

THE TRESTLEBOARD



FROM THE EAST

BY WORSHIPFUL MASTER BRENT BAIRD

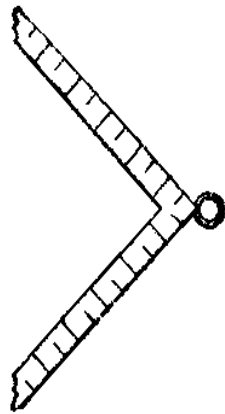
Yet another Masonic year is quickly coming to an end and so is my time as your Worship Master. I thank the brethren for the opportunity to serve the greatest of all fraternal organizations in this capacity. As every Entered Apprentice knows, no institution was ever founded on better principles or a more solid foundation.

Most Worshipful Brother William P. Mayberry's theme for 2003 was "Building a Brighter Tomorrow". As I pass the gavel to the new line officers, I can clearly see our tomorrow is brighter. There is a new enthusiasm and determination among the active brethren in Lodge. From the most senior Past Master to the youngest Master Mason, they are working hard to spread the principles of Freemasonry in our community. We can be proud of the work that our Brethren are doing. I encourage all Brethren to take a part in our brighter tomorrow.

Again, I thank everyone for their support this year and I look forward to serving Franklin Lodge for years to come.

But before I go, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2004 line of elected and appointed officers:

- Worshipful Master: Robert Spiller
- Senior Warden: Timothy Ray
- Junior Warden: Joshua Gearhardt
- Senior Deacon: John Chang
- Junior Deacon: David Leytze
- Senior Steward: Larry Britton
- Junior Steward: Steve Ward
- Secretary: Charles Spicer
- Treasurer: Joe Simpson
- Marshal: Charles Hormell
- Chaplain: John Reck
- Tyler: Bill Cusac



I hope that you will give them all of the kind support that you have given me. Here's to a great 2004!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Annual Steak Dinner was held at the Troy Park on August 21st. We invited all members to join us. 56 Brothers attended and enjoyed the fellowship and the delicious meal. Many thanks go out to Worshipful Brothers Brent Baird, Dick Colley, and Charles Hormell and Brothers Mike Amato, John Chang, Bill Cusac, Tim Ray, and Bob Spiller for preparing this wonderful char-grilled steak dinner.

On the third Tuesday of each month we have a pot luck dinner before Lodge, at 6:30pm. Family and fiends are invited. Please come and enjoy the camaraderie and good food.

Men and guests of Franklin Lodge! Don't forget that the High Noon Club has a delicious lunch waiting for you on every first and third Tuesday of the month. A mere \$3.50 will be get you an hour's worth of fun and good food. Lunch is at noon.

Do we have your correct address? If not, please send it to us so that we can keep you abreast throughout the year of all of the terrific happenings in Franklin Lodge!

Send your articles or announcements that you would like to see in The Trestleboard to David Leytze, c/o Franklin Lodge #14, or e-mail them to franklinmason@earthlink.net. We'll do our best to pass your information on to the Brethren.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIAL PROGRAM TOPICS SOUGHT

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY RAY

With 2004 rapidly approaching, it is time to think about special program topics that can be added to at least one stated meeting each month. These programs, suggested by the incoming Grand Master, are intended to enliven our sometimes "routine" meetings, as well as to enlighten the Brethren on topics of local interest. With the success of such programs, attendance and involvement at our meetings will hopefully climb, as will the fellowship among those attending.

Suggested topics could include local city governance, long-term care issues for an aging population, an explanation of local water resources, even day trips in southwestern Ohio. Your ideas are welcome! Please bring your suggestions to a meeting soon, or drop me or any other Lodge officer an e-mail with topic ideas. It is your lodge, and we want to make it interesting, lively, and educational for all, hopefully making good men better.

If you haven't attended a stated meeting in some time and are concerned about due-guards and signs and the like, please do not be intimidated. We're happy to assist with a quick refresher. We all invested time in becoming Blue Lodge Masons. Please consider devoting some time each month to staying involved. Your attendance, fellowship, ideas, and suggestions are certainly appreciated and necessary for our Blue Lodge to remain robust and effective.

Please feel free to contact me personally if you need a ride to Lodge (7:30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month). My telephone number is 339-8393, e-mail at timray48@yahoo.com. I will be quite happy to make arrangements for you. And remember, we have an elevator; no steps necessary! We'll get you there and back home safe and sound. Hope to see you soon!

GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

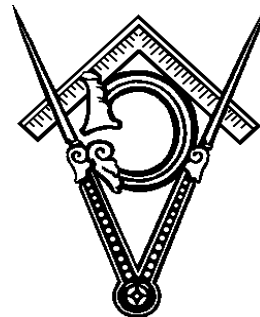
BY BROTHER ROBERT SPILLER

Each year, delegates from each Ohio Lodge travel to the Grand Lodge Communication to cast ballots for the incoming Grand Lodge line officers and to vote on proposed legislation for the upcoming year. At this year's communication, held October 17th and 18th in Dayton, all of the present line officers moved up, with Steven J. Krekus being elected as Ohio Grand Master for 2004.

The following legislation was presented for balloting:

- "No brother shall be eligible to be elected to or hold the office of secretary after the age of 70." **Defeated**
- Change the dues deadline from December 31st to March 31st. **Defeated**
- "At the discretion of the Worshipful Master, Lodge may be opened in either Master Mason or Entered Apprentice at labor for conducting Lodge business." **Passed**
- "Beverages having alcoholic content may be permitted in rooms not dedicated to Freemasonry." This would allow Lodges to rent their dining rooms for weddings, etc., to raise money for their Lodge. After much discussion the vote was 57% in favor. (Grand Lodge balloting requires 67%.) **Defeated**
- "When a Brother commits an act or a crime that may lead to suspension or expulsion or bring great disrepute upon the Lodge, the Grand Master may at any time suspend the Brother until a trial date can be set." **Defeated**, after much discussion.
- Legislation for Historic Lodges was held over for future vote.
- "A Grand Master may only conduct a one-day class once every four years." Decided that this should be left up to each Grand Master. **Defeated**
- "Assignment of complete Cipher Rituals to Past Masters." This would increase the responsibility of each Lodge secretary. **Defeated**

God Bless America!



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December 2003

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Non-Profit Organization

DECEMBER 2003

THE TRESTLEBOARD

DECEMBER 2003

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year." Charles Dickens (1812-1870)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • Franklin Chapter Special Meeting 7:30pm	2 • Noon Luncheon • Temple Board 6:00pm • #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	3 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am	4 • Masonic Building Committee 7:30pm, Warren Lodge	5	6 • Past Masters' Convocation, Warren Lodge 9:00am
7	8 ○ Full Moon	9 • Coleman Commandery 7:30pm	10 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am • Typewritten Ritual, Stokes Lodge 7:30pm	11 • Order of The Eastern Star 7:30pm	12	13 • Franklin Lodge Annual Installation of Officers 7:00pm
14	15	16 • Noon Luncheon • Potluck 6:30pm • #14 Blue Lodge Stated Meeting 7:30pm	17 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am	18	19	20 <i>Hanukkah Begins</i>
21	22 <i>Winter Begins</i> • Order of The Amaranth 7:30pm	23 • Franklin Chapter & Council 7:00pm ● New Moon	24 • Coffee Klatsch 7:00am	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> • Coffee Klatsch TBD			



OHIOREADS DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BY BROTHER TIMOTHY RAY

As many of you probably know, the Grand Lodge has recommended that each Blue Lodge in Ohio become active in 2003 through volunteering in the OhioReads program. This program includes one-on-one tutoring of children in kindergarten through the fourth grade who are having difficulty learning to read. This volunteer tutoring is done with the same child each week in one half-hour or one-hour session. Brethren from Franklin Lodge #14 are already involved in this program. Any of our volunteers will tell you that they find the program highly rewarding for both the child and the volunteer. According to a local Troy elementary school principal, children who have difficulty often come from single-parent homes, or homes where positive adult reinforcement is lacking. And specifically, a positive male influence is often non-existent.

My Brothers, this is a *local* need the we, as Masons, can certainly help fill. I strongly urge any Brother who is able – and wives of any of the Brethren also – to consider volunteering for this program. As Cathy Drake, volunteer coordinator at Van Cleve Elementary School in Troy, explains, "The first thing a prospective volunteer needs to realize is that if they decide to participate, that simple act of active participation with the child precludes failure." That is, don't let the thought that you "can't do this" stop you from volun-

teering. Training is provided and simple, and the rewards are great.

A recent study showing "no difference in test results for OhioReads schools" was certainly enlightening, but illustrates how difficult it is to track one-on-one results via individual performance on Ohio's fourth-grade reading test. An OhioReads volunteer coordinator, Theresa Patterson of New Lebanon Elementary School, put it simply: "OhioReads was able to give us more one-on-one time with children who really needed that extra boost."

So please consider volunteering or asking someone else to do so if your schedule does not permit. Perhaps you have some neighbors or friends who might be interested. Retired folks looking for a "project" that won't take too much time are perfect for OhioReads.

To get involved, simply contact a local elementary school near you. Or, contact me at 339-8393 (timray48@yahoo.com), if you need assistance getting started. Believe me, the small investment of time that you make will be worth every precious minute to a child who needs your good influence in their young life.