

WOOSTER LODGE NO. 10 A.F. & A.M.

236 S. MAIN STREET
COLCHESTER, CT 06420



March 17, 2025

Dear Wooster Brothers,

I felt the time was right to give you an update of your lodge. After 244 years since the framing of our charter, Wooster is very dim but certainly far from dark. I'm sending this letter via email to our entire membership in the hopes that those of you who are great distances from us might want to help with the trestle board or help with making short notices to our local members. In the hopes of building attendance, I continue to send out group texts to our local members the day before our meetings as a friendly reminder.

2024 was bittersweet. Sweet in that our immediate past master Brother Jerry Cross implemented some great ideas to uplift Wooster and attendance with good fellowship, eating at the Plum Tomato and a speaker program. We completed the degrees for 3 new brothers. Two of whom are taking active roles as officers. Brothers Tom Lawton & Marc Massicotte. Brother Tom did an excellent job as Senior Steward for the EA° last month for our new friend and now Brother Bill Long.

Bitter in that WM Jerry's health was failing and didn't stabilize until the last month of his term. Jerry and his lovely wife Sara decided to sell their home and move to an assisted living community in Mansfield. We wish them the best of health moving forward. Also, some of our brothers who have the desire and talent to be officers have either moved out of the area or already lived in other counties than ours. They do however, from time to time stop by to be active sideliners and their attendance is up lifting.

I have had a saying for many years that I demonstrate on my hand. We all have 5 digits to count on based on priorities. I state that we as men should keep God, Family, our vocation and our country as the four highest priorities in our lives and ahead of freemasonry. If masonry can be your 5th priority that would really help us. How you arrange the first 4 is up to you. I believe that you can never succeed in masonry if it ever becomes a higher priority than any of the first four.

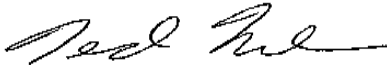
I did say dim but not dark. We are cruising dangerously low to the ground in airplane talk. We have our new master, 5+ times Frank Rich back in the East with WB Dave Shultzman in the West. For the first time in our history, we have no one in the South.

Our Grand Lodge Line Officer, Jame Moran, didn't know that was even possible. We have agreed not to talk anyone into doing something they don't want to do. We are soldiering forward. If we do go dark, it won't be for the lack of trying. Our dues and investments keep us financially afloat, which is how we can afford to pick up the tab at each outing at the Plum Tomato. Most of the brothers make donations towards dinner as their wallet allows.

Not only is our hope in God, but it is also in the young brothers that we are raising. We old guys will do our very best to inspire them with good lectures and ritual in the hopes that they too will join our ranks and become the new leaders that we so desperately need.

Thank You for your continued membership at Wooster Lodge. I feel the need to at least show you where we are and what we're doing to turn this ship around.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ted Nelson".

Ted Nelson, Treasurer since 2019
860-235-0770 cell/text