



FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



VOLUME 44, ISSUE 4

FALL 2019



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FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES
AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The *Free State Freemason* is published bi-monthly from September through June (there is no issue in July or August). Deadlines for submissions are the 1st day of February, April, August, and October for publication in the following issue. These dates **ARE FIRM** and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the *Free State Freemason* publication:

PHOTOGRAPHS & ARTWORK

Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine—use the highest resolution. Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures will not reproduce satisfactorily. If you desire the return of pictures, they must have submitting individual's name and address on the back. Pictures should have accompanying documentation detailing who is in the picture and what the picture represents if not accompanied by an article.

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Articles must be typewritten. Articles can be submitted to the editor by e-mail, fax, regular mail or dropped off at the **Grand Lodge office**.

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Ads may be purchased for a single issue or at a discounted annual rate of 20% for five consecutive issues as follows:

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Business Card	\$100	\$400
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Camera-ready artwork can be mailed to the **Grand Lodge office** or submitted via email to tfoster@glmd.org. We accept .jpg, .bmp, and .pdf file formats. We cannot accept graphics embedded in .doc files. All submissions or alterations must be made prior to the deadlines established above. Pre-payment for all advertising is required. **The Grand Lodge of Maryland** reserves the right to refuse any ad not meeting with our approval for publication and any payment for such will be refunded. For advertising questions please call 410.316-9146 or email tfoster@glmd.org.

*Five (5) issues



The Maryland Free State Freemason is published six times annually for the members, families and friends of Ancient and Accepted Masons of Maryland. The views expressed in the Maryland Free State Freemason do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, or its officers.

SUBMISSIONS & GENERAL INQUIRIES

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Submitted articles should be between 250 and 600 words, and whenever possible, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits should be included. Check details at the left hand panel. Articles are subject to editing and, if published, become the property of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

FREE STATE Freemason

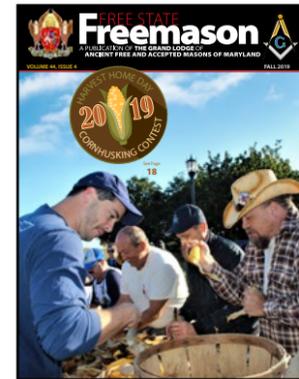
A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

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MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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COVER: This year featured our very first Cornhole Championship, and again several Lodges took part in the challenge.



FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Dedication to the task at hand should be every leader and aspiring leader's mantra. Having a focus on one goal needs to be the focus of every Master and Grand Master. In Maryland that goal is to strengthen our Lodges and provide ways for our members to be better individuals. We keep hearing about the 400 that run Masonry in Maryland. While there may be some truth to this, there are those few who have been tasked with its leadership and to provide guidance. At Grand Lodge you have entrusted a team to do that for this fraternity.

To be dedicated to something you must put forth time and effort and demonstrate a commitment. Just doing something now and then when required does not show dedication or commitment. Officers of Lodges are the same. To show dedication they need to attend not just monthly meetings but also rehearsals, officer meetings, social events and visitations. We all learn from each other as we grow.

Building a team is a part of dedication. Lodges with strong teams have many dedicated individuals. They may be involved in many things but still show their dedication to the Lodge by focusing their primary effort in that direction.

I have done that ever since my election to Grand Lodge office. My attention shifted from my York Rite involvement to the Grand Lodge. While I still have a great fondness for those bodies, I have changed by focus and dedication to making the Grand Lodge as a whole a much stronger and better established organization. I can only hope

those that follow me do the same thing.

I am writing this article on a particular day of remembrance – September 11th. It had me reflecting on those brave individuals who sacrificed their lives to protect our nation. Many innocent individuals along with courageous first responders lost their lives. Since then thousands have offered to defend our country from foreign intruders and countless have made the supreme sacrifice. We should remember everyday as masons the importance of our freedoms and benefits we receive from not only our organization but this great nation in which we live.

By the time you read this we will have completed our Wellness Day. We had over 100 in attendance counting visitors and volunteers. Many valuable things were learned by all in attendance not only about their health, but also ways to keep a person safe. We thank the Baltimore County Fire Department, Sherriff's office, Health Department and Maryland Masonic Homes along with the volunteers from the Youth Groups for making it a successful day. We are looking forward to this again next year at the end of May.

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge will be on November 16th preceded by the banquet where deserving individuals and groups will be recognized. At the Annual we will receive our guests, hear reports, and learn of the status of Vision 25. It will be capped off by the installation of the 2020 officers. I hope to see many in attendance as we celebrate our Masonic Fraternity.

Looking at the coming year we have many exciting events. The first is the Mayor's Parade on December 8th in Hamden. Crowds are always present to cheer us on and I hope many of our Masonic Family will be there to witness. Following the normal holiday happenings will be the countless installations around the state. I know we will see many families as we journey throughout Maryland.

In February we will have the Regional Meetings. They will take place on February 1st – Grand



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Lodge, 22nd – Upper Marlboro, 29th – Cambridge and March 7th Cumberland (Ali Ghan). Many new items will be presented along with a few regulars. Breakouts will again take place. We hope to add a "Town Hall" style gathering where you can ask the Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master questions about our visions for this fraternity.

As the coolness of fall and winter begin to set in always keep the warmth of freemasonry in your hearts. Until next time always keep moving through the millennium while maintaining our integrity and uprightness as Masons.

Richard Naegele
Most Worshipful Grand Master
of Masons in Maryland

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MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Marlin L. Mills, RW Deputy Grand Master



In my recent travels to Lodges, it seems that many are starting to get serious about membership and leadership. You have heard me talk about the fact that out of the 103 Lodges in Maryland we only had 33 new Masters last year. That means that 70 Masters were serving at least a second term... Many of them were sitting in the East for the 3rd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and yes even the 12th time.

It seems that membership and leadership are the biggest challenges that we face; and have faced for several years. To me membership and leadership go together like soup and sandwiches. Each one is good on its own; but like the Campbell's Soup Jingle says, "you can't have one without the other."

I recently read that any organization that lacks good leadership will fail in both attracting new members and inspiring loyalty and upward mobility in its members. It also creates the perfect situation for loss of membership and poor leadership development. The article went on to say that ultimately the leaders themselves hold the power to affect change... and that change begins with them - The leaders of each and every single Lodge.

In my humble opinion, the Master and Wardens are accountable for the outcome of every chair in their Lodge. They are the leaders. I will admit that they cannot be held totally responsible for another's work, or lack thereof, but they must realize that their work and actions have a direct impact on the Lodge and its members. Good leaders draw good members.

The seat in the East may be elusive to some and it is up to the leadership to be prepared to draw the line between a potential future leader and one who just wants to get by. Not an easy task- for anyone. It requires empathy and the ability to present it tactfully in order not to lose the individual. From the very first chair there are a number of ways to measure leadership effectiveness.



1. Does he attend rehearsals?
2. Does he show up on time?
3. Does he study his work for proper presentation?
4. Does he try? Even if he needs help.
5. Does he seek that help?

The answer to these questions should indicate the type of effectiveness he will play as a future leader of your Lodge.

If he is not meeting the above requirements for future Lodge leadership, the next question becomes what, if anything, can be done to improve the situation (or the Brother's performance) without causing the member to up and quit? Here is where a little tact is very important. Starting a conversation with "where have you been? You know that we have practice every Monday night at 6:30!" might not be the best approach... At least not for a friendly, fraternal – successful conversation.

We are all born with certain talents. For some ritual or leadership comes naturally. Others may have to work longer or harder at it; but with practice and coaching these talents can be honed and become great strengths for the

Photos: Chris Candler

Lodge. Letting a man bumble through his work or lectures only hurts him. He will lose confidence after constant criticism. Soon he no longer shows up for anything and eventually he stops paying dues and the Lodge loses another member.

What are you doing to support your Lodge officers and members? How are you helping to prepare the future leaders of your Lodge? Do you really know your members and line officers? By this I mean do you know more than just their names?

Yes, we need new Masters for our Lodges, but at what cost? The cypher book was supposed to be the cure all – men would study and learn their work right from the book. What happened was that men stopped coming to rehearsal, did not study from the book and the personal contact among the officers was lost. I have been in Lodges this year where the cypher book was open and used in open Lodge, and

now men are putting the work on their cell phones. Where does it end?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO SUPPORT YOUR LODGE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS? HOW ARE YOU HELPING TO PREPARE THE FUTURE LEADERS OF YOUR LODGE?

As J.C. Penny once said: "I do not believe in excuses. I believe in hard work as the prime solvent in life's problems." Being the leader of a Lodge or part of the line in a Lodge requires work and a desire to succeed. For hundreds of years men have led our Lodges, helped lead our country and have done it successfully. I believe that

you can as well. I believe that every man can be a success if he just takes the time, has the desire and the determination to do his part... Especially with the proper support.

I believe in our fraternity and I believe in you because you have taken your time to read this article. I thank you and look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Marlin L. Mills, RWDGM

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

By Tammie Houck, Executive Director

On behalf of Maryland Masonic Homes, I would like to thank you for your contribution of money, equipment, supplies, and your time given to our residents. Your support helps us continue in our mission and to assist those in our community.

We are very grateful for your donations to Maryland Masonic Homes Wish List. We were able to purchase many of the items due to the generosity of the Fraternity. We are providing another wish list in hopes of your continued support and would be truly grateful for any contributions to the listed items.

W I S H L I S T

- Bingo machine- \$900.00
- Samsung Galaxy Tab A 32 GB- Black- \$199.00
- Joy For All Golden Puppy- \$119.00 Sensory Dog
- Four Office chairs--\$200.00/chair
- Transition from heavy wet mops to microfiber mops and buckets-\$4,000.00
- Five Laptop Computers-\$500.00/computer
- Digital Platform Scale-\$1,260.00
- Five Over Bed Side Tables-\$100.00/table
- Two Linen Carts-\$500.00/cart
- Updated Audio System for Chapel-\$10,000.00
- Small Utility Vehicle (Gator/ Golf Cart)-\$3,000-\$7,000
- Rotary Hammer Drill-\$2,000
- Recliner Chairs-\$800.00/Chair
- Mechanical Lift-\$1000.00
- Audio Story Books-Kendal-\$120.00
- Sponsor a Saturday Afternoon Entertainment for Residents-\$200-\$300

The Maryland Masonic Homes is in need of a new sound system for the Chapel. The current system is over 30 years old and has started to fail. A new system will cost approximately \$10,000. Any assistance in obtaining a new system would be appreciated. Donations may be made to MMH memo line Chapel sound system.

Thank You
Richard Naegele, Grand Master



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NEWS FROM JOB'S DAUGHTERS

by Sue Nickerson, Grand Guardian, & David Spangler, Associate Grand Guardian, DelMar JDI

This is an exciting time for the members of DelMar Job's Daughters as we have recently merged the jurisdictions of Delaware and Maryland into the new Grand Guardian Council of Delmar. We bring greetings to you on behalf of the young ladies that make up the 12 Bethels in this new jurisdiction which was officially instituted on May 4, 2019.

For those of you who are not familiar with Job's Daughters International (JDI), our organization is a Masonic youth organization for young ladies between the ages of 10-20 who either have a direct Masonic heritage, are sponsored by a Master Mason or are sponsored by a Majority Member of Job's Daughters and believe in a higher power.

JDI has chapters called "Bethels" in the United States, Canada, Australia, the Philippines and Brazil, and our international organization is currently celebrating its 99th birthday. We also have a Jobie To Bee program for young ladies who are between the ages of 5-9 that allows them to learn about our organization through fun, age appropriate activities within their very own "beehive." Our group takes its name from the Book of Job, in the Bible, with specific reference to the 42nd chapter 15th verse: "And in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job; and their Father gave them inheritance among their brethren."

There is an adult advisory council in each Bethel. These Certified Adult Volunteers (parents, guardians, Masons, and former members), oversee the Daughters in the Bethel. Job's Daughters is a self-governing group. The Honored Queen and Bethel members gain valuable leadership experience, serve as part of a team, and learn democratic principles as they plan and run all meetings, activities and community service projects during each six-month term.

DelMar Job's Daughters allows girls and young women to bloom into their confidence to become the leaders of tomorrow. We strive

to teach our members how to be positive and powerful leaders in their Bethels, schools, jobs and communities.

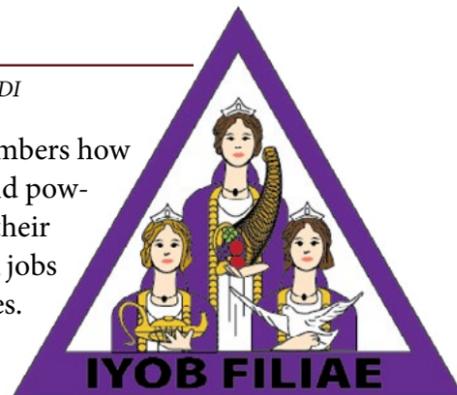
This confidence and leadership development

let's our Daughters soar into adulthood with the necessary set of skills needed in today's world.

Although our Daughters are involved in raising money for a variety of charities within their communities, The HIKE (Hearing Improvement Kid's Endowment) Fund Inc is the philanthropic project of Job's Daughters International. Through HIKE, Job's Daughters International has embraced the needs of children with hearing difficulties and has provided children with hearing assistive devices since 1985. Our goal in DelMar is to raise \$7,500 to donate to the JDI philanthropic project this year through a variety of fundraisers and fun activities. Recently we had a HIKE fundraiser at LaDew Topiary Gardens and raised \$750 towards our goal.

We are also hosting a series of 4 virtual races this year. Each race costs \$15 and the proceeds are being divided between HIKE and The Gary Sinise Foundation. Our first race in July had 34 participants, and we will host our 2nd race in October. Everyone is invited to participate and help DelMar JDI raise money to donate to these wonderful charities.

We thank you in advance for your support. We hope that you will be able to attend a Bethel meeting or activity soon so that our Daughters will have the opportunity to get to know you and your organization better. Please visit our calendar on our webpage: delmarjdi.org to see a complete list of our monthly activities and Bethel meeting times/ places.



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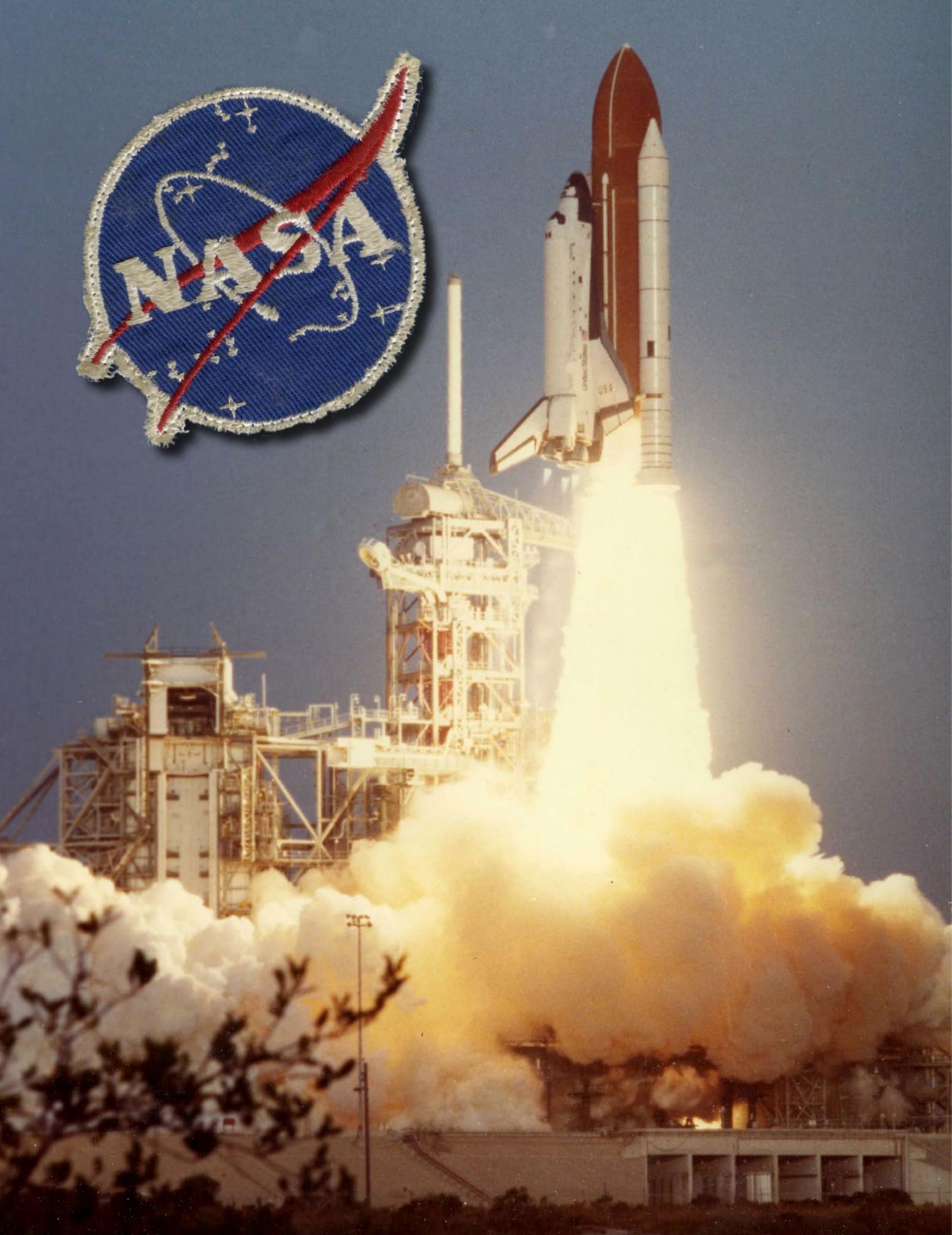
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MARYLAND MASONIC MUSEUM THE MOON, MEN, AND MASONS

By Edward Heimiller, Curator—Maryland Masonic Museum | The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland

Our sense of wonder of the sun, moon, and stars has captured our imaginations for centuries. This fascination with the heavens, outer space, has inspired incredible technology and advanced civilization. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), established by the United States Government in 1958 to advance and encourage peaceful applications in space sciences, has led the United States space exploration efforts, notably the Apollo 11 that resulted in the first manned mission to land on the Moon on July 20, 1969 with Col. Edwin Eugene “Buzz” Aldrin being the first Freemason on the moon. Over the years a number of Freemasons have had the honor of participating in the NASA space program, a select few as astronauts with many more serving supporting roles of scientists, engineers, and beyond. A number of artifacts preserved in the museum are testaments to NASA’s achievements, challenges, and reminders of the hazards and sacrifices of space exploration.

A medal commissioned around 1969 to commemorate the Apollo 8 mission that went around the moon was the first to enter the museum. Made from metal that flew in space during the mission, Apollo 8 was the second manned spaceflight mission in the United States Apollo space program. Launched on December 21, 1968 and manned by a crew of three astronauts: Commander Frank Borman (1928-present), Command Module Pilot James Lovell (1928-present), and Lunar Module Pilot William Anders (1933-present), orbited the moon ten times before returning to Earth. This medal was presented after the mission by the Manned Flight Awareness Office at NASA to Edward Edgar Karl Sauerman, Jr. (1919-2006), a member of Union Lodge, No. 60 under the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland who donated the medal in 1972 (Union Lodge, No. 60 merged with Jephthah Lodge, No. 222 on Dec. 31, 2008). Sauerman was a mechanical draftsman employed by Bendix Field Engineering Corporation.

A unique group of objects related to Lt. Col. Virgil “Gus” Grissom (1926-1967), best known as one of the original NASA Project Mercury astronauts and a United States Air Force pilot, are among the most captivating in the museum. ‘Gus’ Grissom was the second American in space. He enrolled at Purdue University in 1945 to complete a degree in engineering. During his years at Purdue, Grissom joined Mitchell Lodge, No. 228 under the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Indiana in his hometown of Mitchell, Indiana. He was killed, along with fellow astronauts Edward White (1930-1967) and Roger Chaffee (1935-1967) on January 27, 1967 during a pre-launch test at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (then known as Cape Kennedy) in Florida. In their honor the mission was re-named Apollo 1.

His leather name badge inscribed ‘V.I. Grissom’ and embroidered ‘NASA’ badge were retrieved by William D. Killen at the time NASA discarded one of Grissom’s astronaut suits from the 1961 Gemini program. These badges along with an autographed photograph of Grissom were donated by William D. Killen in 2004. Killen, a member of Collington Lodge, No. 230 under the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland met and established an acquaintance with Grissom while in the fire service at the Kennedy Space Center Fire Department (KSCFD). Following the Apollo 1 tragedy that killed Grissom and his fellow comrades, Killen became part of the Apollo Astronaut Rescue Team established on October 7, 1968. The Astronaut Rescue Team trained in Astronaut rescue procedures and provided rescue services throughout the Kennedy Space Center until it was disbanded on February 11, 1974.

A photograph capturing the launching of the Columbia for the STS-5 mission on November 11, 1982 is also in the museum. Mounted on a white card signed “Vance Brand” for Vance D. Brand (1931-present), “Bob Overmyer” for Col. Robert F. Overmyer (1936-1996), “WB Lenoir” for William



B. Lenor (1939-2010), and “Joe Allen” for Joseph P. Allen (1937-present). They served together as mission specialists on STS-5, the first fully operational flight of the Shuttle Transportation System respectively as Space Commander, Pilot, and Mission Specialists. This was the first mission to deploy communication satellites into orbit. The space shuttle Columbia flew on 28 missions. On re-entry into the atmosphere on the Columbia’s last scheduled mission, the shuttle disintegrated on February 1, 2003 killing all seven members of the crew.

Pioneers in space exploration continue to innovate and explore uncharted territory. As this year marks



the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, with the now iconic moment of Neil Armstrong and Col. Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin being the first human beings to step foot on the celestial globe, the endless possibilities of space exploration continues to fascinate and capture our imaginations. The early history of NASA and legacy of the veterans and patriots engaged in their missions to explore the far reaches of the universe remain important aspects of American history. A display in the museum serves as a testament to the veterans and patriots involved in NASA’s space exploration and can also be found on the museum website: MD MasonicMuseum.org.

FREEMASON ASTRONAUTS at NASA

Col. Edwin Eugene “Buzz” Aldrin (1930-present)

Initiated: February 17, 1955 in Oak Park Lodge, No. 864 Montgomery, AL; Passed: April 12, 1955; Raised: February 21, 1956 in Lawrence N. Greenleaf Lodge, No. 169 Denver, CO
The second man to walk on the moon, Aldrin was the first Freemason to set foot upon the moon.

Col. Leroy Gordon “Gordo” Cooper Jr. (1926-2004)

Member of Carbondale Lodge, No. 82 Carbondale, CO
One of the original seven astronauts in Project Mercury, the first United States manned space program. He was the first American to sleep in space, in 1965 Gordon flew as Command pilot of Gemini V.

Col. Donn F. Eisele (1930-1987)

Member of Luther B. Turner Lodge, No. 732 Columbus, OH
Occupied the command module pilot seat during the flight of Apollo 7 in 1968.

Col. John Herschel Glenn, Jr. (1921-2016)

Member of Concord Lodge, No. 688 New Concord, OH (Mason at Sight ceremony August 19, 1978)
The first American to orbit the Earth aboard Friendship 7 on February 20, 1962, on the Mercury-Atlas 6 mission. He later was elected and served as a United States Senator for Ohio from 1974 to 1999.

Lt. Col. Virgil “Gus” Grissom (1926-1967)

Member of Mitchell Lodge, No. 228 Mitchell, IN
Piloted Liberty Bell 7 on a sub-orbital flight and become the second American to go into space on July 21, 1961. Killed on January 27, 1967 while training for what would be the first Apollo mission (AS-204) a fire sparked in the oxygen rich capsule along with two fellow astronauts.

Col. James Benson “Jim” Irwin (1930-1991)

Member of Tajon Lodge, No. 104 Colorado Springs, CO
Served as Lunar Module Pilot for Apollo 15 and is the eighth person to walk on the moon.

Capt. Edgard Dean “Ed” Mitchell (1930-2016)

Member of Artesia Lodge No. 28, Artesia, NM
Lunar Module Pilot of Apollo 14 noted for the first use of Mobile Equipment Transport (MET).

Capt. Walter Marty “Wally” Schirra, Jr. (1923-2007)

Member of Canaveral Lodge, No. 339 Cocoa Beach, FL
One of the original seven astronauts chosen for Project Mercury, he flew the Mercury-Atlas 8 mission on October 3, 1963. He is the only person to have flown in Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo.

Lt. Thomas Patten “Tom” Stafford (1930-present)

Member of Western Star Lodge, No. 138 Weatherford, OK
Flew aboard two Gemini space flights, Commander of Apollo 10 in 1969 and in 1975 he served as the Commander of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project flight – the first joint U.S. – Soviet space mission.

Capt. Paul Joseph Weitz (1932-2017)

Member of Lawrence Lodge, No. 708 Erie, PA
Flew in space twice, first as a member of the Skylab 2 crew and as commander of the STS-6 mission, the first of the Space Shuttle Challenger flights.

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TO POLISH AND ADORN THE MIND

by David R. Sandy, PM



Technology is making us less intelligent. There was a time when people were able to absorb and retain large amounts of information and knowledge. In many cases, technology has taken away the need and the desire to do so. When a piece of information can be stored and retrieved without using our brains, we become easily distracted, our attention spans are lessened, we experience diminished capacity for memory, and we can suffer academically.

Technology bombards us with an endless stream of distractions. Hypertext is a major culprit. These are the colorful little links that are peppered throughout online articles. They make our brains work harder than they would otherwise, and the result is less brain power for processing what is read, i.e., diminished comprehension.

Our attention span is further lessened by the conditioning we get from Hollywood. Notice how the average length of a movie shot is now about 2-3 seconds!

There have been studies of the body's release of melatonin, the hormone that has a significant role in regulating the internal clock. Devices like smartphones, laptops and tablets emit a blue-enriched light that has disruptive effects on its release, causing less restful sleep.

Other studies have identified a growing concern for what is being called "Internet addiction." The stereotypical internet addicts are notably gamers who shun food and sleep in order to play for days on end. Spending a lot of time on the internet can cause changes in the brain that mimic those caused by drug and alcohol dependence. Abnormalities appear in select areas of the brain, thereby disrupting emotions, attention span, and decision making.

The hippocampus is an area of the brain involved with navigation and memory. Those who rely on GPS to navigate have less activity in this portion of the brain. Researchers have found that the use of spatial memory and using visual cues to remember routes and develop cognitive maps can help deter problems with memory loss in later life.

So, what can Freemasonry offer in this digital age to help assist mankind against the detrimental side effects of living with technology? What can Freemasonry offer to men living in a world that devalues memorization and debases the benefits of mentally retaining useful information and maxims?

Over the last four centuries, Freemasonry has survived and flourished for multiple reasons. The main reason is that it finds a way to maintain its relevance by filling voids and providing needs

for mankind. We see this in each century, and it is as significant today as it was 300 years ago.

In the Fellowcraft Degree, the candidate symbolically negotiates a winding stairway consisting of three, five, and seven steps. Why winding stairs? Why not a straight staircase? Perhaps this is because a winding staircase can be a metaphor for human life. We can't see very much of what lies ahead. Just as things are gradually revealed to us in life, so are the lessons of the degree incrementally revealed to the candidate. As he moves up the stairs, his attention is called to the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences. Curiously, there is little explanation in the ritual regarding six of these seven subjects and no effort to bring their significance to the candidate.

Yet, after the degree has been conferred, the Candidate is charged with, "*The study of the liberal arts, that valuable branch of education, which tends so effectually to polish and adorn the mind, is earnestly recommended to your consideration.*" That charge is telling us to continue to be students, to be learners. Our edification should never stop, and we should continue our Masonic passage and journey of self-improvement. We symbolize this goal in our Lodges with the rough and perfect ashlar and by the Masonic agenda of making good men better.

In our journey to become better men, we must work diligently to understand the world that surrounds us. To the modern Freemason, the study of the seven liberal arts and sciences can serve as an appropriate allegory for a life of self-improvement and mental growth. Although the soul's path to virtue is not easily navigated, the study of the seven liberal arts and sciences does help to point the way.

Reflect on how these classics can be applied to Freemasonry and life:

When we consider Grammar, remember that in earlier times, grammar meant Latin grammar. It was not the wearisome process of determining the parts of speech; instead, it was the art of writing. Grammar is the art of producing well-written compositions and skillful speaking. Studying great poetry and oratorical works enables one to write and speak elegantly.

Generally, Logic is the art and science of precise and factual thinking. By practicing logic, we process and analyze inputs of information or data, culling out the erroneous, deceptive, false, and contradictory. Through logic, one sifts through incoming material or evidence, identifying fallacious arguments and statements, then systematically removing untruths and contradictions, thereby yielding authentic, honest, and trusted knowledge.

Rhetoric is an art of communication, either oral or written. Through rhetoric, a speaker or author endeavors to persuade, apprise, or motivate their target audience. Rhetoric uses facts derived from the practice of Logic and presents them skillfully through the use of Grammar. The result is a persuasive argument based on truth.

Arithmetic is the science of real (non-negative) numbers, their properties, computation, and manipulation. Arithmetic deals with integers, rational numbers, and remainders after division.

No further enumeration on Geometry is needed here other than to remember that it is the Greek idealization of Geometry that has passed over into Freemasonry.

During the time of Pythagoras, the study of Music was viewed as mathematical in nature. In a much earlier time, man discovered that the lengths of the strings of his musical instruments resulted in different sounds. Shortening or increasing the lengths of the strings would raise or lower the pitch. He further discovered that joining several strings together would produce sounds especially pleasing to the ear, i.e. harmony. Further discoveries revealed that the ratio of the lengths of the strings corresponded to whole numbers. Through music, the soul feels pleasure in counting without realizing it is counting.

Freemasonry has venerated Astronomy nearly as much as it has Geometry. In all cultures, astronomy is the science of the heavens and is intimately connected with religious tradition. The sun, moon, comets, stars, the ecliptic, and meridian have places in our Masonic lessons.

The Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences signify education, wisdom, and learning. We should better comprehend the use of music, plays, and art in our lives. We should use mathematics and geometry. We need to expand our vocabulary and practice writing. As we persevere in learning throughout our lives, we will become better men in Masonry.

In closing, let us remember that Freemasonry promotes repetition and we must not lose sight of its power. The repetition of learning and reciting ritual has a latent purpose. It exercises our minds and facilitates learning. The key to knowledge and learning is repetition. Repetition readies the mind for further light. We will not notice and benefit from all the beauties of Freemasonry if we do not develop our minds. The Masonic experience is designed to distinguish the Mason from the profane.

The repeating of affirmations leads to beliefs. When beliefs develop into convictions, **things start happening.**



Scenes from Harvest Home Day 2019

The early morning hours of Saturday, October 5th were crisp and clear as Masons from across all of Maryland gathered for a time-honored annual tradition. Although there are no longer fields of corn to clear, the pancakes, sausage sandwiches and pumpkin pie continue to provide their amazing restorative properties (as did an afternoon nap for many). For those who could not make it, here's a look at some photos from two of our most-recent, and highly competitive traditions.



Unbeknown to many in attendance each year at Harvest Home Day, for many years now all the sausage we enjoy comes to us through the generosity of Brother Chris Kunzler of Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44. Kunzler & Company has been a purveyor of ham, sausages, and other meats for well over one hundred years. The sausage we have all come to relish happens to be a very special recipe – and is only available at Harvest Home Day. It replicates a recipe used all those decades ago right here at Bonnie Blink to feed the masses of Masons at Cornhusking. Every pound of that sausage is donated by Brother Kunzler. It feeds all those who gather, and the extra sausage sold on the day of the event helps to defray the costs of hosting such a massive gathering.

In recognition of this generosity, Most Worshipful Grand Master Naegele honored Brother Kunzler by presenting him with a Francis E. Larrimore Medal for Meritorious Achievement and also unveiled a new stone on our Walk of Remembrance at the Grand Lodge bearing the Kunzler name. Our gratitude and congratulations go out to our Brother for his generosity and dedication to the craft.



For several years now, one of the highlights of Harvest Home Day has been the Cornhusking Contest—a spirited competition among Lodges to determine which could shuck a bushel of corn and race it across the finish line first. This year featured our very first Cornhole Championship, and again several lodges took part in the challenge.

Congratulations go out to Corinthian Lodge No. 93 who obviously put in some extra training for the day. They one not one, but both of these contests. To everyone else...well, get training early for next year!



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AS we enter this Holiday Season, may God bless you and your family with peace and prosperity and may the fellowship and brotherly love of Freemasonry spread across this nation in the coming year.

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