



The T. L. of R. Bulletin

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SECOND QUARTER BULLETIN – 2023

MARCH 11 STATED MEETING

The meeting was held in the Lodge Hall of Centerville Lodge No. 618 in Centerville, TN. Brother Master Michael Neulander presided. Centerville Lodge No. 618 was thanked for their excellent hospitality and for the meal they provided.

Our speaker was Brother Brother Karak Arnett of John B. Garrett Lodge No. 711 who gave a presentation on Master's Word. Brother Arnett's paper will be published in our 2023 Proceedings next year.

The following deaths were reported:

Randall Lee Hettervik, Millington, TN, Millington Lodge No. 671, died 2/4/2023;

Glenn Thomas McIntyre, Jr., Powell, TN, Beaver Ridge Lodge No. 366, died 2/19/2023;

Fritz Gerald Meyer, Charter Junior Warden, Gallatin, TN, Madison Lodge No. 762, died 2/18/2023;

Gaylon Frazier Rasberry, Dover, TN, Hess Lodge No. 93, died 1/6/2023.

Fifteen petitions for membership were approved.

JUNE 3 MEETING

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 3 at **Mascot Lodge No. 738 in Mascot, TN**, east of Knoxville.

Our speakers will be Brothers David Randall Brown, Ph.D. and Gene Claude Lawson, both of of Oriental Lodge No. 453. They are the creators of the Way of the Hermit podcast, which "discusses the Western Esoteric Tradition of Freemasonry, mysticism, Hermetic lore and more." Each episode of the podcast covers a chapter in Albert Pike's *Morals and Dogma*. They will speak on their experience of reading and digesting *Morals and Dogma* to create the podcast episodes during the past year and a half.

The Way of the Hermit Podcast is available at <https://www.wayofthehermit.com/> and from all the major podcast providers.

A meal will be served at 12:00 Noon Eastern Time. The speaking program will begin at 1:00 PM. The regular meeting of the TLR will begin following the program. The public is invited to the speaker's program, after which all who are not Master Masons will be asked to retire (Master Masons who are non-members are welcome to visit our regular meeting).

Driving Directions:

From **Interstate 40** east of Knoxville, take **Exit 392** onto **US Hwy 11W**, which is also known as Rutledge Pike. **Proceed north** on US Hwy 11W for **8.1 miles** into the community of Mascot. **Make a U-turn at the intersection of US Hwy 11W and Roseberry Road.** Proceed **south** on US Hwy 11W for **0.1 mile**. Mascot Lodge No. 738 will be **on your right**, located at **[9201 US-11W, Mascot, TN 37806](https://www.google.com/maps/place/9201+US-11W,+Mascot,+TN+37806)**, which is the second driveway. If you come to East Knox County Elementary School, you have gone too far.

REMAINING MEETINGS DURING 2023

September 9 – Park Avenue Lodge No. 362, Memphis, TN

December 2 – Sparta Lodge No. 99, Sparta, TN

2020 AND 2021 PROCEEDINGS

I apologize for the delay in emailing the 2020 Proceedings and mailing the printed booklets. Both should go out before the June 3 meeting.

Work on the 2021 Proceedings will proceed in June. Papers include “John Raymond Shute, Jr., Innovator of Modern Masonry” by Past Master and Fellow Jason Hicks, “The History of the Nashville Masonic Theater” by Ryan Turbeville, 32° KCCH, and “The Graham Manuscript or What Did the Doctor See in Scotland?” by the Secretary/Treasurer.

OHIO MASONS LODGE CHANGES

Brotherhood branching out to grab interest of young people

From <https://www.tribtoday.com/news/local-news/2023/05/masons-temple-changes/>, Warren, OH, near Youngstown

Masonic Lodges have had to close or merge as they face the reality of their older members dying and not being replaced by younger people.

Masonic lodges in the Mahoning Valley opened their doors recently to showcase what they have to offer to the public, in an effort to recruit new members.

There are some lodges in Cortland, Warren and Canfield that are doing well as they look toward their future of brotherhood and fellowship, as well as community service.

Freemasonry is the world’s oldest and largest men’s fraternity.

There are 90,000 Ohio Freemasons from various political, social, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Cortland Masonic Lodge 529 recently included members from the Kinsman, Vienna and Fowler areas join, as their lodges closed.

Champion resident Tim Bauer, worshipful master for the Cortland Masonic Lodge, said the Kinsman Masonic Lodge and the Copper Penny Lodge in Vienna disbanded over the past few years.

“Their memberships were dwindling and they did not have enough participation to keep the lodges moving. It is not about funds, it’s about declining memberships,” Bauer said indicating in April every lodge held an open house for the public in an effort to try and recruit new members

“Everyone is so busy. It is all about time. We have had success in getting new members — we have 455 members. Anyone can join any lodge they want to, regardless of where they live,” Bauer said, indicating Cortland has members from Niles and Hubbard.

He said some lodges meet early in the morning before members have to go to work, while others meet in the evenings after work.

Bauer said the Masons are involved in their communities and work with various charities.

“We try to help as many charities that we can. The main key is to give back and help charities. We do four \$1,000 scholarships a year,” he said.

Bauer said the new members from other lodges are very active with the Cortland lodge, which he said has become a mainstay of the community.

“I don’t fear for this lodge,” Bauer said.

Bauer, who became a Mason in 2008, said he enjoys doing charity and helping youth groups, having been involved with Scouting for 20 years.

“People like the fellowship. We have a wide range of ages from younger members to older members ... Merging together has become a necessity. We are glad others have joined with us but this lodge has always been very strong,” Bauer said.

He said a pancake breakfast each month is a major fundraiser benefiting Cortland Garden Club, scouting, and the Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Rainbow Girls and TNR organizations.

David Waite of Kinsman said he moved to the local area 10 years ago and worked from home, so he did not know many people.

“I was looking to spend time and fellowship with others who shared many of the same morals and values that I do — people who helped in the community, and the Masons did that. It has been a great experience,” he said.

Kevin Gircsis of Cortland said he enjoys learning the history of the Masons and the brotherhood. He said he became the lodge’s education officer with his interest in history.

The members said religion and politics are topics not discussed.

Alan Eggleston of Cortland said he likes the social element of the Masons, which he said gives him and others more meaning in their lives.

“It’s like having another family who are not blood-related,” Eggleston said.

OLD ERIE LODGE

Old Erie Lodge 3 in Warren is one of the oldest in the state and one of the original founding Masonic lodges.

The lodge was founded in 1803 and was among the first six Masonic lodges in the state that petitioned the Grand Lodge of Connecticut to create the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1808.

“Today’s society is a lot different than it used to be in the Masonic Lodge heyday. Part of the decline is our fault and too often traditions are held on to for the wrong reasons.

“There are some traditions that need to be updated. In today’s modern society and technology of instant gratification you lose being part of something that is bigger than yourself,” Kiraly said.

Kiraly said once people become master masons and receive those credentials, they can go to any Masonic meeting anywhere in the state.

Kiraly said plans are to have an annual open house that will allow for the Masons to reach out.

“This helps us to stay relevant and meet with the community,” he said.

Allen Briggs, lodge secretary and past master, said the lodge spends time seeking people who are interested in becoming new members.

“It was great to have an open house so people can come inside and look. We are the best-kept secret here, so we wanted to let people come and see what we are about,” Briggs said.

He said membership is a little younger with the average age of members at 64. In the mid-1990s, the average age was 78.

Briggs said the local Odd Fellows in Warren has been disbanded.

ARGUS LODGE

Russell Gillam, secretary with the Argus Lodge 545 in Canfield, said he has noticed younger generations are generally not part of Masonic lodges. Most demographics, he said, show the membership being older men with the average age mid to upper 60s.

“A lot of lodges are losing numbers because they are losing the older members and not getting a lot of newer members. The Grand Lodge is pushing for new members and has information on its website on being a member. We have had some inquiries that way. Out of 20 inquiries we were able to get in contact with five,” Gillam said.

He said the lodge is among the youngest around with the oldest officers in their late 40s. Gillam said membership is at 420 and once was near 1,000 in the mid-1990s.

“There will always be that appeal to men who want to be part of an organization like this. As the generation gets older they will see the benefits of Masonry and what it does for the community and how it builds character. The Masons have always said, ‘We take good men and make them better.’ There will always be a need for Masons,” Gillam said.