THE EDWARD J WILDBLOOD VERMONT LODGE OF RESEARCH #110

November 07

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NOTES FROM THE WM

Please don't get the wrong impression: this is not a Lodge trestleboard. I am too busy to do any such thing. However, with only three meetings a year it seems there must be some way to get pertinent information to our members.

We have decided to divide our meetings geographically by having our autumn meeting in the south of the State and the winter meeting in the north. Our Annual meeting in April must by our bylaws be held at the Rutland Masonic Center. In this way we hope to make it possible that many of our members, and the Brothers from area Lodges, will be able to attend at least one of our meetings each year.

With this in mind, our autumn meeting on Sept. 25th was held at Londonderry and was hosted by West River- Anchor #57. A huge thank you goes out to Nathaniel Seeley, and the Brothers of this lodge for the wonderful meal and warm hospitality they provided. Nat and his wife prepared the meal at their home and brought it there to feed 20 Brothers, and even had pie for dessert! A few Brothers who are not members of our Lodge turned out, and it is always great to see new faces.

BYLAW REVISIONS

There was a quick question and answer period concerning proposed revisions to our bylaws. Principally, they seek to define a Full Member as one who is writing papers. All others are Corresponding members who do not have to write. They also call for a change from hard copy to CD disk for our Proceedings. I have appended the proposed bylaws to this newsletter. There will be further discussion on this issue as needed at our February meeting, and the final vote will be a part of our Annual meeting in April.

NEXT REGULAR COMMUNICATIONS:

FEBRUARY 26,2008
GREEN MT MASONIC CENTER
WILLISTON AT 7PM
LIGHT SUPPER: 6PM

ANNUAL: APRIL 22, 2008
RUTLAND MASONIC CENTER
GAVEL DROPS AT 7PM
LIGHT SUPPER: 6PM

NEW: LODGE FESTIVE BOARD!

The Lodge voted to have a Festive Board twice each year, on the festivals of the St. Johns, June 24th and December 27th. A flyer for the one next month is attached to this paper. This first such event for our Lodge is to be held at the Montpelier Masonic Center at 6PM. There will be a delicious Pork Roast supper by Aurora Lodge's expert chefs, toasts, a paper on St. John the Evangelist, and lots of fun. This is not a Table Lodge but an old time festival. Please try to attend and support your Lodge. After all, by the 27th you will need to escape from the family! The tradition of feasting at board with your Lodge on St. Johns is very ancient, and we feel it proper to continue this tradition in our Lodge. Only Lodge members or invited guests can attend. Not a Ladies at Table!

WRITING COMPETITION

Our Lodge voted at the Sept. Meeting to host a writing contest for Blue Lodge members throughout our State (and beyond?). Once again, the rules for this contest are attached. The idea is to encourage our Brothers in other Lodges to think and write on our favorite

subject: Freemasonry! We will get material to present and publish, and a wider recognition for our Lodge, and the winners will get their papers published on our website and top winner (s?) will receive an award, hopefully at the Grand Lodge meeting. All in all, I think it is a win/win situation for Freemasonry and for our Lodge. Get the word out!

BOOK REVIEWS

At our meeting I encouraged members to submit short book reviews of those great Masonic books they have discovered, and I started this out by mentioning the new "Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide" by Arturo de Hoyos. A bit pricey, but worth it for all who have an interest in the Rite. A huge, well researched and beautifully presented book.

PAPERS PRESENTED

Three very interesting papers were presented at the Londonderry meeting. The first was by our SW Stanley Schumacher: "Robert Livingston-Mason and Founding Father". Brother Stan took us on a walk through the first years of our Republic, illustrating how the principles of Freemasonry provided our country's foundational ideas. He also noted how and why "Ancient" Masonry came to typify our Fraternity in the U.S.

Brother Steve Farrington followed with "Freemasonry, the Scourge of Despots" which he said he threw together quickly for the occasion. This was a completely excellent paper highlighting the political aspects of our order, and how those men struggling for liberty and social freedom were, almost without exception in every country of the earth, Freemasons.

Steven Cosgrove, one of our newest members who hails from Rutland, spoke on "The mythology of Hiram", detailing the many facets of the Hiramic legend throughout history. Facinating!

Steve also brought with him an old 32° diploma which I recognized as belonging to the founding father of Scottish Rite Masonry in Vermont! Steve had purchased it down in Boston, without knowing of its unique interest for Vermont Scottish Rite Masons, and just happened to bring it along. Talk about coincidence! I gave a short talk about this document, about Phineas Ballou, and how he was instrumental in the founding of the AASR here in Vermont.

PAPERS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

As always, I as WM am always looking for papers, and so far only have one short one scheduled for our next meeting. Remember, they need not be long or scholarly- if the subject interests you, it will interest us! Put down your thoughts on paper and send them to me at aieon@kingcon.com. Please: electronic format only! And remember too that if a paper you have written is accepted for presentation or for publication in our Proceedings, you are on your way to becoming a Full member, with dues reductions, free admission to our events, etc.

Thanks!
Eric Ginette, Worshipful Master