Springfield Lodge # 217, A.F. & A.M.
Chartered: February 12, 1958

TRESTLEBOARD
February 2016 – Issue # 2

“Be a Leader, Be a Friend, and Be of Service”
2016 OFFICERS
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Rt. WB William “Bill” Shortt
WB Ernesto “Ernie” Apaga
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MW George H. Chapin
Rt. W James BH Lefever
Rt. W John P. McIntyre
Rt. W William A. Shortt
WB Robert S. Somers
WB Palmer G. Tunstall
Rt. W George H. Wade
WB Barry a. Mensh

SPRINGFIELD LODGE STATED COMMUNICATIONS
1st Tuesday of Each Month
Fellowship starts @ 6:00 pm
Dinner @ 6:30 pm
Meeting starts @ 7:30 pm
Herbert Charles Hunter Memorial Masonic Temple
7001 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22150

February Program and Schedules:
Feb. 2 - Tuesday
Stated Meeting @ 7:30pm
- Presentation of Past Master’s apron
- Presentation of Master Mason Certificate
- Voting for several candidates
- Blue Lodge Support Presentation
- Renewal of Obligation
Feb. 6 - Saturday
Official Visit of the Grand Master to District 1A, 1B and 54
Feb. 8 - Monday
Fraternal Visit to Occoquan Lodge with the DDGM official visit
Feb. 9 - Tuesday
Degree Work – EA
Feb. 16 - Tuesday
So Mote It Be & Fellowship
Springfield Lodge Masons Interested in Betterment by the LEO
Feb. 23 - Tuesday
Degree Work
Every Thursdays of the 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
Fr. 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:
Fr. 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

Please pray for the health, wellbeing and continued recovery of our brethren, their wives and widows who are sick and/or in distress. We should always remember that in all our devotions to Deity, we should ever remember a brother’s welfare as our own.
Message from the East:

Brethren,

I am delighted that we have a lot in attendance during our first Stated meeting last January. I believe we started our year in a manner that it should be.

We have voted for the petition of Bro Mike Wills, who originally came from a lodge in the United Kingdom, to become an affiliated member of Springfield Lodge 217.

We also heard a proficiency in the Master Mason's Degree from Bro. Ramon Manalo Llamas. He did a great job with his work.

Last December, yours truly and several brethren from our lodge witnessed an initiation done by our youth group, the Order of DeMolay and the Order of the Rainbow for Girls. We have as well witnessed the Order of the Rainbow for Girls and Job's Daughter's Installation of officers.

Through the wisdom of RWB Ronald Heald and the strength and support of WB John Pearson and several brethren we have delivered a “Christmas Turkey and Gifts” to 10 indigent residents of Springfield.

We have also started the So Mote It Be Program (Springfield Masons Interested In Betterment). I encourage everybody to come join us in this endeavor. Masonry is a personal journey in seeking light that can better our selves. When we found one, it is our obligation to share that light to our brothers to better them selves.

During our So Mote It Be program, we have a very informative presentation by WB Barry Mensh about the meaning of what a Lodge is. Bro Halim raised the question what really is “that house not made with hands eternal in the heavens”. It is an interesting exchange of ideas and opinions that every brother should have not missed.

We have as well scheduled an Entered Apprentice degree suppose to be conferred to Mr. Giuseppe Rios and Mr. Israr Haq last January 26 but cancelled it due to severe snow storm that hit our area.

During our February Stated meeting we will be commemorating the chartering of our lodge. A brother, a PM and PDDGM will speak and have a presentation about the importance of supporting our lodge (supporting the blue lodge) in all its undertakings. And before we close the lodge, we will be renewing our obligation.

I hope all is well to each and every one of you my brethren. Let’s try to live the plumb line set upon us.

See you all at our February Stated meeting.

S&F,

Chris, wm

- Menu -

Springfield’s Stewards Delight

Chinese Food

* Donation Requested *
An Iron Sharpen Another Iron:

The Plumb or the Plumb line

In Amos 7:7-8 of the Bible reads:

"Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the LORD stood upon a wall made by a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said unto me, Amos, what sees' thou? And I said, a plumb line. Then said the LORD, Behold, I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.

In Masonic teachings, the plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations in life before God and men. It symbolizes rectitude of conduct, and inculcates integrity of life and undeviating course of moral uprightness. It distinguishes us in how good and how just our character in circumscribing our desires and our attitude in keeping our passions in due bound.

But how can we utilize our own plumb or plumb line? First we have to establish what constitute a plumb or a plumb line. The plumb or plumb line composed of three parts: The plumb bob (the plummet or the weighted lead), the line, and the one holding the line.

The plumb bob represents our will to strive to live uprightly and just. Its weight symbolizes our devotion to our faith and practice in consonant to the established set of rules ("I will set a plumb line in the midst of my people..."). Kindness that we show to our fellow creature should not come with price. We have to do so through our free will and accord by the dictate of clean conscience.

The line represents our foundation of principle of a well-developed human character and attitude. Adherence to our virtue and faith are the two essentials of perfect manhood, which the "plumb line" tests through the weight of our plumb bob. The test will establish perpendicularity of our conduct to the level of our devotion.

We are the one’s holding the plumb or plumb line that was given to us. We can dictate its weight. We can choose where to position it. By the dictate of our mind and conscience, we can enforce our will believing our conduct is just and right, right not being wrong, as well as not being crooked. We are the one’s that can decide the direction it should go following the dictate of our compass.

Is our plumb line enough to please the GAOTU? Does it have enough weight to straighten our line? Are we moving in the right direction?

We are the one’s who can judge our own work by our own plumb line. We have to live the plumb line set upon us.


Attended by the WM and several brethren at:
Mt. Comfort Cemetery
6600 South Kings Highway
Alexandria, VA 22306

The statue of President George Washington stands in front of the mausoleum of the cemetery’s Masonic Garden.
Isaiah XXVII, 16-17:

“Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Judgment also will I lay to the line; and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of the lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding-place”.

SUPPORT OUR MASONIC YOUTH