From the Secretary:

Brethren,

Dues notices have been mailed out to all dues paying members. Your 2016 dues cards will be mailed out upon receipt of your payment. Also, please contact me if you are interested in a life membership. You can pay for it as a lump sum, or a spread out in monthly payments over 6, 12, or 18 months.

For those members who owe more than the current year’s dues payment, please try to pay promptly as we will be reviewing in April our list of members not in good standing.

For our new members, and those of you who have requested them, I expect to have name badges to distribute at our February stated meeting.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Peter, Secretary

Coming Masonic Events & Schedules:
- The Division Leadership Conference (Warrenton) (Jan. 9)
- The Official Visit of the DDGM to Springfield Lodge (Feb. 2)
- The Official Visit of the Grand Master to Dist. 1A, 1B, 54 (Feb. 6)
- The William Hiram Wood Regional Ritual School (May 14, Jun. 11)

AN IRON SHARPEN ANOTHER IRON
SO MOTE IT BE: Springfield Lodge Masons Interested in Betterment

The Ashlar:
Which came first? Is it the perfect or the rough?

Let’s visit the quarry.
In the quarry we will take a big rock, a boulder. Then put on our apron, pick up our tools and get to work. We hew the rock slowly to get the rough ashlar then give it to the Fellowcraft to adjust it, the better to fit them for the builder’s use.

In the operative point of view the rough ashlar came first.
But, how about visiting one of the 3 great lights in Masonry. Let’s consider using the Holy Bible of the Christian faith.

In Genesis 1:26-27 God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all wild animals and over all creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

We are created perfect in the likeness and in the image of the Creator. Perfect, pure and tempered. Like a newly born baby full of innocence and calm. Perhaps we became rough through all the vices and superfluities of life thereby making us unfit and unworthy in his kingdom. However, we are given the proper implements to chip off that roughness. We are given implements of morality and social virtues as working tools to polish and break off roughness in ourselves to become perfect again.

These two situations do not fit together as they oppose each other. But a common act in these situations makes them synonymous. It is the challenge of bringing that ashlar into perfection.

Share your thoughts Brethren. Let’s make ourselves better.

Discussion is encouraged. Attend and participate in the first session of “So Mote It Be” at the lodge…
January Program and Schedules:

Jan. 5  Stated Meeting @ 7:30pm
- Open Lodge of Sorrow
- Voting for several candidates
- Master Mason catechism
- Masonic year 2016 Program and Schedules
- Annual Budget
- Appoint Committee members

Jan. 19: So Mote It Be & Fellowship
Springfield Lodge Masons Interested in Betterment by the LEO

Jan. 26: Degree Work – EA

Every Thursday of each Month: Ritual School with the LIW

Masonic District 1B Stated Meeting:
Springfield Lodge #217  Meets 1st Tue @ 7:30pm
Occoquan Lodge #310  Meets 2nd Mon @ 7:30pm
Ft. Hunt-Skidmore #353  Meets 2nd Wed @ 11:00am
Elmer Timberman #54  Meets 3rd Mon @ 7:30pm
John A. Lejeune #350  Meets 3rd Mon @ 7:30pm
Dale City Lodge #319  Meets 3rd Fri @ 7:30pm
Mt. Vernon #219  Meets 4th Mon @ 7:30pm

Affiliated Bodies:
Ft. Hunt-Skidmore #353  Meets 2nd Wed @ 11:00am
Nellie Custis Chapter 169, OES  Meets 3rd Wed @ 7:30pm
Woodlawn Chapter Order of DeMolay  Meets 1st & 3rd Sun @ 4:00pm
Springfield Rainbow Assembly  Meets 2nd & 4th Sun @ 4:00pm

Message from the East:

Brethren,

As we start our year, I wish each and every one of you a Happy Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays as much as I did with my family. May all your dreams and new endeavors in this year come to fruition.

I would like to congratulate WB Daniel Abarquez and Rt. W Ron Heald for a job well done. What Springfield Lodge did during their year will be hard to duplicate. It will be a challenge to every Incoming Worshipful Master and District Deputy Grand Master to get the Noah Hillman Award, Most Outstanding Worshipful Master Award including the Most Outstanding District Deputy Grand Master Award in the same year. We commend you on your hard work and dedication Worshipful Sirs.

During my year as a WM, I would like to hear from my brothers of Springfield Lodge 217. I, your Worshipful Master together with other officers, look forward to hearing any ideas and visions (community-oriented services, masonic hosting, lodge improvement, charity program, etc.) that you have for our lodge. Let’s hear it. As we move forward, do not hesitate to ask anything regarding our lodge. You are entitled to its burdens, benefits and responsibilities as much as we do.

During our first Stated Communication in January, I will be discussing our Program and Schedule for the year and our Annual Budget in support to our Stated Communication and Called Communications. Budget on every program and project such as community service, improvement of our lodge will be decided later as we go along.

Once again thank you brethren for your vote of confidence to be your Worshipful Master for this masonic year. The other Officers and I will assure you, we will do our best to fulfill the duties you have invested in us.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Chris, WM