



STEPHENSON LODGE No. 135 A.F. & A.M.

Brothers, here we are, it's June already and our break is coming up for the summer. We have a lot of things coming up in Lodge. First and fore most, remember to come out for our annual strawberry night, which is June 1. This will be a casual evening for our members, polo shirts and slacks, no jeans or tee-shirts. This is open to all of our families and friends. Bring out your guests and treat them to strawberries and ice cream and other assorted deserts.

For those who are interested, some of the brothers are heading down to Conrad's Ruth Villa for the **Annual Scimeter Club** for pit beef on June 8th. This afternoon affair (1pm-5pm) is open to the brothers for \$35 a person. Contact brother **Dean Alban** at 202-368-9727 for tickets or more information. If you've never been then you're missing some good food and fellowship.

If our Entered Apprentices are ready to be examined, we will hold a special meeting on June 15 at 7:30 to do the examination and a second degree for Brother Aaron Smith and Tony Collini. I'll have more details later on this event.

The Darlington Independence Day Parade will start at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, June 29 with fireworks to follow at dusk. The parade will run along Main Street, ending in Francis Silver Park where there will be food and entertainment. The parade passes right by our Lodge, which we'll have open for us to use and we always get a great view of the parade. Bring a picnic and enjoy some hometown celebrations. Rain date for fireworks is dusk on June 30.

We will return to Lodge after the summer break on September 21st. We might see an examination of the Fellowcraft degree that evening, if our two Entered Apprentice are ready.

Right after that, ten days later, is the Darlington Apple Festival and as always we need all of the help we can get. Last year was a wash with the rain, so hopefully this year will be better. Come help your brothers out with this our only big activity of the year where we work all day selling apple dumplings.

Then looking to November, we will be doing our 3rd Annual Gun Raffle, now is the time to get tickets and help sell them, one for \$20 or two for \$35. We need brothers to help sell these tickets. Also in November is our Annual Ladies Night, which promises to be as good as last year. Look for more information on that in September. And then it's election of officers, and I'm hoping to be replaced by a qualified candidate for the office of Worshipful Master for 2017.

Keith Thompson, Sr.

Worshipful Master