

THE MASTER'S MESSAGE
OWENS LODGE NO. 164, A.F. & A. M.
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Rogelio E. Panelo
Worshipful Master
Tel: 757-420-0331



Manuel F. Elefane
Secretary
Tel: 757-961-9810

2010 MARCH

APRIL 2010

Websites: yorkrite.com/VA/odg164/home.htm

groups.yahoo.com/group/owenslodge

Email: owenslodge@yahoogroups.com

SPRING DANCE

Saturday, March 27, 2010 6:30 P.M. – 1 A.M.

VFW – 5728 Barte Street, Norfolk, VA 23505

Donation: \$15.00

FROM THE EAST

The months of January and February passed by like a blink of an eye. Time really flies when preoccupied with all the lodge commitments and engagements. It has been fun! It was a humbling experience and I was most proud to represent Owens Lodge in our visits to other lodges and being in the company of the District Deputy Grand Masters of both 35A and B. We were also privileged to accompany our DDGM on the Grand Master's Official Visits to District 56 and 34. The Owens lodge official visit of our District Deputy Grand Master, RW Elefane, started with the theme of the Grand Master "Forget Not the Duties", and his goals. It's a message filled with wisdom and mandate to get back to basics to keep the lodge going and Freemasonry grow. We have duties as a citizen and as a Freemason, and in order to carry out the message with reality, requires a lot of support from all of us. It is best exemplified when we practice Freemasonry in our daily lives.

The Child ID program is one of programs that the Grand Master wish to happen and we need a representation. This requires a knowledgeable and dedicated individual and mason to work with. It is a high visibility position. A lot of public relation involve and time expense. It is one of the ways we can help to ensure the safety of our children. Currently there are only few functional computers/machines being used. One has to make advance reservation to used them and return to the Grand Lodge immediately for other lodges to use. There are fund raising efforts to acquire more computers and I hope someday our district will eventually own one.

The Scholarship Program is one unique in our lodge. The contributions to the funds are well invested, because only the interest is used to award scholarships to the youth. Owens Lodge awards them to aid those deserving students for a four year period, a period when most college courses are completed. I thank you for all your continued support. Remember that contributions are not limited to lodge members. I have seen families and friends made contributions in memory of love ones, for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. An attractive Scholarship Board bears your name plaque every time you contribute \$25.00 or more to the Fund. Last January the Scholarship Committee voted to award two scholarships. You may contact the Scholarship Committee Chairman, Wor. Jim Pate for applications.

Masonic Proficiency is the one most I encourage every mason to get involved. The Grand Masters message to get back to basics is to make us know our obligations, not to forget them, and live by them. Speaking from personal experience, not until I went through all my Masonic catechisms in the three degrees, I did realize the beautiful lessons that are inculcated in them. Once learned, they become a guiding light to a true mason. One way to be reminded of those duties and obligations is to continue going to the lodge. This makes true of the saying "**you can not practice what you don't know, you can not know if you don't go**".

March 11, 2010 Stated Communication. The Speaker for the evening is Wor. Arnie Florendo of Victory Daylight Lodge. He always has some inspiring words to share. Also we will be honoring one of our Past Masters, Wor. Landon Shipman Birsch, Jr. on his 50th Masonic Anniversary. I am looking forward for a wonderful evening. Please join us.

MARCH 13, 2010, 8:00-12:00 A.M. Divisional Leadership Conference at Norfolk Masonic Temple. The entire Grand Line Officers will be in the area for the conference to meet with the officers of the lodge and the general membership to share with us an update vision of the future of our Craft. **Lodge officers' attendance is mandatory.**

March 27, 2010 Owens Lodge Spring Dance Fund Raiser. Call this as "Bring-a- Friend" night. This will give an excellent opportunity for a non-mason friend to "Ask One to Be One". Portion of the proceeds will benefit the Owens Lodge Scholarship Program and other charity programs. With \$15.00 ticket per person, nobody can beat it, enjoy a Buffet of Roast Beef au jus, Fried Chicken, Pancit, Rice, Veggies, Salad and Desserts, Coffee, and if lucky, take home a door price. Invite friends and join us for an evening filled with fun- fellowship, dancing and refreshments.

April 8, 2010 Stated Communication. Brother Roy Thomas Gregory of Atlantic Lodge No. 2 will be our speaker. His excellent oratorical presentations are well received in the district. Join us. It could be one of your enjoyable listening and learning experiences.

CALCOTT SCHOOL

The school is in full swing. I thank Wor Rudy Abutin for occasionally filling in for the DIW, RW Stewart Deem. His efforts to reach out and help other lodges are not just a reflection of masonry at work but a true dedication at the highest level. The school is still the place to go during Wednesdays especially for lodge officers. When we stop going, we start forgetting. The Stewart A. Deem School of Instruction is on May 8, 2010. Owens Lodge and Ocean View Lodge are assigned to confer the first section of the Master Mason's Degree. If anyone wishes to participate please join us during rehearsals.

LIFE MEMBER IN PERPETUITY PROGRAM

This year's dues are \$118.00. This must be paid first before an application is submitted with the \$1,888.00 (118.00 X 16) LMIP payment. Our 2009 Grand Lodge Returns paid this year is about half of the original amount because of our forty members that are LMIP. If we can double this figure in 2010, our returns will require no payment. Please consider this program when looking your personal finances. Once a life a member one will never have to pay dues again, plus portion of the dues will continue to be credited to the lodge even after passing on, thus strengthening the financial viability the lodge. And remember this can be done by installments or by credit cards.

CONGRATULATIONS

Wor. Romy Fernandez, our Treasurer, for his appointment as District Membership Coordinator (DMC) for Masonic District 35A. This position carries an immense responsibility and dedication to attract new members and to increase efforts on membership retention. With this responsibility, he may be conducting conferences and making presentations to find ways to face the challenges of lodge memberships.