

Brethren

I am writing to you to inform you of a very important meeting to be held at our March Stated Communication. As you may already or may not know, Grand Lodge has increased the Assessment Tax per member by \$10.00. This increase will be seen in your 2019 dues. This will increase our dues from \$121.00 to \$131,00. Our current take in does not outdo our payouts. On top of paying Grand Lodge assessment we are paying \$6600.00 per year for the BDI fees. At this meeting we will be discussing dues increase needed to offset the deficit between our take-in and our pay outs. I am enclosing our budget for 2018 and our budget for 2019 which show our intake and our outputs for your review. This clearly shows our problem.

It has been suggested that we raise our dues to \$175.00 per year. I myself think that is too drastic an increase, but do agree that we need to increase some in order to sustain our Lodge. I fully understand that a lot of our current members are up in age and on fixed incomes. An increase this steep can drive them out of Doric Lodge and as Master it is my duty to prevent that. I want to get the entire lodge involved in constructive dialogue and see if we as a lodge can come up with a solution.

As I stated in my acceptance letter, my main priority is for the good of the Lodge. Something needs to change if we as a Lodge are going to survive. We need to act now, so that the next Master will not have to struggle to keep his lodge afloat.

Last year I sent out letters asking for help. Now is the time to act. **Ask not what your Lodge can do for you, BUT what you can do for your Lodge.** After the March Stated Communication, we will follow up with a Special Called Communication to finalize whatever plan of action that we come up with as a group. At the April Stated Communication, we will vote making our decision final.

So please Brethren mark your calendars for Tuesday March 13,2018 at 6:30pm. We will eat at 6:30pm and open Lodge at 7:30pm. Let us come together as a Lodge. Let us look to the future and not the past.

On a good note we have scheduled our two main fundraisers for 2018 with one in the planning phase. Our Annual Bar-B-Que will be held on Saturday May 5, 2018 and our Annual Fish Fry will be held on Saturday October 13, 2018. We are also

trying to schedule a Philippino Night. These fundraisers can not be successful without your support. I have also been talking with the Worshipful Master of Berkley Lodge about having a combined Family Picnic Day at the Lodge, for sometime this summer. This would be a good way of showing Masonic Unity with our Brethren in Berkley Lodge.

Willmont Arthur Griffin,

Worshipful Master

Doric Lodge 44 AF& AM