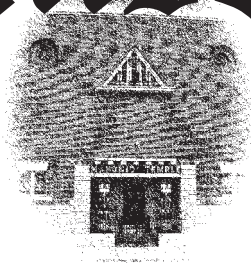


Miamisburg

Masonic News



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About this Publication

The Miamisburg Masonic News is the newsletter for the following Masonic organizations: **Minerva Lodge #98** Free and Accepted Masons, **Trinity Chapter #44** Royal Arch Masons, **Adoniram Council #131** Royal and Select Masons, **Valley Commandery #80** Knights Templar, the **Valley Commandery Ladies' Auxiliary**, the **Miamisburg Temple Board**, and the **Minerva Lodge Craft Club**. Submit articles to **Miamisburg Masonic News, PO Box 269, Miamisburg, OH 45343-0269** or email to **minervalodge98@gmail.com**. Please use the subject line "newsletter" with your email submission.

MINI SYMPOSIUM IN JANUARY

Minerva Lodge #98 and the Miamisburg Temple have been selected to host the Masonic Restoration Foundation First Quarter Symposium, which will be held on Saturday, January 31st, from 12pm to 4pm. Light refreshments will be available from 12pm to 1pm. The Second District Officers Association is sponsoring the event, featuring two nationally renowned speakers:

- WB Robert Herd**, editor of *Living Stones* magazine, will give a lecture entitled "A Near Death Experience."
- WB Timothy Hogan**, author of *The Alchemical Keys to Masonic Ritual* and several other Masonic books, will speak about "The Gnostic Reflections in Freemasonry."

Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship and more Masonic education!

WB Crager installed as DEO

On Wednesday, November 5th, **WB Kent Crager** was installed as District Education Officer for the Second Masonic District at a ceremony hosted by Minerva Lodge #98. Fifty brothers and guests attended. **RWB Douglas N Kaylor** served as Installing Officer. **WB James Potts** was Installing Chaplain, **WB Terry D Harris** was Installing Marshal, and **WB Greg Clatterbuck** was Installing Secretary. Lodge Organist Brother **Stan Brookins** provided background music.

Sir Knights **Don Wilcox KYCH**, **Doug Whyte KYCH**, **James Potts**, and **Mac Polston** from Valley Commandery #80 posted the colors with Sir Knight Wilcox delivering the Flag Lecture.

In October, WB Crager finished his term as President of the Second District Officers Association. In his new office, he will continue to represent our Lodge and the District well.

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Fraternal greetings, my brethren:

It is with much joy that I take over as Master of the Lodge. I am looking forward to a fantastic year and we have a lot of things in the works. I want to thank **WB Rick Gore** for his excellent leadership last year. He really set a good example. The following brothers have been elected or appointed to serve with me for the 2014-2015 Masonic Year: Senior Warden—**Brian Hyer**; Junior Warden—**Rex Gore**; Senior Deacon—**WB Jason Sorah**; Junior Deacon—**Johnny Duff**; Senior Steward—**Josh Newsome**; Junior Steward—**Sean Warren**; Chaplain—**Dennis Rose**; Secretary—**WB Greg Clatterbuck**; Treasurer—**WB Terry D Harris**; Tyler—**Bob Sakal**; Marshal—**Paul Miller**; Lodge Education Officer—**WB Ken Ballinger**; and Organist—**Stan Brookins**.

I made the following committee appointments: *Finance*: **WB Richard Gore, Tom Downie, Brian Hyer**; *Hospitality*: **Tom Downie, Bill Davidson, Paul Miller**; *Visitation and Welfare*: **Dennis Rose, Dave Thomas, Paul Miller**; *Grievance*: **WB Terry D Harris, WB Eric Flasher, RWB Richard Poore**; *Investigation*: **WB Steve Stemple, WB Ken Ballinger, Johnny Duff, Paul Miller, Dennis Rose**; *Web and Communications*: **WB Michael Cockroft, WB Ken Ballinger, Paul Miller, Brian Hyer, Tim Miller**; *Ritual*: **WB Greg Clatterbuck, WB Kent Cramer, WB Michael Cockroft**; *Community Outreach*: **WB Jack Wantz, WB Ken Ballinger, WB Steve Stemple**; *Membership*: **WB Steve Stemple, WB Richard Gore, Joel Mitchell, Dennis Rose, Bob Sakal**.

I have a tentative calendar of events available if you want one. Some dates to remember: 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 32nd (just kidding). On October 23rd, the 171st anniversary of our Lodge charter, we performed the Master Mason degree for one candidate. **WB Steve Stemple** gave the lecture, Brother **Brian Hyer** delivered the charge, and **WB Terry D. Harris** gave the Bible lecture. At a special meeting on November 20th, we raised another brother. **WB Kent Cramer** delivered the lecture. Though it was a cold evening, we had a full Craft and I know that the candidate appreciated the work everyone did.

The Installation of Officers ceremony on Saturday, November 22nd, was special for me and I want to thank Installing Officer **RWB Richard Poore**, Installing Secretary and Chaplain **WB Terry D Harris**, and Installing Marshal **WB Steve Stemple**. The colors were posted by Sir Knights from Valley Commandery #80, led by **EC Claude Seibel KYCH**.

Moving into 2015, we will be scheduling a Master Mason degree soon. Craft Club President **Allen Jackson** will once again be making calls to fill all the parts. On January 22nd, we will have Awards Night. At the stated meeting on February 12th, we will open and conduct business in the Entered Apprentice degree. Our Annual Inspection will be on February 19, 2015 at 7:00pm. We will be inspected in the Entered Apprentice degree and our inspecting officer will be **Right Worshipful Brother Troy Davis**. As always I know that we will do a great job. There will be a dinner at 6:00pm. Reservations are required and the cost is \$10. February 26th will be Loud Tie Night. As always, wear the loudest tie and go home with a great prize. Past Masters Night will be on March 12th.

If you need anything, my phone number is 937-559-1344. Sending a text is the best way to contact me, but a call will do as well. My e-mail is utherglenn@yahoo.com. Once again let me express my gratitude and thanks for the opportunity to take this Lodge for the next year.

Temple Board

Paul Miller, President

When we had the building inspected prior to the Haunted Temple event in October, the fire marshal pointed out some necessary safety upgrades. We needed to install handrails for the stairs to the basement and new exit signs upstairs and downstairs. All things considered, the cost was minimal, and, now that it's finished, will not be an annual expense.

I would like to thank these volunteers who joined me and spent all day on a Saturday to make sure this work got done: WBs Terry Harris, Ken Ballinger, Steve Stemple, and Jason Sorah, and Brother Brian Hyer.

Trinity Chapter #44, Royal Arch Masons

Richard Poore, High Priest



Companions,

Inspection season has begun and I am proud to say that Trinity Chapter has taken the traveling altar cloth several times. My thanks to all the companions who are joining me.

We are busy and this is our schedule as it stands right now:

January 20th: Stated convocation, February 3rd: Stated convocation, February 10th: Valentines Dinner and entertainment with the ladies. March 3rd: Stated convocation, March 17th: Stated convocation and wearing of the green!

Encourage your Blue Lodge brothers to consider joining our Chapter. There's always room for one (or several!) more. From my family to yours, we hope you had a happy and safe holiday season.

Valley Commandery #80, Knights Templar

Claude Seibel, Eminent Commander



Sir Knights,

We have one candidate who has received the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta and he was our candidate for the Order of the Temple on Saturday, January 17th, 2015. Our next stated conclave is on Monday, February 9th. We will be having our next covered dish dinner before the February 23rd conclave. Please join us!

This year, we were inspected separately for our full form opening, instead of being part of the Order of the Temple. That was done at our stated conclave on Monday, January 5th, 2015.

May the Lord keep you well until we meet again.

Adoniram Council #131, Royal and Select Masons

McKinley Polston, Illustrious Master



Companions,

Our Inspection this year was in the Select Master degree on Friday, December 12th. We had two candidates receive the degree. **RIC James M Frazier** was our inspecting officer. We were honored to have **MIM Lynn Alexander** and his lady, **Carol**, join us for the evening. I want to thank **Mary Beth Smith** for putting together a nice ladies' program. We could hear them having fun downstairs while we portrayed the degree upstairs.

Jim Rhinehart, **Joe Fair KYCH**, and **Bob Oldfather KYCH** performed their parts very well and **Steve Taylor KYCH** delivered the lecture of the degree. There were 17 Past Illustrious Masters of Adoniram Council in attendance. Adoniram Council also received the Certificate of Merit and the Certificate of Achievement from the Grand Council. We are planning another fundraiser at City Barbecue, as we have done in the past. I want to thank **REC Greg Clatterbuck** who volunteered, and has been installed, to serve as Recorder. As many of you know, **PIM Dale Evans** is now living with family in the Toledo area. We thank him for years of leadership and loyal service to our Council. Congratulations to **PIM Claude Seibel**, who received the Knight of the York Cross of Honour. The Super Excellent Master degree is scheduled for Friday, March 20th, 2015. God bless you all!

Reminder about Lodge Shirts

If you have ordered a Minerva Lodge polo shirt recently and have not picked it up yet, please do so as soon as possible. Contact WB Steve Stemple and come to the next Craft Club meeting.

Other brothers want to get shirts and the Craft Club cannot do that until this order has been completed.

Craft Club

Allen Jackson, President

Brothers,

The Master Mason degree at the November 20th special meeting was performed with confidence and with very little practice. We had a FULL CRAFT also. That speaks well for your dedication. I know our candidate was impressed.

We will send an announcement about future MM degrees. There are several candidates who are practicing for their Entered Apprentice and Fellow Craft proficiency exams.

Finally, I want to announce the new officers who will be leading the Craft Club in the coming year. Brother Scott Johnson was elected as secretary and Brother Dennie Fitzgerald will be our new vice president. Brother Dave Thomas will remain as treasurer.

We hope you marked your calendars and joined us for the Craft Club Christmas party on December 14! The dining room was decorated and there were plenty of fun activities for the kids. Craft Club President Al Jackson once again invited noted Christmas authority and lecturer, Dr Kris "Santa" Kringle, to deliver one of his popular holiday talks. This year's topics were "Naughty or Nice: Why Choose?" and "Overcoming a North-Polar Disorder".

Photos from the party have been posted on the Temple website: www.miamisburg-masons.com

Church Visitation Schedule for the Winter Months

Every month, we have more brothers joining us for our church visitations. Let's keep this trend going! This is a simple way to make ourselves known and to show what Freemasonry is really about.

Going into the New Year, we will visit the following Sunday services:

February 15th: St James United Methodist Church, 401 Carlwood Dr, Miamisburg. 10am

March 15th: Miamisburg Christian Church, 1142 E Central Ave. 9:15am

April 12th: St Jacob Lutheran Church, 213 E Central Ave, Miamisburg. 10:30am

Would you like to add your house of worship to the list? Let us know so we can visit there too.

Ritual and Lecture School Begins Second Year

Continuing toward our goal of making good Masons better, and in accordance with the Grand Master's vision for the year, we will be having Ritual and Lecture School at the Temple in 2015. Each Saturday morning session will be from **9am to noon** on **January 24th, February 28th, March 28th, and April 25th**. Topics include code courses, officer manual courses, ritual, lectures and charges, and floor work.

Officers should try to attend as many sessions as possible. As a Lodge, we are "graded" for our proficiency by the District and the Grand Lodge. All Master Masons will benefit, of course, and this School is not restricted to our members.

The report from the 205th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge shows a disappointing trend in Ohio Freemasonry—a net loss of 7507 members. The total number of Masons in the state is down to 91040 in 496 Lodges. The average number of members per Lodge is 184 and the average age of an Ohio Mason is 65. If this downward spiral is not slowed, there will not be much left of the Fraternity that means so much to all of us. We have to do more than simply find new members—we have to pass on the collected knowledge of Masonry.

Losses to our Lodge

Sadly, since our last edition of the Miamisburg Masonic News, some more of our brethren have gone to the Celestial Lodge above.

Brother **Oscar Bashford**, a 62-year member, was raised to a Master Mason in 1952. He left this life on October 11, 2014. Brother **Clifford Gephart** had been a Master Mason since 1948. He died on November 11, 2014. **WB Lloyd Cole** died on December 8, 2014. A Master Mason since 1968, he was High Priest of Trinity Chapter #44 in 1985 and Worshipful Master of Minerva Lodge #98 in 1986. WB Cole was known as an excellent ritualist and received the highest praise from Past Masters and brothers, who said that they were "better for having known him." Though blind, WB Cole learned all the parts for all the offices in which he served. **Sandy**, his guide dog, was with him in Lodge and was very familiar with the floor work. The Craft Club had a special apron made for her, making the dog the only "female" in Minerva Lodge history to attend a stated meeting.

Masonic services were not requested, but eight brothers attended the visitation to pay their respects. **WB Scott Lipps** presented Sandy's Craft apron to WB Cole's son, **Larry**.

The Christmas Season may be Over ...

... but there are still people in Miamisburg who go hungry every night, so we will continue to collect food for our ongoing Food Drive. Donations of non-perishable food items are ALWAYS welcome at the Miamisburg Masonic Temple. It's something we all can do to make OUR presence felt in OUR community!

Hillbilly Brothers

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