

UNIVERSITY LODGE #631 F. & A. M.



THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 7

ISSUE 2

WINTER 2020

Celebrating Our 105th Year



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UNDER THE MASTER'S HAT

St Patrick's day was around the corner. The air was crisp but the fire in the fireplace was warming the room nicely.

As I sat by that fireplace, contemplating the day, my thoughts ran wild. I didn't know what was awaiting me. I'd heard the stories and wasn't sure if my decision was the right one or not. I had made a decision that had the potential to change my life, the culmination of which, would come to fruition on that upcoming St. Patrick's day. I said to myself the stories couldn't be true, but my mind still wondered.

See, I had made a decision to become a Mason. I was understanding that it was going to be a commitment, but to what end, I did not know. My father was a Mason, which, knowing him as I do, calmed my worries. If he was a Mason, then I will be fine because I trusted him and he assured me that it was the right decision.

My Masonic journey began when I was initiated as an Entered Apprentice on March 17, 2015. It took me almost a full year to go through the degrees, a very long year to say the least. On February 2, 2016 I took the oath and was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. I couldn't have been more proud! At least that was what I thought.

On Tuesday November 3, 2020, just over 5 years from that fateful March day, I was honored by

being elected to the position of Worshipful Master of University Lodge 631 F & AM. That day was the new "proudest" moment in my life! I want to thank each and every brother whose vote signified the trust that you place in my hands to begin the next chapter in our Masonic journey.

As Master of the lodge I have selected a theme for my year. "Others". We will focus on bringing "others" to light, supporting each "other" and providing that source of inspiration through outreach to our community. With these thoughts in mind we will begin to bring our community together again. Let us think of others, keeping in mind our values, and being reminded from the degree work we all have shared. "Endue him with a competency of Thy Divine Wisdom, that by the influence of the pure principles of our order to display the beauties of brotherly love, relief and truth, to the honor of Thy Holy Name".

Whatever path is provided for us in the upcoming year, I ask that you share with me your wisdom, strength and knowledge as we move this most sacred lodge together, as one!

Blessings to all!
Michael D. Heath
Worshipful Master
University Lodge #631



IMPORTANT

Each member needs to sign onto Grand View, the Grand Lodge's membership database, and make sure their record is correct. Please edit, change, or update anything that isn't correct and then save the corrected information. You will need our Lodge number 631 and your membership number (six-digit number on your membership card). Go to this link to get started: https://oh.grandview.systems/users/sign_in

In the upper right side of the page, click on "Member Registration" and the system will walk you through how to set up your login credentials and take you to your member page. If you already have a login to Grand View, click on "sign in" instead. After you make your improvements, be sure to save them by clicking on the green bar at the bottom of the page. Please do this as soon as you can. Your contact information in the Grand Lodge database is our only way to make sure you get email, phone calls, and mailings from us. The information you enter is secure and is not used in any other way.

NOTE! If you don't have Internet access, please call the secretary at 614-906-5621 during regular business hours (9a - 5p M-F) and we can make the updates for you. Please help us keep in touch!

Please help us keep in touch!

COVID-19 Response: Meetings and Activities

Almost everything Masonic has been limited or postponed or canceled since March of 2020. Even now we don't have enough guidance or information from Grand Lodge or the health authorities to distribute firm dates and times for most Masonic activities and outings outside of our Lodge. The new Grand Master has issued Edict 2021-1 which allows us to meet in person at the Temple so long as the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System lists Franklin County at risk level 3 ("red") or less. Our in-person meetings will open in either EA or FC to minimize contact. We are instructed to maintain our safety precautions, including masks, social distancing, and frequent washing and sanitizing. Please attend if you feel you can do so. If you don't feel well or if you're not comfortable, then please stay home. Should the risk level rise to 4 ("purple") we will be restricted to virtual meetings only. In that event, you will receive a Zoom invitation prior to each meeting (a good reason to update your record to make sure we have a good email address for you!).

Here's what we do know as of Thanksgiving:

- Our annual Holiday Gathering and awards dinner has been postponed until April 27, 2021 in the dining room at York Golf Club. Save the date!
- Our 5k Run at the York Golf Club has been postponed indefinitely.
- Our Formal Table Lodge and feast of St. John the Baptist has been postponed until Tuesday, June 29, 2021. We'll convene in the dining room at Northwest Masonic Temple. Save the date!
- Our annual blood drive in honor and memory of Susan Vermeire has been scheduled for Sunday, April 11, 2021 at York Golf Club. You can reserve a time online at the Red Cross blood donation website or call the Temple at (614) 792-6311 and leave a message. Save the date, save a life!

In Memoriam

The following Brothers of University Lodge have let fall their Working Tools and been called to the Celestial Lodge since our last Stated meeting on March 3, 2020. Their passing was recalled and honored at our virtual stated meetings and their Masonic records entered into our minutes.

Tommy Lee Thompson 6/10/2020

Samuel Duffin Wiley 6/11/2020

Robert Phillip Gardner 6/16/2020

Harold O. Puchstein 7/22/2020

Daril Wright 7/22/2020

Thomas Howard Chidester 7/26/2020

Charles Frederick Harger 9/10/2020

Stephen John Bills 10/16/2020

Matthew 25:21 (KJV 1611)



Secretary's Scribbles

Thank you to the Brethren for re-electing me to the position of Secretary of our Lodge. Your vote of confidence means a lot. Also, thanks to WB Craig Lobdell for sitting in as secretary *pro tem* during the 2019-2020 Masonic year, and thanks to WB Gary Pastor for agreeing to sit in for me during the 2020-2021 year. I miss attending Lodge with all of you, but my chronic health problems make me feel like I'm wearing a target inviting COVID to strike me down. So, until it is safe to venture forth, I shall be your "stealth secretary" with the very capable assistance of these Past Masters.

Our Lodge program continues to be robust, especially considering the lockdowns, quarantines, stay-home orders, and meeting restrictions. If you would like any programs or information added to the Trestleboard, please let me know.

Thank you everyone for wearing masks, keeping your gatherings small, and washing frequently. If you forget your mask, there is always an open package on my desk in the Lodge office. If you take the last one, please let Bob Giesseman know.

A Little Help Please:

When we become Master Masons we promise, among other things, to look out for and care for each other. Your Lodge and the entire Fraternity are anxious to do just that. But we cannot help you if we don't know what you need -- you need to tell us. A phone call or email will do. Everything will be held in confidence, so please don't hesitate to ask.

The Ohio Masonic Home offers far more than their residential and skilled care facilities. They have an entire program devoted to helping you stay in your home and receive the assistance and care you need right there. Give them a call at 877-881-1623. They can help you find the resources you need for everything from home repair to in-home care-giving services, and lots more besides.

Your Lodge always offers friendship and fellowship, and we can provide assistance as requested. Please let us know what you need, even if it is just someone to talk with. Contact your secretary by phone during business hours (9a-5p M-F) at 614-906-5621 or any time by email at ewbadger@gmail.com.



CURRENT CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a new address, telephone number, or an email address, your Lodge would like to know about it! Less than a third of our members have their phone numbers or email addresses in our records, and it makes it difficult to communicate with you if we can't find you!



So, PLEASE send an email to your Secretary with your name, any address changes, your preferred telephone number, and preferred email address.



We'll keep your information confidential, and use it only to communicate with you about things of Masonic interest.



We hope to hear from you soon.

The Gentleman in the Room by David R. Ritchie
During this year, 2020 something special happens that only occurs every four years, a presidential election.

As Masons we all know that two things are prohibited from being talked about in Lodge. Religion and Politics.

The Problem is, "What defines politics?"

At one time, this was a very clear topic with defined boundaries. Today, sadly we are divided along so many lines that it is difficult even to agree upon a definition of what constitutes politics. Schools and education, hunting, the weather, etc.... If someone would have told me 20 years ago that the NFL would be a politically charged topic, I would have laughed.

If America could withstand the Designated Hitter in baseball, the NFL would never create controversy, I thought. But today, if a man talks about the strange weather we are having, is he making a political statement?

This is where I call on you to be the gentlemen. First, please, understand a person may not consider a topic political, like the weather, and is just making conversation.

Consider what would happen if that person were admonished, especially in public, because you or another considered the topic too controversial. If the subject was brought up to spark controversy and you admonish, especially forcefully, it is easy to see how emotions and tension would escalate. So, please give the other person the benefit of the doubt.

Confrontation is only going to make matters worse. Have you ever made a statement and, expecting a reply, hear only crickets? Sometimes silence can be the strongest

admonishment. If you feel a person's statements need to be addressed, do so respecting the harmony and brotherly love expected in Lodge. Find a private place and moment to speak with the person.

Outside the Lodge, remember that you are the greatest symbol of Freemasonry that your friends, coworkers, and neighbors know.

While it is our right and duty to enter into discussions on affairs of state, sometimes you may be called upon to defend your beliefs. You may feel the other person is ethically or morally wrong. Remember that people will be listening and watching. Will they see a Mason discussing a topic rationally and without personal attack? Will they hear a Mason speaking his mind without anger or malice?

Remember who you are and what you have been taught. Remember who you represent in the eyes of society. Speak your mind, enter into civil debate, challenge the statements of others, but as a gentleman and a Mason.

THE SHORT TALK BULLETIN

Published monthly by the Masonic Service Association of North America, 3905 National Drive, Suite 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866.



Contact Bob Giesseman - univ631@gmail.com to place your order!

Order your Lodge Golf Shirts Now!

In response to overwhelming popular demand, we are making embroidered golf shirts available to our members.

The cost is \$45 each, and they are available in either Royal Blue or White.

If you would like to place an order, please let us know which Lodge name you would like, how many shirts you would like, color and size of each required. You'll be able to pay for and pickup your order in the Lodge at a stated meeting.

Please contact Ed Badger at (614) 906-5621; ewbadger@gmail.com; or Bob Giesseman at (614) 792-6311; univ631@gmail.com.

Name: _____

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UNIVERSITY LODGE #631 F. & A. M.

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univ631@gmail.com

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If you would like to receive the
Trestleboard Electronically,
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Psalm 23 King James Version (1611)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

*Remember -- Stated Meetings are
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the Month
Dinner at 6:15 and Meeting at 7:00!*

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Looking for more information?



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Supreme Council, 33°, A. A. S. R.,
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www.scottishritenmj.org



Aladdin Shrines
www.aladdinshrine.org

NORTHWEST TEMPLE IS HOSTING



American Red Cross
Susan Vermeire Blood Drive
April 11th, 2021

Held at York Golf Club
7459 N. High St.

9 am to 2 pm

TO REGISTER, CALL:

800-733-2767

SAVE A LIFE GIVE BLOOD

