

Dear Brethren,

You are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the 1,722nd **Stated Communication** of Norsemen Lodge, No. 878 F. & A.M., to be held on

**Thursday Evening,
October 6th, 2011
At 7:30 p.m.**

for the official visit of our:

District Deputy Grand Master

R:.W:. Alfonso Serrano

Who will deliver the message from

The M:.W:. Vincent Libone

**Grand Master of F&A Masons of the
State Of New York**

Attendance is Mandatory

Officers' Dress

October 6th

Tuxedo

By Order of:

**W:. Jason C. Truce
Master**

Attest:

**B:. Dennis Elliot
Secretary**

This is a true copy of the Summons, the original of which, bearing the raised seal of the Lodge, is appended to the Minutes of this Communication.

FROM THE EAST

Brethren,

I want to open by thanking everyone who participated in the Rededication to Freemasonry Ceremony. Special thanks to Brother Paul Ciliento for taking on the 2nd Degree Obligation on such short notice, and nailing it. I also want to thank W:. Michael Greber and W:. Joseph Posa for leading the 1st and 3rd Degree Obligations, respectively. It was a great night for Norsemen, and I'm sure next time will be even better!

Our next meeting is October 6th, and is our Official Visit from the District Deputy Grand Master. Please make every effort to attend this meeting if possible.

I would like to touch on an important issue facing our Lodge at the moment, **DUES!** Presently, there are 38 active members of Norsemen, who owe over **\$5600** in dues, and that is just for this current year! When you add on the past years unpaid dues the total is over **\$8000!!!** This is money that can be used to replace Lodge materials, pay for collations and events, and donate to worthy causes.

I understand that times are tough economically, but each of us volunteered to join this fraternity, and did so knowing the financial obligations. Please honor that commitment you made and pay your dues. If you are having money problems, or believe there is an error in what you are listed as owing, contact me as soon as you can and we will work out a solution.

Faithfully Yours,
W:. Jason C. Truce

FROM THE WEST

Brethren,

I pray this message finds you and your family in good health and spirits. Our first meeting of the new year has come and gone and it was a complete success! The program for the evening was a Rededication to Freemasonry. It was the first time I witnessed this ceremony and I think it should become an annual event in our Lodge. I would like to thank every Brother that assisted with the ceremony to make the evening such a wonderful experience.

I was very disappointed in the turnout of Brothers that evening. I was hoping to see a full house that night, but unfortunately, that did not happen. The Master did an excellent job of conducting the evening and making sure we concluded at a reasonable hour.

Our meeting on October 6th will be the official visit of our District Deputy Grand Master. This is a Summoned Communication, and I remind you that every Brother is required to attend a

Summoned Communication, if within the length of your cable tow. If you haven't been out to a Lodge meeting in some time, this would be a great opportunity to come back to your Blue Lodge and hear the message of our Grand Master. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cordially and Fraternally,
B:. Frank Rizzi, SW

FROM THE SOUTH

Brethren,

I would like to thank all the Brothers who came out and participated in the Rededication Ceremony. It was a memorable night, and I hope this becomes an annual event here at Norsemen Lodge. Our next meeting is the District Deputy visit. We all should know how important these meetings are, especially in regards to our attendance. We should all make every effort to attend.

Brothers, we need to start showing our strength in numbers, but this can not be done with poor turn outs. Everyone wants this Lodge to succeed, however we will never reach that higher echelon if most of the membership lies dormant. This is **OUR** Lodge, we must all have a hand in making it the very best it can be.

Finally, I would like to welcome back B:. Russell Gallo. We are all glad that you did not have to go overseas, and look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

Cordially and Fraternally,
B:. Anthony Varvara, J.W.

2011 District Deputy Grand Master Official Visit Schedule

**September 26th
October 6th
October 25th
November 7th
November 23rd
December 28th**

**Damascus Lodge #867
Norsemen Lodge #878
Phoenix Lodge #205
Amos Ft. Greene #922
Bay Ridge Lodge #758
A.G.D.S. #647**

TRESTLEBOARD

Awaiting Second Degree

Bro. Mark Evangelista
Bro. Singh Foo
Bro. Bruce Becker
Bro. Yosi Azulay
Bro. Frank Vasquez IV
Bro. Alex Omar Rebaza
Bro. Hector Lorenzo
Bro. Dillion Rodney
Bro. Wilfredo Taveras

Awaiting Committee Report

Bro. Keneth Becker

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 10th - Columbus Day Parade

October 11th - Safety ID Instructional Night

Hosted by Phoenix Lodge

November 3rd - Stated Communication

Brother Bring A Friend Night. Tour of Grand Lodge

November 19th - Toys For Tots

December 5th - Shriners Benefit Concert

Starring Broadway Performers. At Grand Lodge

IMPORTANT!

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Please be advised that paying your dues allows the Lodge to operate on a regular basis. If you haven't done so already, please be so kind as to remit your payments as soon as possible. The dues for 2011 are \$147.50.

DUES CARDS COME WITH NOTICES.

Please note the changes as to where payments are to be sent:

Norsemen Lodge, No. 878

c/o Jason Truce

1754 East 38th Street

Brooklyn, New York 11234-4408

Grand Master

M.:W.: Vincent Libone

Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: James E. Sullivan

District Deputy Grand Master

R.:W.: Alfonso Serrano

Grand Sword Bearer

R.:W.: David J. McDowell

LODGE OFFICERS 2011 – 2012

W.: Jason C. Truce

Master

(917)662-4845

B.: Frank Rizzi

Senior Warden

(917)642-3812

B.: Anthony Varvara

Junior Warden

(917)596-7159

B.: Dennis Elliot

Secretary

(551)221-1766

W.: Joseph J. Burke

Treasurer

(718)930-5222

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Bro. Paul Ciliento

Senior Deacon

Bro. Patrick DiMeglio

Junior Deacon

Bro. Nicholas DiMeglio

Senior M of C

Bro. Frank Lapetina

Junior M of C

Bro. Russell Berry

Steward

Bro. Thomas Stoppini

Steward

Bro. Simeon Cator

Marshal

Bro. George Shabouk

Organist

Bro. George Sukkarieh

Tiler

W.: Anthony Montalbano

Chaplain

TRUSTEES

W.: Michael Greber

2011

W.: Joseph Posa

2012

W.: Louis Costagliola

2013

W.: Adam Seminara

2014

Charities

We at Norsemen Lodge are advocates of charitable events. If there are any Brothers who know of an event that we can be part of, please do not hesitate to contact the WM and he will see to it that we lend a helping hand, and if possible, a monetary gift.

NORSEMEN LODGE #878

October 2011



Communications:

1st & 3rd Thursdays

Grand Lodge Masonic Hall

71 West 23rd Street

Renaissance Room

6th Floor

New York, NY 10010

(347)497-3676

Visit Norsemen Online:

www.Norsemen878.com

poor to envy his more fortunate Brother or covet his wealth. Their clothing in each case symbolizes labor and innocence. With hand and brain, each is ready to serve his fellowman; with forbearance and toleration, each is willing to forgive the crude and ignorant everywhere. To carry the symbolism of Masonic investiture still further, every Mason should be clothed in the habiliments of truth. His wardrobe should contain the robe of justice, with which to protect those who, for any reason, have been deprived of their just rights; the mantle of charity, with which to comfort those made destitute, many times by no cause of their own; the tunic of toleration, with which to hide the weakness of the wayward, and help them to the road of recovery; the cloak of mercy, with which to cover the wounded and suffering in mind or body with unstinted sympathy and kindness. These garments are all of genius quality, measured and cut by a Master Tailor. They are serviceable and in good taste on every occasion. They, too, may be had without money and without price, and, the man who wears them is truly "properly clothed," and "Well and Duly Prepared" as a Master Mason.

FREEMASONRY IS MANY THINGS.

Freemasonry is a Story of Life; with all its joys, its heartaches, its failures and its final triumph over all earthly things. Anyone can read it, in countless books. Its teachings, its symbols, and its ambitions, are open for general observation. They are practiced in the light, and held up for all the world to see. Freemasonry is not practiced in the dark, neither are its teachings the dogma of some forbidden cult. We, as Freemasons, are required to reflect the light; to practice its teachings and love by their direction. No greater thing can be said of Freemasonry than that it is an ideal way of life. No other fraternity offers such profound lessons in its

Ritual or Work as does Free-masonry. Each word and each act in the ceremonies of the Lodge carries a true lesson to each of us, if we will but open our eyes to see, our ears to hear and hearts to accept. We can study Freemasonry for years, as we attend its meetings, and each time we stop to think on the things said and done, we get a new meaning and inspiration from them. There is a never-ending source of pleasure in the various shades of meaning that can be read into each line of our work. Each new meaning and interpretation that we put into some word or act will make that passage live for us, and we will begin to see Freemasonry for what it is intended. Great men have devoted many years of study and meditation to the cause of Freemasonry and when their work is finished they realize that they have only begun to see the light and that they have only started to uncover the true meanings of the work. Freemasonry has been talked of and written about by countless men in every country of the world. Its members have been persecuted in all lands at one time or the other, but is still grows and flourishes as no other fraternity on earth today. There must be something good and great in Freemasonry, for it to stand through the years as a beacon of light to its members and as a symbol of the true way of life for all to see and follow. Its greatness is not due to its secret teachings, its mysteries or fanfare of its deeds, but rather to the profound lessons taught to its members and to the comfort, inspiration and enlightenment brought to all who will but study

Freemasonry frowns on advertising its good deeds, preferring to let those who benefit from them reflect its goodness, that others might have hope and desire the better things of life. Freemasonry offers comfort to those who sorrow, hope for those who

despair, wise counsel for those who err, and the joys and contentment of life to all.

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND. The making of a Freemason consists in a continued course of education, and of character forming. While it may be accepted that it is an innermost desire, followed by obligations that makes one a member of the Craft, yet in a truer form did better sense, a man is never a Freemason until he truthfully and loyally lives up to his obligations. And he cannot do that until he understands them, and eventually knows their scope and real meaning. Freemasonry can very well be divided into many phases. Its landmarks, its customs, its constitution and its laws, just to mention a few, if studied and mastered, can provide a most interesting course for the Master Mason seeking Masonic knowledge. Its historical background can provide an interesting program of investigation to the member attracted to a desire for research. One peculiarity about Freemasonry is that it will stand investigation. The deeper the research, the more extensive the knowledge of its hidden art and mysteries, the more highly it is appreciated. A member of the Craft who merely takes his degrees in a listless, careless sort of manner, and then remains as just a spectator at Lodge meetings, may hold to the opinion that Freemasonry differs little from other societies. To the contrary, the Master Mason who delves deeply into Masonic literature, takes a lively interest in every part of the Ritualistic and lodge Work, and learns the origin, meaning and moral bearing of its symbols, cannot possibly fall into such an error. To him Freemasonry has a refining and elevating influence not to be found in the ordinary run of organizations. The philosophies of Freemasonry, when discovered and then accepted and practiced, provide that simple but profound solution to the problems of human relationships. May it

be accepted that Freemasonry is a way of living to the Master Mason who is interested enough to appraise and value the wealth that is his, and his alone, by virtue of his Masonic Membership. The best informed Master Mason is the Master Mason who reads and studies. Consequently, if we want Freemasonry to be of practical usefulness and cultural attainment, we, as Freemasons, must not neglect our Masonic reading, our Masonic studying and our research for more Masonic Light.

NEEDED: A KNOWLEDGE OF FREEMASONRY. At no time in Masonic history has there been a greater need for understanding of what Freemasonry is and what it stands for than there is today. Much has been left undone in the education of Members of our Lodges. The first essential in Masonic education is that desire to become interested and enthused in Freemasonry followed by a thirst for knowledge as to what Freemasonry is all about. Here is where the instructors can serve well and can influence the candidate in a continuous search for more Masonic Light. The qualifications for instructing are less exciting than may be imagined. What is essential is a basic knowledge of Freemasonry by the instructor. In this day and age, with so many counter attractions, it becomes more evident that greater efforts must be put forth to instruct our new Members in the ideals and fundamentals of Freemasonry. Every Lodge should have a definite program along authentic Masonic educational lines. We must understand what Freemasonry really is before we can practice Freemasonry in our lives. We must remember that Freemasonry is judged by the actions of its individual members. We must set an example to those outside the Craft at all times. The need for Masonic knowledge is often evidenced in our Lodges, This can be alleviated where dedicated

members qualify as instructors and then serve in teaching the principles and fundamentals of Freemasonry to all who will listen.

What is Masonry? by Bro. Walter H. Bonn, Victor, Iowa:

"It's not a sign or handshake, a hall where tilers sit, It's not a guarded building, where passwords will admit, It's not a place of symbols, which Wardens oft display, It's not a lodge of members, who meet in white array.

It is the home of justice, of liberty and truth, Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth, Of succor for a brother, of gentleness and cheer, Of tolerance for neighbors, whose life is often drear."

A Note From The East

We hope you enjoyed this short article on Freemasonry and learned something new. Over the last several months many Brothers have voiced a desire to "Take Something Home" from the Lodge. This is part of our continuing effort at providing that for you. We plan to continue this practice with our future Notices, as well as starting other new initiatives aimed at providing each and every member of Norsemen an opportunity to expand his horizons and gain the light they seek.

If you have any questions, suggestions or requests, please contact W.: Jason C. Truce at BklynSteele@aol.com or (917)662-4845.

FIVE MASONIC THOUGHTS

From a "Masonic Culture" handbook issued by the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania we have extracted several items which came from the inspired pen of Brother William A. Carpenter, the current Right Worshipful Grand Master, written many years ago. They stand the test of time.

OUR BASIC FUNCTION. The basic function of a Masonic Lodge is to make Master Masons. This does not mean the formality of raising candidates. It extends far beyond that period in the life of a Mason. The task of making Master Masons must be directed toward all of us, those who are Master Masons and those who are in the process of becoming Master Masons. The fruits of our efforts to teach and to learn about Freemasonry, the interest that we show the candidates as we welcome them into the new world of Freemasonry, will be evident in the years to come. If we sow well, we are bound to reap well.

BEING WELL AND DULY PREPARED.

Being "Well and Duly Prepared" is a Masonic expression. Masons understand its significance in the Lodge Rooms. However, they may also interpret it outside the Lodge. No Mason enters even the ground floor of the Lodge unless he is "Well and Duly Prepared." So simple is his dress that it provokes no envy. He is dressed properly for the occasion, and everyone so dressed feels perfectly at ease among his Brethren. No place here for the rich to boast of fine raiment and resplendent jewels, nor for the