



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

We are through the summer once again, and it is time for us to go from our break back to labor. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Our only meeting in September, which will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>, we will have a regular business meeting to catch up from over the summer months when we were dark. Officers will start practice on second full week of September on Monday in the Fellowcraft degree. We will be ready to give the degree to one of our Entered Apprentices when he is ready. Brother Aaron Smith, one of our Entered Apprentices, will be leaving us in the middle of the month to be deployed to Afghanistan for six months for his job. We wish him luck and will continue with his degrees on his return next year.

October 1<sup>st</sup> 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. I'm concerned that we may not have the help we once had in previous years. I'm thinking about adjusting the amount of dumplings to a more manageable number if I feel not enough Brothers will be available to help on that day. I hate to do it since it's our only time to work together as a Lodge on such a high visibility day bringing income to the Lodge. I don't want a couple Brothers saddled with all of the work, which makes a long tiring day for a few.

**Esdraelon Lodge** will be holding a Lodge of Low Vale again this October. It will be at the Lodge's secretary, G. Wilson Tharpe's Barn at Maples Farm on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm. They will raise three Brothers to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. Needless to say Master Masons only, and if you've never witnessed a Lodge of Low Vale, this will be a great time to see one. Look for a future flyer with more information.

**Susquehanna Lodge** will hold a special meeting to host nationally renowned author and historian, Walter H. Hunt. Brother Hunt is the Grand Historian from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. You will want to get an autographed copy of "*A Song In Stone*", his latest novel which explores the mysteries of Rosslyn Temple and the fall of the Templars.

Then looking to November, we will be doing our 3<sup>rd</sup> *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 October. And then it's election of officers, and I'm planning to be replaced by a qualified candidate for the office of Worshipful Master for 2017. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

Keith Thompson, Sr.

Worshipful Master, 2016