February 2021

6, 7 & 13 See artworks by many of Arts Mineral Point’s member artists on display over three consecutive weekends at the Historic Masonic Lodge. The show opens to the public Sat., Jan. 30, and ends Sat., Feb. 13. See article on page 3.
20 Quincy Adams Lodge No. 71 Dedication and Installation of Officers.

March 2021

13 H.S. Baird No. 174, 86th Annual Steamboat Dinner, 31 S. 3rd Ave, Sturgeon Bay – drive up take out only this year! $16.00 - Roast beef, turkey, baked beans, coleslaw, pie. Proceeds help with N.E.W. community outreach. Contact Bro. Tom Pinney at tompinney@charter.net or 920-493-3727 for tickets or more information.
31 17th Annual Combined Table Lodge between the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin and The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin, Inc., Tripoli Shrine Center. See page 12.

April 2021

23-25 Spring Staff Meeting and Grand Master’s Testimonial.

June 2021

4-5 177th Annual Communication, Wisconsin Masonic Center.

August 2021

29 Brewers-Twins Baseball Sunday, Target Field, Minneapolis.

February 2022

19-23 2022 Conference of Grand Masters of North America

Good Advice from a Working Man

Two men cut wood all day long. One worked straight through without stopping to rest. At the end of the day, he had a sizable pile of logs. The other would chop for 50 minutes and then take a 10-minute break. At the end of the day, he had a much larger pile.

“How could you chop more?” asked the man who’d worked continuously. His friend replied, “When I stopped for rest, I also sharpened my ax.”

Bro. Sanford Fleming

Standard Time

While the thought of changing our clocks back and forth twice each year, brings forth debated responses in this Century, the concept of the worldwide system of Standard Time, and the 24 one-hour equal time zones around the world on the prime meridian at Greenwich, was the contribution of Sanford Fleming, civil engineer, inventor, scientist, and Freemason.

He was admitted a member of St. Andrews Lodge in Toronto, Canada, in 1854. In 1855, he moved to Halifax, and became the chief engineer for the Intercolonial Railway, Quebec to Halifax.

In 1871, he was appointed chief engineer to the great nation-building project, known as a “highway to the Pacific,” the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1872, he undertook what he called the “twenty-five-hundred mile journey across uncharted prairie, forest, mountain peak and canyon” to survey and map the route the railway would follow. It took 103 days to complete this “ocean to ocean” journey “by railway, steamers, coach, wagon, canoe, rowboat, dugout, pack and saddle horse and our own sturdy legs.” Although politicians were given the credit for the project, Brother Fleming, the engineer who built the railway, qualified for substantial credit.

His greatest contribution, many agree, was the concept of Standard Time. Adopted in 1884, “it laid the essential foundation for the globalization of travel, communications, and economics.” But going back to that night in May, 1854, when Brother Fleming was initiated, some have speculated that two phrases in the ritual, “As the day is divided into twenty-four hours…” and “when the sun is at its meridian…” just may have planted an idea in the fertile mind of an engineering genius.

The Masonic Service Association of North America

Emessay Notes January 2021

Bro. Sanford Fleming

Emessay Notes January 2020

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New Lodge Planning Guide to replace LEA

Membership, Education and Improved Website are Topics of Staff Meeting

By Rich Rygh

The Grand Master's Committee on Membership, Education and Improved Website are Topics of Staff Meeting.

The Grand Master, Brother Kenneth C. Gorgen, opened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2021. The meeting was held virtually, as was the case in previous meetings.

The opening of the meeting was followed by the presentation of the Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, Inc. The presentation was made by Grand Marshall Michael A. Gorgen and Past Grand Master Robert C. Strader.

The President, Brother Richard Moen, presented the Second Section of the Entered Apprentice Degree at Jefferson County Lodge, No. 50.

The Grand Master, Brother Kenneth C. Gorgen, presented a report from the Membership Committee.

Bro. Mike Burnham and Senior Deacon Thomas W. Stevens gave a report from the Membership Committee.

The committee is looking to establish District Membership Representatives to aid in recruitment and retention and lodge strategies. The Representative will aid the new Mason all the way through the MM Degree.

Senior Grand Deacon Stevens introduced the philosophy of membership being incorporated for follow-up on new member leads, and a need for 450 bags. Any checks relating to Wisconsin. There will be monetary donations and items relating to the event. The event will be conducted in cans, with cans being used. Any cans are welcome. Bring your apron and toasting glasses.Officers will be in tuxedos. This evening is a sport coat, shirt and tie. Any restrictions are not able to and are for the evening. Lodges doing exceptionally well will be recognized in their districts but there will not be gold, silver, and bronze evaluations. Senior Grand Warden Paul T. Tourville stressed the importance of this guide being used during the year as a reference for installation. Lodges doing exceptionally well will be recognized in their districts but there will not be gold, silver, and bronze evaluations. Senior Grand Warden Paul T. Tourville stressed the importance of this guide being used during the year as a reference for installation. Lodges doing exceptionally well will be recognized in their districts but there will not be gold, silver, and bronze evaluations.

The DDGMs gave reports on activities and planning. District 11 Deputy Grand Master Carl Carlson stressed the importance of Masonic studies, which are done by a Mason with good education. The DDGMs gave reports on activities and planning. District 11 Deputy Grand Master Carl Carlson stressed the importance of Masonic studies, which are done by a Mason with good education.

The Masonic College is working on a report from the Education Committee. The Grand Orator stated, "The primary objectives of the Committee is to deliver an educational session for all Masons, particularly focused on new Masons to give them information and an introduction to the craft." DDMG Luadie provided information on the March 13 session coming up aimed at newly raised Master Masons. It will be from 8 a.m. until noon as a webinar presentation. It will also include a question and answer section.

The Grand Master, Brother Kenneth C. Gorgen, said, "If this indifference, instead of being checked, becomes more widely spread, the result is too apparent. Freemasonry must step closer to the elevating and refining mission in which she has been struggling, through the efforts of her scholars, to maintain, and our lodges, instead of becoming resorts for speculative and philosophical thought, will determine the fate of local clubs or more benevolent societies. With so many rivals in that field, her struggle for a prosperous life will be a hard one."

Register now for the 17th Annual Combined Table Lodge March 31

The 17th Annual Combined Table Lodge between the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wis. and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wis., Inc. will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2021.

This year’s event will be hosted by the Grand Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin. The event will be held at the Tripoli Shrine, 3000 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, on this date.

The evening will begin with fellowship and cocktails at 5 p.m. The official opening will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by “The Ceremony of Seven O’Clock” along with a dinner buffet (wine and non-alcoholic wine will be offered). Bring your apron and toast the brethren.

The evening will be conducted in the Entered Apprentice Degree and is therefore open to all Masons. Appropriate dress for the evening is a sport coat, shirt and tie. Grand Lodge Officers will be in tuxedos. This event will sell out! Walk-ins are not accepted. The cost of this event is $50 per person and there is a link to register on the Wisconsin Grand Lodge website on the Grand Lodge website and at freemasonry.org. Reservations are due by March 20, or sooner if filled.

Our Cover

Bro. Richard Moen presents the Second Section of the Entered Apprentice Degree at Jefferson County Lodge. Five candidates from Hiram Lodge No. 50, Madison, and one candidate from Jefferson County Lodge were initiated on Jan. 9. From left: Bro. Richard Moen, Hiram Lodge Secretary Lyle Christiansen, New Lodge Free & Accepted Masons of Wisconsin President Paul Gorgen, and Senior Deacon Luadie and Goodloe Owens. In the foreground are a rough and perfect ashlar. See photos on page 15.

New email address for The Wisconsin Masonic Journal

wmjeditor@wimasons.org

Attention Secretaries

Financial Reports are due in the Grand Lodge Office by February 15.
Thoughts for the Journey
By Reverend David O. Leistra, Grand Chaplain

Happy New Year!

Yes, here we are in 2021. In 1968 a movie was released that I would not see until the early seventies titled ‘2001 A Space Odyssey.’ It is a marvellous film inspired by a story written by my favorite science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke. I saw the movie sometime while I was in high school and the idea of a spaceship traveling to Jupiter to investigate extraterrestrial life guided by a computer that used artificial intelligence was really far-out, as far-out as was the thought of the year 2001 was for me then. Now 2001 is twenty years in the past. Humanity is on the verge of returning to Moon once again, and maybe even Mars within my lifetime. The idea that an artificial intelligent computers guiding future space travel is not just the work of science fiction but is a likely hood for a trip to Mars. That first small step of one man on the moon that became a giant leap for humanitied will at last be realized, and perhaps Jupiter and beyond will not be out of reach for my grandchildren. What makes such dreams possible is human imagination and a desire to expand our knowledge into that which is unknown. It is the challenge of the thing that drives those tasked with going beyond perceived limitations to find a way.

2020 was a year where we were faced with a seemingly unbeatable foe that drove many to their knees, and yet there were still those who said we would beat this thing and claim back our freedom. Those with the knowledge and technical know how to work and in an incredible feat developed a vaccine that over the next several months will return our freedom to gather without fear. There were so many doom-sayers that had us in a time of darkness and loss for many months if not years to come. I say, here’s to the dreamers and optimists who see what some call the impossible as a challenge to overcome, we out you we would be left with those among us who fear the unknown and timidly hide themselves away. If we imprison them, those who fear the future would keep humanity living in poverty and benefit of utilizing their own fear as a weapon against humanity.

Our fraternity, while ancient offers a youthful optimistic way of life that encourages human curiosity and ingenuity. It has long been support-ive of the sciences and spaceships that are now more about both the physical world and the nature of Man. Is it so optimistic that allows us to see at the look at the incredible history of human exploration and commerce. God has shown us that it is in living with trust in Him, and the love of humanitied and the blessings of our Creator even in the midst of the evil some people have brought and continue to bring into the lives of others. Let us express that optimism in how we live in these present days as we move forward to whatever the future holds. The future lives before us my Brothers there and yes there will be mountains to climb, but the truth is the view is never better than from the mountain top. God has shown us that it is in living with trust in Him, and the love of God and neighbor in our hearts that we can face every challenge and foe with courage and in the knowledge that together we can face anything ahead for God goes with us. Make 2021 a personal odyssey where the possibility of achieving great things is as unlimited as the skies. Amen.

In closing, I wish you a Happy New Year.

Fraternally Yours,
Rev. David O. Leistra, Grand Chaplain

Grand Chaplain
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Reflections of Past Grand Master James A. Zimmerman

By Past Grand Master
Craig S. Campbell

James Allen Zimmerman, for- merMilwaukee mayor, died on Feb. 13, 2020. He was born to Clarence and Jola (Petit) Zimmerman on Oct. 2, 1939. Jim was baptized and confirmed at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin, Illinois. He graduated from Egin High School in 1957 after serving in the army from 1959-1961 in the U.S. Army Signal Corps stationed in France. Upon returning from his service he married his wife of 59 years, Carrie Jeanne Becker, Sept. 30, 1961. Jim worked as a pressman for a printing company in Northbrook, Illinois for many years prior to moving to Shawano, Wisconsin in 1972. In 1973 Jim and Carma purchased the Shawano Journal Co. which later became Shawano Printing Co. which they continued to own until 1993 when they sold the business to their son Greg and his wife, JoBeth.

He was a member of Shawano Lodge No. 170 and served as Master in 1983. He was elected to become Grand Master of Masons in Wisconsin in 1990. Jim was a member of all of the Scottish and York Rite Bodies. Beis Shrine in Green Bay, Wisconsin was his base. He was the patron of Shawano Chapter #167 Order of the Eastern Star which later became Wisconsin Council of Order of the Eastern Star. He served on the Shawano United Way Committee and was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Shawano where he served on various committees before moving to Roopston, Wisconsin where he was currently a member of Peace Lutheran Church.

Jim enjoyed serving the many organizations and committees he was involved in including hunting, wood working and loved being outdoors cutting around in the yard. It was this very yardwork that led to Jim becoming interested in joining the Masons. A warm summer day in 1973, Jim was in the back yard doing some edging and sprucing up. The Zimmermann yard abutted the Campbell back yard and they each had a level alley separating them. We had a second edger and decided to line up parallel to the alley and it seemed like a never ending chore to trim the grass around the fence posts and along the alley edge. That’s where I was that morning when my Dad gave me my first mowing job. I cleaned up around the fence and greeted my new neighbor. Jim walked over, leaned on the fence, and the conversation ensued. My Dad, Ron Zimmerman, added some small talk, some going and how well he was getting set up with his new business. I recall Jim lamenting to my dad that he had been approached by every civic group in town, each one imploring him to join their organization, asserting that it would be great for his business!

My dad asked him if he ever considered joining the Masons. Of course, you can guess what the next question was. Jim asked, “What will it do for my business?” My dad answered, “It’s not going to do anything for your business, that’s not what it’s for. The Masons focus on the individual, simply, it makes a good man better.” Jim replied, “That’s the order of things. I have to do it!”

And the rest, they say, is history. Jim remained active in the organization, and became a Mason joining Shawano Lodge No. 173, but eventually served as Master in Grand Lodge in 1992. His leadership in the fraternity was recognized and he was one of the four men who re-created the posting the exams under the leadership of the Grand Master, which later became Wisconsin Master's Lodge.

This Master's Lodge posting provided the client history and symbolism along with the usual content from which the revolution was being adopted by many other states along with Wisconsin within a few years.

As Grand Master, Jim showed great leadership and enjoyed by few Grand Masters. It is a trait of good leadership that great leaders will allow and at times even seek great employees. In his term as Grand Master, he appointed three freshmen who would later go on to become Grand Masters themselves. Jim immediately contacted Craig S. Campbell. The combined impact on our Grand Lodge of those three men cannot be overstated. They were all involved in the creation of the Annual Communication in 1991 and 1992.

As Grand Master, Jim showed republic to those affected by the Great Depression. It is to be expected for a group to become a Mason, joining Shawano Lodge No. 173, that the point of origin is the Masonic Lodge of Wisconsin. It has been recognized in 2003 by Grand Master Jim Olson who presented him with the Grand Master's Most Distinguished Service Award, an award that recognizes the Masonic Order of the Eastern Star.

On Jan. 16, 2019, while giving a report on his term as Grand Master, he was recognized for his long-term service to the Wisconsin Masonic Lodge.

And, of course, in 2019, we write the footnote to that chapter, with the Madison Masonic Center opening the doors to the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. It has been the location of the Annual Communication meetings for 15 consecutive years, and may become the future home of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

Thank you Jim Zimmerman, you may rest in peace.

Past Grand Master
James A. Zimmerman
Oct. 2, 1939 - Sept. 23, 2020

LEA Application Due to Your DDGMs by Feb. 15

Lodge Excellence Award Applications must be received by your District Deputy Grand Master by Feb. 15. Applications can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge website or www.wisc-freemasonry.org under Constituent (Blue) Lodge Administrative Resources, subhead Lodge Excellence Award. The qualifying dates are Jan. 1 thru December 31, 2020. Lodge will be recognized at the Annual Communication in June for their achievement.

Your District Deputy Grand Master’s email address may be found on page two of the Wisconsin Masonic Journal. Lodge Excellence Award

The LEA application has been modified for 2020 due to the changes in lodge activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is to be used for 2020 only.

Use this version for submission. It focuses mainly on lodge goals for setting up and operating Wellness Committees. A lodge that is interested in contacting its members on a regular basis will have high scores this year.


For any questions or clarifications contact your District Deputy Grand Master.

2020 Lodge Excellence Award

The LEA application has been modified for 2020 due to the changes in lodge activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is to be used for 2020 only.

Use this version for submission. It focuses mainly on lodge goals for setting up and operating Wellness Committees. A lodge that is interested in contacting its members on a regular basis will have high scores this year.

Greetings Brethren,

The member of the Exoteric Committee held a meeting a few weeks ago in addition to the usual excellent conversations among the thirteen of us, there was some excellent news! All the Lodges in the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin in their districts are spending more time working with the ritual and the opening, closing and conferral of the Entered Apprentice degree is improving. Several of them have also reported that they have observed an increase in the number of Brothers actively working on their ritual and Proficiency.

Well done Brothers and congratulations to each of you!

With this news, I think it is appropriate to take a little time in this article and explain a little about the process and why it is important for Brothers to seek their Proficiency cards. First, let me state that I am the Proficiency officer of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin defines Proficiency as learning, committing to memory and performing all esoteric portions of the three degrees. The esoteric portion of the ritual is the portion written in single or multiple letter cipher. A Proficiency card holder, or Proficiency man, is able to speak and perform every position in all three degrees, including the 2nd section lectures, opening, closing, calling up and down, and reception of Grand Lodge Officers. A Ritualist, then, has demonstrated the same level of proficiency but in only one or two of the degrees. A common misconception is that since only the esoteric portion of the ritual is needed to be memorized for a Ritual or Proficiency card, that the esoteric portions of the ritual, the portion that is written out like the changes, can be read during the closing, or conferral of degrees. This is incorrect. The code is clear as that the lodges are to provide the Proficiency card holder with both the esoteric and exoteric portions need to be performed from memory.

Now, as to why learning the ritual is so important. There are many reasons and I’ve written about some of them in previous articles. Becoming a Ritualist or Freemason, the foundation of who we are, is also how we make Masons and through it introduce them to the fraternity and as such it is important that it is communicated accurately. Not to mention that learning the ritual is something each of us agreed to do. Remember the citizenry who agreed with us that we would embark upon or be companioned upon our journey to the Entered Apprentice degree? By answering ‘yes’ to the third question we agreed to “conform to all the Ancient Established Usages and Customs of the Fraternity”. If the ritual is part of those usages and customs.

Last week I wrote briefly about why we do something the way we do in the ritual. Have you ever thought about why, during the first section of the degree, the Brethren come down from the sidelines and form a line on the North and South of the altar from the East to the West? If you have heard me speak about this before please bear with me.

For one answer, we need to look to the third section of the Entered Apprentice degree, or the picture lecture. When talking about who the Lodge is dedicated to, it is explained that in every regular and well governed Lodge there is or ought to be a certain point within a circle. It goes on to explain what the point, circle, the perpendicular parallels and how the Brethren would know it was time to “make” him do it, as he really had no idea of the new guys. He eventually relented and reluctantly accepted, performing magnifi- cently for the ceremony. And in a moment quite following comple- tion of the installation, he pulled me aside and thanked me for “making” him do it, as he really enjoyed himself.

But perhaps the greatest con- tribution of Grand Master Zimm- ermann has just recently been recognized in 2003 by Grand Master Jim Olson who presented him with the Grand Master’s Most Distinguished Service Award, an award that recognizes the Masonic Order of the Eastern Star.

Consider that in this symbol the first section of the degree, the point, circle, parallels and lines and how theBrethren are drawn to this circle with his hands resting on the Holy writings and the Brethren forming two perpendicular parallels representing the virtues of the Holy Saints John. This symbol then would illustrate and cement for the candidate the importance to circumstance his desires and through this he is being initiated.

Thank you for indulging me, Brethren. As you continue to use your time to study and learn your ritual, please remember one thing: no one said it is going to be easy. But it will be worth it!

Fraternally,
Patrick Cholka
Grand Lecturer

FEEDBACK AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.
Contact Grand Lecturer Patrick D. Cholka at grand.lecturer@wimasons.org

Historic Mineral Point Lodge No. 1 Part of Local Arts tour

Mineral Point Lodge No 1 will partner again with the Mineral Point Arts Tour, take some time to visit historic downtown Mineral Point, stop by to support our Brothers. See artwork by many of Arts Mineral Point’s premier artists on display over three consecutive weekends at the historic Mineral Point Lodge. The show opens to the public Sat. Jan. 30 and ends Sat.

WISCONSIN MASONIC JOURNAL • FEBRUARY 2021 • PAGE 3
Deputies Seek Nominations for “Rookie of the Year”

Your District Deputy Grand Master is looking for nominees for District “Rookie of the Year” The purpose is to recognize an outstanding, newly made Mason who exemplifies Masonic Principles, and has shown that he is a worthy Brother by applying those principles in his lodge, his community, and his personal life. The award is open to any Mason who was raised at any time in the three years prior to March 1, 2021. The nomination form is on page 52 of the Mentors Handbook and can be downloaded from the Grand Lodge website at www.wisc-freemasonry.org, under Constituent (Blue) Lodge Administrative Resources.

Nominations must be received by your District Deputy Grand Master by March 1, 2021. Nominations will be reviewed by your District Deputy Grand Master, Area Administrators, and District Lecturer. The decision will be their’s alone and based on a number of categories including but not limited to: lodge participation, community service, lodge visits, Masonic charity and ritual participation.

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~ PEYTON

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Getting to know your Grand Lodge Officer on the Level

Junior Grand Warden David R. Ritchie

By Dave Ritchie

Dave Ritchie is currently serving as Junior Grand Warden for the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. Born in Boschen, Wisconsin the South- west corner of the state has always been close to agriculture and nature all his life. His family moved to rural Kenosha County where Dave tended a small family owned orchard. This, combined with hunting the hillsides of Grant and Crawford counties left a love of nature and trees in general. He graduated from Tremper High School in Kenosha.

During his freshman year of high school, he played football and went out for track as a shot putter. One day the track coach lined everyone up and had them run the mile. This ended up with Dave earning a place on the distance team. The following fall when a football coach laughed at the idea of Dave running distance, he switched to Cross Country and so began a passion which led to great friends, college scholarships in both Track and Cross Country.

He competed in steeple chase and racewalking in track. Coaching as assistant track coach at Salem Central High, Track Coach Argyle High, and Holy Rosary. He would become a Wisconsin Track Coach of the Year. His running career would culminate in 1999 with him running the mile. This ended up with lined everyone up and had them run the mile. This ended up with Dave being a qualifier for and running the mile. This ended up with Dave finding himself on one of his mentor’s hands. Telling him about the promise he had made, Dave found himself convinced him to fill in a bit. He would eventually attend Angel High School, Bi- ology, History, English, and French (Dave does not know French), and Physical Ed at Holy Rosary.

Dave would attend a variety of schools earning a variety of degrees and professional certifications. He is a professionally trained chef, Master gardener, certiﬁed teacher and ordained Pastor. These would lead to a variety of jobs from working in a steel mill to life, to green, to funeral director’s assistant. Finally, to name a few things, he would matter the job he always kept his French and Spanish skills. He would teach at Angel High School, Bi- ology, History, English, and French (Dave does not know French), and Physical Ed at Holy Rosary.

He would eventually teach Adult Basic Education at a sheltered workshop for cognitively challenged adults. After his pastor convinced him to ﬁll in a bit Dave found himself in the pulpit most every Sunday. He would serve a Methodist congregation in Rensselaer, a Congregational church in Lima, Union, and for the last 20 years has served the church in the little cross roads town of Walworth.

“When I ran into guys I knew in High School or College and they ask what I do, their reply is always the same. No really what do you do?”

The job at the florist was to imitate his life strongly. Emil Ger- tach, Dave’s boss, asked to talk with him one Friday after closing last effort. Nothing is perfect. Shave a little, add a little. If I don’t do well, I can always blame someone for not getting ready the last time.” He also enjoyed competing in the team sports of ice hockey and baseball.

With a determination to challenge himself and a curious na- ture, Dave has always sought to try new things and challenges. When he went sky diving, I just wanted to see if I was dumb enough to go. Just the first step. I tried the second one easily. Simply to prove to himself he could do it he walked across the lower portion of Wisconsin. Starting in Kenosha with his friend in Lake Michigan he would finish 5 days later with his toes in the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien. Sailing on Lake Michigan was a favorite.

Dave would attend a variety of schools earning a variety of degrees and professional certifications. He is a professionally trained chef, Master gardener, certified teacher and ordained Pastor. These would lead to a variety of jobs from working in a steel mill to life, to green, to funeral director’s assistant. Finally, to name a few things, he would matter the job he always kept his French and Spanish skills. He would teach at Angel High School, Biology, History, English, and French (Dave does not know French), and Physical Ed at Holy Rosary.

He would eventually teach Adult Basic Education at a sheltered workshop for cognitively challenged adults. After his pastor convinced him to fill in a bit Dave found himself in the pulpit most every Sunday. He would serve a Methodist congregation in Rensselaer, a Congregational church in Lima, Union, and for the last 20 years has served the church in the little cross roads town of Walworth.

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Grand Master’s Visit to Florida

February 3-4 at two locations!

Gathering at 11:00 a.m. Lunchon at Noon

February 3
Sahib Shrine 600 N. Beneva Rd. Sarasota
February 4
Hilton Garden Inn 3839 Emerson Dr. Lakeland

Please email RSVPs to erika@wimasons.org. $5 fee can be sent to: Wisconsin Masonic Foundation, 36275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118.

EXPANDING OUR MASONIC KNOWLEDGE

By Grand Orator Jerry A. Reick

This month I’m providing an article from the Ohio Grand Lodge website that gives an interesting explanation of the different operative and speculative Masonry. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Operative v. Speculative Masonry: What’s the Difference?

Freemasonry is a brotherhood rooted in the mission of making good men even better, guided by the core values of Liberty, Love, Relief, and Truth. Every Mason is on a journey of self-discovery, one made alongside fellow men to lift each other, give support, and provide direction in times of need. For centuries, the principles and teachings of Freemasonry have been explored by men eager to make the world a better place and become part of something bigger than themselves.

The lessons of Freemasonry derive from the stonemasons, the early European craftsmen of the Medieval Age. One cannot trace the history and formation of Freemasonry – also known as Speculative Masonry – without going back to the guilds of stonemasons, or Operative Masons. Understanding the correlation between the two provides greater context to the teachings and training of Freemasonry.

What are Operative Masons? The Speculative Mason

Today, one can still see spectacular buildings stream across Europe that were engineered by the stonemasons. These expert craftsmen erected cathedrals, castles, and cathedrals throughout the continent, giving rise to towns and villages and, subsequently, the religion, politics, and all manner of culture that blossomed around them.

Simply put, Operative Masons were the builders of old who worked with stone. They were architect, builder, draftsman, designer, and expert in one, armed only with a set of compasses, a set square, a string and an understanding of geometry. With these tools, they built wondrous Gothic cathedrals that have inspired people for generations. The high demand for the expert stonemasons during the Medieval Age gave rise to guilds, member bodies through which the Master Masons passed on their knowledge to the apprentices working under them. As with any profession, members of the guild were ranked by their level of expertise. Those who entered as an apprentice were placed in the low levels, called Operative Masons who worked in exchange for training. Once skilled enough, a Mason would reach the next level called Journeyman before ultimately becoming a Master Mason. Master Masons were the true expert craftsmen, eligible to travel and find their own patrons.

Of course, building monumental cathedrals was inherently dan- gerous work and Masons were often injured or killed on the job. By the 18th century, guilds had swelled and organized into local lodges. It is thought that lodges were originally created as a place to care for injured and sick guild members, as well as their widows and orphans. The modern Freemasons while the speculative Masons working under them. As with any profession, members of the guild were ranked by their level of expertise. Those who entered as an apprentice were placed in the low levels, called Operative Masons who worked in exchange for training. Once skilled enough, a Mason would reach the next level called Journeyman before ultimately becoming a Master Mason. Master Masons were the true expert craftsmen, eligible to travel and find their own patrons.

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In 1717, stonemasons in London banded together and formed a new body called the Masonic Fraternity, which modern Freemasonry has de- veloped from. The oldest illustration of Operative Masonry is a stone carving of a stonemason that is used in Speculative Masonry. The Speculative Mason

As men who were not affiliated with Operative Masonry began entering the lodge communities, they became known as “accepted” or “speculative” Masons while the craftsmen adhered to the moniker of “free” Masons. Together they became known as the “Free and Accepted” Masons from which modern Freemasonry has de- veloped. Speculative Freemasonry can be de- fined as the application of Operative Freemasonry’s principles for moral and intellectual development. Essentially, while Operative Masons use their tools, skills, and science to build literal, physical structures, Speculative Masons work those same tools and rules as metaphors for building up their character as men. Today, stonemasons’ tools, such as the square and compasses and the Masonic apron, have become symbols synonymous with the fraternity. Even the levels within the stonemason’s guild – Apprentice, Journeyman, Master Mason – reflect the Freemason’s journey of self-improvement. Today, the men of the craft complete a series of degrees to confirm they are ready to move up the ranks of the lodge.

While it remains unclear exactly when the first formal lodge of Speculative Masonry originated, there is little doubt that Freema- sonry as it is known today traces its origins back to the guilds of the Operative Masons. What is certain, however, is that while Freemasonry’s origins may be lost to the sands of time, the lessons and tools used by stonemasons to create the awe-inspiring structures of history continue to inspire decency, humility, and brotherly love in the Free Mason Order.

Grand Orator Jerry A. Reick

Universal Freemasonry
Kenosha Lodge No. 47, presents a check for $1550 to representatives of the Bradford EndZone Club on Jan. 2. The EndZone Club is a group of parents/supporters dedicated to improving the football experience for all players in the Mary D. Bradford Football Program. The Club volunteered to assist the Lodge in managing their Mason’s Bread booth at the Kenosha Public Market. The Mason’s Bread booth is a major fundraising activity for Lodge and they were pleased to use some of those funds to support the young men of the Bradford Football Team. The Lodge donated $775 to the EndZone Club which was matched by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin’s Acts of Kindness Program. The Acts of Kindness Program encourages Lodges to be involved in their community and community improvement. Submitted by Area Administrator Craig Wentz, Secretary

Kenosha Lodge Supports Youth Football Program

Kenosha Lodge presents a check to representatives of the Bradford EndZone Club. From left: Junior Grand Steward Dennis J. Krath; Kyle Griffen, Assistant Football Coach; Tina Lampe, EndZone Representative; Tom Pierro, Lodge Trustee; Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen; Master Jeremy Erwin; Senior Deacon Curzio Caravati and Past Master Wayne Budwick.

Support Your Wisconsin Masonic Charities

Memorials and Contributions

Gift Report December 2020

Wisconsin Masonic Foundation

General Fund:
- Mrs. Ruth Quenek, Mrs. Norma Barnham, Mrs. June Gehring, Mrs. Carol Flaim, Mrs. Ruth Kelley, Mrs. Lori Topp, Lincoln Smith, Gary Lipowski, Mrs. Rachel Hosterman, Mrs. Elaine Anderson, Jackon Family Trust, William Day, Claremont S. Jackman Fund, Paypal Giving Fund

In memory of Dr. John R. Beason MD:
- Charles White

Acts of Kindness:
- Barneveld Lodge, Dodgeville Lodge, Keystone Lodge, Shawano Lodge; George Washington Lodge 1776, Pillsar of the Future
- Dennis Balota, Gary Beier, Robert Capen, Justin Fermenich, Gary Beier, Robert Capen, Justin Fermenich
- Corliss Jersi, John Maiwald, Clarence Mankiewicz, Graham Todd, Virgil Paglione, John Prinide, Paul Touvrel

Medical Matching Fund:
- Paypal Giving Fund

MPS AEDs:
- Damascus Lodge, Nathan Hale Lodge

Wisconsin Masonic Home

General Fund:
- Richard Hansen

Wiscosin Masonic Charities

Enclosed is my donation for:
- [ ] Grand Master’s Appeal
- [ ] Wisconsin Masonic Foundation
- [ ] Wisconsin Masonic Service & Assistance Fund
- [ ] Wisconsin Masonic Youth Fund
- [ ] Other

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Please acknowledge to: Name _____________________________

Address _____________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip ___________

Make your check payable to the benevolence you have selected above and mail to: Wisconsin Masonic Charities
36275 Sunset Drive, Dousman, WI 53118

Phone 262-965-2200 - email: erika@wimasons.org

The Wisconsin Masonic Foundation is organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin is organized under Section 501(c)(10) of the Internal Revenue Code. You should consult your tax adviser to determine whether your contribution qualifies to receive a tax-deduction under the Internal Revenue Code.


Support Your Masonic Charities!

2020-2021 Grand Master’s Appeal

Every Child Deserves a Place at the Table

Target Goal: $40,000

$55,000

$50,000

$45,000

$40,000

$35,000

$30,000

$25,000

$20,000

$15,000

$10,000

$5,000

$0

A $25 donation will supply a child with 8 meals!


In Memory of David Beeman:
- Lorraine Beeman

In Memory of Arleen Haas:
- Donald Haas

In Memory of Fred H. Schram:
- Harold Peterson

Every Child Should Have a Place at the Table

“At the end it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished. It’s about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back.”—Denzel Washington

My Brothers… Your response to the Grand Master’s Appeal has been outstanding. The original goal has been overwhelmingly achieved, but that should not stop us. Now that the holidays are over all the wonderful campaigns that were run to boost the action of feeding the hungry has dwindled. Much unselfish activity was done during this time. Nevertheless, the need is still great, and I again encourage you to consider giving to the Appeal.

According to a Feeding America “Hunger Blog” right now, monetary donations are the most useful and efficient way to support food banks. These donations give food banks the flexibility and funds to respond wherever the need is highest. Whether that’s purchasing more food to meet the demand, hiring more staff, setting up new meal distributions, or simply putting gas into delivery trucks, cash ensures food banks can meet the demand in their communities.

Our benevolence is needed now more than ever. COVID has put many folks out of work leaving families cash poor to buy groceries. Please consider making a gift donation to the Grand Master’s Appeal and maybe the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin will be able to give back to the communities $60,000. The aid coming from this sizable donation might only be scratching the surface of solving hunger in Wisconsin, but maybe many children will be able to go to bed without being hungry.

“We have a lot of exciting work ahead of us this year, and I look forward to great things for our staff, residents, and our community. Fraternally,

Mark Stratman, President & CEO

 Fill Out, Clip and Mail Today.
We could all use a little love right now...

Sending all the love from Three Pillars!
86th Annual Steamboat Dinner is March 13 in Sturgeon Bay

By Bro. Ed Klein

The 86th Annual Steamboat Dinner, hosted by Henry S. Baird Lodge No. 174, and organized by Bro. Tom Pinney, is coming up on March 13. Because of COVID-19 concerns, this year the dinner WILL NOT include table service; all meals will be served via the drive thru tent or walk up take out. Last year 1225 meals were served, with a record 863 of the meals being purchased by Brothers and friends of the Lodge and donated to needy people in the community identified by Door County Social Services. Including delivery to 766 shut-ins and area seniors.

The dinner originated 86 years ago when a large number of the Masonic Brethren sailed on the Great Lakes. Their families wanted to have a special send-off meal together in March before they left for the upcoming season on the steamboats. It began quite simple with a free meal in one of the communities. The dinner originated 86 years ago when a large number of the Masonic Brethren sailed on the Great Lakes. Their families wanted to have a special send-off meal together in March before they left for the upcoming season on the steamboats. It began quite simple with a free meal in one of the communities.

The dinner is served from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are $16 for adults, $14 for members of members of OES Honor Chapels and $10 for children ages 4 to 14. Veterans and active duty/reserve personnel receive a $1 discount.

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions the highly successful Steamboat Dinner will be drive-up only again this year. Last year 1225 meals were served, with a record 863 of the meals being purchased by Brothers and friends of Henry S. Baird Lodge have paid for and donated to the community.

The dinner originated 86 years ago when a large number of the Masonic Brethren sailed on the Great Lakes. Their families wanted to have a special send-off meal together in March before they left for the upcoming season on the steamboats.

The dinner will be served via a drive thru in front of the Masonic Center in Sturgeon Bay, 31 3rd Ave. This will be the 86th year that drive up takeout will be available where the community can get their dinner as take out from a curbside tent; no need to even leave their warm car.

Today the dinner provides money for the Lodge’s community outreach programs which provides money for local projects. Last year the Lodge’s donation to the food pantries of Door and Kewaunee Counties doubled thanks to the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation’s matching grants from the “Acts of Kindness” program. The lodge & Masonic Foundations also made a special COVID-19 abate ment donation to five area school districts.

In the last 25 years the members and friends of Henry S. Baird Lodge have paid for and donated to Social Services, Lake Shore Cap and the Sunshine House nearly 10,000 meals. Including in November, the lodge provides a similar Holiday turkey meal to area shut-ins and social services.

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100% of this holiday meal is delivered to the recipients and is free of charge.

Last year 77 people, consisting of members of OES Honor Chapter #12, Brethren and friends were involved with preparing, dispensing and delivering the dinners.

The dinner will be served via a drive thru in front of the Masonic Center in Sturgeon Bay, 31 S. 3rd Ave. This will be the 86th year that drive up takeout will be available where the community can get their dinner as take out from a curbside tent; no need to even leave their warm car. The dinner is served from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are $16 for adults, with children under 14 free. Veterans and active duty/reserve per- sonnel receive a $1 discount.

For advance tickets go to www.steamboatdinner.com or call 920-737-3166.

Masonic Influences and the Medical Field

I was born in Neenah Wisconsin at Theda Clark Medical Center. Hospitalized many times in my youth and most likely would have died without it. The Hospital is directly across the river from Twin Cities Lodge No. 61. Coincidence? Charles Clark, founder of Kimberly-Clark, and contributor to Theda Clark Medical Center, was a member and Past Master Twin Cities Lodge No. 61.

Clark engaged in mercantile pursuits, banking, and the manufacture of paper, notably Clark was a founder of the Kimberly-Clark Corporation in 1872. He served as mayor of Neenah (1880-83), was a member of its city council from 1883 to 1885, and became a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1885.

Clark was elected as a Republican to the Fifth and Fifty-first Congresses (March 1887 – March 1891). An unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1890, he died of Bright’s Disease the following September at age 47 at Watertown, New York, while on a visit to his old home. Clark was interred in Wisconsin at Oak Hill Cemetery in Neenah.

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center-Neenah, opened 101 years ago in 1909 as Theda Clark Memorial Hospital, it was named for his eldest child. Theda Clark Peters (1871–1903) died after childbirth at home at age 32 and the Clark family established the hospital.

More recently, a year ago, my son spent almost a month at the Mayo clinic fighting an illness. We had several trips to Mayo Clinic in Rochester and its satellite clinic in La Crosse Wisconsin. I was surprised to find out the connection to Masonry.

Dr. Charles H. Mayo, one of the founders of the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, was a Mason. His son Charles W., who also was a Mason, became governor of the Clinic, which began in the Masonic Temple building in Rochester. The Grand Lodge of Minnesota for years has maintained a representative at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester to assist Masons planning to come there and to make their stay pleasant.

It Amazed me that the two most important hospitals in my family’s life had a Masonic foundation. As member of the Royal Arch, I support our Royal Arch Research assistance program known better as RARA. And out local state medical college tuition program. Maybe in our own little way we can touch the lives of others the way these people have touched ours.

Sincerely,

Travis J Lehrer
Grand King Royal Arch Masons of Wisconsin

Look for an event to hold your next event? continues on page 9.
Three Pillars’ Outreach Program

Three Pillars’ Outreach Program can help you succeed with many life challenges.

Resource Spotlight

Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program

From unemployment, to struggling to keep lights on, thousands of Wisconsinites needed resources this year. In response to these challenges, the Department of Administration introduced the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps with heating, electricity, and energy costs.

If you would like to learn more about the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, or to learn about our other services provided, please reach out to 888.546.8885 or outreach@threepillars.org.
Virtual Valley Meeting: February 2021
Details for accessing to be provided via email to all members
These virtual meetings have been working well. Its an easy way to stay in touch and keep current.

As I write this article, my headspace is a bit cluttered. Today is January 6th and I watch today as protesters storm the Nation’s Capital and a woman has lost her life to interrupt what would’ve normally been a formality of congressional processes finalizing our election. It brings me back to when my wife and I moved to Mason, when I joined not quite ten years ago. I had recently moved to a new town and was looking for a way to connect with my new community. I was looking for like-minded people to converse with and discuss ideas. I was looking for something to make me a better man as a son on the way and wanted to become a better role model for him.

I was fortunate enough to have made contact with a local Freemason a few years prior through a work setting. I noticed his ring and asked a few questions. A few years went by and found myself having moved to this town. It seemed like what I was looking for was right in front of me so as we say, I came knocking.

Freemasonry was both a lot more and a little bit less than what I ever imagined (lack of a goat notwithstanding). One of the most attractive components for me to the fraternity was the disassociation of all religion and politics with the Lodge. Those, as the story has it, who have prove yet again are subjects that too often divide men and outside of those topics our similarities and interests overlap to so many degrees to bring men together. As I look at our divided nation and communities I wonder where our opportunities to move forward lie and what strengths we have to give us the momentum to continue what our founding fathers started 250 years ago.

It was with this pondering that I remembered a timely quote regarding Freemasonry by President Calvin Coolidge. Coolidge had the reputation of being a man of few words, some would even say a man of very few words. For example, one time he was told by a young lady, “Mr. President, I made a bet that I can get you to say three words.” He replied, “You lose.”

Although not a Freemason, he was not stingy with words when he talked about Freemasonry. While Governor, he addressed the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and said: “I have not been my fortune to know very much about Freemasonry, but I have had the great fortune to know many Freemasons, and I have been able in that way to judge the tree by its fruits. I know of your high ideals. I have seen that you hold your meeting in the presence of the Bible, and I know that men who observe that formality have great sentiments of citizenship, of worth, and of character. That is the strength of our Commonwealth and Nation.”

There is no excuse in my mind that our Brotherhood is as important now as it has ever been and the more involvement we have with other Brothers and the more we hold to our oaths, the more likely we are to get past those things that divide us and find ways to move forward together.

Bryan Sullivan
Most Wise Master.

Visit the Wisconsin Square Store
www.wisc-freemasonry.org

If you are interested in joining Scottish Rite, or require additional information, please contact the Valley of Madison Secretary at 608-256-2351 or via email at madsite301@wi-scoaticrite.com
Get Tickets for Camp Douglas Hunter’s Raffle

Hunters and friends can still take advantage of Camp Douglas Lodge No. 272’s gun raffles even with the COVID-19 restrictions. This year the annual Hunter’s Night has been cancelled but the Lodge will be selling tickets for a 24 gun safe, a rifle, a shotgun and two handguns. There will be 500 tickets sold at $20 each. Tickets are on sale now.

The drawing will be June 1, 2021 with proceeds going to Camp Douglas elementary schools, high school scholarships and the Camp Douglas Fire Department.

More information will be coming in upcoming Wisconsin Masonic Journals.

Contact Bro. Wade Parker at 608-343-0592 or Bro. Chuck Huffman at 608-315-0056.

Classified Advertising
Wisconsin’s Masonic Marketplace

For Sale
Lawn crypt – Allows for two burials.
Pinelawn Memorial Park, Milwaukee
Section 2, block A, #16 S.E.
Asking $6,000
Contact: Dave West, 262-549-0923 or Dist354@outlook.com

Two Burial Plots in Arlington Park Cemetery
4141 South 27th St., Greenfield, WI 53221
Block 25, Lot 12, Spaces 1 & 2
$4,000 for both (Reduced $1,000 each)
Call: 414-550-8832 (Bob or Linda)

LET OUR CLASSIFIEDS WORK FOR YOU
At only 40 cents per word
Call Diane at 262-965-3979
Check out our Classified Advertising rate sheet on the Grand Lodge Web Page at www.wisc-freemasonry.org

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Call Diane at 262-965-3979
Check out our Classified Advertising rate sheet on the Grand Lodge Web Page at www.wisc-freemasonry.org

Attend and Support Your Lodge!

Why not advertise your business or service here. Over 10,000 readers will view your card each month in this publication and many more will see it online.

Contact Diane Igl
diane@wimasons.org
262-965-3979

Wisconsin Masonic Journal - February 2021 - Page 11
Three Pillars Senior Living Communities Wins Prestigious National Award for Innovative Intergenerational Videos

By Kelsey Pangborn

Three Pillars Senior Living Communities has been selected by Mather Institute as a winner of the Promising Practices Award. Organizations from around the world working with older adults in a variety of settings sent in submissions about how they’re moving away from conventional practices by developing and implementing new and innovative approaches. In this most unusual year, powerful ideas and practices continue to flourish as a catalyst for organizations across the country and around the world to spark innovation for their own programs.

Three Pillars produces videos that highlight each year’s theme for Older Americans Month in May. The 2020 video “Make Your Mark” features Three Pillars residents wearing face masks and social distancing as they dance exuberantly, lip sync, and create a painting together.

Three Pillars’ Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, Josh Van Den Berg, has been a big fan of each year’s video, but says this year’s award-winning video might be his favorite combination of song, theme, and message to date. “I love how these videos show how dynamic our residents are, whether they’re literally making a mark on an art canvas, or making a positive impact in the community or the world. We are inspired by them daily. We are honored to be a recipient of this year’s award.”

You can enjoy all six of the annual intergenerational music videos on Three Pillars’ YouTube channel at bit.ly/3PMaxVQdP0YT.

A full complimentary report on the Promising Practices winners and honorable mentions, Innovation at Work 2020, is available for download at matherinstitute.com/promising.

Three Pillars resident Dint Sweitzer points out a splatter of washable neon paint after she “made her mark” on the group art project for the community’s 6th annual music video.

Founded in 1941, Mather is a non-denominational not-for-profit organization based in Evanston, Illinois, that creates Ways to Age Well.
News Events from the Lodges

Sun Prairie Lodge answers the call

The members of Sun Prairie Lodge No. 143 recently learned of the Sunshine Supper’s fundraising need of $12,000 for their continual support in feeding the Sun Prairie Community community. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sunshine Supper was serving meals one night a week on Mondays, delivering about 125 meals each week, but due to the increased need since March, the Sunshine Supper had extended their service to two nights a week, Monday and Wednesdays, and is serving over 700 meals a week. Upon learning about the increasing need, the members of Sun Prairie Lodge contributed several thousand dollars to ensure that our fellow friends and neighbors have access to food through the Sunshine Supper. From left: Bro. Matthew Braun, Master, Ann Maastricht, Director of Operations of the Sunshine Supper, and Secretary/Treasurer Dave Mahoney.

Submitted by Bro. Matthew Braun

Frontier-Badger Lodge assists with light display

Several Brothers from Frontier-Badger Lodge No. 45 volunteered at the La Crosse Rotary Lights on Jan. 2. This was the 26 year for the La Crosse Rotary Lights. It is estimated that nearly 160,000 visitors come to enjoy this holiday tradition each year. Brothers from left: Kyle Larson, Jason Risberg, Kevin Greeno, Jim Kielley and Jeff Schroeder. Not pictured, Brothers: Jerry Larsen, Tim Larsen, Dan Claussen, Don Iliff and John Snider.

Submitted by Bro. Kyle Larson

La Crosse Lodge Brothers Receive Service Awards

Bro. Wayne Affeldt

Bro. Ray Wiatt Jr.

La Crosse Masonic Lodge No. 190 recently celebrated milestones in Masonry for two Brothers. Bro. Wayne Affeldt, age 76, celebrated 55 years and Bro. Ray Wiatt Jr., age 72, celebrated 50 years. Bro. Affeldt was raised on May 5, 1965. Bro. Wiatt was raised on Oct. 28, 1968, he served the Lodge as Master in 1975.

Submitted by Bro. Todd Wohlert

Sun Prairie Lodge answers the call

for over 80 years, we have helped the families of Milwaukee and Dane Bein blend their loved ones. We strive for compassion, kindness, and attention to detail to make sure your wishes are heard and respected. Whether our job is making sure your loved one’s favorite flowers are displayed at the service or keeping within your budget, we pay attention to every detail. It is the little things that make all the difference. We are here to help you in any way we can.

Because we are family-owned, we understand families come first. We treat ourselves to your family’s complete care before, during, and after the funeral. That’s our promise.

Stop by anytime and see everything we have to offer.

At your service... at your side.

NEW Location
3560 W. Greenfield Ave.
Brookfield, WI 53005
262-432-8300

For over 80 years, we have helped the families of Milwaukee and Dane Bein blend their loved ones. We strive for compassion, kindness, and attention to detail to make sure your wishes are heard and respected. Whether our job is making sure your loved one’s favorite flowers are displayed at the service or keeping within your budget, we pay attention to every detail. It is the little things that make all the difference. We are here to help you in any way we can.

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Wisconsin Masonic Journal - February 2021 - Page 13
News Events from the Lodges

Hancock Lodge thanks law enforcement

Officers of Hancock Lodge No. 229 dropped off donuts to the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office and the Ellsworth Police Department on Jan. 9, to mark National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Members of the Pierce County Sheriff’s office accept the tasty treats. From left: John Miller, Chaplain, Patrolman Mike Vodinelich, Sgt. Danielle Turner and Dr. Chris Tashjian, Master. The lodge officers expressed their appreciation for doing such a fine job of keeping us safe.

Photo by Bro. Milt Helmer, Lodge Counselor

Reedsburg Brothers Cleanup after Water Damage

Brothers of Reedsburg Lodge No. 79 do some sprucing up after recent water damage was repaired. Top photo: Master Mike White is busy putting his woodworking skills to use repairing the Master’s and Wardens’ chairs. Bottom photo: Brothers Deron McBride, Jon Fuhlbohm, Bob Ott and Bob Anderson prepare to paint the walls.

District 8 Events

Book Your Special Event at the Tripoli Shrine Center

Events from 25-500 Guests

In house Chef for all your Food needs!

Humphery Ballroom- $1900/8 hrs
Grand Foyer- $1000/8 hrs
Melham Parlor- $500/Day

Discounted Rates for Friday and Sunday Events

All prices include set-up and take down, tables, chairs, skirting and WiFi.

Contact: Amy Harycki
amy.harycki@tripoli shrinecenter.com
414-933-4700 ext. 3
www.tripoli shrinecenter.com

3000 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI

Masonic Masks

The Grand Lodge Square Store has Masonic Masks for sale individually or in bulk.

Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Square Store
www.wimasons.org
Hiram and Jefferson County Lodges Initiate Six EAs

By Rich Rygh

By generous invitation, Jefferson County Lodge No. 9 hosted a Lodge of Entered Apprentices for the purpose of initiating five candidates from Hiram No. 50 and one candidate from their own Lodge.

Senior Grand Steward Craig Froelich and Bro. Scott Graham, Master of Jefferson County Lodge, organized the event. The Lodge was opened at 8:45 a.m. All COVID-19 precautions including strict sanitizing of the altar between the degrees were observed. Lunch was catered. The lodge was closed at 3 p.m.

Receiving the Degrees from Hiram Lodge were Leonard In-dovino, Mark Owens, Patrick McGuire, Michael Arnold and John Prindle. Jefferson County’s candidate was Scott Wagner.

The degrees were conferred by Brothers, Matt Hughey, Ralph Behlke and Larry Patterson.

Junior Grand Steward Dennis J. Krahm welcomed the new Brethren to the craft and presented Grand Master’s pins.

Brethren in attendance enjoyed being back in lodge and seeing their Brothers again.
Friday, March 19th, 2021
at Tripoli Shrine Center
3000 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53208
VIP Entry 4:00 pm • Doors Open 5:00pm • Dinner 7:15pm

This event will sell out again...
so don’t miss your chance to attend
our 31st Anniversary!!

Early Sign Up Specials

Register by Jan. 31st to get entered into a special early bird drawing!

Call Gerry for Details (414) 460-7548
To purchase online go to: www.scimitarfoundation.com

BE A SPONSOR:
Help this event get to the next level by sponsoring one of these tax deductible packages. Scimitar Sportsman’s Night is a 501c3 Corporation.

GUN AND EVENT BOARDS: $250.00 each
Have your name or business name posted at the Gun or Event Board and in the booklet. Your name will also be announced when the items are given away.

SILENT AND VOCAL AUCTIONS: $1000.00 each
Large banner with your name or business name and a ¼ page ad in the booklet. Your name will also be announced when the items are given away.

THE BEER: $1500.00
Be everybody’s friend and sponsor the beer. You will get 500 cups with your name or logo on them, ¼ page in the booklet, banner and an announcement in the main hall.

THE BAR: $2000.00
You will be loved by everyone if you are the sponsor of the bar. You will get 500 cups with your name or logo on them, ¼ page in the booklet, banner and an announcement in the main hall.

Visit the
Grand Lodge of Wisconsin Square Store
go to www.wise-freemasonry.org
Lake Country Freemasons Lodge No. 42
Officers of Lake Country Freemasons Lodge No. 42 for 2021. From left: District 9 Deputy Grand Master Derek M. Hertze, Joel Johnson, Entered Apprentice; Area Administrator Jim Johnson, Bruce Boland, Tiler; Tim Behling, Treasurer; Trustee; Jack Holz, Virtual Organist, Tom Essel, Trustee; Craig Woggon, Senior Warden; Tim Zullner, Trustee; Rob Hablitzl, Senior Deacon; Gary Pilgrim, Secretary (top row); Travis Debban, Junior Deacon; Jim Lukas, Master; Scott Milliton, Junior Steward; Dave Groen, Tiler; Senior Steward (top row); Frank McKenna, Junior Warden; Trustee; Ian Watts, Chaplain (top row); Duane Bunting, Honorary Past Master; Trustee; District 9 Lecturer Terry Brown, Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen, Photo by Todd Stach
Submitted by Bro. Frank McKenna

Jefferson County Lodge No. 9
The 2021 Officers of Jefferson County Lodge No. 9 were installed on Jan., 18. From left: District 9 Deputy Grand Master Derek M. Hertze, Abe Vanko, Junior Steward, Tim Smillie, Junior Warden, Jim Grenz, Senior Deacon; Scott Graham, Past Master; Philip Graham, Master; Paul Larsen, Senior Warden; Eric Brooks, Installing Master; Randy Roehl, Junior Deacon; Daryl Haumschmidt, Tiler; and Senior Grand Steward Craig Froehlich, Photo by Paula Amble
Submitted by Bro. Scott Graham

Chetek Lodge No. 277
Chetek Lodge No. 277 is proud to announce their 2021 officers. Returning officers are as follows: Thomas Nicolaides, Master; Robert Lund, Treasurer; Darrell Dahl, Secretary and Trustee; Tom McCloud, Junior Deacon; Thomas Lorow, Senior Deacon; Harold Fredrickson, Tiler; Jim Sells, Junior Steward; Jim Toman, Senior Steward; Burt Hamm, Chaplain; James Ewton, Trustee Jim Olson, Trustee. Pictured from left: Jim Olson, Senior Warden; Robert Lund, Treasurer; Tom Nicolaides, Master; Jim Toman Senior Steward; and Dave Nelson, Junior Warden.
Submitted by Bro. Jim Toman

La Crosse Masonic Lodge No. 190
La Crosse Masonic Lodge No. 190 held a very private public installation of officers on Dec. 16, utilizing the large lodge room on the ground floor so members and guests had plenty of space to spread out and socially distance. The officers were installed by District 3 Deputy Grand Master Jacob R. Schultz with a very special guest, Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen, serving as Marshal. Front row from left: Bob Haawind, Tiler; Tucker Robeson, Counselor; Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen, Master Steve Kopp; DDGM Jacob R. Schulz; and Robert Lasley, Junior Deacon. Back row: Andrew Steimle, Junior Steward; Jason Robertson, Senior Warden; Nathan Randall, Junior Warden; Andrew Olson, Secretary; Treasurer; and Matthew McGrury, Senior Steward.
Submitted by Bro. Todd Wohlert

Camp Douglas Hunter’s Raffle
Hunters and friends can still take advantage of Camp Douglas Lodge No. 272’s gun raffles even with the COVID-19 restrictions.
This year the annual Hunter’s Night has been cancelled but the Lodge will be selling tickets for a 24 gun safe, a rifle, a shotgun and two handguns.
Tickets are $20.00
Drawing will be June 1, 2021
For Tickets Contact:
Bro. Wade Parker at 608-343-0592
or
Bro. Chuck Huffman at 608-315-0056

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First Responders Pin
As a law enforcement officer, firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician, we greatly appreciate first-hand, the life saving work of this segment of our population. If you have served in public safety as a firefighter, emergency medical responder or as a law enforcement officer, thank you for your service. We have a pin to honor your contribution to serve others. Please contact your AA or DDGM for a pin.

J.P. Luther CO.
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web: www.jpluther.com - email: gjr@vnet.com
800.558.8292

Attend and Support Your Lodge!
Bro. Krimmel installed Junior Warden

Bro. Lyman Krimmel came to Columbus Lodge No. 75 a few years ago as a well experienced and proficient Brother. Krimmel installed Junior Warden of the Lodge and has been active in the lodge ever since.

He was Raised in Pennsylvania’s Williamson-Corinthian Lodge No. 368 in September 1984, and was Master in 1986. At age 88, he stated, he wanted to be active in the lodge.

The Social Media Code of Conduct for Wisconsin Freemasons

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Wisconsin

Advertising your upcoming event in the Wisconsin Masonic Journal

To list your lodge contact Diane Igl, diane@wimasons.org

Stated Communication (continued from page 18)
**New Entered Apprentices**

Bro. Derek Struss, a new Entered Apprentice from Chetek Lodge No. 277 successfully passed his examination in the EA Degree on Jan 14. Congratulations and welcome to our Lodge. From left: Master Tom Nicolaides, Derek Struss, Harlan Dodge, examiner, Blue Hills Lodge No. 234.

Submitted by Bro. Jim Toma

**Union Lodge initiates Bro. Gunnar Knight**


Submitted by Bro. Skip Kovach

**Join a Masonic appendant body.**

There is much knowledge to be gained and great satisfaction to be had in helping others.

**Traveling Gavel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District 1</th>
<th>District 7</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barnes Lodge No. 365</td>
<td>Sun Prairie Lodge No. 143</td>
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<td>District 2</td>
<td>District 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Menomonie Lodge No. 164</td>
<td>Linden Lodge No. 206</td>
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<td>Island City No. 330</td>
<td>Dodge County Lodge No. 9</td>
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<td>District 4</td>
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<td>Mason-Woods Lodge No. 368</td>
<td>Rock River Lodge No. 108</td>
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<td>District 5</td>
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<td>Black River Lodge No. 74</td>
<td>Burlington Lodge No. 28</td>
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<td>District 6</td>
<td>District 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin Rapids Lodge No. 128</td>
<td>Damascus Lodge No. 290</td>
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</tbody>
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Please check with the Master of the lodge listed before scheduling a trip to claim the Traveling Gavel. It may already have been claimed by or delivered to another lodge.

**Go to Smile.Amazon.com and Support Your Wisconsin Masonic Foundation**

Reading this headline most likely has you scratching your head. I know the “Smile.Amazon” concept had me in that position, until I learned a new and very simple lesson about charity.

You can support the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation without spending a dime! How? The next time you use Amazon for your personal shopping, start your process by going to Smile.Amazon.com instead. You log in using your established password on the Amazon Smile access page.

The next step is to select the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation as your Smile charity by using the search feature on the charity choice page, which appears once you are logged in.

**Make a Donation to Operation Freedom**

Operation Freedom, a partnership between Lake Country Freemasons Lodge No. 42, Three Pillars Senior Living Communities and Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, seeks to accomplish a twofold goal: to ensure every eligible veteran who resides at Three Pillars Senior Living Communities will travel on a flight, and that each of their travel companion “guardians” will fly at no cost.


Or visit the Our Community tab at www.lakecountryfreemasons.org. Check: Make payable to “Wisconsin Masonic Home – Operation Freedom” and mail to: Operation Freedom c/o Three Pillars Senior Living Communities 375 State Road 67 Douman, WI 53118

Once you’ve completed this step, you can move on to your normal Amazon shopping experience with all the products that you’ve come to rely on. One big difference! Amazon Smile will give a portion of its proceeds from your purchase to the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation.

And, it will happen each time you shop using Amazon. You will support the Wisconsin Masonic Foundation as your charity of choice the next time and every time you shop through Amazon Smile.

There’s no cost to you, other than taking a couple extra minutes to log on Smile.Amazon.com. It’s a wonderful investment in the work of your Wisconsin Masonic Foundation!

Submitted by Bro. Gary Bueer, Executive Director Wisconsin Masonic Foundation
Some things come together

At the installation of officers of Lake Country Freemasons Lodge No. 42 it was noticed that something just seem to come together. Newly installed Master Jim Lukas credits Worshihip Brother Ian Watts with his motivation to seek initiation. It all came together at the Installation, here we are from left: Bro. Ian Watts, Grand Patron of Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in Wisconsin, Jim Lukas, Master of Lake Country Freemasons Lodge and Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen.

Photo by Bro. Todd Stach
Submitted by Bro. Frank McKenna

A Message for Masons
Following 2020 Elections

A message from nearly 50 years ago has great meaning today, and is good advice to all Masons as we close the year 2020.

The late Lawrence C. Hale was a 64-year Mason from Kilwinning Lodge in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area. He was a District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Ohio for three years. In 1975, he published a book, "to you, my Brethren," with 61 speeches he had made in the previous three years. The following short speech, "The Defense Rests," carries perhaps more meaning today than it did some 45 years ago.

Sitting in a courtroom one day listening to an important case I feared the opposing attorneys would come to blow almost any minute. I had no doubt that these men were bitter enemies. Imagine my surprise at lunchtime to see these two lawyers going down the courthouse corridor arm in arm, and later, finding them seated at the same table acting like bosom friends.

I pointed out to a Brother Mason, also a lawyer, how these two lawyers were double crossing their clients, and expressed the opinion that their verbal clashing was only so much hypocritical ac- tion, designed to conceal that the case was fixed, and division of the spoils agreed upon in advance.

My Brother lawyer, however, was acquainted with courtroom procedure. "If these men became unfriendly to every man they op- pose at the bar," he explained, "no lawyers would be on speaking terms. But these men have learned how to hold a difference of opinion and still remain friends."

This should also be one of the peculiar characteristics of Masons. We share the common bonds of ritual, belief in the Fatherhood of God, and Brotherhood of man, but otherwise may hold widely varying ideas. A Brother is not necessarily a radical because he differs with us in politics, or a fa- natic if he holds what we regard as any outlandish belief, or a hyp- ocrite when an item of his conduct does not suit us.

The Masonic Service Association of North America
Emissary Notes December 2020

Help Us Identify Brothers
Accomplishing Great Things

For generations Freemasonry has attracted the best men of their generation. We have had men of government, science and the arts. Men who have been explorers, warriors, and leaders. I have heard you ask, "Where are these men today?" Why aren’t we attracting the same type of man like we used to?"

Today we have Masons working in Universities, labs, and in the fields furthering the sci- ences. We have Brothers who have accomplished great things in sports. Our Brothers are published authors and talented musicians. Many men in our ranks have de- fended this country with military distinction. We do not hear of them because most are simply too humble to talk about themselves.

In future editions of the Wisconsin Masonic Journal we would like to highlight those men. These are men of exemplary feats outside of Masonry. Men we sit in lodge with, on the level, but have done or are doing great things. If you know of a Brother of great ac- complishment, heroic stature, or just simply interesting please contact Dave Ritchie 608-482-3553 or dave.ritchie@wimasons.org. Thanks. Let’s highlight these humble men amongst us.

Wisconsin Masonic Charities
Erika Miller, Development Officer
erika@wimasons.org

Volunteers Needed!

From February 19-23, 2022, Milwaukee will serve as the host of the 2022 Conference of Grand Masters of North America (COGMNA). This yearly conference rotates loca- tions around the United States, Canada and Mexico -- it’s the largest gathering of Grand Masters in the world and attracts nearly one thousand Masons and guests from all 50 states and around the globe. While the conference and most of the dinners will take place at the Pfister Hotel, attendees will have opportunities to tour local sights and travel to places around Milwaukee for planned events that will help make their experience here more enjoyable.

This presents us, as Wisconsin Masons, with a unique opportunity to showcase our great state to the world. Our theme will be "Wisconsin Gemütlichkeit" - which is a German word used to describe a feeling of warmth, friendliness, and good cheer; in other words, what Wisconsin is all about!

Over the course of the conference, we aim to show all of our distinguished guests that feeling of welcoming and warmth -- and that’s where we need your help. As the plan- ning committee continues to work on logistics, tours, dinners, and hospitality events, we’ve realized that we are going to need a lot of volunteers to help convey that warm Wisconsin welcome.

By volunteering, you will essentially have a free "all access pass" to this event. This is a tremendous opportunity to meet Grand Masters and Brothers from all over the world.

We will need volunteers to welcome and greet guests and guide them in the right direc- tion, scan tickets for events, and generally help everyone feel welcomed and be in good cheer. These are volunteer opportunities for Masons and non-Masons alike, so this is also a great opportunity to invite your wife, friends, or someone who may be interested in Masonry to join you! Additionally, for those from outside the greater Milwaukee area: if you are able to volunteer multiple days, we will absolutely work to secure you overnight accommodations in Milwaukee.

If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Bro. Jeff Schoenfeldt at peshtigofigre@yahoo.com. Thank you -- danke und prost!

COVID SAFE CARE FOR OUR LODGE BROTHERS

Slides and balls, burns, and low blood sugar events occur at our Masonic Centers -- a Sudden Cardiac Arrest event is life-threatening and needs immediate action. As our Masonic Centers are reopening and we are returning to labor – stop and take the time to assess for your readiness in response to medical emergencies. The following queries will help your Masonic Center be equipped and ready for COVID Safe Care to our Lodge Brothers when medical emergencies occur…

1. Are Emergency Response Plans posted in your lodges to identify the address and phone number of the Masonic Center? When using mobile devices, a numeric address will not be displayed to the 9-1-1 dispatch center.
2. If you have an AED at the Masonic Center, are the electrode pads and battery still up-to-date?
3. If someone has a medical emergency at the Masonic Center, and you’re worried about COVID-19, physical contact with them should be minimized until a face mask is placed on the person needing help.
4. If someone suddenly collapses and is NOT breathing, and you’re worried about COVID-19, you can still help. To reduce the spread of aerosol particles, place a face mask or cloth on the person and begin Hands-Only CPR until EMS or an AED arrives. Be sure to cover your own mouth and nose with a face mask.
5. If the person who is NOT breathing is a child, suspected of a drug overdose or drowning, consider beginning conventional CPR (30 compressions & 2 breaths) using a breathing barrier protective device.
6. If the Masonic Center has a First Aid Kit, is it fully stocked with supplies including personal protective equipment, stop the bleed and care items?
7. Are cleaning and disinfection products readily available, and is there a procedure in the Masonic Center identifying to others if areas have been cleaned and disinfected?
8. If the Masonic Center has a wheel chair, is it easily accessible and in good working condition?

Making Good Decisions for the health and safety for all must be our constant care.

Larry Ganske, CIHSP
PM Eau Claire Lodge #112
My Brothers,

It has been more than six months since our lodges were opened for business on a very limited basis. Through knowledge passed on to us in the guidelines published by the medical field we were able to adjust lifestyles to minimize exposure to the virus. Nothing in dealing with the coronavirus is a sure thing, but even in the worst of times, we seemed to hold our own.

Several Brothers have requested that I expand the lodge work to include performing the Fellowcraft degree. I see no reason not to allow the Fellowcraft degree as our Brothers are capable of handling the situation and running new candidates through our programs and be able to do it in a safe manner.

Therefore, I am issuing a new edict which supersedes the edict of June 6, 2020. As of January 1, 2021, that edict of June 6, 2020 is no longer in force and will be replaced by this one.

The wearing of a mask restriction as of August 3, 2020 is still enforced and should be adhered to by all Wisconsin Lodges when meeting indoors.

Having this understanding we need to take actions that will allow us to operate our lodges in a safe and responsible manner. It should be obvious that even with the most stringent restrictions and attention to detail we cannot and will not eliminate all risk of spreading the virus even as the new vaccine takes hold. We hope that the actions we take as of now will reduce the risk of being infected.

Any questions and feedback about the following information below are highly solicited and should be emailed to the Grand Secretary to be sent to the Grand Master for clarification.

**What are the primary regulations for our lodge?**

Federal, state and local counties or communities may have specific laws pertaining to group meetings. These are to be followed by the letter.

Edicts from the Grand Master of Wisconsin are to be adhered to until rescinded, amended or expired.

- **Wisconsin Masonic Code governs in all Masonic matters.**

**What are the rules for meeting?**

- **For now, use online services before as highly recommended.** There is no way to completely eliminate the risk of acquiring or passing on the virus when meeting in person. Anytime a meeting can take place without being titled, then meeting virtually should be the communication means.

- **Talking the temperature of all who enter the building is highly recommended.** Per Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

- **"CDC considers a person to have a fever when he or she has a measured temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or greater, or feels warm to the touch, or has a history of feeling feverish."**

- **Anyone showing signs of infection or a fever should be asked to leave and not allowed to re-enter the meeting.** Recommend to the individual that he should be tested. A follow-up phone call would be appropriate the next day to check up on him.

- **Have hand sanitizer available at the door and encourage the brothers to use it.**

**Food may be prepared and served according to the following guidelines:**

- **All counter tops in the kitchen and dining area will be sanitized with a Clorox Wipe bleach based similar product or with a bleach and water mixture.**

- **Catering of food is preferred but not required.**

- **Hand washing will be done on a frequent basis.**

- **All food preparation will be done with kitchen staff wearing face masks and gloves.**

- **All food not catered in must be cooked and prepared on the lodge property.**

- **No food shall be brought in from outside the lodge facility unless it is supplied by a licensed caterer.**

- **No potluck suppers are to be planned or served.**

- **No serve yourself buffets.** The meals must be plated by staff wearing gloves and face masks with the assembled plates given to the diner. All diners must be wearing face masks while receiving their dinner. The face mask can be removed while eating. Any one not eating or drinking will where a face mask; this includes the serving line.

- **For fundraising event, if possible, use a drive up outside the lodge for take-out meals.**

- **For meals inside the lodge, table seating should be set with social distancing in mind.**

**Drinking fountain must be shut off.** Have bottled water available.

**Eliminate all forms of greeting with a hug or handshake.** Greeting with a handshake or a hug will be difficult when adhering to social distancing of 6 feet or more.

**Sanitizing is a must.** All surfaces should be sanitized before being used and before leaving; some items would include officer rods, square and compasses, the Sacred Book of Laws, altar, doorknobs, etc. "Take Aprons used at the meeting home to be washed. All lodge state banned meeting will be conducted in the first person (Entertained Apprentice) degree.

**Consent agreements will not be distributed or made available.** All minutes, communications, and reports will be read. No roster book will be used for signing in. Attendance can be taken in two ways. This is important in a case brother contracts the virus and a list of who he came in contact with is needed.

1. **By roll call and recorded by the Lodge Secretary.**
2. **By a Brother recording information as attendees enter the building.**

**Minutes and reports can also be sent ahead of time by email.**

**Degree Work**

- **A Special Communication may be opened and closed for the purpose of examining and/or performing the Fellowcraft degree.**

Conducting the EA and FC Degree Only and Examining Candidates with Coronavirus Precautions.

NOTE. This document serves as an outline on the safeguards needed to be able to conduct an EA and FC degree under our current COVID restrictions.

**EA and FC Degree Only, No MM Degrees at this Time.**

- **The Lodge building will be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with current edicts and guidelines.**
- **All attending and participating will wear face masks. This is mandatory.**
- **Freshly and professionally laundered Candidate Clothing in the laundry plastic covering will be provided to the candidate.**

**Final note:**

- **New vinyl gloves will be provided for the WM, SD, JD, SS, JS, the candidate, and each person giving a lecture.** The gloves will be deposited in a plastic bag and discarded in a garbage bin outside the lodge.
- **The candidates will wear vinyl gloves and appropriate candidate clothing.**
- **Cable and shirt will be freshly laundered or disposable liners that will be discarded after each use.**
- **Examinations will be completed using masks and social distancing will be maintained.**
- **No MM Degrees at this Time.**

**For anyone coming**

- **Freshly and professionally laundered Candidate Clothing in the laundry plastic cover will be used as a substitute available at the Altar.** It will be used immediately before giving the Degree or in any event, or to add the ability to charge for the work.

**For the Lodge building**

- **Hand washing will be done on a frequent basis.**
- **Catering of food is preferred but not required.**
- **The Lodge building will be cleaned and disinfect in accordance with current edicts and guidelines.**
- **It is recommended for the Lodge to use new and disinfected clear plastic page protectors to protect the Holy Writings and the Three Great Lights. This can be cumbersome.**
- **Page protectors are not used.** The Holy Writings and the Three Great Lights will be disinfected after use with Clorox wipes, or equivalent.
- **Six feet or better spacing of personnel will be maintained on the sidelines at all times.**
- **When touching the candidate (to prepare or conduct) touch with vinyl gloves on and only touch areas covered by clothing or gloves. No skin-to-skin contact.**
- **Care must be taken for the safety of the candidate and anyone that comes in contact with him.** This can be done with all surfaces that may be contacted by gloves or clothing.
- **The Secretary will record the names and will verify with every person in attendance that contact information in MORI is current.** This will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- **So that everyone involved and witnessed the degree has the same understanding, these rules will be read to all prior to opening and conducting the degree.**
- **An Area Administrator, District Secretary, or District Deputy Grand Master will be present before and during degree work, to answer questions and explain any details until the lodge becomes more proficient with this process.**
- **Hand sanitizer will be made available by the Lodge and it is recommended that anyone who comes into contact with another wash his hands and/or use hand sanitizer immediately after.**

**Examinations or Posting in EA and FC Degree Only. No Examinations in MM at this time.**

- **Mask wearing and social distancing will be required at all times.**
- **Examinations will be completed using masks and social distancing will be maintained at the Altar.** Nitrile gloves will be used to demonstrate the grips. Hand sanitizer can be used as a substitute available at the Altar. It will be used immediately before going the grips and immediately after completing the grips.

**Building Use**

- **Two days of non-use is recommended between Masonic building activities.**
- **It is recommended that Lodges permit non-Masonic use of rent of their buildings engage with renters or lessees about the safe use of the facility.** It may be helpful to request an amendment to an existing lease that requires cleaning and sanitizing after an event, or to add the ability to charge for the work.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

Lodges should first seek to source personal protective equipment (PPE), in the form of items like masks and hand sanitizer, in their communities. Consult with your local hospital, medical clinic, pharmacy, or a church to find a PPE vendor in your area.

**Amendments**

Finally, this is intended to be a living document as conditions and requirements seem to change with little notice. If members of our Craft discover resources and recommen-
dations that would both improve this policy and increase the safety of the members of this Fraternity, they are strongly encouraged to submit those resources to the Grand Lodge Secretary for immediate consideration.

Grand Master Kenneth C. Gorgen
Beware of Stimulus Scams!

This is good information to get out to our members and widows as we do our check-in calls and mailings.

The information in this message was formulated and circulated by Right Worshipful Robert L. Hogan, Chairman, Committee on Law Enforcement, Grand Lodge of New York. The message is a short one, but one which can save many of us from loss.

“As most, if not all of you are aware, the United States Government has approved economic stimulus checks for the vast majority of our nation’s citizens. Payment amounts and schedules are being determined at this time. SCAMS HAVE BEGUN. People are being called and asked for bank account numbers, PayPal account numbers, etc. The IRS does not work that way. The way the program will work is as follows: The IRS will determine your income and status from your 2018 and 2019 taxes. If you direct deposit, the money will be direct deposited into the account on file. If you use paper checks, then a check will be mailed to the last address you used when you filed your taxes. THE IRS WILL NOT CALL YOU. I can’t emphasize this enough.

ANY CALL YOU GET ABOUT THE STIMULUS CHECK IS A SCAM CALL. Scammers tend to take advantage of the elderly. Please make sure that we get the word out to ALL of our Brothers, widows, OES Sisters, our family, friends and neighbors.”