

The Cable Tow

The newsletter of the Juneau Masonic Community

Winter 2016



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The newsletter of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21, Free and Accepted Masons of Alaska.

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No. 21.

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Cover image: Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 and the appendant and concordant bodies of the Juneau Masonic Community “passed the gavels” as 2015 concluded and 2016 began.

Send submissions to
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The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2016 edition is March 15, 2016.



A grand ol' time



Photo by W. Bro. Claude Roberts

Local recipients of the Grand Cross of Color gathered in November at Juneau's Orca Room. They are, front row, left to right: Sandy DeLong, Georgene Brookman, Joan Roberts, Carolyn Reddekopp, Alfreda Dore, Mary Becker. Back row, left to right, Claude Roberts, Al Brookman, Megan Clough, Sorch Hazelton, Andrea Miller, Deanna Brown, Gabrielle Hazelton, John Barnett, Kristy Germain and Peggy Cartmill. According to the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls' website, the Grand Cross of Color is “a designation given to girls and adults who have given exceptional service to an assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.”

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Blue Lodge, OES hold joint installation of officers for new year



Photo by V.W. Bro. Don Hale

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 installed its officers for 2016 at a Dec. 19, 2015 ceremony at the Lodge Room at 8401 Old Dairy Road. Pictured, from left to right are W. Bro. Paul Moran, Installing Master and Tyler; Doug Harris, Senior Deacon; Torrey Jacobsen, Treasurer; Charles Ward, Senior Warden; W. Bro. Ray Rusaw, Worshipful Master; Michael Franks, Junior Warden; W. Bro. John Barnett, Installing Marshal; V.W. Bro. Al Brookman, Chaplain; Mer'chant Thompson, Marshal; Chris Pace, Junior Steward and W. Bro. Dan McCrummen, Secretary Pro Tem. Not pictured: W. Bro. Ken Vaughan, Secretary; Brandon Daves, Junior Deacon and Craig Bumpus, Senior Steward.

By Bro. Charles Ward

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 and Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star installed their officers for 2016 at a joint ceremony on December 19, 2015 at the Lodge room atop T&S Welding.

The OES installation began at 2 p.m., with Georgene Brookman, P.M., serving as installing officer. She installed Jenisse Markham as Worthy Matron

and Doug Harris as Worthy Patron.

Other OES officers for 2016 will be Gabrielle Hazelton, Associate Matron; Claude Roberts, P.P., Associate Patron; Vicki Atzei, P.M., Secretary; Carole Winton, Treasurer; Andrea Miller, P.M., Conductress; Sandy DeLong, P.M., Organist; Al Brookman, P.P., Chaplain; Diane DeRoux Sportel, Ada;

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From the East

A new Masonic season

By W. Bro. Ray Rusaw

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this column, and for instilling your trust in me by electing me your Worshipful Master. Writing is a bit out of my element, but sharing time and words with you is part of what Masonry is.

As I move into my new role as Master of the Lodge, I've reflected a bit on a very fulfilling 2015. I enjoyed stretching forth my hands and passing Fellowcrafts to their second degrees and walking upright along side them as they became Master Masons.

Probably my favorite Masonic moment this fall was when the Rainbow Girls, ladies from the Order of the Eastern Star, Shriners and Scottish Rite Masons all joined together and went through the storage containers containing historic remnants of the old Scottish Rite Temple. While we had to say our final goodbyes to many of the items, it was gratifying to find parts and pieces that will find a home in our new Juneau Masonic Center, or elsewhere within our

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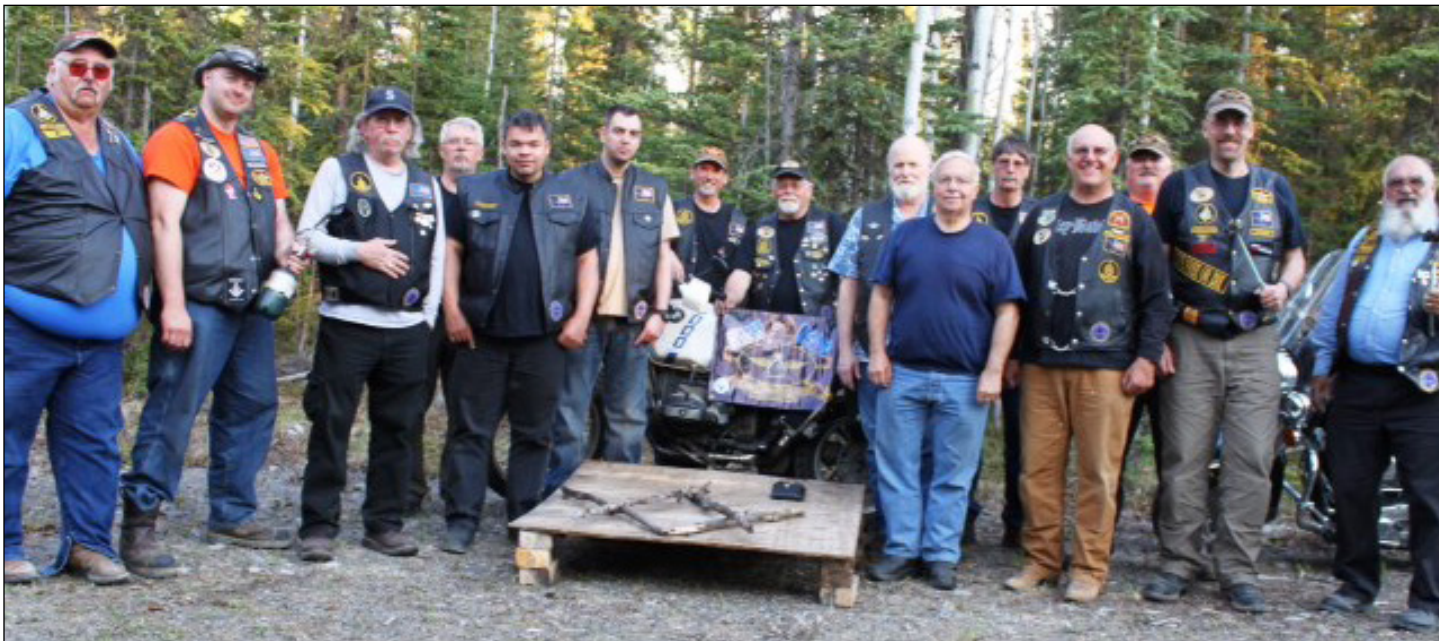


Photo provided by V.W. Bro. Jeff DeFreest

Members of the Alaska Grand Chapter of Widows Sons stop near Tok during their 2015 Challenge Ride.

Riding strong into 2016

By V.W. Bro. Jeff DeFreest

The Widows Sons — Grand Chapter of Alaska had a very active year in 2015 — some small group rides, the annual challenge ride, a branding and a new look to the patch.

After nine years in Alaska, the patch was expanded from the basic oval Widows Sons patch to a new and unique patch that includes the word “Alaska” and the words “Masonic Riders’ Association.” Alaska members worked hard on the new design and approvals, and brothers in Maine helped us find a high quality patch maker there to have them made. The process took a couple of years, but you’ll see the new

patch on all new riders and any of the old guard who opt to replace their old patches.

The annual challenge ride went to Tok, where brothers from all over the Great Land rendezvoused. This was the first Challenge Ride for two new members who earned their coins, and Alaska Widows Sons held their first branding ceremony — essentially a Widows Sons degree — where 12 riders received a new experience.

Later in the summer R.W. Bro. Keith “Baked Alaskan” Herve and V.W. Bro. Jeff “Cat Herder” DeFreest took a ride to Deadhorse and Prudhoe Bay, sporting their colors.

On Labor Day, a small con-

tingent of Widows Sons from southern Southeast ventured to British Columbia and back into Hyder for a great three-day ride and ferry trip before the weather deteriorated.

Other local rides were conducted around the state in the Interior, at Juneau, and at Ketchikan. These included toy runs with other riders associations and clubs, a 9/11 remembrance ride, and rides just because it was a nice day!

The annual meeting took place in November in Anchorage. Outgoing president W. Bro James “Jimmy Jammin’ ” Brooks served as host. Only one

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Plaid posse



Photo provided by Doug Harris, 32°

Members of the Juneau Chapter of the Knights of St. Andrew attended Robbie Burns Night, hosted by the City of Juneau Pipe Band on Jan. 23 at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. From left to right, they are Dan McCrummen, 33°; Jim Robinson, 32°; Don Hale, 32°, KCCH; Charles Ward, 32°; Michael Franks, 32°; Doug Harris, 32° and John Barnett, 33°. Three of the Knights — McCrummen, Hale and Harris — are also members of the Pipe Band.

The Knights didn't just honor one Scot recently. On Nov. 28, 2015, the Knights celebrated the Feast Day of St. Andrew by ringing bells for the Salvation Army. KSA raised \$373.61 for the Red Kettle Campaign, then enjoyed a feast in St. Andrew's honor that evening.

Juneau's new officers are getting ready for the Reunion

By John Barnett, 33° and Charles Ward, 32°

At its November 12, 2015 stated meeting, the Juneau Valley bodies of the Scottish Rite elected officers for the 2016 year. They are:

Lodge of Perfection 14°

- Venerable Master: Larry Fanning 32°, KCCH
- Senior Warden: Charles Ward 32°
- Junior Warden: Doug Harris 32°

• Orator: Michael Franks 32°

Chapter Rose Croix 18°

- Wise Master: Ken Vaughan 32°
- Senior Warden: Larry Fanning 32°, KCCH
- Junior Warden: Charles Ward 32°
- Orator: Doug Harris 32°

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From the East

Parting words from the Past Master's desk

By W. Bro. Paul Moran

A few days ago, I stepped down from the East of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21. As I slink off to the Tyler's position, the Worshipful Master's authority will be vested in my worthy successor, W. Bro. Ray Rusaw. It is time to say farewell and share a few thoughts and thanks.

This year has been bitter-sweet. Too many brothers left us this year. We miss Stan Beadle, Charles Stevens, Robert Dwyre, John Venables and Doug Gregg. But we are confident they are honored and respected; at labor in the celestial lodge and there will greet us at some point along the level of time.

On a happier note, we had a triumphant Cornerstone raising, and were the recipients of quite a few compliments from Grand Lodge on our floor and esoteric work. Our degree teams keep getting better and our newly raised Master Masons continue to demonstrate freedom, fervency and zeal.

The design for our new building is coming together on the trestle board. While the JMCA board in general is to be

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From the West

A plan to improve myself in Masonry

By Bro. Charles Ward

It's my honor to write this article as Senior Warden of Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21. I'm hopeful to live up to the trust my brothers have seen fit to instill in me, and am certain we'll have a fruitful and productive year under Worshipful Master Ray Rusaw.

There are many paths a Mason can take to improve himself in the Craft. There are three I plan to follow during this year in the West:

- Education. All of us asked for light when we came before the altar of Freemasonry. But our quest for light doesn't end once we become Master Masons. Instead, that step is merely the end of the beginning of our search. Certainly, there is enlightenment to be found in the Scottish and York rites, and many Masons follow those paths. But there are many ways to add to our Masonic knowledge, and I'm hopeful to improve myself in Masonry through knowledge during our meetings this year. Bro. Doug Harris gave a splendid talk on the signif-

icance Mozart's "The Magic Flute" has for the Craft at our first meeting of 2016, and I look forward to more of these skull sessions.

- Engagement. Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 has about 70 brothers living in either Juneau or Douglas. However, attendance at our meetings is well below that number.

Of course, it is important to ensure we have a vibrant, active Lodge that encourages good men to knock on our door. But it is also important that vibrant, active Lodge maintains meaning for our current members as well. During this year, I'm going to work to find out what keeps so many of our brothers from becoming and staying active in Lodge activities. If there are obstacles to attendance, we should knock down those hurdles. If there are things we can do as a brotherhood — while maintaining our essential character as Masons — to bring friends back to Lodge, we should do those things.

- Enjoyment. Lodge is

See Improve on page 11

Golden gratitude



Photo by W. Bro. Claude Roberts
Worshipful Master Ray Rusaw, left, presented V. W. Bro. Harley Clough with a custom-made pin to celebrate Clough's 60 years of service to Masonry. Rusaw crafted the pin using gold he panned and refined from Juneau waters.

Season

Continued from page 3

community.

I'm excited about our Masonic future and our rising chapter in our new home.



Find us on Facebook!

Were you **AWARE** of this?



Photo by Claude Roberts, P.P.
Past Worthy Matron Joan Roberts, left presents AWARE's Mandi Canaday with a \$200 donation from Juneau Chapter No. 7, Order of the Eastern Star.

Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club

Tickets and turkey cap a big year

By Noble Claude Roberts

The Juneau-Douglas Shrine Club installed its 2016 officers at its Jan. 6 meeting. Officers for this year will be: Noble John Barnett, President; Noble Mer'chant Thompson, 1st Vice President; Noble Ric Pruitt, 2nd Vice President; Noble Jim Robinson, Treasurer and Noble Claude Roberts, Secretary. Larry White, Assistant Rabban for the Al Aska Shrine,

installed the officers..

The Club enjoyed a very busy end to 2015 has been very busy the past three months. In November, it celebrated the annual Turkey Bash, overseen for the first time by Noble Craig Bumpus. Dinner was out on time and plenty was had by all 50 in attendance.

After the Turkey Bash, the club

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From the South

Dusting off my duties

By Bro. Michael Franks

It is a tremendous and humbling honor to be elected to Junior Warden for 2016. I am looking forward to stepping up and helping to support our Lodge and our incoming Worshipful Master Ray Rusaw.

When Bro. Charles Ward asked me to write an article as the Junior Warden, I was not sure what to write about, largely because I was not sure of the full depth and breath of this officer's job. I picked up a book a while back at the Scottish Rite Reunion and it has sat on my desk, until recently collecting dust. The book's name is *Our Places and Stations* by Henry G. Meacham. It is an interesting book describing the duties of all the stations of the lodge from the Junior Steward to the Worshipful Master. I thought this might be a good place to start, learn about the office and convey an understanding as it relates to what I think my role will become.

A lodge is supported by the three great pillars, representing

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Gaining on our goal

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

As you read this, I am in Tucson, Ariz. and recovering from joint repair surgery.

Three years ago, two Wardens, W. Bro. Dan Logan and I decided over a cup of coffee they needed to attend some JMCA meetings. Thus started a journey.

After attending a few meetings, it seemed clear to us that the chances of getting the millions in additional funds to build a multistory building were very very small. Several new members joined the Trustees and all tried to find a funding source without success. There is a very competitive environment for charitable grants, and continuing research continues to find no sources for grants to fraternal non-profits. That experience rings true in conversations with other masonic lodges and appendant groups.

Assessments, conversations, and analysis found several things.

- There was and continues to be a deep and abiding sense of grief and loss amongst those who were closely connected with the Scottish Rite Temple. For some, this has abated over time. For some it has not.

- Members identified that the most important things were a comfortable lodge room and a good meeting place for social activities. There were a lot of things identified as wanted, but the predominant points identified were Lodge room and meeting space.

- The “Brown Building” was at the end of its useful life and could not be maintained for use. It has since been demolished and our new home will rise from the dust where it sat.

- The “Yellow Building” would need extensive work to meet codes as an “assembly space” including substantial increase in the flooring capacity.

- The funds available (in hand) were enough to do a good job with a part of the list of things that people thought should be done, but not near enough for all of them. I still am grumbled at because there were not the resources available to fund rental property. However, there are some discussions underway to have a tenant and this is made possible by the placement of the new building on the site of the brown building.

The best we could do with the funds we have remains the goal, and we are doing the best

we can with the resources we have. That translates into 3,500 square feet of building with most of the space concentrated into an expanded Lodge Room and a functional multi-purpose space. That space is being constructed with as many sustainable approaches to provide energy conservation and durability as we can reasonably make. The Center will have open access that meets ADA standards so all members can enter and participate. As I write this we are starting the final push to get the permit and breaking ground. Schedules are still not final, but we expect to be ready to move into our new home by summer of 2016.

This summer, JMCA Trustees and some hardy volunteers sorted through the materials in the conex containers that sat outside T&S Welding. In the nine years since the closing of the Scottish Rite Temple, one of the containers developed a leak, leading to considerable damage to many of the items. It was ugly. Carpets were white with mildew. Wood was wet and warped. Mold was prevalent.

Beyond that, lead-based paint covered many of the wood

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Install

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Dixie Weiss, Ruth; Georgene Brookman, P.M., Esther; Toni Tajon, P.M., Martha; Sorch Hazelton, Electa and Val Lind, Warden.

Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 followed at 4 p.m. with Installing Master W. Bro. Paul Moran and Installing Marshal W. Bro. John Barnett put W. Bro. Ray Rusaw in the Oriental Chair.

Other Blue Lodge officers for

2016 will be Charles Ward, Senior Warden; Michael Franks, Junior Warden; W. Bro Ken Vaughan, Secretary; Torrey Jacobsen, Treasurer; Doug Harris, Senior Deacon; Brandon Daves, Junior Deacon; Craig Bumpus, Senior Steward; Chris Pace, Junior Steward; Mer'chant Thompson, Marshal and V.W. Bro. Al Brookman, Chaplain.

Riding

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Widows Son braved the snow and cold to ride to the meeting, as others learned when they saw Bro. (and Al Aska Shrine Potentate) Chris Fratello's Gold Wing parked outside the Shrine Temple.

At the meeting, the members

voted to take a 2016 ride to Beaver Creek in the Yukon Territory. In other business, the Widows Sons elected DeFreest as President and M.W. Bro. James Herrington as Secretary for 2016, the 10th anniversary year of the Alaska Grand Chapter.

Cap

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set its focus on its fund raiser. The winner of the raffle claimed \$5,000 cash, with the runner-up winning a \$9,000 watch. The Juneau Rainbow Girls helped the nobles sell tickets on two occasions, which aided the effort.

The year ended with the la-

dies' Christmas Lunch on Dec. 23 at the Moose Lodge, with the club. Several wives, girlfriends and members of the Order of the Eastern Star came and enjoyed the buffet provided by the Club. The next ladies' lunch is set for Feb. 17, 2016.

From the Secretary

Notes on numbers

By W. Bro. Ken Vaughan

A few odds and ends as we enter 2016:

- Membership in Mt. Juneau-Gastineaux Lodge No. 21 is essentially holding steady. In 2010, the Lodge had 140 enrolled members. At the end of December, 2015, our membership stands at 138.

- Dues cards have been mailed out to life members and notices have been sent to annual members. Please pay your dues as soon as you are able. If payment would prove to be a hardship, please contact me at mtjg21@gmail.com or by mail at P.O. Box 32558, Juneau, AK 99803

- We have three Brothers who's addresses are not current. They are

- Melvern Eugene Graham. The Lodge has not heard from him for a number of years. Any information would be appreciated.

- Michael George Barger. His last known address was in Fort Bragg, N.C. Any leads to reestablish contact will be appreciated.

- Randall Dirk Weaver. Mail to his Redmond, Wash. address is being returned.



Ready

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Council of Kadosh 30°

- Commander: Steven Stewart 32°, KCCH
- 1st Lieutenant Commander: Ken Vaughan 32°
- 2nd Lieutenant Commander: Larry Fanning 32°, KCCH
- Chancellor: Charles Ward 32°
- Orator: Doug Harris 32°

Consistory 32°

- Master of Kadosh: Claude Roberts 33°
 - Prior: Steven Stewart 32°, KCCH
 - Preceptor: Ken Vaughan 32°
 - Chancellor: Larry Fanning 32°, KCCH
- Al Brookman, 33° will serve as Almoner for all bodies, while

Don Hale, 32°, KCCH will stand as Treasurer. John Barnett, 33° and Dan McCrummen, 33° will continue in their appointments as Valley Secretary and Personal Representative, respectively.

The Valley will host its annual Reunion April 28-30, 2016.

Parting

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thanked for their efforts, special kudos are due to Bro. Michael Franks and W. Bro. Ken Vaughan for their tireless work with the architects, contractors permitting staff and building inspectors. By the end of next year, if not sooner, we will finally be home!

As with every Mason in this Lodge, I look forward to success for our new Master, the new Lodge officers and committee members. I am confident that they will do us proud, for they all did a Yeoman's job last year; not only in their own appointed

tasks but also filling the gaps whenever I needed help.

Many thanks to Vaughan for performing brilliantly as Secretary and W. Bro. Dan McCrummen for filling in when we desperately needed it. Thanks to our Stewards; Bros. Craig Bumpus and Jameson Sanders for the outstanding meals. Thanks also to Franks and Bro. Doug Harris for your tireless floor and to Bro. Charles Ward for your excellent work with the Cable Tow, website and with the care, feeding and needs of the Grand Lodge officers.

Worshipful Master, thanks for being a patient sounding board during your year in the West, keeping me within due bounds and filling in the East when I was absent. If I have any advice, it would be to lean on your brother officers. You have as fine a slate of Lodge officers as any man could ask for.

May your year be as blessed as mine was with peace and harmony and the Fraternity with growth and prosperity. Look well to the East.

Gaining

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pieces, making them unusable.

Not all was lost. Wood doors and the containers themselves went new homes in exchange for a donation to JMCA. Eastern Star recovered some ritual stations. The cleanup crew also uncovered dishes and some mood lighting fixtures from a mid-90's remodel, along with Scottish Rite, DeMolay, and Blue Lodge ritual materials. This will allow for some "old home" touches in our new Center, but there not be material nor room enough to recreate what once was.

It has been a long path with a lot of switchbacks along the way. I hope you all enjoy the outcome, which will be physical instead of conceptual in this calendar year. We will still have challenges and will need to continue to compromise, but these are things all families overcome, this one of ours will as well.

Kilts and a kettle



Photo by Charles Ward, 32°

Knights of St. Andrew Larry Fanning, 32°, KCCH and John Barnett, 33°, ring bells for the Salvation Army's "Red Kettle Campaign on Nov. 28, 2015 at Fred Meyer. The KSA has taken part in the campaign for the last three years as part of its celebration of the Feast Day of St. Andrew. This year, the KSA followed the bell ringing with a dinner at Vice Cheiftain Charles Ward's home.



Improve

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a time to step away from the worries of the everyday world. A Mason can break bread and enjoy social time with his brothers, take part in a ritual with roots reaching back beyond 700 years and learn about a philosophy that has been improving men

for at least that long. Sure, there will be times to deal with bills and bylaws, but there needs to be more to build a brotherhood and make Lodge something to be looked forward to.

I've little doubt 2016 will be a great year. We'll be moving into

a new building, which will offer a great opportunity to accomplish many of the goals above, and more. I have tremendous confidence in our ability to take the Craft forward this year, and look forward to both the journey and the outcomes.

Juneau Masonic Community



Friendship • Fraternity • Family

Dusting

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wisdom, strength, and beauty. Of those, the Junior Warden represents the column of beauty, which corresponds to his oath of office "To observe the Sun at meridian height, which is the glory and beauty of the day" (*Our Places and Stations*, Meacham, H. 2007 pg. 29). The Sun at meridian height is at its zenith, where the most heat and light is given, providing strength to all living things and allowing them to grow. The phrase recited during the officer's oath provides guidance to the brethren that seeking the qualities of the mind associated with the pillar of beauty can help all about the lodge grow in wisdom and strength.

The Junior Warden's duty is to call the Craft from labor to refreshment and superintend them so they do not convert the means of refreshment into excess. This does not mean he is to control their actions, but instead he should mingle with

them to know his brothers so that he may properly superintend them. This role will not only help me grow in light but as a person. I have never been the most social nor talkative person, but I promise in my role as Junior Warden I will endeavor to grow in this respect. In turn, I plan to get to know my brothers better and enjoy their brotherly love and friendship.

Typically all in lodge social activities fall under the auspices of the Junior Warden and his two Stewards. Luckily we also have a great Senior Warden in Ward, who helps direct our social committee and I am thankful for all his efforts. I look at the Junior Warden's job to mentor the Stewards not only in the workings of the Craft but as they provide for the Craft. Providing for the Craft is no small task unto itself and takes a lot of effort and attention to detail.

Lastly, just like the Speaker

of the House, the Junior Warden is third in line to the East. If at any time the Worshipful Master or the Senior Warden are not able to continue in their duties, it is the Junior Warden's obligation to step into the vacant position. That means it is imperative the Junior Warden be fluent in the Constitution, by-laws, and Masonic jurisprudence. This is a heavy burden but I am here to support my lodge and my brothers and will endeavor to do my best.

This will be a great year for us all with many good things to look forward to. Our new building will start soon and we will have a new permanent home. Our lodge membership is continually growing with new good men who desire to be better. We have a new group of Officers and appointed officers. It will be a year of change and growth and I am excited to be a part of it. I do promise and swear to look well to the South.