February 2019
Greetings Brethren,

I trust you all had a wonderful holiday season with friends and family! In the spirit of the season, I was fortunate enough to spend an evening just before Christmas in the company of Dale Sprague and Jason DeStasio at Lydia’s House of Hope in Somersworth. What a wonderful event, as always! Brothers Isaac Davenport (aka “Santa”) and Scotty Adkins (aka “the elf”) were on the scene to hand out gifts to our friends at Lydia’s. This was a complete team effort which included the help of Wor. Brothers Dan Stolworthy and Tom Haslam, along with Dale Sprague, who took the ladies shopping with the monies donated by you, our Brothers! This is such a great effort every year and if you feel the need to be inspired, come out next year and enjoy the festivities! This is why we are Masons. The ladies at Lydia’s presented us with a hand-made plaque which we passed around at the last Stated Communication. We will certainly be hanging the plaque for all to see.

Thanks to all who helped make my first Stated Communication be so successful! We had a very busy evening with the vote for Secretary and Assistant Secretary as well as a vote of the St Johns Masonic Association and the installation of Officers. Congratulations to Wor. Brother Tom Haslam, who is now our new Secretary, and Wor. Brother Peter Preteroti, our new Assistant Secretary. And a very special thanks to RW Brother Floyd Caron and RW Robert Sutherland for all your time in the Secretary’s positions. I am confident that, with your help, and support of the new officers, we will be successful in the future.

Congratulations to all of the new officers of St Johns Masonic Association! Granted, a little difficult to get to the finish line this year with the various voting and meetings, but we are complete. We will no doubt be doing some early work on some minor changes to the By-Laws. But the future looks good for our Lodge. Keep in mind Brethren, you are all members of the Association. Your help and input will only keep our building looking and performing well for future generations! The Association meets at 5pm just prior to the Stated Communication. Hope to see you there!

Thanks also go out to Most Worshipful John Lobdell and Most Worshipful Stuart Aronson who joined me in the East for our Special Communication and helped with the voting process for both the Lodge and the Association. Thank you both for your support.

Finally, we have a busy month upcoming with our Stated Communication on February 6, 2019, a Master Mason Degree on February 20, 2019 and of course, the four square with details to follow. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis
St. John’s Masonic Association

Monthly Association meeting Wednesday, February 6th starting at 5:00.

The WiFi system has been upgraded for better lodge coverage. The accounts are all SaintJohns, SaintJohns_2GEXT or SaintJohns_5GEXT. All have the same password SJMA1736.

The game room is nearing completion. That includes TV, lighting and final room organization. Feel free to take a look at our latest beautiful lodge upgrade!

2019 SJMA OFFICERS

President……………………………………….Howard Kalet
Vice President…………………………………..Gregg Annis
Secretary………………………………………..Wor. Peter Preteroti
Treasurer………………………………………..Wor. Thomas Hand
Calendar……………………………………….Wor. Rod MacDonald
Assistant Treasurer ……………………………..Howard Kalet
Trustee………………………………………..Peter Paisley
Trustee………………………………………..Jason DeStasio
Trustee………………………………………..Jamie Belanger
Trustee…………………………………………Nathan Johnson
Trustee…………………………………………Wor. Daniel Stolworthy
Alternate Trustee…………………………….Wor. Donald Stevens
Alternate Trustee……………………………..Wor. Thomas W. Haslam
Financial Advisor…………………………….Wor. Thomas Hand, Sr
Legal Council…………………………………Thomas Hand, Jr

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February 2019

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Stated Communication
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Beef Tips ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/2A3bntJhEv
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

MM Rehearsal
Wednesday, February 9, 2019
6:30PM

Special Communication
Master Mason Degree
Brother Paul Christopher Dilorio Jr.
Brother Jacob Carlson Reny
Wednesday, February 16, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Baked Haddock ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/h15xR29Vzy
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

Masters Class
Star in the East Lodge
7:00—9:00PM
Ralph Thompson Wood was born in Portsmouth on April 13, 1891, the eldest child of Fred L. and Lizzie (Thompson) Wood. He attended local schools and after graduating from Portsmouth High School in 1909, he attended Plymouth Business School which he completed in 1911. He quickly landed his first job as a bookkeeper at the Frank Jones Brewing Company and in 1915, became office manager of the Eldredge Brewing Company. In early 1917, he worked briefly for the Toledo Tap and Die Company and then enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a yeoman. He served with distinction during World War I and was honorably discharged in 1919 with the rank of chief yeoman. He returned home and after a short stint with the Atlantic Corporation, he became a bookkeeper at Hislop’s Garage in downtown Portsmouth. This garage and Plymouth–Dodge dealership was located behind Newberry’s department store at 145 Fleet Street; you can still see the ramp leading up to the old garage next to Gilley’s Diner. In 1925, he purchased the firm and operated it as Ralph T. Wood Motors, Inc. Around 1957, he moved the dealership to 1039 Islington Street near the Route 1 Bypass. He retired in 1958 and sold the company which became Abood Dodge. About 15 years later, the dealership moved to the intersection of the Route 1 Bypass and Greenleaf Avenue. Today it’s called Port City Chrysler Dodge.

Ralph was a very active and prominent citizen. He was a director of the New Hampshire National Bank and Indian Head National Bank, and a corporator of the Portsmouth Savings Bank. He was a local chapter chairman of the American National Red Cross and a long time member and past president (1943-44) of the Portsmouth Rotary Club. He was on the board of directors of the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, Portsmouth Automobile Dealers Association, and the Portsmouth YMCA. He was a member of Frank E. Booma Post 6, American Legion, a longtime member of the Mechanic Fire Society of Portsmouth, and a deacon and chairman of the board of trustees of the North Church of Portsmouth.

Ralph married Myrtle Olive Manson of Kittery on June 15, 1921 and they had one child, a daughter, Priscilla Wood Wheelock. Their home was at 83 Willard Avenue in Portsmouth and later on Beach Hill Road in New Castle. Myrtle died on February 19, 1969 at the age of 71. He married for a second time to Madeline A. Kimball of New Castle on June 10, 1972 and joined with her children Daniel, Leah and Wendy. He died on May 22, 1980 in New Castle at the age of 89. Madeline died February 12, 2000 in Exeter at the age of 87.

Ralph was a good man, a good husband and father, a patriot and highly regarded businessman and citizen of the seacoast. He was also an active member of the Masonic fraternity. He was Raised a Master Mason in St. John’s Lodge, No. 1, on March 8, 1916. He found more light in Masonry in Washington Chapter, No. 3, RAM; Davenport Council, No. 5, R&SM; and DeWitt Clinton Commandery, KT. He was also an active member of Bektash Temple, AAONMS and the Portsmouth Shrine Club.

From the Secretary’s Desk

Brethren,

I am the new Secretary of St. John’s Lodge. Please see my contact information within this Trestle Board. If you haven’t had a chance to send in your dues, please do so today.

For your information, the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire has an Educational Scholarship available. Applications are due by May 1st. If you need a copy of the application, please let me know.

Fraternally yours,

Tom Haslam

Contact Information:

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