

Masonic Birthdays –April 2021

Happy Masonic Birthday to the following Brethren

<u>Brother</u>	<u>Years</u>
Ernest C. Hiscoe	51
Robert E. Pelletier	29
Wilfred G. Caouette	28
Ronald P. Moody	28
Douglas M. Barker	23
Iouri M. Starosselski	23
Theodore F. Thompson	16
Thomas C. Rizzo	15
Vasilios P. Zaharopoulos	14
Timothy R. Marotte	12
Jon A. Rhan	11
David M. Denehy	9
Alexander L. Durden	5
Costin Barbu	5

I wish each of the above Brethren a very happy Masonic Birthday, and invite them to join us at Lodge this month, so that I may personally extend my hand and best wishes.

Richard Johnston, W.M.

Attest: RW Larry Gullett, P.M., Secretary

Elected Officers – Rising Sun 2021

Worshipful Master	Richard Johnston PM
Senior Warden	John Woodrow
Junior Warden	Robert Nolet
Secretary	RW Larry Gullett PM
Associate Secretary	RW Brian Smith PM
Treasurer	Kevin Bailey
Associate Treasurer	Steve Bahsler PM
Trustee:	Ed Waible
Grand Lodge Rep:	Michael Tebbetts

Lodge Dues are \$120 for Rising Sun, combined with the Assessments for 2020 totaling \$55 this brings the total to \$175. Note that dues are due prior to the ensuing year. 2021 Dues are due on or before December 31, 2020

If you need assistance, please contact the Master or Secretary

2020/2021 ANNUAL DUES ARE PAST DUE

You may pay via check, or electronically via the Rising Sun Website. You may also make donations electronically for specific funds as well.

www.risingsun39.com



Rising Sun Lodge #39, F&AM
196 Main St, Suite 16
Nashua, NH 03060
Phone: 603-882-4931
Richard Johnston, Worshipful Master
Email: worshipfulmaster@risingsun39.com
www.risingsun39.com

Rising Sun Lodge #39

F&AM



*Making a difference in our community
since 1822*

Masonic Trestleboard ~ April 2021 ~

Important Lodge Events

STATED MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY – APRIL 21, 2021

6:15 PM DINNER, 7:30 PM LODGE OPENS.

GUEST SPEAKER

RW JAMES LAWRENCE

GRAND TREASURER

DINNER

BEEF STROGANOFF

RANDY PERKINS/ERIC THING

\$ 5.00 DONATION

WEDNESDAY – MAY 19, 2021

6:15 PM DINNER, 7:30 PM LODGE OPENS.

If you need a ride to Lodge please contact the Master or Secretary

From the East

One of the challenges that our Lodges face is the decline in membership. This is a familiar refrain that we have heard for many years. There are many opinions as to why this is occurring, and I refer you to the many scholarly works, rather than going into them here. You can google the phrase “Freemasonry membership decline” and pick from hundreds.

Therefore, what I am going to state here is not meant to be an affront to any Brother or Lodge. It is my opinion however, that Freemasonry is declining because we are not engaging and retaining younger members at a rate greater than those of us passing away. The keyword here is ‘engagement’. Although the concepts underpinning our Fraternity are timeless, the attraction that our Fathers and we Baby Boomers had to the Lodge are not the same as for the succeeding generations - Millennials, Gen X, Y, Z, etc.

It takes time to cultivate an appreciation of sincere fellowship, shared purpose, and association together as a Fraternity. Time and patience seem to be the ingredients that are lacking broadly in our society, and we are failing to keep up with the change. Finding the best message to attract the right candidates is the goal of the BeAFreemason.org website. With its data-driven approach, it seems to be working. It is essentially an exercise in marketing, using modern methods, and an example of a new approach to membership acquisition and retention.

To that end, this Master is doing his best to try new ideas of engagement within and outside the Lodge. This does not mean we are going to evolve into a social club. Rather that we will provide new opportunities to associate and learn about each other. In that way we form our friendships and establish our connections. Our Lodge is incredibly diverse, interesting, and has great impact on those outside the Fraternity. My Brethren, we must be curious and discover that substance which is beyond our ritual. What do you know about your Brothers? Does he have a life story that could help you in yours? Why did he come to Freemasonry? What goals does he have?

For the Mason who wishes to delve into the philosophical or historical aspects of our Craft, there are many excellent programs provided by our Grand Lodge and District officers. If community service and charity are your interests, we have those as well, and are constantly on the lookout for new initiatives. Most importantly, as we are all in the journey together, I want to know what YOU think is interesting, new, and original to further engage each other and meet new candidates.

Rich Johnston, PM
Worshipful Master

From the West John C. Woodrow SW

As the grip of COVID begins to ease, restrictions are relaxed and as more of our

citizens are getting vaccinated, there will be more and more opportunities to get involved again in our Lodge.

One of the many things we learn in Masonry are illusions and symbols; what at first may appear meaningless or common comes to have deeper meaning with time and understanding. Recently I’ve come to understand another illusion; that volunteering, participation, serving on a committee is about sacrifice and giving up my time. In truth, I get back many more times than what I give. The sense of belonging, deeper bonds of brotherhood, a shared purpose and common commitment is available to those who choose to participate.

I’ve learned that roadside clean-up is not about picking up trash but listening to another brother share his life story. I’ve learned that cleaning in the kitchen isn’t about washing dishes it’s about the satisfaction of having provided a good meal to others. I’ve learned that presenting an emblem to a newly raised Master Mason as part of the Fellow Craft team isn’t about how well I memorized the meaning of the emblem, but rather the personal bond I now share with a newly made Mason. I have learned that delivering a poinsettia to a Special Lady around the holidays is not about the plant, it’s about being present for someone who lives by themselves and longs for company.

I remember when I became a Master Mason 10 years ago thinking, ‘that’s it’, that’s all there is to it?’ Not recognizing as a new brother that it was up to me to

build on this foundation, by putting myself out there, taking a chance, trusting that other brothers would be there if I were to stumble or need support. In my experience the bonds of brotherhood are not formed by sitting on the side-lines. The value of our fraternity is not in the lessons we learn in Lodge through ritual and recitation but rather the values we take from those experiences and embrace in our own lives. Why did we want to become Mason's in the first place? Most candidates I speak with say, (almost without exception), "I want to be more involved in my community". If this is true for you and you are not getting the value from your Masonic experience, I invite you to jump in, volunteer, participate to whatever extent you'd like and are comfortable. It has often been said you get out of Masonry what you put into it. Ultimately, it's up to each of us. How are you participating in your own Masonic journey?

From the Secretary

Brethren, please open your wallets and look at your dues card. Is it signed? Is it dated 2021? If not, your dues are past due. Please remit your dues, or if you are having difficulty in these trying times, please reach out to the Master or secretary. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

April 13th Ancient York Stated Meeting
Dinner 6pm Lodge opens 7pm

April 16th Fellowship Lunch
At the Pub Grainery Noon.

April 23rd Pilgrim Chapter OES
Stated Meeting 7:30pm

April 24th Roadside Clean-up
Breakfast at Cookies Café Hudson 8:00 am
Alvirne High School parking lot 9:30 am
where the treasure hunt begins.

April 28th Bicentennial Planning
Meeting 7pm 4th floor and via Zoom

May 5th EA Degree Rehearsal 7pm

July 9-12 John Albro lodge # 122 Visit
Cancelled for this year.



Please join us every 3rd Friday for a Brother's informal luncheon at "The Pub Grainery" located at 36 E. Otterson St. Nashua.

R.W. Bro. Gullett will provide additional information as needed. Here's a snapshot from the first lunch, which was well attended by 15 Brothers and 1 seeking light.

Everyone is invited.



Congratulations to the many Brothers of Rising Sun who participated in the production filming of the Scottish Rite 30th degree play. It was an exercise in fellowship and hard work. If you do not now belong to Scottish Rite, see R.W. Secretary Gullett or W. Bro. Johnston for more information. It's a personal journey beyond the 3rd degree that will change you.