



L.C.B.L.A. Newsletter 12/07



Dear Brethren:

WOW! What a great turnout at the last LCBLA meeting! I'd like to thank all the brethren who attended and took part in a very informative and useful meeting. A special thanks to the current and past DDGMs for taking time out of your busy schedules to be with us. I'd also like to extend a hearty thank you to RWB Van Horn and WB Hager for traveling west to represent the CCBLA. It was great to have you join us.

A large part of the meeting was afforded to discussing the upcoming Bi-centennial and all the related activities slated for 2008. My brothers, what an exciting time to be involved in Freemasonry!

Friday, January 18, 2008, marks the start of the Bi-Centennial festivities in the 22nd District. A fantastic evening is on tap for the 480 attendees at the German Culture Center in Olmsted Falls. Dinner, dancing, and celebration will be the fare for the evening until 11:00 P.M. Those attending will receive a 22 oz. tankard, designed specially for the occasion. We will use it for toasting and celebrating this once in a lifetime event. There will be a message from MWB Winnett. There will be Masonic artifacts on display from the Cleveland Masonic Library to help bring our 200 year history of Masonry in Ohio and Cleveland alive! Masters; don't forget to display the posters you received from RWB Gillihan, in your Lodges.

RWB Van Horn brought a time capsule for the 22nd District. RWB Phelps presented the capsule with an explanation of its mission. This time capsule will travel to all of the

Lodges in the district, for the purpose of collecting memorabilia to be buried in the time capsule later this year. The time capsule will be opened at the tri-centennial 100 years from now. Stay tuned for more details.

Brethren, 2008 will show us much to celebrate about Freemasonry, in our State, in our District, County and in our own Lodges. But a plea for help is being made to the brethren. Truly, we must remember that the greatest celebration of Freemasonry is within each one of us. Recalling when we were initiated, passed and raised should evoke memories and feelings of great joy and accomplishment. Each event is a celebration of gaining light in Masonry. Help is needed to continue the great traditions of enlightenment. Some of our Lodges struggle to field Fellowcraft teams for the MM Degree. Some have difficulty presenting proficient work for some or all parts of any particular degree. There are many reasons why. The answers aren't easy.

Declining membership, declining interest, attrition from death, one day classes, busy schedules and outside interests amongst others, have impacted the quality and significance of degree work. Worshipful Masters and Wardens, if you and your Lodge are having difficulty with degree work, please contact one of the LCBLA officers and we will work hard to get you the help you need to get on track. Whether you need help with practice, clarification of words, ambulations or filling in vacant spots, please let us know. If you can offer help and are particularly adept in any certain

areas, let us know that too! Encourage all members, but especially those that are learning the lectures and speaking parts in the degrees, to attend the typewritten ritual class. Typically, there is focus placed on one particular degree for the class, usually the most prominent degree being inspected for the year in the district. But, if you have a question about any line in the ritual book, you can be assured your question will be answered. Inspections will be here before you know it. Let's do all that we can to make sure our candidates see and get the best we have to offer.

Speaking of inspections, some Lodges don't have any new candidates available for their inspection night. Some Lodges are practically overrun, and others fall somewhere in between. If your Lodge has candidates in waiting, and any would be willing to get their degree in another Lodge, please let a LCBLA officer know. Conversely, if you need a candidate, don't hesitate to ask. We're here to help, let us, call us, try us, trust us.

Looking ahead, check out these dates: 12/05/07, LaGrange Installation; 12/08/07, Leadership Forum (For everybody, not just officers), 3615 Euclid Ave. 8-11 A.M. The topic is "Planning a successful year"; 12/08/07, Stonington Installation; 01/08/08, Typewritten Ritual at Elyria Lodge; 01/09/08, Typewritten Ritual at Raymer-Covenant Lodge, Euclid; 01/10/08, Black River Inspection; 01/17/08, LCBLA meeting at Oberlin; 01/18/08, Bi-centennial Dinner Dance at Olmsted Falls.

Check the December calendar for events this month. Keep an eye on the 22nd District Calendar for happenings in Cuyahoga County.

If you want to see some degree work in other Lodges, or would like to have others visit your Lodge for a degree night, we'll list them here. Here's a couple for starters:

01/14/08, Wellington #127, E.A. Degree.
01/28/08, Wellington #127, F.C. Degree.

As RWB Behner says, "Enjoy and share Freemasonry by traveling, meeting and greeting Brothers who share the same values as you. If we limit our exposure to our own Lodge only, we certainly cannot enjoy our Grand Master's theme, "The Wonderful World of Freemasonry"

Faternally,

Gary Walker, President, LCBLA