



# The Masonic Bulletin

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"Building our Future Together"

Vol. 92

February, 2011

No. 2

Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Happy Valentine's Day



Monday,  
February 21<sup>st</sup>,  
President's Day



Wednesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
Groundhog Day



Punxsutawney Phil

21<sup>st</sup> Masonic District Inspection Schedule, Page 6.

Why I Come to Lodge, Page 13.

District Deputy's Message, Page 14.



**Canton Lodge No. 60, F. & A. M.**



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**TRESTLE BOARD**

- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day**  
7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting
- Sat., Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m. – Learning Center Sock Hop**
- Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentine’s Day**
- Wed., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting**
- Mon., Feb. 21 – President’s Day**
- Wed., Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting**
- Wed., Mar. 16. 7:00 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Lodge Inspection**

Greetings brethren! Some of your officers and several members of Canton Lodge No. 60 attended the Muskrat Dinner at Caldwell Lodge 330 in Bolivar on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We all had a wonderful time. The Master Of Ceremonies, R.Wor. Bro. Blaine Werner read some 30 year old poetry to honor your humble secretary, R.Wor. Bro. Earl Blazer. R. Wor. Bro. Werner announced, after the reading, that R. Wor. Bro. Blazer had written it thirty years ago for that year’s event.

Due to the most in attendance from one lodge (15 members) I received a Muskrat Pin from Wor. Master Rodney Lentz and got it pinned on by the Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, Most Wor. Bro.: Bradford Goebel. Although the S.W. Bro. Mike Emery tried to direct us and sang his heart out, we did not win the singing contest. My thanks to everyone who attended this feast. Some say it tastes like chicken but I couldn’t tell ya’.

“O-kay” it’s February and as you can see by the Trestle Board inspection is not far off. Your officers have been practicing every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We had our first practice with the Fellow Craft Team on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and it went well. We had a good turnout and I would like to thank all who came and encourage anyone who would like to help out to contact Wor. Bro. Jeff Ward as we still have openings. The practice was moved to Wednesday, so we could attend the first 21<sup>st</sup> District inspection at National Lodge No.568 in Barberton.

We also had a short unofficial meeting of “Euclid’s Problem Chapter of the Widow’s Sons Masonic Motorcycle Riding Association” just after dinner and before the inspection. B. Mike Emery and R. Wor. Bro. Jim Easterling are putting together a “Temple Run” in conjunction with the “Greater Akron Motorcycle Club” for June 26<sup>th</sup>. Some of their members are Masons and want to join our club also. There may be

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Gust Goutras, W.M.

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### TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2** – Groundhog Day
- Sat., Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m.** – Learning Center Sock Hop
- Fri., Feb. 11 - 7:30 p.m.** - Stated Meeting, Program "Our Masonic Presidents,"  
 D.D. Grand Master, James R. Yocum
- Sat., Feb. 12** – President Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- Mon., Feb. 14** – St. Valentine's Day
- Mon., Feb. 21** - President's Day
- Tue., Feb. 22** - President and Brother George Washington's Birthday
- Fri., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.** - Stated Meeting - Junior Warden's Night, Program: York Rite
- Fri., Mar. 4, 6:00 p.m.** – Inspection Dinner, Reservations Requested, Call the Master  
 7:00 p.m. - Special Meeting, Lodge Inspection, Fellow Craft Degree

Greetings brethren! I hope this finds you in good health and spirits. It takes a glance at the Trestle Board to see why Presidents' Day is celebrated in the month of February. Our country's first President, a fellow Mason, George Washington was born on February 22, 1732. Our sixteenth President, Abraham Lincoln, was born on February 12, 1809. Both are considered by historians as our greatest presidents.

Fifteen Presidents of our nation have been members of the Craft. I thought it would be appropriate to name just a few of those men.

George Washington was initiated on November 4, 1752. He was the only Freemason to serve as Master of his lodge and President at the same time. The George Washington Masonic Memorial has his lodge room replicated and the original furniture and his master's chair preserved.

Our seventh President, Andrew Jackson was a member of Harmony Lodge No. 1 in Tennessee, and also the sixth Grand Master of Tennessee. President James Buchanan was initiated in Lodge No. 43, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He also served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge. James A. Garfield, the first Masonic President from Ohio, was initiated in Magnolia Lodge No. 20, in Columbus. William McKinley was born in Niles, Ohio, but lived most of his adult life in Canton. McKinley was initiated on May 1, 1865 in Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia. He later demitted to Eagle Lodge No. 431, which was changed to William McKinley Lodge No. 431 following his death in 1901.

William Howard Taft, also from Ohio, was not only President, but Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Harry S. Truman was initiated on February 9, 1909

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- Kenneth R. Lett (330) 497-0402 ..... J.W.
- Clyde L. Roberts (330) 455-6494 ..... Sec.
- Dennis P. Moriarty (330) 479-9722 ..... Tyler

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TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Thurs., Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting, Senior Warden's Night
- Sat., Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m. – Learning Center Sock Hop
- Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentine's Day
- Thurs., Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting, Practice Master Mason Degree
- Mon., Feb. 21 – President's Day
- Thurs., Mar. 17, 7:30 – Stated Meeting, Practice Master Mason Degree

January was a great month! We finally conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on one candidate. He was sick last month.

If you have never been to the Muskrat Dinner, you have missed a great one. The Grand Master was there and a fun night was had by all. Remember, you do not have to eat the muskrat. There are people attending for over for over 20 years and have yet to partake.

We now have about 7 weeks before inspection of our lodge. We will be inspected in the Master Mason Degree on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month.

Our first meeting, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be Senior Warden's Night for two reasons. Ron Nave, P.M. has done a great job holding down the fort while our younger officers catch up. Secondly, the master will be in Florida for 3 weeks on a visit to his home state where he was raised in 1988. He calls the Philadelphia suburbs his real home town but lived in the Florida Keys for 20 years before coming to Canton.

February 17<sup>th</sup> will be a real important meeting for the Fellow Craft Team as we will practice the second section of the Master Mason Degree. For the new "One Day Class" members this would be an opportunity to either observe or help out. We will have a full dress practice on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the week before inspection. For all the members who feel rusty with signs or anything to do with lodge and have a paid up dues card, please feel free to come on down to the Temple and get back into the greatest fraternity in

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### TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Thurs., Feb. 3, 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. – Spaghetti Dinner
- Mon., Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m. – Nazir Grotto Board Meeting
- Wed., Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m. – Dinner Served
  - 7:15 p.m. – Nazirettes Meeting
  - 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting
- Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentines Day
- Mon., Feb. 21 – President's Day

**Saturday Morning Breakfast at the Grotto, 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.**  
**Pancakes, Waffles, Sausage, Biscuits and Gravy, Scrambled Eggs**

### Monarchs Message

Well here it is February already and it seems that January flew by the wayside. Sorry about the January Stated Meeting and Dinner, but the weather was not the greatest so we really did not want to take a chance on holding a meeting. After much discussion we decided not to have the dance in February either, it would have taken more time to plan than we really had; however there may be something in the works for April. Please watch your Bulletin. My thanks go out to the Stewards and the Nazirettes for the fine job they are doing at the Grotto to keep things afloat. Not to forget the officers for standing behind me and also thanks "Sarge" for keeping the floors looking nice. The breakfasts are doing well and so are the spaghetti dinners, keep up the good work Gang. See you all at Grotto!

**Kevin Sanders PM, Monarch 2011**

### Chief Justice

Well Prophets and ladies, the month of January seemed to go fast, not having a January meeting kind of slowed us down a little however, we are still moving right along. Monarch Kevin has a few things in the planning stages, for the upcoming months that may be fun. When these things are planned we'll need all the help we can get, so keep your eyes on the Bulletin. District Deputy "Slip" and Mary Jo have been attending a lot of installations. I believe in January they went to 3 or 4 Grottoes. Thank You for representing Nazir Grotto. Please remember to attend your Blue Lodge! That is whence we came.

**Gary Gruber PM, Chief Justice**

### Sick & Visitation

The Month of January was rough on a few prophets and there ladies. P.M. Gary

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Canton Chapter No. 84, Royal Arch Masons



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Robert Habony (330) 546-0975 ..... King
Robert Smith (330) 477-8125 ..... Scribe
Steve S. DeNayer (330) 966-8748..... Secretary

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TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentine’s Day
Tues., Feb. 15, 7:00 p.m. – Stated Meeting
Mon., Feb. 21 – President’s Day

Hello Companions, we need all the officers at the next meeting to open in the Royal Arch Degree, full form. We need the practice and if at all possible to make sure we have all the parts covered for the degrees. We are being inspected in the Most Excellent Master Degree.

Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday and a great beginning for the New Year.
Steve, High Priest

21st Masonic District Inspection Schedule

- Tues., Feb. 8, Cypress 604, Strasburg, E.A. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Jones, Lengler
Sat., Feb. 12, Caldwell 330, Bolivar, F.C. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Jones, Detchon
Tues., Feb. 15, Port Washington 202, Gnadenhutten, E.A. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Jones, Lengler
Wed., Feb. 16, Ashlar 639, Twinsburg, M.M. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Turner, Brumbaugh
Mon., Feb. 22, Wm. H. Hoover 770, North Canton, E.A. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Jones, Lengler
Thurs., Feb. 24, Tubal 551, Minerva, M.M. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Brumbaugh
Fri., Feb. 25, Victory 649, Kenmore, E.A. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Yocum, Lengler
Mon., Feb. 28, New Philadelphia 177, New Phillie., E.A. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Jones, Detchon
Fri., Mar. 4, Wm. McKinley 431, Canton, F.C. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Yocum, Lengler
Sat., Mar. 5, Hudson 510, Hudson, E.A. 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Turner, Brumbaugh
Tues., Mar. 8, Juilliard 460, Louisville, M.M. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Detchon
Thurs., Mar. 10, Cov-Akron 83, Akron, F.C. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Lengler
Wed., Mar. 16, Canton 60, Canton, M.M. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Detchon
Thurs., Mar. 17, Summit 213, Twinsburg, F.C. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Turner, Brumbaugh
Wed., Mar. 23, Tuscarawas 59, Dover, E.A. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Detchon
Thurs., Mar. 24, Trinity 710, Canton, M.M. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Yocum, Detchon
Mon., Mar. 28, Mystic Tie 194, Dennison, F.C. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Webber, Detchon
Wed., Mar. 30, Cuyahoga Falls 735, Cuyah. Falls, M.M. 7:00 p.m. Ref. Aft., Yocum, Brumbaugh
Sat., Apr. 2, Meridian Sun 69, Richfield, M.M. 7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. Turner, Brumbaugh

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TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentine’s Day
Tues., Feb. 15, 7:45 p.m. – Stated Meeting
Mon., Feb. 21 – President’s Day

Greetings Companions, we have had a rewarding year in council this year. We are currently working three candidates through the degrees and will be conferring the Supper Excellent Master Degree on May 2nd. As always, there is always room for another gible. Contact our degree director, Jim Collins for your part. Speaking of Jim, he is currently collecting aluminum cans and donating the proceeds to the “Diabetic Kids Program.” We could sure use your old cans. As always please remember our sick and shut-ins and the men and women who are defending our country where ever they may be.

Rick Memmer, Illustrious Master

The Bone Box

by William R. Fischer

In the early lectures of the last century, now obsolete these questions were used as a test:

Q - Have you any keys to the secrets of a Mason?

A - Yes

Q - Where do you keep them?

A - In a bone box, that neither opens nor shuts but with Ivory Keys.

The bone box is the mouth, the Ivory Keys the teeth. The key to the secrets is the tongue.

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### TRESTLE BOARD

- Wed., Feb. 2** – Groundhog Day
- Sat., Feb. 5** – Massillon No. 4 Inspection, Order of the Temple
- Mon., Feb. 14** – St. Valentine's Day
- Tues., Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m.** – Stated Meeting, Practices to be scheduled
- Sat., Feb. 19, 2:00 p.m.** – Annual Inspection, Order of the Temple
  - 4:00 p.m. – Full Form Opening
  - 6:00 p.m. – Dinner Served
- Mon., Feb. 21** – President's Day
- Sat., Feb. 26** – Cuyahoga Falls No. 83 Inspection, Order of the Temple
- Wed., Mar. 16, 7:00 p.m.** – C.T.A. Meeting at Orville Hospital

Sir Knights, by the time this reaches you, January will have been a month of learning experiences. The C.T.A. council for Templar Advancement met at Barberton's Asylem and did the work of the temple in excellent form. All Commanderies of the 8<sup>th</sup> Division were present and several Sir Knights brought their ladies. Remember ladies are invited to C.T.A. meetings and all inspections and special events. They are the backbone of Knight Templar and something the Sir Knight can't do without.

Our annual inspection is Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Order of the Temple Degree. Hoping everyone is able to attend. Bring your ladies, there will good entertainment for them. If you need to make reservations for dinner, please contact me at 1-(330) 364-3245 or e-mail me at [jones@wiltshire.net](mailto:jones@wiltshire.net). A headcount is important.

There are three inspections this month and all Commanderies are expected to be represented if weather permits. Blue lodges and York Rites are having inspections and our attendance will help to make us more visible. Think of it and please make an effort. How many places do we have to make our presence known?

A good read for these dark winter nights is "Freemasons-Inside the world's oldest secret society" by H. Paul Jeffers. It's a factual account of Masonic history from Boaz to the future.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!  
**Dan, E.C.**

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# Delta Chapter No. 539, Order of the Eastern Star



Jodi Sproul  
Worthy Matron

Jim Groetz  
Worthy Patron

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 Jim Groetz (330) 875-3555 ..... Worthy Patron  
 Patricia Slatzer (330) 484-1548 .....Secretary  
 Jane Erickson (330) 244-1982.....Sunshine

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### TRESTLE BOARD

- Tues., Feb. 1, 10:00 a.m.** - Auxiliary Meeting
- Fri., Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.** - Learning Center Sock hop
- Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.** - Stated Meeting
- Sat., Feb. 12** - Heart Dance for District Charities, Falls Chapter  
 More details at our meeting
- Fri., Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.** - Stated Meeting
- Mon., Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.** - Worthy Grand Matron Visits Louisville Chapter

Delta Chapter is diligently working towards its Grand Inspection in April. We've gotten one initiation under our belts. Hopefully the New Year will bring more new members.

This month we have a couple of great opportunities to get to know more prospective members, as well as some members from other Chapters in our District and neighboring regions. We'll kick off our social activities with the Learning Center Sock Hop on February 5<sup>th</sup>. If you've never been to one, you're really missing out. Grab your poodle skirt, your jeans and leather jacket or whatever 50's, 60's, or 70's costume you have and join us. We usually have an Elvis spotting and the food will take many of you back to teenage years at the soda fountain. We always have lots of baskets to bid on and the money goes to the 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Learning Center. The very next weekend we have a multi-regional Heart Dance. This is up in District 2 Cuyahoga Falls. It's a great way to get your exercise in by dancing the night away for the Heart Association. If you've never been out of the District, what are you waiting for? Let's show them that Delta Chapter can cut a rug with the best of them.

Finally, our Worthy Grand Patron, Trevor Sproul, is on the road again showing members throughout Ohio how the Worthy Grand Matron likes to see the inspections go. He's doing a wonderful job and Delta Chapter is very proud of his work. Our Grand Organist, Diane Phillips, is also doing a fantastic job. She's playing her heart out at every state function, making sure she has lots of music just in case something unexpected is thrown her way. We at Delta Chapter have a lot to be proud of because of these two and their dedication.

See you at our February meetings! Star Love.

**Jodi & Jim**

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 Sandra Greathouse (330) 757-1667 ..... Lalla  
 Barbara Turner (330) 499-3423 ..... Rodeval  
 Jane Erickson (330) 244-1982 ..... Treasurer  
 Lori Givler (330) 499-7791 ..... Sunshine

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#### TRESTLE BOARD

- Tues., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting
- Wed., Feb. 2 – Groundhog Day
- Sat., Feb. 5, 6:00 p.m. – Learning Center Sock Hop
- Mon., Feb. 14 – St. Valentine’s Day
- Mon., Feb. 21 – President’s Day
- Tues., Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting

We are now in the mists of winter’s cold grasp. Hopefully we will see spring early.

Our January meeting was a short one, with not much business to conduct. After the meeting we had fun doing the pound auction. There always is an assortment of items brought and it is interesting to see what we bid for. At our February meeting we will be celebrating Valentines Day. I ask that you please decorate a Valentine box and Valentines to share. The boxes will be judged and prizes awarded. Last year we had many wonderful decorated boxes and I look forward to what the Daughters will do this year.

The Daughters are enjoying practicing for our drill we plan on presenting at the Supreme Session in September. So far we have learned to march, count, fan, box and do a grapevine. After several attempts we finally were able to do the march, only to be informed by our teacher, Sharon, and to the dismay of daughter Dorothy, that we had much more to learn. Sharon Snowden has a wonderful drill planned and with all this practice we plan on being first place.

It was great to see daughter Nancy back and feeling better. Several other daughters were absent due to illnesses and our thoughts and prayers are with you and we hope to see you at the February meeting.

Fraternally

**Kate Oesch, M.C.O.**

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### Canton Lodge No. 60, F. & A. M.

Continued from page 2

members that are not Masonic and may want to join a lodge. A couple of our members are officers in the "Widows Sons". Chaplain: Wor. Bro. Jeff Ward, Trustee: Wor. Bro. Dave Dull, Trustee: Bro. Mike Emery and yours truly, Guardian of the Membership. Any of you motorcycle riders out there who are interested in a Masonic riders club can contact any of the above brothers for information. Oh! We are recognized by the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Brethren, please don't forget the Learning Center Sock Hop Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

God bless you, your Lodge, our Troops, and America.

**Dan, W. M.**

### Wm. McKinley Lodge No. 431, F. & A. M.

Continued from page 3

in Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri. He served as Master of his Lodge and also as the 97<sup>th</sup> Grand Master of Missouri. Lastly, Lyndon B. Johnson was initiated an entered apprentice in Johnson City Lodge No. 561 in Johnson City, Texas, but never continued beyond the entered apprentice degree.

February 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be hosting James Yocum, District Deputy Grand Master to our meeting, who will tell us more about these great Masonic presidents. Please attend this meeting it should be interesting.

Remember our lodge inspection will be March 4<sup>th</sup>; dinner, by reservation at 6:00 p.m. with a \$10.00 donation; call the Master. Lodge will open at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellow Craft Degree. Your officers have been practicing diligently and would like nothing more than to see the Blue Lodge filled.

February 14<sup>th</sup> is Valentines Day. Make the rest of your year a happy one by doing something extra nice for that special lady in your life. Need I say more? See you in Lodge!

**Gust Goutras, Master**


### Trinity Lodge No. 710, F. & A. M.

Continued from page 4

the world. As Master, I wish to thank Reid McLeod, Senior Deacon and Brent Bowers, Junior Deacon for their travels in January. This is the only way young officers can get a real feel for the fellowship that other lodges extend to travelers.

**Mike, Master**


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**Nazir Grotto, M.O.V.P.E.R.****Continued from page 5**

Gruber and his lady, Karen, were both down. Karen had hand surgery and Gary had a bad bug of sorts. Lynda Poorman is still on the mend. District Deputy "Slip" had lower back problems. Let's also keep Brooks and Helen Gilmore in our prayers. If you know a prophet or lady who is sick please call the office and let us know. We can only report what we have.

**Sick and Visitation Chairman****Nazitettes**

The Nazitettes are doing fine but did not meet in January due to the weather, however we will be meeting in February and hope to have more to report then. Let's say a prayer for those who are sick and disabled and are unable to attend our functions. P.G.M. Pierre Shawvers lady, Barbara, just underwent treatment for cancer and is at home recovering. However, her treatments are not over yet. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Nazir Clowns**

Attention Clowns and want-to-be Clowns! You have an opportunity to purchase used magic, and if you have magic related stuff you want to get rid of; mark your February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011 calendar and attend the Canton "Magicians" Annual Magic Auction. At the North Canton Church of Christ on East Maple Street, from 9:00 a.m. until the last item is sold. Clown related stuff is usually available.

For clown information contact: "Sparkie" (330) 479-9722 or [Sparkieincanton1@att.net](mailto:Sparkieincanton1@att.net)

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**Delta Chapter No. 539, Order of the Eastern Star****Continued from page 9****Auxiliary**

The next meeting of Delight Auxiliary will be Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be at Noon. This is the meeting where we plan fund raising activities for Delta Chapter. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. We would love to have a few more of you attend. We need some new ideas. If you cannot attend, but have an idea we might want to use, please let us know. Happy Valentine's Day!

**Carol****Sunshine**

Sympathy card was sent to Diana Phillips, loss of her father.

Get well wishes were sent to Susan Bennett, right knee replacement

**Jane Erickson. Sunshine**

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**Difficult Questions About Freemasonry**

If Masonry is so aboveboard, why is it "secret?"

There are fewer secrets to Freemasonry than most non-members imagine; even many Masons are not entirely clear on what is and is not secret in Masonry. The moral principles of Masonry are the same as those taught you in Sunday school or at your mother's knee (sometimes over it!); it is only the exact procedures and words by which those principles are taught in Masonry that are secret, for it is the knowledge of those that distinguishes a Mason from those who are not members. To be entitled to the fellowship peculiar to the Lodge, a Mason must be able to identify himself, and these secrets provide the means for doing so.

**Continued on page 14**



## Why I Come to Lodge

by Brother Ron Halvorsen



I had originally planned to present a fairly typical, if uninspired talk about noteworthy Masonic buildings one might visit on the East Coast. You know? the type of talk where some information is presented and just as quickly forgotten.

As I began to do some research, another idea crept in. Why am I, or any other member, going to be at the Lodge next Thursday? Not because one is an officer or has to cook or any other obligatory reason. No, I want to know why, does a Master Mason stay active. What is Masonry for? How will I know if I am a Master Mason in more than just a conferred title?

The answers, which I have been pondering for a while, were best illustrated by two passages in two different publications. So, if I may, tonight will be an effort at stimulating some thought and discussion. The following are the two most interesting things I have read since being raised.

From "Whither Are We Traveling" by Dwight L. Smith, P.G.M. of Indiana, 1963:

*"The purpose of Freemasonry is the same as it has been since the day when the stones for King Solomon's Temple were hewn, squared and numbered in the quarries where they were raised. It is to take an individual, just one man at a time, mind you, and as good a man as possible, and try to make a better man out of him. That is all."*

So, the question that follows: Am I a better man than I was the first time I set foot in this Lodge? And if I am trying, how will I know if I am succeeding? Well, people often see change in us before we see it in ourselves, but Joseph F. Newton certainly spelled out the goal very eloquently for me in "The Builders" (probably the most popular of all Masonic books): *"When he can look out over the rivers, the hills and the far horizon with a profound sense of his own littleness in the vast scheme of things, and yet have faith, hope and courage which is the root of every virtue. When he knows that down in his heart every man is as noble, as vile, as divine, as diabolic and as lonely as himself; and seeks to know, to forgive and to love his fellow man. When he knows how to sympathize with men in their sorrows, even in their sins, knowing that each man fights a hard fight against many odds. When he has learned how to make friends and to keep them and above all, keep friends with himself. When he can be happy and high-minded amid the meaner drudgeries of life. When no voice of distress reaches his ears in vain, and no hand seeks his aid without response. When he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be. When he knows how to pray, how to love and how to hope? When he has kept faith with himself, with his God; in his hand a sword for evil, in his heart a bit of song; glad to live, but not afraid to die! Such a man has found the only secret of Freemasonry and the one which it is trying to give to all of the world."*

So Brethren, I came tonight because: A. I enjoy it and B. I hope to learn something and gain something from my association with such a group of fine men.

### Editors Note:

Listening to many Brethren and taking note of their comments, another good reason to attend lodge and Masonry is: "that's where all my friends are. The Temple and lodge are the center of my social life."



## District Deputy's Message



A letter has been sent to all of the Lodges in the 21<sup>st</sup> District about the declining attendance at the Blue Lodge Associations. This is the only district in the State of Ohio to have three different associations and there is only one in the State that has two. Brethren, these associations can only exist if they are supported. The one that is on life support right now is The Masters, Wardens, and Deacon's Associations of Stark County (MWD).

Perhaps part of the attendance problem in Stark County lies with a misconception surrounding the name. The MWD is not just for sitting Masters, Wardens, and Deacon's of Lodges, but for all Master Masons in good standing. All brethren are welcome to attend and participate in discussions and stop-action degree walk-through. They are also eligible to be elected officers of that body.

You should also know that these associations are for the brethren and run by the brethren. They are forums to review information all lodges need, practice stop-action degree work, exchange ideas between lodges, ask questions and enjoy fellowship with others. They help with the Grand Masters' Reception, One Day Master Mason Classes, the 21<sup>st</sup> District Calendar Book and various other district-wide events. Outside speakers have been brought in to present programs and the meeting place has been rotated amongst Stark County lodges that wish to host the monthly meeting.

You will hear more about this at some of the lodge inspections. When a representative of the Masters, Wardens, and Deacon's comes forward to present the traveling award, please go up to him after the inspection, and let him know you want to see that association continue and you want to help it grow again. Remember, the associations exist for you, but they need you to participate. I know it helped me in my Masonic journey and it can work for you too!

**R. Wesley Webber, District Deputy Grand Master**

**“OLD MASONS NEVER DIE,  
BUT YOU’LL HAVE TO JOIN  
TO FIND OUT WHY”.**

### Difficult Questions About Freemasonry Continued from page 12

A better term than “secrecy” would be privacy. Masonry is not a public organization like a school board or a city council. It is an association of private citizens, just like a country club or a church. No one who is not a member has a right to know about the internal workings of any of these things. They are private to the group, not “secret.”

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**Masters, Wardens & Deacons  
Association of Stark County**

**TRESTLE BOARD**

**Mon., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting**  
Canton Temple Blue Lodge Room

As of this writing, we have not yet had the January meeting of Masters Warden’s & Deacon’s. However, each Master has been informed and asked to see that a representative be in attendance so that business can be transacted. The District Deputy Grand Master’s have been hoping that this viable organization not fail and have been stressing to various lodge officers that they need to participate. Why! We need this organization to provide programs in regards to: assisting in ritual work, helping with lodge officer duties and responsibilities, strengthening lodge interest and information through "inter-lodge" activities, sponsoring of important events involved in the 21<sup>st</sup> Masonic District and producing "District 21 Calendars." The opportunities are not limited to these, but with excellent leadership many things can be accomplished. Let’s make this a priority for this New Year.

**Gordon L. Broome, Vice President**

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