



L.C.B.L.A. Newsletter 04/08



It's still incredible! The most recent L.C.B.L.A. meeting was again very well attended! Twenty-nine brethren were together to help keep the Lorain County Lodges moving forward. Let's consider the significance of this. With only seven...oops, now eight Lodges in the county, we all know there can be only eight current Masters in charge of their Lodges. That means twenty-one others have chosen to make sure the voice of the brethren is heard from throughout the county. What is really nice is that contrary to the current trend in Masonry, Lorain County has experienced growth in overall membership in the fraternity. One of the most prominent Lodges in building membership is Black River Lodge. They have this year started no less than 15 brethren on the path to more light in Masonry. WB Casselman reports that there is likely at least 2 more brethren to initiate yet this Masonic year. We should make sure he gets any help he needs to keep these brothers on the move.

Here is more great news! A new Lodge now exists in Lorain County! The best part of the news is that this new Lodge is not the result of a merger or one Lodge absorbing another. The new Lodge, called "Blue Steel Lodge", has received Dispensation from the Grand Lodge empowering them to work and conduct business just like any other Lodge. For many brethren, this new Lodge has great implications. It is a "day" Lodge. Now the brethren who have difficulty navigating or driving at night have a place to go during the relative safety of daylight. Shift workers and others that have conflicting night time commitments can now keep their own Masonic light burning brightly by attending Blue Steel Lodge.

A surprise guest at the meeting was RWB Brad Goebel! Lest anyone think the L.C.B.L.A. and the Lodges of Lorain County exist in a vacuum, rest assured we do not! Thank you RWB Goebel for your words of encouragement and praise! And thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us!

Brethren, as a result of these very productive meetings, and as a result of some hard work in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Blue Lodge Association, great things are in the works for this spring and summer.

The Grand Masters Reception is the next big event on the agenda. May 1st is the deadline for reservations. Saturday, May 17th is the reception. We are still seeking sponsors for the Grand Line Officers. Please see your WM or the flier for more details. A letter was sent to all the Lodges regarding the importance of sponsoring this reception during this Bicentennial year. There is more information on www.ohiodistrict22.org/.

On Saturday, June 21st, we will be traveling to Columbus for the Bicentennial festivities there. For your consideration and traveling pleasure, the two Blue Lodge Associations have arranged for at least eight charter coaches to be at our disposal for the trip. This is a family event and all are welcome. The cost will be \$30.00 per person and will include some light refreshments down and back. More coaches are available if we fill the eight already slated for the trip. Coaches will be dispatched to designated pickup points starting at 6:00 A.M. The east side coordinators are: Robert Hager and Don Van Horn. The west side coordinators are: Gary Walker and Bob Behner.

Please contact these brethren to get your tickets and select your pickup point. Fliers can be downloaded from www.ohiodistrict22.org/.

Saturday, June 14th is the date to mark on your calendar for the L.C.B.L.A. Golf Outing at Pheasant Run Golf Course. Tee time for the modified shotgun start is 8:00 A.M. For sixty dollars per person, you can treat yourself to 18 holes of golf (golf cart included), a steak dinner with all the trimmings and beverages and a chance to win cash prizes! This event is open to Masons and non Masonic guests with a member sponsor. For more information, tickets and registration, please contact Ron Runion at 330-648-2291. Thank you Ron for spearheading this popular event!

On Thursday, July 10th at 7:05 P.M., come watch our Grand Master throw out the first pitch at Progressive Field to start the Indians vs. Tampa Bay Rays baseball game. There are 600 "Masonic Night" tickets available for the brethren and their families. These are upper deck tickets behind home plate with a regular value of \$24.00. All 600 tickets are priced at \$12.00. What a deal! See your L.C.B.L.A. or C.C.B.L.A officers for tickets.

WB Bob Blaner reported that the preparations for the L.C.B.L.A. Family Outing at the Metroparks, Bur Oak Reservation are going well. Please remember that the outing is Sunday, June 15, the day following the Golf Outing. The Metroparks will do their "Birds of Prey" presentation. We'll have someone twisting balloons for the kids, we'll have music, and plenty of good food! More details to come as the arrangements are finalized.

WB John Morris reported that the preparations for the Lorain County Fair Booth are going well and that this year's display will showcase Ohio Masonry past

and present, as well as showing some highlights about this being the Bicentennial of Freemasonry in Ohio.

If you were at the last L.C.B.L.A. meeting, you were witness to the unveiling of the Lorain County Bicentennial Lantern. This lantern was lit during a brief memorial to Bros. Ross Thompson, and Carl Behm. Hardly anyone could hope to surpass the efforts of WB Thompson in spreading the Light of Freemasonry. Very few, if any, local Masons can say they had never seen the "Candyman" at work. WB Behm, while starting late in life on his Masonic journey, exhibited the very essence of enthusiasm for the Craft, and the desire to spread light in Masonry. The Lantern, thus extinguished, reminds us that the lives of these two brethren have similarly flickered to an end on this earth, but reside now in that Celestial Lodge.

The next scheduled lighting of the Lorain County Lantern is October 4th at the L.C.B.L.A. Dinner Dance. A short, very special, "Commemorative Lighting" will highlight the evening. The Lantern will then be available for use by the Lorain County Lodges to promote Light in Freemasonry.

Three Inspections remain in Lorain County: April 1st at Mid-Century, in the FC Degree, April 2nd at LaGrange, in the MM Degree and April 19th at Oberlin, in the EA Degree. Please continue supporting these brethren as we close out our Inspection season.

The April Calendar will be out soon. Remember to check the 22nd District Calendar for other events in the District and State. Thank you C.C.B.L.A. for your support.

Fraternally,
Mike Ketchum,
L.C.B.L.A. Communications Officer