

Barkley Light



John W. Barkley Lodge No. 621, F & A.M.

Vol. LXI

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009

No. 1

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED NOVEMBER 15TH



WM Jason Stitak, WM Elliot Zovighian, Officers and Brethren from St. George Lodge #367

MESSAGE FROM THE EAST

Brethren, let me begin by saying Happy New Year! I am looking forward to what 2009 will bring us and what we hope to bring to our Lodge. Since our Installation of Officers ceremony in November I've been working with our Officers to iron out the details for this year, and I am very optimistic about our schedule and quality of meetings/events.

As a new Master, there are some items of interest that I would like to focus my attention. I am an avid reader, and I am extremely interested in Freemasonry,

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Article VII – Each member shall pay annually, in advance, the sum of **FORTY DOLLARS** into the funds of the Lodge, at or before the November stated meeting for the election of officers.

Please Remember Your Lodge in Your Will.
Thank You, Very Much!

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR SECRETARY JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009

Welcome, Brethren, to my favorite season of the year, which just ended. Dues Season. For the most part it was very successful. As always, I have some Brethren who wait until the last minute to send in their dues. As of this writing in early December, I still have 32 Brethren who have yet to send in their 2009 dues.

When the 2009 dues notices were sent out, I enclosed a slip of paper with it, asking for information the Lodge may not have, like your wife's name and your wedding date, and if you do or do not have e-mail. I still have 43 Cornerstone Brethren who have not returned this slip to me. Please return this slip to me ASAP.

To all Brethren, if you would like a Barkley Lodge *Name Badge*, please send me, e-mail me or give me your name, as you would like it on the name badge (please print). Your first name badge is FREE, the next one will cost you.

BARKLEY LIGHT

**Founded in 1949 as Laurel Light
by WB Michael T. Dennis &
WB Lawrence C. Boyd, Sr.**

Published Bi-Monthly by
John W. Barkley Lodge No. 621, F. & A.M.

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Presently, I am up to 275 Brethren on the e-mail list. If you have **not received anything from me** via e-mail, it is because I do not have your e-mail address. If you would like to be added to the Lodge's e-mail database, please e-mail me at robert.jr2176@sbcglobal.net. This way we can keep you informed of upcoming activities, events, dinners, illness and/or deaths in a very timely manner.

If any of the e-mail Brethren would like to receive the *Barkley Light* via e-mail, please let me know. So far I have 130 Brethren who will be receiving the *Barkley Light* by e-mail. If you don't want it via e-mail, please let me know that also.

I still need volunteers to assist with the Call Committee for Funeral Services for the Brethren who are not on e-mail. Please call me at 216-521-5557 if you can assist me with this important job. Hopefully you will never be needed.

I have a new 18-page membership directory for you at your Lodge. Please come and pick one up. They are at the Tyler's station.

Please try to bring in at least one new member into the Lodge so it may continue to exist for many years to come. ***Please bring one in!*** If you need a petition, just call the Secretary at 216-521-5557 and I will send you one A.S.A.P.

***This is your Lodge; please support it
as often as you can.***

***There are no strangers here, only
friends you have not as yet met.***

Fraternally Your Secretary,
Bob Hubert, Jr.
robert.jr2176@sbcglobal.net

**JOHN W. BARKLEY LODGE #621 F.&A.M.
NORTH OLMSTED MASONIC TEMPLE
23844 Lorain Rd. – North Olmsted, OH 44070
Temple Phone: 440-777-9713
Lodge Website: www.barkleylodge621.org**

—2008 OFFICERS 2009—

Jason Stitak – 460 Defiance Ave., Elyria, Ohio 44035-8213 Worshipful Master Phone Bus/440-258-5100 – Home/440-365-1635 E-mail – jstitak@yahoo.com	
Mark J. Bollinger, PM Senior Warden H/330-460-5075 C/440-429-7094	Matthew Edmonds Junior Steward H/440-622-9759
Thomas R. Klecan Junior Warden H/440-353-0751	Eugene L. Mezera Tyler H/216-351-8810
Robert J. Wakefield, PM Treasurer H/330-274-0626	James T. Schultz, PM, 33° LEO H/440-884-7205 C/440-688-8606
Robert W. Hubert, Jr., PM. Secretary H/216-521-5557	Floyd R. Wiggers Marshall H/440-327-9361
Robert C. Cygan, PDDGM Chaplain H/440-365-9461	Ross Brochhagen, PM Organist H/440-808-1423
Ramzi Jammal. Senior Deacon H/440-427-0657	Robert C. Cygan, PDDGM. Trustee H/440-365-9641
Lawrence Dooley Junior Deacon H/216-362-1616	Jimmy D. Scott, PM. Trustee B/216-244-0607 H/216-252-8115
Arnold Reiland Senior Steward H/440-734-2305	Allan H. Warner, PM Trustee H/330-239-1406 C/216-299-0544
OFFICERS: Please contact the Master 24 hours in advance, if possible, of your having to miss any meeting.	

DRINK, STEAL, SWEAR AND LIE



I met this guy while I was in Albuquerque, and he has a motto he lives by every day. He said listen carefully and live by these four rules: Drink, Steal, Swear and Lie. I was shaking my head “no,” but he then told me to listen while he explained his four rules. So here they are:

1. “Drink” from the “everlasting cup” every day.
2. “Steal” a moment to help someone who is in worse shape than you are.
3. “Swear” that you will be a better person today than yesterday.
4. And last, but not least, when you “lie” down at night, thank God you live in America and have freedom.

I am not as good as I should be, I am not as good as I could be, but THANK GOD I am better than I used to be!

Your Editor

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SUNSHINE AND SHADOWS REPORT

The following Brothers and Sisters have been having some health issues and received medical care over the last several months. We're sure that they would appreciate some calls, cards and, most especially, some visits from their Brethren and friends. It would help cheer them during these winter months.

Bro. David Huerster's mother is still ailing.

Bro. Robert Hebebrand spent 28 days in St. John West Shore Hospital this past late summer. He had two heart valves replaced and was unable to drive for several weeks after getting home.

Bro. Alex Stitt spent some time in a hospital this past autumn; he is now home.

Bro. Russ Cashin's wife Virginia suffered a serious hand injury and is recovering nicely.

Cindy Creese, best first lady of W.B. James Schultz 33°, had undergone a couple of operations and further treatments. She is continuing to make recovery progress.

Bro. Gerald Noble suffered a heart attack; he is believed to be recovering okay at home.

Bro. Don Ahlegian was involved in a serious auto accident.

W.B. William Buettnier has been ailing, and is under a doctor's care at his home.

W.B. Matthew Beischlag had a stent installed in early November, and has developed other conditions since.

W.B. Harry Moyer has also been ailing; he is believed to be at his home.

Bro. Forrest Jones also suffered a heart attack and has had some stents installed. He is now recovering at his home.

Bro. Donald Baker suffered a stroke; he is believed to be recovering okay at his home.

Bro. Don Everett suffered a broken hip.

Bro. Don Gorsuch has been under the weather.

R.W. Bro. Ross Brochhagen reports that he has three herniated disks and swelling in his left hand. He is also undergoing treatment for a cardiac condition.

Bro. George Riley spent some time in Marymount Hospital for an undisclosed condition.

W.B. Jack Gorze had surgery for an undisclosed jaw condition.

Bro. Joseph Bitonti is now in Bradley Bay Health Center, Bradley Rd., Room C-2.

Please keep these Brothers and Sisters in your prayers. If and when anyone has a condition update for any of them, or knows of any other Brothers or Sisters with health concerns, please contact our Junior Warden Thomas Klecan, or our Secretary P.M. Robert Hubert with a report. Please be our eyes and ears for our family's health concerns. Thank You.

IN MEMORIAM

SINCE OUR LAST ISSUE, WE HAVE LEARNED OF A NUMBER OF OUR BRETHREN AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE PEARLY GATES TO THE LORD'S HOUSE ON HIGH.

Bro. Frank Bechtel passed away on February 1, 2004.

Bro. Jack H. Hossler passed away on July 12, 2005 (found out on November 10, 2008).

Bro. Glenn N. Willard Jr. passed away on September 11, 2007 (found out on December 9, 2008).

Bro. Erwin J. Chrysler passed away November 5, 2007.

Bro. William B. Hay passed away on March 26, 2008.

Bro. Robert N. Johnston passed away on April 3, 2008 (found out on December 16, 2008).

Annette Clarke, wife of Bro. Joseph H. Clarke, passed away on April 18, 2008.

Bro. Jack H. Thornburg passed away on September 12, 2008, in Orange, CA (found out November 10, 2008).

Bro. Anthony J. Mezacapa passed away on October 18, 2008.

Bro. Norman B. Kruger passed away on October 20, 2008, due to a farming accident.

M.W. Bro. Steve Krekus lost his daughter, Cathy Kern, to pancreatic cancer on October 21, 2008.

Sharon Cushler, wife of Bro. Ronald N. Cushler, passed away on October 29, 2008.

R.W. Bro. Glenn J. Bollinger, PM, 33°, PDDGM, Past Grand Chaplain, passed away on November 10, 2008.

Bro. Donald O. Long passed away on December 14, 2008.

OUR THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND MEMORIES ARE WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS LEFT BEHIND.

SADDLE UP AND LET'S RIDE!

To **RUSS LODGE** in **Russ, Kentucky**, that is, for their **HORSE TRADER'S DEGREE!**

The trip will be APRIL 18-19, 2009. The bus will leave promptly at 9:00 a.m. from Local 1250 Union Hall on Engle Road, across from the Ford Casting Plant. The price of the bus is \$50.00 per person. Rooms have been reserved for \$58.80 for two people. Please make checks payable to Ford Fellowcraft Club.

If you have never experienced the Horse Trader Degree, this is a Golden Opportunity for this MUST SEE event!

For more information and reservations, please contact Chuck Taylor at Lodge or call 440-625-0153.

TRESTLE BOARD JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2009

*Stated Meetings, 7:30 PM first and third Wednesdays, September-June
Special meetings as announced herein and/or by other special notification.*

JANUARY 2009

- Wednesday 7 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 10 . . . **Post Holiday Lodge Party** at Dimitris; Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$15/person; Please see Bro. Ramzi Jammal for reservations (must have by January 3!)
- Wednesday 14 . . . Special Meeting (Degree work or TBD), 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 21 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 28 . . . **Past Masters Night**; Dinner starts at 6:30 (catered by Café Stratos); Entertainment following (see article). Past Masters are free, everyone else is \$10. Please have reservations in to Bro. Ramzi Jammal by Wednesday, January 14!

FEBRUARY 2009

- Wednesday 4 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 11 . . . Special Meeting (Degree work or TBD), 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 14 . . . Chili Competition! (Benefits Special Olympics) 12-3 p.m.; See article for info!
- Wednesday 18 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 25 . . . Special Meeting (Practice 1st section of MM or other degree work); 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 2009

- Wednesday 4 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 11 . . . Special Meeting (Practice 2nd section of MM), 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 18 . . . Stated Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 21 . . . Lodge Open House; 12-3 p.m.; See article
- Wednesday 25 . . . Special Meeting (Practice MM Degree in full), 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 28 . . . Shut-in visitations; See Bro. Tom Klecan if you can help or know someone who would like to be visited!

PENNY-WISE AND QUARTER-WISER

When my late brother was 9 or 10 years old, in the early '50s, he and a friend had gone to downtown Jamestown, New York, during a Shriners convention.

Each of the boys received a quarter from a Shriner. Later that day, impressed by the stranger's generosity, my brother asked my father about it.

Dad suggested, "Maybe the man hopes that when you grow up, you'll want to become a Shriner yourself."

After some thought, my brother said, "Maybe I will, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm not gonna give away my money!"

Author unknown

Borrowed from a church bulletin

Submitted by: Bro. Oscar Hawkins

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Message from the East

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beyond that of our meetings and ritual. It is a great subject for study and for discussion. But how often do those Brethren who are also interested get together to talk? Very seldom it seems. This leads into one other area of which I have noticed a void, our post-meeting fraternal relations. Meetings run late, Brethren may not be able to stay long after. As I said in my installation speech, I believe that the time after our stated meetings is just as important as the time during those meetings.

To address this issue my goal is to make sure that we can get through our business in a timely manner. Many times I've heard about guys playing cards or just enjoying a little fellowship afterwards, but this is all past tense. It is time to make a change. Bring back the cards and chess sets, bring in the books and podcasts. We have over 600 members in this Lodge and millions in this Fraternity, so let's kick it up a notch!

ITEMS/EVENTS TO NOTE:

January 10th is an important date, it is the **John W. Barkley Lodge Post-Holiday Party**. Dinner is \$15 and reservations must go to our Senior Deacon, Bro. Ramzi Jammal (see contact information in this issue). It will be at 6:00 p.m. and be held at Dimitris (1830 Snow Road). Bring your ladies for a nice time out!

January 28th is our annual Past Masters' Night. This dinner is free to our Past Masters, all others will be \$10. It will be catered by Café Stratos. Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., musical entertainment afterward will be "By Request!" with coffee and a small dessert to follow. This event is open so please bring your ladies. Once again please make your reservations with our Senior Deacon, Bro. Ramzi Jammal.

February 14th is a chili cook-off! What can make a fraternity complete during those cold months of winter??? Why, a chili cook-off, of course! On **February 14th** (yes, Valentine's Day, so invite your ladies) from **12-2:30 p.m.** we will be having a chili competition. We are looking for our chefs out there who can donate a crock-pot of chili and some of their time. First off, all of the funds from this event will go to the Grand Lodge Special Olympics Fund. Second, **let us know by February 4th if you can bring in a batch of chili**. Please tell us what your chili is called and how spicy it is (mild, medium, hot). We also ask you to proudly serve your chili as we let everyone vote and award the top three batches made. Votes will be counted at 2 p.m.! The cost of this event is \$5 for three bowls of chili, or \$2/bowl. You can use a bowl **ONE TIME ONLY!** We will make available very small cups to taste the various chili batches, but we count on your bowls! So come on out, enjoy some chili, support Barkley Lodge, and help the Special Olympics!

March 21st is a statewide Lodge open house, ours will be from 12-3 p.m. and it is open to the public! Barkley Lodge will host an open house for the public. We will have a variety of items on display and have a few presentations. If you have any family members interested in learning more about Freemasonry and John W. Barkley Lodge, please let them know!

March 28th will be our shut-in visitations. If you know a member who cannot get out and like a visit, or would like to be a part of the visitations, please contact our Secretary, W. Bro. Bob Hubert.

The schedule for events in February and March will be light due to weather. Stay safe on the roads and warm in your homes! I look forward to our 2009 year. I hope to see you at the Lodge.

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BACK IN THE WEST AGAIN!

It is unfortunate that we have to fill in a Past Master, but I am once again honored to be that fill-in. I have a couple of thoughts as we begin this latest chapter in the annals of John W. Barkley Lodge. I look around the Lodge room and see some very interesting things. The main picture is that we are a snapshot of the United States – truly a melting pot. Just as people came from all over the world to create this great nation, brethren have come from all over to create this great Lodge. I don't know all the specifics of our history, but I can share what I do know.

Let's start with O.N. Steele Lodge #621 (the origin of our number). This lodge used to meet on Lorain Avenue around West 117th Street in Cleveland. It was a thriving lodge in its day, boasting membership of approximately 1100 brethren. As its membership moved away from the area, it helped spawn a few "new" lodges – Lake Erie Lodge, Laurel Lodge and North Olmsted Lodge all come to mind. As the years went by and the membership in Masonry has decreased, the need switched from forming new lodges to consolidating or merging lodges. As O.N. Steele Lodge looked at the need to sell its temple and look for a new home, it searched for other lodges to join. The idea was to merge with another pretty strong lodge to form a new stronger lodge. Our search ended with Laurel Lodge. We worked out many details, and the brethren shared common goals and ideas, and we formed the new John W. Barkley Lodge #621 which met at the Southwest Temple on State Road at I-480. The name "John W. Barkley" was selected to honor MW Brother John W. Barkley who was originally a member of O.N. Steele Lodge, demitted to, or helped form Laurel Lodge, and later became a Grand Master for the Most Worshipful Lodge of Ohio (there is a bust of him at the Cleveland Masonic and Performing Arts Center at East 36th and Euclid, where more information could be obtained).

The first Worshipful Master of this new lodge was WB Michael Petryshyn, who did a great job of leading this new lodge. As time went on, the cost of meeting at the Southwest Temple became prohibitive and we needed to look for a new home. Our search ended at North Olmsted Temple due to its convenience to I-480, the size of the building, the lack of stairs, and the cost to meet there. All of these various changes required changes in meeting nights and obviously locations, but we continued to prosper.

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Message from the East

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ON A PERSONAL NOTE:

Since this is the first publication since the Installation of Officers in November, I would like to thank all of the Brethren who pitched in and made it a great success. This is the first year that St. George Lodge #367 from Toronto come down to continue a long standing tradition beginning with Brooklyn Lodge. WB Dale Cashin arranged rooms at a great price for our visitors, and Bro. Tom Klecan supplied enough food at the hotel for their two day stay. There were many guys who supplied the beverages for the occasion. A very large thank you goes to Bro. Ken Wurm who put together an outstanding spread of appetizers and desserts.

I would also like to thank the Brethren of St. George Lodge and especially their Master, WB Elliot Zovighian, for coming down and contributing to the occasion and its success. It was a great installation. I thank everyone who participated.

Jason L. Stitak, WM

Back in the West Again!

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While this was all going on, Fairview Lodge was working on a plan for consolidating lodges in the west suburbs in the hope of creating a strong lodge. They had many talks with other lodges and eventually had Brooklyn Lodge join them, forming Cornerstone Lodge. They continued to meet at the Fairview Temple, about 1.5 miles from the North Olmsted Temple. It seemed inevitable that all these lodges would eventually become one. It just took longer than originally anticipated. North Olmsted Lodge, which owned the North Olmsted Temple where John W. Barkley Lodge was then meeting, eventually consolidated with John W. Barkley Lodge, and a few years later, Cornerstone Lodge did the same, forming our present Lodge.

So that is five lodges that have joined throughout the years to come together into what we have today – a strong lodge with over 600 members. There have been traditions which we have tried to maintain, and a lot of personalities have had to come together to make this work, but it has worked. We still have the need for more members to step forward and take more active roles, but we are moving forward stronger than any of us has been for a long, long time. In addition to our members coming from all of the aforementioned lodges, we have had a strong influx of members who have demitted into our Lodge because they like what we are doing and want to be a part of the excitement. Fortunately, we also have some members who have been raised solely in John W. Barkley Lodge. So, as you can see, we truly are a melting pot and have the potential to be great, just as the United States of America has grown to be the greatest nation in the World. We have had, and will continue to have, growing pains, but the future looks very bright. We hope that if you haven't been to your Lodge in a while, that you will come to one of our many activities and see for yourself all the good that has transpired. That is a quick snapshot of John W. Barkley Lodge #621. We invite you all to become a greater part of the photo.

The other thing that I think about as I sit in the West is how Masonry has affected my life. The biggest part of that influence has been my father, Rt. Wor. and Ill. Brother Glenn J. Bollinger. As many of you know, he passed away on November 10, 2008. Masonry was a huge part of my dad's life. He loved this fraternity, but more especially he loved the people that he met through this fraternity. He lived by its principles and taught me to try to do the same. He worked tirelessly in and for this fraternity, but it wasn't really "work" because he enjoyed it so much. As I talk to the people with whom he traveled throughout the years, they would tell me of how he would go to two or three meetings in a night. I know from personal experience that he would be gone many nights every week being out with his Masonic family. He took his "jobs" in Masonry seriously. He served this fraternity as Worshipful Master of his lodge twice, as Secretary of O.N. Steele Lodge for 17 years, as District Deputy Grand Master for three years; and as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge in 1997. He served in other bodies in various capacities and has been recognized for his excellent service in them, but he always remembered that it all started in his blue lodge, and that's where his love remained. So as the sun sets in this west we say goodbye for now to Dad, and we know that he has heard the welcome words, "Well done good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." And I further realize that as the sun is setting here, it is rising elsewhere.

Fraternally,
Mark J. Bollinger, PM, Senior Warden

MAJOR FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2009

25 Years on January 6th	Gregory & Sandra McDaniels
35 Years on January 19th	Arthur & Linda Schroeder
40 Years on January 23rd	Ernest & Susan Riddick
60 Years on January 28th.....	John & Nancy Turner
60 Years on February 5th	Matthew & Beverly Beischlag
30 Years on February 5th.....	Kenneth & Cynthia Schroeder
50 Years on February 7th	Donald & Susan Webb
40 Years on February 7th	John & Jeanne Hosier
25 Years on February 29th.....	Richard & Theresa Edmonds

If any dates or names are missing or incorrect, please let the Secretary know. Your date only comes up once every five years.

I am missing 61 Wedding Dates of the Brethren from Cornerstone Lodge, and I have 16 Brethren from Cornerstone Lodge I do not know if they are married, single or a widower. Brethren, please return the little slip of paper I sent you with your 2009 dues notice.

If you don't remember giving this information to me, please give it to me again.

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THE VIEW FROM THE SOUTH

While I am somewhat new to John W. Barkley #621, I have really enjoyed serving as your Senior Deacon. This provided me with the opportunity to meet many of our brethren, and quite a few brethren from other Lodges.

A seemingly short while ago I was approached by a brother and asked if I would like to take a chair. I had plenty of them at home, so I said, "No thanks, I have some." He started laughing and began explaining a few things to me. I then asked, "Well, how much work is involved?" He replied, "Oh, not much, it's really easy." And so after six short months in the Fraternity I found myself at the right of the Worshipful Master.

While that brother may have taken some dramatic license in actually quantifying the real amount of work, I found the experience thoroughly enjoyable, albeit somewhat challenging at times. To all of you who provided encouragement and the helpful pointers, thank you. It was a great way to get to know the brethren of the Lodge, and to share their experiences within and their dedication to the Craft.

I also wish to thank the members of the Lodge for allowing me to serve them as the Junior Warden, as this experience will allow me to continue to improve myself in Masonry.

I look forward to working with our new Master, Worshipful Brother Jason Stitak, and all the other officers of John W. Barkley, in the upcoming year, which promises to be filled with a great variety of hospitable Masonic events.

I now have a new perspective of many old sayings, such as being blackballed or being given the third degree. Participating in the ritual work has also provided greater insight to the meaning of our work. Many a brother will tell you that you get more out of the Lodge if you put more into it, and I must say that I find this to be true. We have a great Lodge, so if you haven't been to a meeting for a while, come on back and see if involving yourself a little more into our great Fraternity won't help to improve your outlook on life in general, and within our Lodge in particular.

In these dire times of uncertainty, our Lodge can provide a brief respite from the uncertainty, and afford you some peace and brotherly love. I wish all the brethren and their families an enjoyable holiday season, and look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Brother Thomas Klecan, Junior Warden

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But that's not the point. We do have some secrets. That's not the issue. The issue is why do we have them? In theory it is known that our secrets were the means by which traveling Master Masons were greeted and recognized at new building sites. By demonstrating his knowledge of certain signs and tokens, a man was recognized as being in on the secrets of operative masonry.

Another theory is that great-great-great-great-granddad rode with Jaques DeMolay and the boys. Their secrets were vital to their safety and well being as King Phillip the Fair was seeking to destroy them.

Then there's the theory that Masonry's big secret is that we have no secret. If that's the case, we've been pulling the world's leg for centuries. Weren't we led to believe that secrecy was part of the appeal of Masonry?

Doesn't make much difference. Either way, we have a handful of hidden secrets we pass carefully from brother to brother, often not understanding just what they mean or why we have them. And we've sworn mighty oaths to keep them secret.

Why?

Like much of our work, our secrets serve to teach us an important lesson in Masonic practice. Learning to keep a secret is part of learning to be discreet and careful in your utterances. It's learning the real meaning of discretion. It's remembering to circumscribe our passions. In other words, it's not the secret that's important. It's learning to keep the secret that is the real lesson here.

My Brethren, let's remind ourselves: The secret is not important. It's keeping it a secret that honors our obligations. It's what we strive for as we seek to make ourselves better men. That is the real secret of Freemasonry: Making good men better. And that, my Brothers, is a secret we shouldn't keep.

Ill. James T. Schultz, L.E.O.

CATHARINE THE GREAT

Catharine II, also known as Catharine the Great, Empress of Russia, in 1762, prohibited by an edict all Masonic meetings in her dominions. But subsequently better sentiments prevailed, and having learned the true character of the Institution, she not only revoked her order of prohibition, but invited the Freemasons to re-establish their Lodges and to constitute new ones. Catharine even went so far in 1763 as to proclaim herself the Protectress of the Order and Guardian of the Lodge of Clío in Moscow. During the remainder of her reign, Freemasonry was in a flourishing condition in Russia, and many of the nobles organized Lodges in their palaces. But in 1794 her feelings changed, and she became suspicious that the Lodge of Moscow were intriguing against the Court and the Ministers. This idea, coupled with the horrors of the French Revolution and other crimes said to be due to secret societies, caused her to cease to protect the Order, and without any express prohibition emanating from her, the Lodges ceased to work. She died November 6, 1796, and in 1797 her successor, Paul I, forbade "all" secret societies in Russia.

Submitted by James Schultz PM, 33°



The following synopsis is of the 199th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons held in Columbus, Ohio, on October 17 and 18, 2008. This is offered for informational purposes only.

New Legislation Adopted

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 2 Updates Grand Lodge pension program.

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 3 Permits a Waiver of Jurisdiction from another Grand Jurisdiction.

Legislation Defeated

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 1 Would have added word “Memorization” to minimum Proficiency.

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 5 Would have reduced penalty for lost officers rituals from \$50 to \$20.

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 6 Would have changed method of making an objection to a candidate.

Legislation Withdrawn and Not Considered at This Session

Proposed Legislation 2008 – 4 Would have increased per capita payment rate to Grand Lodge \$1.25 each year for 4 years.

Proposed Legislation 2008 – A Would have created District Lecturer position to assist in ritual work.

Attempt for Immediate Consideration Defeated

Proposed Legislation 2008 – A Would permit petitioners to be 18 years of age, will be considered in 2009.

New Legislation Submitted

Proposed Legislation

Code Section 6.01 Would prohibit Lodges from suspending members for non-payment of dues if they are 80 years old and have been members for 25 years.

Code Section 25.01 Would permit petitioners to be 18 years of age.

Code Section 2.06 Would create a Grand Lodge Board of Directors with management responsibilities.

Code Section 6.01 Would increase per capita rate to Grand Lodge \$1.25 each year for 4 years.

Special Representation for Bicentennial Year

For the first time that anyone can remember – perhaps the first time ever – two official representatives from the United Grand Lodge of England – the Mother Grand Lodge for worldwide Freemasonry – attended the Annual Communication to congratulate Ohio in its 200th year. Attending were RWB David Williamson, Assistant Grand Master and RWB Alan Englefield, Grand Chancellor. RWB Williamson presented an enlightening description of current efforts in the United Grand Lodge of England during the session, and then gave a toast to “worldwide Freemasonry” at the Grand Lodge Banquet.

Exhibit was Outstanding Success

Brethren from across the U.S. and hundreds of Ohio Masons, as well as non-Masonic visitors gave rave reviews to the Exhibit of American Masonic Treasurers, held in conjunction with the Grand Lodge Session, and celebrating the Bicentennial Year of the Grand Lodge. Among items on display were the St. John’s (or George Washington) Bible, on which Brother Washington took his oath of office as first President of the United States, the George Washington gavel and trowel used by our first President; 21 Masonic related paintings from artist Peter Waddell; a ladle created by Brother Paul Revere; and other items of national and Ohio Masonic historical importance.

There were two lodges not represented at Grand Lodge this year.

The following is a brief review of some of the membership statistics of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the year ending July 31, 2008.

Total Gains (raised, affiliated, reinstated and plural memberships	2,366
Total Losses, deaths –	3,768
Total Losses, NPD –	2,273
Total Losses, all categories	<u>6,777</u>
Net Loss	-4,411
Membership as of July 31, 2008	110,250 (2007 – 114,661)
Total Lodges	519 (2007 – 527)
Average Members Per Lodge	211.6 (Our Lodge 639 Members)
Average Annual Dues	\$47.09 (Our Annual Dues \$40.00)

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The 200th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of F&AM of Ohio will be held in the City of Toledo, Ohio, on October 16 and 17, 2009.

WHY ARE YOU A MASON?

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, that you possessed the necessary qualifications for initiation into the Fraternity. You received the degree work, a white lambskin apron and your dues card. Undoubtedly, you also wear a Masonic ring on your finger and a Masonic pin in your lapel.

You were made a Mason, but why do you really belong to the Craft and what does Freemasonry mean to you now? Are you a Mason for purely business reasons, for the prestige it offers, for social acceptance, for the hope of advancement in employment?

For me, Masonry means fraternity, fellowship and brotherhood across lines of education, trade or profession, across all ages above twenty-one years, and across religious affiliation, all of which would not be possible for me in any other way. It is good and pleasant for brothers to be together in unity and harmony of purpose.

The ancient Operative Masons built great Cathedrals, but today Free and Accepted Masons build character. I am dedicated to character building, to improving myself and devoting some of myself and time in aiding the distressed, the weak and bereaved. It is more difficult to build a worthy life than a great cathedral, but as I meet other men on the level and try to live by the square, I am supported in keeping the obligation I took at the altar.

My Masonry keeps me mindful of my promise and opportunity to exemplify brotherly love, relief and truth. As I witness the re-enactment of the ritual and participate, through faith and imagination, in the drama of human tragedy and the hope of victory, I am inspired and motivated to live a nobler life.

The teachings of the Craft help me progress on my life's pilgrimage from darkness to light, from compromise and falsehood to truth that makes me free.

Even though there are many other channels and organizations for the expression of my charitable nature, I am proud of the charities and institutions which are supported by Masonry.

No, Masonry is not my church or even my religion, but its teachings, philosophy and Biblical basis supplement and strengthen my church life. I need all the help I can get!

Why are *you* a Mason?

“WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF THIS CONFUSION?”

A man is but a single note in the vast keyboard of life, a separate and individual vibration deriving its form and energy from the source of all emanations and movement. Each note, having the gift of expression, began equal in origin with all other notes in his scale. Why is it so that, when all the human values are combined and played together, they fail to completely harmonize with each other? What creates the discord and confusion?

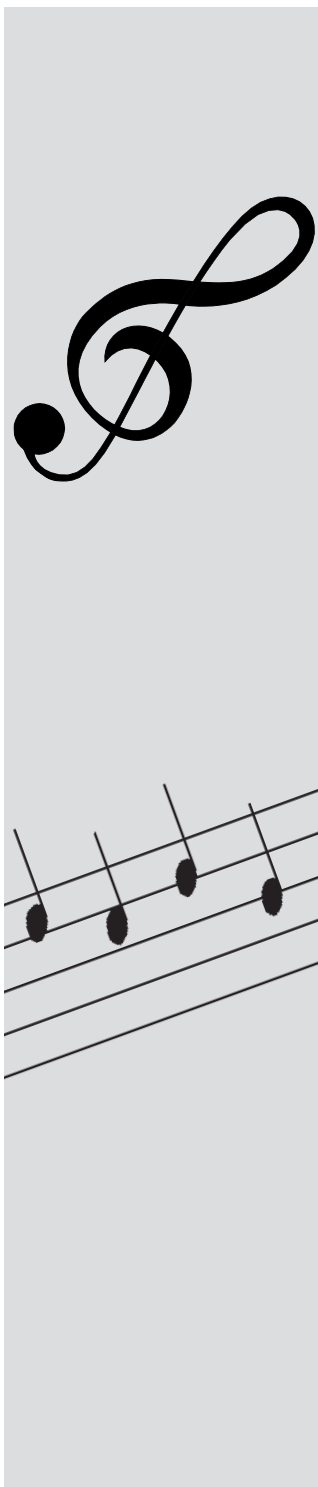
Has the arrangement been written in a key which is difficult for some to master? Is it possible that a few key individuals have altered their attitude and position to a point where they are beyond adjustment? Have some demonstrated they play only in their own dissonant key? Do they color the harmony of the arrangement with distorted values? Do they plan instability in those who had endeavored to remain in key?

Has the orchestra of life submitted to the blast of those untrained voices who have gone out of tune and divorced themselves from the composition of life? Has it become idle and passive to human degeneration? Where is our harmonic strength?

As Masons we are fortunate to have retained a unique tuning fork, a tool forged for use in the key of “G.” Its purpose is to tune up and to regulate individual lives that they may faithfully render the original key of harmony. The key of “G” raises the human vibration into a more harmonious tone, setting an example to be followed by those who seek a life free from chaos. We call this method of attaining stability, FREEMASONRY.

Fraternally,
Ross G. Brochhagen,
Worshipful Master,
written June 4th, 1971

I found this when I was cleaning out some old files. In 37 years, not much has changed regarding sour notes.



HOODWINKING

The term “hoodwink” used in Masonic ritual is misleading because of its origins, and it is the ancient rather than the modern use to which Masons refer.

The word comes from two: “hood” (meaning to cover, when used as a verb) and “wink” (an ancient term for the eye). To “hoodwink,” therefore, literally meant “to cover the eyes.”

Subsequently, the meaning has changed. Now, its common meaning is akin to “deceive.” This is NOT, however, the meaning placed on it by Freemasonry.

When the word is used in Masonic ritual, it is in the context of an action, that of blindfolding the candidate in preparation for the experience of his degrees. One original purpose of the blindfold was to protect the members of the organization from interlopers. Had a candidate refused to submit to the ceremonies or not acknowledge a belief in a Supreme Being, he would be led from the lodge room without ever discovering “even the form there of.”

Only anti-Masons, in their attempts to deceive, will claim that Masons “hoodwink” others. There is nothing anywhere near that in the ritual, it is not a part of any Lodge activity, and it is abhorrent to any good Mason. Because Masons have continued to use a term common at the time of their founding three hundred years ago, anti-Masons condemn them today. We should ask, “Who is hoodwinking whom?”

Submitted by: James Schultz PM, 33°



BIRTHDAYS FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2009

JANUARY 2009



1 – Robert K. Narolewski
 1 – Patrick M. Schmitz
 2 – Dale F. Spencer, PM
 3 – Lewis J. Dolezal, Jr.
 3 – David A. Smith
 4 – Don Everett
 5 – Robert O. Wendell
 6 – William P. Freund
 6 – Vernon H. Prah
 6 – Harold A. Treat
 6 – Cecil R. Worthington
 7 – Arthur Cattren
 7 – John J. Kemenovich
 8 – Hal H. Hubbell
 8 – Virgil A. Kramer
 8 – Samuel J. Szilvasi
 9 – Thomas J. Bridle
 10 – Ross G. Brochhagen
 10 – Larry B. Nousek
 11 – Joseph V. Stevens
 11 – George W. Riley
 11 – Daniel H. Oberst
 12 – Lewzane V. Johns
 13 – Leroy P. Williams
 13 – Frederick C. Hubert
 13 – Paul M. Schmotzer
 13 – Mark G. Schuett

FEBRUARY 2009

1 – B. William Csismatia
 1 – Thomas M. Judson II
 1 – Walter R. Ransom, Jr.
 3 – Edward W. Downer
 3 – Joseph P. Dzmura
 4 – Norman W. Calfree
 4 – Douglas H. Janke
 5 – Arnold L. Buehl
 5 – William J. Gregor
 5 – Charles R. Nara
 5 – Gary L. Zelonis
 7 – Lewis D. Cromwell
 8 – Lewis J. Dolezal, Sr., PM
 8 – Otto H. Mauch
 8 – Ernest B. Wagner, PM
 9 – Steve A. Rusnak
 9 – Allan H. Warner
 10 – George L. Roscoe
 12 – James A. Barr, Jr.
 12 – Charles L. Hoy
 13 – Edward W. Byers

14 – James T. Weir
 14 – Donald E. Wenner
 15 – Leonard I. Martin
 16 – George E. Dillon
 16 – Norbert R. Dubros
 17 – Darryl R. Bruck
 19 – Elvin L. Beswick
 20 – Francis H. Hall
 20 – Jan E. Jurgensen
 20 – Jonathan E. Limpert
 21 – Carl M. Reese, Sr.
 22 – Mark J. Bollinger, PM
 22 – Matthew J. Peters
 23 – Joseph H. Pacsuta, PM
 23 – Walter P. Pugnea
 25 – Steve Chaly, Jr.
 26 – Roger W. Geis
 27 – Richard C. Daley
 27 – Dr. Peter G. Economou
 27 – Gary J. Dennison, PM
 28 – Harlan H. Steers, PM
 29 – Theodore F. Brogan, PM
 29 – Maurice R. Price
 31 – Daniel R. Crown
 31 – William C. Misch
 31 – Mark W. Oriold
 31 – Harold J. Robb

14 – Frank Delaney, PM
 14 – John K. Estes
 14 – Wilbert L. Hawkins
 15 – Robert P. Arcuri
 16 – Anthony V. Butera
 16 – Thomas P. Leach
 16 – Ralph P. Trefney
 18 – James L. Bryson, Jr.
 18 – Robert G. Buckles
 18 – Richard S. Croy
 18 – Frank J. Lomozik, Jr.
 18 – Ernest O. Schemmel
 20 – Harold L. Huff
 20 – Robert G. Julius
 20 – Kenneth R. Kluth
 22 – Gary C. Krakora, PM
 23 – Edward J. Hallman
 24 – Edward F. Nageotte, PM
 25 – Robert J. White
 26 – Fred A. Leuhsler
 26 – Dr. Allen E. Fousek
 27 – William G. Kress

 <p style="text-align: center;">Weddings & Families Masonic Events</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BOB HUBERT, JR. PHOTOGRAPHER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2176 McKinley Ave. Lakewood, Ohio 44107</p> <p>(216) 521-5557</p>	<p>(216) 351-2106 (440) 933-7237</p> <p style="text-align: right;">FAX (216) 351-2109 speedexterminating.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPEED Exterminating </p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>PROTECTING HEALTH & PROPERTY SINCE 1908</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;">JOHN G. YOUNG, President – 4th Generation 4141 PEARL RD., CLEVELAND, OH 44109</p>
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<p>Lenny's Service Inc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASE Certified • <p style="text-align: center;">4732 State Road</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(216) 749-1390</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MIKE & NORM</p>	 <p style="text-align: right;">Rob Narolewski <i>Owner</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You earn it. We help you keep it.</p> <p>22 Lake Avenue Elyria, OH 44035</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Phone: 440/323-NARO (6276) www.naro-tax.com</p>
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