat pancakes to raise money for the youth organization that shapes young men into leaders of character. The cost is $9 and includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, water, and juice. Come out and support our Masonic youth!

On Saturday, December 17th, 2022 at 5:30 P.M., your Lodge will be holding a Christmas Dinner. The catered meal will include sliced turkey with homemade gravy, sliced ham, mashed potatoes, and homemade dinner rolls. Reservations are required as space is limited to the sixty attendees. Please contact Bro. Robert Karafin or me for reservations. Come and enjoy a night out with your spouse!

Finally, attached to this trestleboard is a letter written by Bro. Ernie Baynum. It is very insightful and overall, a wonderful story and message. Please take the time to read and reflect on one brother's journey through masonry.

Respectfully,

Anthony M. Valenti
Master
Jefferson Lodge #15

OFFICERS 2022 - 2023

Worshipful Master
Anthony Valenti
302-841-1186

Senior Warden
Charles VanHeest
254-291-4158

Junior Warden
Sean McLaughlin
302-249-2720

Senior Deacon
David Lorah
302-228-0303

Junior Deacon
Frank Carmichael
518-225-3936

Senior Steward
Tom Hudecheck
302-448-1281

Junior Steward
Jim Hudson

Chaplain
Robert Silvagni
305-331-5508

Tiler
Ken Ciarlone
215-327-1667

Secretary
Robert Karafin, GLAH
302-855-5845

Treasurer
Patrick Shearon
302-670-9238

Aide to the Worshipful Master
Rob Jennings
302-228-9269

COMMITTEES 2022 - 2023

Budget
Ronald Ferraro, SGW
Patrick Shearon

Investigation
Anthony Valenti
Eric Evans, PM

Grand Lodge Visit
Anthony Valenti
Robert Karafin

Ladies Night
Sean McLaughlin
David Lorah

Past Master's Night
Carl Wenke, PM
Tim Wolfe, PM
Peter Pagani, PM
Howard Sheldon, PM
Nigel Duguid, PM

Pop Jefferson Award
Tim Wolfe, PM
Robert Karafin
Dickie Brittingham

Ritual
Eric Evans, PM
Gerald Cowan, PM
Nick Acord, PM

Scholarship
Walter Hopkins, PM
Peter Pagani, PM

Turkey Shoot
Carl Wenke, PM
Robert Heslep

Golf Tournament
Patrick Shearon
Robert Karafin

Public Events
Peter Pagani, PM
Nick Acord, PM
Sean McLaughlin

Investment
Ronald Ferraro, SGW
Gerald Cowan, PM

Almoner's Fund
Anthony Valenti
Charles Van Heest
Sean McLaughlin
Robert Silvagni
Patrick Shearon

175th Anniversary
Anthony Valenti
Chas Van Heest
Sean McLaughlin
Gerald Cowan, PM

*(The Worshipful Master is an Ex-Officio member of all committees **BOLD** indicates committee Chairmen)*

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

At the upcoming Secretaries meeting the new computer system will be explained. Grand Lodge is trying to get most subordinate lodge communications to be electronic including the annual dues notice which will be sent in the next few weeks. It's possible this year's notice will be in your email. From what the Grand Secretary has said, there are a lot of features in the new computer system that will allow you to update your personal information and view pertinent Masonic information such as your degree dates. More information on this will be coming soon. Please bear with the inevitable glitches until we get the system in place. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

MEETING TIMES FOR DISTRICT #3 LODGES

HOPE #4
3rd Tues. 7:30

UNION #7
1st & 3rd Tues. 7:30

TEMPLE #9
2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:30
Supper 6:30

FRANKLIN #12
2nd & 4th Tues. 7:30

ENDEAVOR #17
2nd Tues. 7:30

HIRAM #21
2nd & 4th Thurs. 7:30

GETHSEMANE #28
3rd Wed. 7:30

DORIC #30
1st & 3rd Mon. 7:30

DELAWARE #37
2nd Tues. 7:30

LIVING PAST MASTERS

JEFFERSON LODGE

1965 H. Dale Parsons
1970 Donald D Mitchell
1971 John H Lehman
1978 John Gibson
1981 Clyde E Seibert Jr.
1983 Lee J McDaniel
1984 William H Dawson
1985 John Jay Dentino
1988 James B Walsh
1989 Eric D. Swanson
1991 Eric J Evans
1994 John R Souder
1995 Albert C Vopalecky
1997 James G Horn
1998-99 Leon D Ware Sr.
2000 Thaddeus N Truitt
2001-02 Walter C Hopkins
2003 Steven D Berlin
2004 David K Edwards
2007 Bryan A Ware
2008 David R Beebe
2009 James Lewis
2010 John Kapochus
2011 David K Edwards
2012 Joseph Bishop
2013 Brian Benfer
2014 Carl Wenke
2015 Gerald Cowan
2016 Timothy Wolfe
2017 Ron Ferraro
2018 Ron Ferraro
2019 Peter Pagani
2020 Nick Acord Sr.

OTHER LODGES

John J Badeen
2007-8-9-10
St. Andrews #64, CT

Michael McDade
1985, 2000, 10, 14. 15
Charity #3190, PA

John Turansky
2011-12
Endeavor #17, DE

Martin Schertzer - PM
2012
Hiram #18
Sandy Hook, CT

Maher Zarou
Angels Gate Lodge #198
Lomita, California

Nigel Duguid PM
Nutley Lodge #25
New Jersey

Howard Sheldon - PM
1969
Oriental lodge #27, DE

Dennis Crawford -
Centreville Lodge #180
Centreville , MD

CONGRATULATIONS
on your progress in the journey to become Master Masons

ENTERED APPRENTICE

Nick Acord, Jr.
Ryan Kortum

FELLOW CRAFT

Will Hazzard

MASTER MASON

UPCOMING MASONIC BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

John J Badeen
Mark A Dawson
Adrain W Hudson
Mark Huling
Robert C Jennings Jr
Jay A Lewis
Kenneth H Logan
Craig A Long
Allen J McIlvain
Edwin B Perry Jr
Jeffrey T Puglia
Jesse C Sheppard Jr
Stephan H Smyk
William F Tobin Jr
Hunter R Walsh
Henry C Wenke III
Hunter C Wenke
Timothy Wolfe

JEFFERSON LODGE UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Oct. 29th – Seawitch Parade – Rehoboth Beach - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7447 - 9 A.M.

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2nd – Grand Visitation – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 7:30 P.M.
Nov. 5th – Ritual Workshop – Dover Masonic Temple – 9 A.M.
Nov. 12th – Lodge Breakfast – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 8 A.M.

DECEMBER

Dec. 3rd – Lewes Christmas Parade - TBD
Dec. 7th – Stated Communication – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 7:30 P.M.
Dec. 12th – Officer Pass Off (Entered Apprentice Degree) – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 7 P.M.
Dec. 17th – Lodge Breakfast – Lewes Diner – 8 A.M.
Dec. 17th – Christmas Party – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 5:30 P.M.

JANUARY

Jan. 4th – Stated Communication – Jefferson Lodge #15 – 7:30 P.M.
Jan. 14th – Lodge Breakfast – Lewes Diner – 8 A.M.
Jan. 21st – Senior Officer Training Workshop – Dover Masonic Temple – 9 A.M.

Need more information on an event? Send your questions to jeffersonlodge15@icloud.com

Take Due Notice and Govern Yourself Accordingly

"Little Things"

I will be referring to all persons in this writing as Brother or Brothers as I have no more honorable title to bestow. We, as Masons, witness a considerable number of outward positive actions of our Brothers and come to expect, and accept them as the norm. It dawned on me, that many of our newest brothers, and even some that have seen many years in the craft, may miss the little things that one Mason may do for another that may greatly shape or affect one's life. I implore you to Take Due Notice and Govern Yourself According, as it is the little, unseen, out of public sight things that can teach, and touch us the most. The following are little things that touched, shaped, and promoted my faith in the craft thus far on my path (albeit short).

About 12 years ago, I was really just learning the game of golf, and I tried to play every weekend. During a two consecutive week span, I had run across two gentlemen on a golf course. What I thought was happenstance, would actually impact me for life. The first week we exchanged pleasantries, and they allowed me to play thru, normal good golf etiquette. The second week there was really no playing thru as the course was busy, but I asked if they minded if I joined them. They accepted, and we have been playing together nearly every weekend since. I had ended up right behind these same two gentlemen again, and on the same hole each week. What were the chances? As time went on, I came to know both of these gentlemen as Masons, in retrospect I should have guessed without asking. Their everyday demeanor and the way they took me in as a friend, soon had my masonic wheels turning. They included me in quite a few masonic charity events, I asked them questions, I read, and when I had self-doubt as to if I was masonic material, they were there to help me chart my course. They are now my two closest Brothers in every sense of the word. If I need, I need but ask. My life has become so much richer due to their presence and influence. In today's fast paced world, most just hustle though to get to the next place, next time, or next event, never truly noticing what is placed before us unless it is misfortune, we all seem to notice those occasions. It is up to each of us to consider the opportunities that are afforded us each day, you never know how or when those blessings, or opportunities, will change your life.

In its simplest form, "To become a Mason, one simply needs to knock (ask), but that only starts the process". As you know during the process to become a Mason; an investigative committee is sent to your home, to do exactly what one would expect, review a candidate. Just because you knocked does not mean you will be granted access. My investigative committee was comprised of three Brothers. They arrived at my home and we sat down to discuss the I do's, do you' s, and for them to gauge if I was masonic material, and if I truly had a grasp of what I was asking for, but thru a terrible turn that evening, another Brother in the lodge passed away while they were conducting my interview. I had the privilege (forgive use of this term in this scenario) again of seeing masonic compassion and charity at work. They politely apologized, and each was immediately on the phone directing others so that the stricken Brother's family needs were taking care of, pending their arrival. The loss of a Brother is always painful, but again I feel I was presented with a gift. I had the privilege to see Brothers immediately organize out of compassion and love; to help in any way possible to care for those left remaining on this plain. Again, it was a moment that helped move me to take the obligation, even in darkness there was light.

Three years ago, I stood outside a preparation room being given the Candidate's Charge, by one of the same Brothers from the golf course. He had spoken to me many times about, (when and if I decided to knock at the door), delivering the candidates charge and how much it was going to mean to him. When the time came, he approached and delivered the charge in a direct, straightforward, meaningful manner, but as he was reciting the charge it was if it was one of the most important moments in his life, almost like a father passing a gift to his son. Although there was much nervousness and anxiety on my part, I vividly remember and always will remember receiving the candidates charge and those conversations that lead to it.

That very same evening as I stood at the door awaiting the Worshipful Master's answer to my request, there were still notions of fright and flight, keep in mind I knew maybe six people in the lodge. As, I stood there, nerves tearing me down, a Brother reached his hand to my shoulder and said, you'll be fine, you got this. What he doesn't know, until maybe reading this, is that his comforting words and assurance got me thru that door, but that to me is not the most astonishing part of this story. I later found out, it was his first night performing his duties as Steward in a full lodge, and yet his thoughts and compassion was for another. What words could I possibly add and make this more meaningful and illustrate what masonry is about?

Again, that very evening I had the support of my soon to be lodge brothers but also from a group of Brothers from Prince Hall. At my everyday job, I have the honor of working side by side with a Brother from Prince Hall. He is also a guide, a teacher, and a friend. Once he knew I was starting my journey, he was going to be there to see those first steps. Now, it is my understanding that up until that time no Brothers of Prince Hall had attended, or been seated in this lodge, and the Prince Hall Brothers knew this as well. This Brother gathered four of his Brothers from Prince Hall Lodge, and they made that long trip to see me become an Entered Apprentice. They pushed down, and overcame the nervousness, and anxiety, of stepping into an unknown for another. These Brothers returned each time a degree was conferred upon me, and were there for my raising. I feel, that I am a product of two rooms (lodges AF&AM and Prince Hall), in the same house. Again, what words can be spoken that could elevate this act or supersede this gift? This simple act on their part opened up a pathway between the two lodges.

Another instance, in order to proceed to the next degree, one must demonstrate proficiency in your current degree. This is accomplished by working with an assigned mentor (instructor), and within the assigned time limits going before a Past Master to orally recite and answer questions, referred to as passing-off. The Past Master then determines if you are prepared, and proficient to receive the next degree. During the process of learning the necessary material, I was constantly pushing myself, as my mentor/instructor was one the of Brothers from the golf course, my sponsor, and my friend. It was like I was back in school again, but I think I felt the gravity much more as an adult than any time in school. This is your friend/Brother, your sponsor, you can't reflect badly on him or let him down was always spinning in my head, it was a lot of self-imposed weight. Anytime I needed him, if I was having an issue with the material he was always available and ready, he called to check in with me, and he always counseled me to relax it will be fine, you got this. My first pass-off was being conducted at his daughter's wedding/reception, and where were his thoughts that day? I'm sure in part where they should be on the wedding, but he also was checking in on me and how the testing was going. Then it came testing time, now the Brother checking my knowledge, I knew more just in passing, we had been introduced many years ago on a golf course. He could see, I was truly nervous. As he gave the exam, my mind was racing ten times faster than I could speak, he knew that I knew the material, he would

slow me down at the same time try to ease my nervousness. When I completed my first pass-off, he also offered up time to help me anytime, should I need it. These two Brothers should never overlook the importance that they had on my progression, without their support, encouragement, and calming efforts, I would still be back in my EA studies.

Each and every time, I come to lodge the outpouring of brotherly love and companionship comes thru. It is like seeing your best friend every time, but it is also more. You are part of a fraternity that has sworn to help every man, but especially his Brother Mason, and sometimes knowing that, you and your family will never be alone, is all you need.

I am thinking of making this an ongoing work, as I am sure there will be more occasions to add and acknowledge these kinds of moments. This writing is not to share the tale of my blessings, but to showcase the compassion, brotherly love, and caring, that may slip by us on this worldly plain. I know this is hijacking a masonic phrase, but Take Due Notice and Govern Yourself Accordingly, I think is appropriate, as we should each strive to see and appreciate the little things (gifts), and put forth that same effort, as you never know what or whose life you may make a difference in.

Thank You Brothers!

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT
PANCAKES
JOIN US FOR DELICIOUS FOOD
AND A GREAT CAUSE!
NOV 12, 2022
8AM-11AM
JEFFERSON LODGE
116 1/2 SECOND ST
LEWES, DE 19958
$9
BREAKFAST INCLUDES:
• SAUSAGE
• COFFEE
• TEA
• WATER
• JUICE
All proceeds will go to DeMolay, the premier international youth leadership organization for young men ages 12-21, striving to shape young men into leaders of character

November

2022

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2 Grand Visitation Jefferson Lodge #15 7:30 P.M.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Lodge Breakfast. Lewes Diner 8 A.M.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10

DRESS CODE
Masonic - Officers - Tuxedo
Masonic - Brothers - Coat & Tie
Casual - Collared Shirts & Slacks

ITEMS IN RED
Jefferson Lodge Activities

NOTICE
All Dates & Times
Subject to Change

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

December

2022

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30			

January

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29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	**1**	**2**	3 Lewes Christmas Parade Lewes TBD
4	**5**	**6**	**7** Stated Communication Jefferson Lodge #15 7:30 P.M.	**8**	**9**	10
11	**12** Officer Pass Off Entered Apprentice Degree Jefferson Lodge #15 7 P.M.	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	17 Lodge Breakfast. Lewes Diner 8 A.M.
18	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	24
25	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

January

2023

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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February

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Stated Communication Jefferson Lodge #15 7:30 P.M.	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Lodge Breakfast. Lewes Diner 8 A.M.
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Senior Officer Training Workshop Dover Masonic Temple 9 A.M.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

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Jefferson Lodge Activities

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JANUARY CALENDAR