



THE OHIO
BEACON

Volume 23, Issue 3 Summer 2016



Miracle Miles Golf Classic Wrap-up

5th Annual Miracle Miles Road Rally

Home Day Review

Freemasonry in a Camp and a Hollow

Nova Caesarea makes a Difference

The Power of a Symbol

Wellington Lodge - Willard Paintings

...and more!

A Message From THE GRAND MASTER

Dear Brothers,

As I reflect on the journey of a lifetime, I can only thank you for the wonderful friendships, the opportunities to share in your events, and the feeling of family that you have extended to Jennifer and I everywhere we have traveled throughout our great State.

You have strengthened my belief that this is the greatest Fraternity in the world. I had asked you to be visible in your communities to demonstrate that Freemasons are a welcoming group of individuals, who live by the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and you have responded with great success. Some of you have marched in parades, setup informational booths at county fairs and other community events, and demonstrated who we are. Thank you!

The Grand Lodge Officers have established a long range plan with attainable goals to bring our Grand Lodge forward. (Available on freemason.com) We continue to offer leadership training along with educational opportunities for all of our members. The Grand Lodge communicator, a tool which allows contact with any one of our members through email or texts, is in its infancy and will grow to be a great way to inform our Brothers with a few keystrokes.

Brethren, YOU make the difference. I can only ask for and support your ideas to strengthen your lodge. The programs that we, as a Grand Lodge, provide tools to assist you in ways to help you become better.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday September 17, 2016, for the joint Grand Lodge of Ohio and Grand Lodge of Michigan Celebration day. This will take place in the

Historic Detroit Masonic Temple. The Grand Lodge of Michigan will be portraying the Entered apprentice degree and your Ohio GLOs will be presenting the Fellowcraft degree. Tours of the building and a banquet will follow the degree work, and the ladies are invited. There will be more information to follow, but please save the date for this historic event.



Brethren, I am so looking forward to our Grand Lodge session at Kalahari in Sandusky. This venue will allow you to bring your whole family, so while you are in session, your family can take the time to enjoy the many attractions Kalahari Resort has to offer. Please get your reservations in quickly as the deadline will be fast approaching for the discounted room rates.

Brethren, as I close my final article I continue to pledge my support to all of you. I believe in the values our Craft represents and teaches. Let me leave you with a quote from Henry Ford. "Life is a series of experiences, each one of which makes us bigger, even though sometimes it is hard to realize this. For the world was built to develop character, and we must learn that the setbacks and grief which we endure help us in our marching onward."

Sincerely,
Robert C. Rill, Jr.
Grand Master

*Lookout
for photos of
Grand Master Rill
throughout this month's issue.*

Mike Jackson inducted into OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME

Brother Mike Jackson, Tippecanoe Lodge No. 174 and the 2013 Rufus Putnam Award recipient was recently inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Brother Jackson is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel. He is perhaps best known for his Welcome Home project that works to provide veterans of the Vietnam War with the homecoming they never received after the war.



Brother Jackson after his induction, pictured with State Senator and Brother Bill Beagle also of Tippecanoe Lodge.



The Ohio Beacon is published quarterly. Please report all changes of address to your Lodge Secretary, who, in turn, will notify the Grand Secretary, who maintains the database that produces the BEACON mailing lists.

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A Letter From THE CEO



Greetings Brethren,

Looking back at the illustrious history and journey of the Ohio Masonic Home, we have been blessed with unmatched and unparalleled leadership. From our first superintendent, John W. Parsons and the laying of the first cornerstone at Bushnell in 1892, through the recent dedication of the new Scottish Rite and York Rite buildings, this great organization has been guided by the tenets and principles of Freemasonry, but most importantly, by strong leadership.

To say I am honored to be the new CEO of OUR Ohio Masonic Home is an understatement. Perhaps humbled is more fitting a word to define the sentiment I have felt since the OMH board of trustees entrusted me with the leadership role in carrying out the mission of our great and wonderful organization.

This opportunity would not be possible without the guidance and support of my fellow Brother Tom Stofac. From my first meeting and interview with Tom, I felt a strong connection to the vision of the ability to age in place that Tom had conveyed. During his five years as CEO, Tom built a culture of trust, winning and innovation. He truly enacted change, fearlessness and thoughtfulness, touching the lives of many brothers, staff, friends, residents and family. I certainly have some large shoes to fill, however, I look forward to continuing down the path that Tom has set this organization on, and I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to work with a man who has done so much for the aging services field.

When I started at OMH three years ago as the CFO, little did I know what was in store for me. My life's

journey had led me to this very special place, and from day one, the mission and the vision of this organization was one I undoubtedly wanted to be part of for a very long time. This journey also led to me becoming a Mason, and beginning to explore the many different appendent bodies, and more importantly the values and principles of Freemasonry continue to guide me in both my professional and personal life.

Thank you all for your kind words and encouragement during this transition for not only myself, but the Ohio Masonic Home. I look forward to this new opportunity and privilege to serve as your CEO, and like those who came before me, I accept the responsibility of leading this organization into its next 125 years and serving as the trusted partner to help people age respectfully: how they want, where they want.

Brother Scott Buchanan, CEO
Ohio Masonic Home



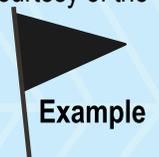
Find the Golf Flag!

Congratulations to Jack Giroux of Omega Lodge, the winner of last edition's Find the Car search! There were 3 cars in the last edition.

This edition we are saluting the success of the Miracle Miles Golf Classic. Search through this entire edition and count how many times you find the Golf Flag graphic to the right (do not count example graphic).

Submit the correct answer along with your contact information and Lodge affiliation to Ohio Masonic Home, ATTN: Kristen Hirschfeld, Beacon Editor, 2655 W. National Rd., Springfield, Ohio 45504 or via email at khirschfeld@ohiomasonichome.org by September 1, 2016, and be entered to win a prize, courtesy of the Ohio Masonic Home Print Shop!

(Your participation serves as permission to include your name and Lodge affiliation in the next edition of the Beacon.)





MASONIC MEMES AVAILABLE ON GRAND LODGE FACEBOOK PAGE

Brethren who desire to show their Masonic pride through social media are invited to share some of the quality Masonic memes that are available in the photo section of the Grand Lodge Facebook page.

HOWARD NEMITS, 78 YEAR MASON, PASSES AT 102



There is an old adage that you are never too old. Brother Howard Nemitz, who passed away on June 5 at the age of 102, was a living example of its

wisdom. Brother Nemitz was a World War II veteran of the Pacific Theater. He was a Senior DeMolay for 80 years, and a 78 year member of Perseverance Lodge No. 329 in Sandusky, Ohio, where he had served as Senior Steward for many years.

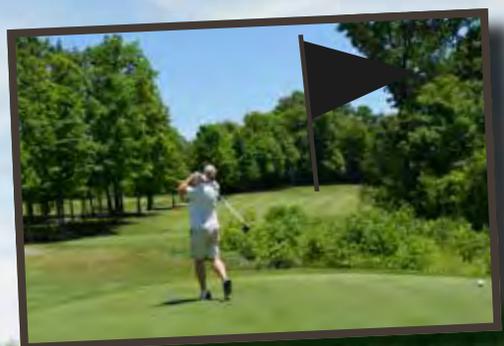
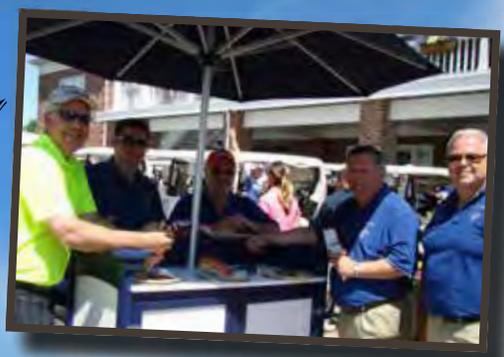
Thousands Raised in MIRACLE MILES FOR MEMORY CARE GOLF CLASSIC

The 2016 Miracle Miles Golf Classic, hosted by US Bank and the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation, was a great success. The outing, which took place June 13 at Wedgewood Golf & Country Club in Powell, Ohio, is one of two Miracle Miles for Memory Care events created to raise funds for our Memory Care Centers across the state. The second event is the Road Rally which will take place Saturday, August 27.

This year the Golf Classic hosted 36 teams, boasting 144 golfers. Proceeds will enhance programming at the three OMH Memory Care Centers in Medina, Springfield and Waterville, Ohio.

Thanks to all of our tremendous sponsors, as well as everyone who golfed in the outing and volunteered their time to make the day a success.

The 2017 Miracle Miles Golf Classic will be on Monday, June 5 and will once again be at Wedgewood Golf & Country Club. Mark your calendar and reserve your spot early by contacting the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation office at 888-248-2664, or emailing maharris@ohiomasonichome.org.



Thank You!



The Ohio Masonic Home would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard to make the 32nd Annual Ohio Masonic Home Day a great success! We saw an attendance of 1,600 people, including many families, residents and Masons. With several merchandise booths, some run by residents, an abundance of food vendors, games, an entertainment tent and a lively parade, there were plenty of activities to enjoy.

The generosity of this great Fraternity was highlighted this year by some of our vendors, who donated 100% of their proceeds from the day back to the Ohio Masonic Home. We were pleasantly surprised and very thankful for these gracious gifts.

Next year, the Ohio Masonic Home plans to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a Home Day that promises to be bigger and better than ever! Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 4, 2017 and plan to attend a celebration you won't soon forget!



Dottie's Story

The purpose of the Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center (OMHRC) is to help people age how they want and where they want. Many seniors are staying in their homes due to advances in technology and the vast availability of home health care and other aging services. However, this is not always the case, and when an individual decides to move to one of the Ohio Masonic Home campuses, the Resource Center can be a tremendous asset.

Dottie Scarbro started her journey to Springfield Masonic Community in late 2015 when her husband, David's, health took a turn. The original intention of the couple was to move to Western Reserve Masonic Community in Medina and a dear friend and member of the Valley of Cleveland Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite helped them get the ball rolling. Eventually, however,

timing led them to decide on Springfield and the new Scottish Rite Apartments. With the help of friends and Samantha Loy, Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center Aging Services Director, Dottie and David (Elyria Lodge No. 787, PM) prepared to sell their house.

When David passed away in October, Dottie found herself in a financial bind. Elyria Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Ohio quickly stepped to her aide and she was able to

continue with plans to sell the house. Then, in February 2016, Dottie had a heart attack. While Dottie recovered, Samantha worked with Springfield Masonic Community to select an apartment suited to Dottie, and hire a team to move her belongings over 150 miles to her new home. Only a week before she was scheduled to move, her house sold.

Dottie now lives in an apartment in the new Scottish Rite Building. She is still taking it easy, but has quickly begun to settle in and make new friends. The Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center is proud to have played a part in helping Dottie.

Could you or someone you know use assistance with a similar situation? Call the Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center today at 877-881-1623.

We are the living expression of our Masonic Obligation – we serve as the trusted partner to help people age respectfully: how they want, where they want.

“God has blessed me dearly for surrounding me with these wonderful people who more than fulfilled the Masonic Obligation and the ball stopped here at this wonderful Masonic Community. My David is now buried in the cemetery here and I know he is pleased also. To say thank you is not enough to express my gratitude at being so blessed to be here surrounded by people who care about me.”

- Dottie Scarbro



MOST EXCELLENT COMPANION JAMES W. HIMMELRIGHT MEMORIAL CLASS REGION E ALL ROYAL ARCH DEGREE DAY

Western Reserve Masonic Community hosted the Inaugural Region E Royal Arch Degree Day on Saturday June 25, 2016. Region E consists of the 16th, 17th and 20th Capitular Districts. The degree work was portrayed by Medina Chapter No. 243 conferring the Past Master; the York Rite Sovereign College conferring the Mark Master; the Most Excellent Master was conferred by the Companions of the 16th district and the Royal Arch Degree was performed by the Companions of the 20th.

The event was well attended, hosting such guests as Most Excellent Companion Robert D. Blankenhorn Jr., the Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in Ohio, along with many of the officers past and present from the Grand Chapter. In total, 25 Masons received their Capitular Degrees, including nine residents of Western Reserve Masonic Community.

The day also included several presentations. Cathy Wigton, President of the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation, spoke briefly about the Ohio Masonic Home mission and care provided by its subsidiaries across the state. Robert Powell, a resident of Western Reserve Masonic Community was awarded a 50-year service pin for his long time commitment to Capitular Masonry.

Bob Maclearie, a Companion who spent the day with the candidates, said, "It was an awesome day and a great thing to do for our Brethren at the Home. I know I had the chance to talk to one on the journey down the hall who was a 65-year Mason. He had always desired to be a Royal Arch Mason and wasn't able to do so until yesterday. That made the long day worth it!"



Casting Light:

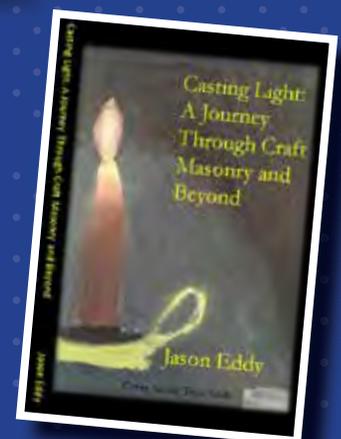
A JOURNEY THROUGH CRAFT
MASONRY AND BEYOND

Ohio Freemason, Jason Eddy has published a new book on Freemasonry, entitled, *Casting Light: A Journey through Craft Masonry and Beyond*. It is available through Amazon.

Symbolism, poetry, and prose are three approaches that he uses to not only unlocking the profound meaning behind the degrees of Freemasonry but to navigating the Craft itself as a seeker of something more.

There are various opinions among Freemasons regarding what Freemasonry is really all about. This book is an attempt to not only clarify the purpose of our Noble Craft, but to provide perspective on how to best tackle the issues that prevent so many from fulfilling that purpose. Proceed with an open mind...proceed with humility...and allow the journey of a young Master Mason to cast light upon your own path as you seek to find what has been sought since time immemorial...Enlightenment.

Jason Eddy is a Past Master of High Point Lodge No. 773 in Monroe and a 32 Degree Scottish Rite Mason, Valley of Dayton. He is a regular contributor to *Living Stones Magazine* and has been published in several state and national Masonic publications. Aside from his Masonic writing, he is also a published poet, having published a book of poetry entitled "Musings Along the Road Less Taken Vol. I" in 2015.



Lodge Jewels RETURN HOME

At the monthly Stated Meeting of Montgomery Lodge No. 94, held on June 14, 2016, the thirty five Masons present, including the Deputy Grand Master Douglas N. Kaylor and Grand Marshal, Richard A. Dickersheid, witnessed an historic event – the return of their Lodge’s original set of officers’ jewels. Their return is a great example of the ties of Brotherhood that bind our great Fraternity!

Montgomery Lodge No. 94 was chartered on January 28, 1828. They met for approximately 4 ½ years. On November 10, 1832, the Lodge chose to close its doors, possibly because of the anti-masonic sentiment in the United States at that time, caused by the Morgan Affair. The Grand Lodge of Ohio was informed, and the officer’s jewels were sent to the Grand Lodge.

On September 15, 1837, William J. Reese, Grand Master of Ohio, granted a dispensation to form Batavia Lodge. The Grand Lodge of Ohio loaned Batavia Lodge the officers’ jewels that Montgomery Lodge had surrendered. After Batavia Lodge No. 104 received their charter on June 20, 1838, these jewels were sold to Batavia Lodge for the sum of \$32.00.

On October 21, 1846, the Grand Lodge of Ohio adopted a resolution to resuscitate Montgomery Lodge No. 94, who requested their original jewels to be returned. However, since the jewels were sold to Batavia Lodge, the Grand Lodge agreed to give Montgomery Lodge \$53.00 to purchase new officers’ jewels.

Ohio Freemasons donated \$180,000 TO SUPPORT SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Ohio Freemasons donated \$180,000 to support the Ohio Special Olympics Summer games, which were held in Columbus on June 24 and 25. Grand Master Rill and over 400 Freemasons lead the parade of athletes into the stadium named for Brother Jesse Owens, who was a Prince Hall Mason in Illinois. The Ohio Grotto Association once again provided burgers, brats and all the fixings for the Brethren.

(Right) Grand Master Rill and Chairman Cecil show this year’s check to the Brethren.



In 2013, Right Worshipful Brother Kaylor, after speaking to a member of Montgomery Lodge regarding the Lodge history and the story about the officers' jewels, was curious as to whether Batavia Lodge knew the whereabouts of the jewels. This also excited the curiosity of the members of Batavia Lodge. After due search and inquiry, the original jewels were located in a cigar box tucked away in a drawer.

In 2015, Past District Deputy L. John Lasonczyk, who is a PM of Montgomery Lodge No. 94, spoke to Brad A. Toft, a PM of Batavia Lodge No. 104, regarding the original jewels and requested that should Batavia Lodge ever decide to get rid of these jewels that Montgomery Lodge would love to purchase them from Batavia. Past Master Toft explained that since Batavia Lodge does not use these jewels, he would bring the matter before his Lodge.

Through the generosity of Batavia Lodge No. 104, there return of the jewels became a reality when Toft and a few others from Batavia Lodge and the 6th District traveled to the 1st District to present a shadow box containing the original jewels back to Montgomery Lodge No. 94. The beautiful shadow box, which was made by Brother Gary Conn of Amelia Lodge No. 590, will now be prominently displayed in the lodge room of Montgomery Lodge No. 94.



Officers' Jewels of Montgomery Lodge

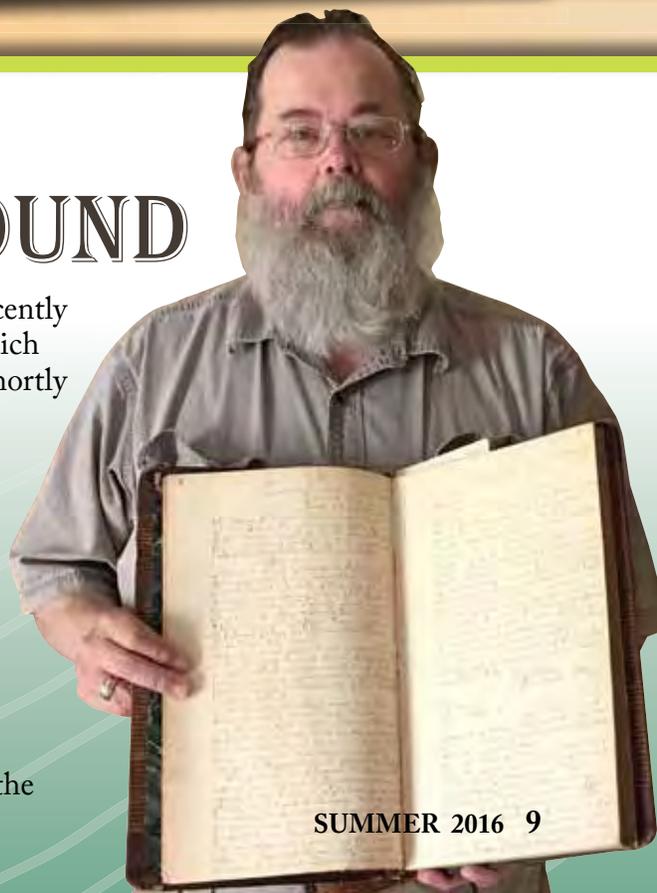


That which was Lost **IS FOUND**

Brother Richard Vie Brooks, a member of Oxford Lodge No. 67, recently stopped by the Grand Lodge Office to donate a flea market find, which was given to him by his older brother, Brother Robert Vie Brooks, shortly before Robert passed away. The find is the original minute book of Linwood Lodge No. 567.

The first entry in the minute book, which covers from June 30, 1892 to October 22, 1900, is a handwritten transcription of the Grand Master's dispensation forming the lodge in the village of Linwood, Hamilton County. The formation of the lodge was recommended by the Master, Wardens, and Brethren of Yeatman Lodge No. 162.

Linwood Lodge No. 567 was chartered on October 19, 1892 and consolidated with Norwood Winton Carthage Lodge No. 576 on March 25, 2008. Their minute book will be maintained as a part of the Grand Lodge archives.



Freemasonry in a Camp **AND A HOLLOW**

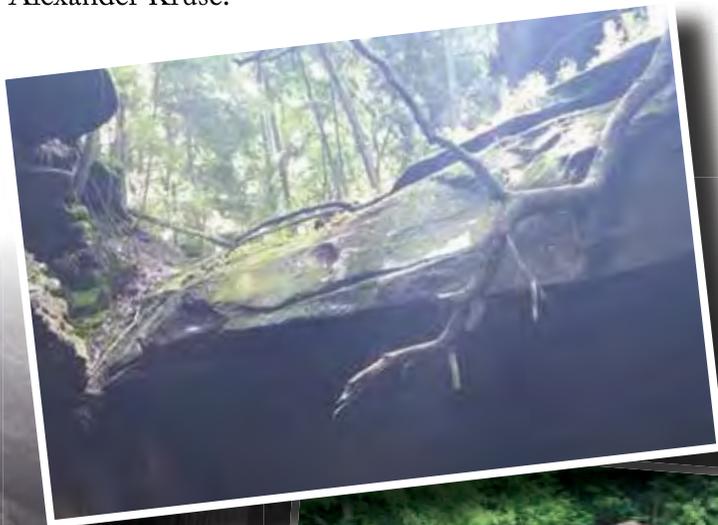
In ancient times, masons met on the highest hills and in the lowest valleys. On Saturday, July 9, a twist was given to that old adage. Brethren from Northwest Ohio met at Camp Miakonda, and the Brethren of East Central Ohio met at Wildcat Hollow – both to confer very special Master Mason degrees.

Camp Masonry was hosted by Damascus Collingwood, Northern Light, Genoa, and Toledo Ft. Industry Lodges at Camp Miakonda, which includes 160 acres of the DeVilbiss Scout Reservation. The degree work took place within the frontier-style fort. Seventy-six Brethren shared in the raising of a new Master Mason as well as the food and fellowship.

“Camp Masonry has really left an impression on me. That is the Masonry that I signed up for,” shared Alexander Kruse.

Wildcat Hollow near Logan, Ohio was the sight of the annual outdoor Master Mason degree, hosted by Mingo Lodge and the 13th Masonic District. Wildcat Hollow is a part of the Wayne National Forest. The picturesque clefts in the adjacent rocks provide a fine setting for this annual event.

Grand Master Rill attended the raising at Wildcat Hollow. “It was awesome to fellowship with the 50 or so Brethren in this perfect setting. I just wish I could have been in two places at once, because I know the Brethren also have a great time at Camp Miakonda.”



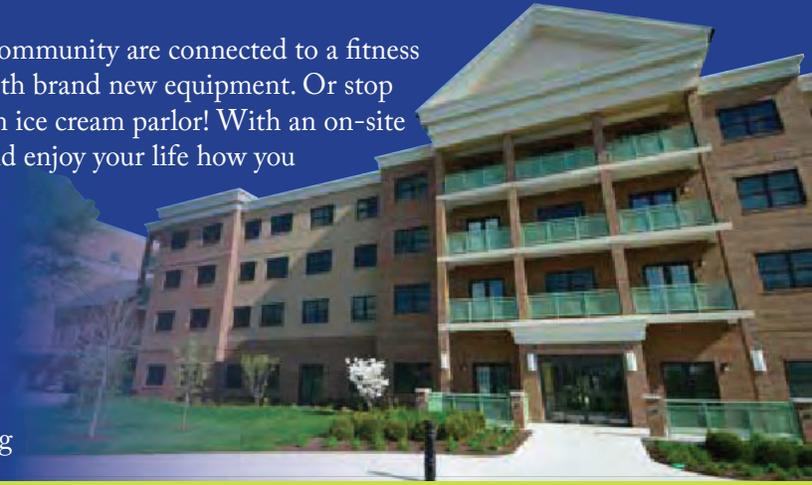
Now is your chance to enjoy worry-free, independent living in a completely modern and state-of-the-art setting! Ask about our half-off move-in special and get settled in your new apartment before winter brings cold, snowy weather! Your new apartment features large windows with beautiful views, all appliances, master bedrooms with full bathrooms, oversized or walk-in closets and personal patio or balcony.

The new Scottish Rite Apartments at Springfield Masonic Community are connected to a fitness center featuring a variety of classes including tai chi, along with brand new equipment. Or stop by and enjoy a complimentary frozen treat at our resident-run ice cream parlor! With an on-site physician's clinic, salon, post office and more, you can relax and enjoy your life how you want without stepping out into the cold weather!

Only two apartments left featuring our spacious two-bedroom layout!

Schedule your tour today; call 877-881-1623 today!

2655 W. National Rd., Springfield, OH 45504 | smcoho.org



Martha's Story



Martha Fousek, a resident of Western Reserve Masonic Community (Western Reserve), firmly believes that “you get out of life what you put into it.” She calls her sunny outlook part of her DNA, remembering a happy childhood and parents who were generous and cheerful. Despite the loss of her husband of 39 years, Allen (John W. Barkley Lodge No. 621) in late 2012, Martha has maintained a busy life at Western Reserve, making friends, picking up hobbies, and even giving campus tours.

While Martha insists that happiness can be shared by simply saying hello, her hobbies also tend to bring sunshine to many people across campus. Martha is the founder and organizer of the annual Rummage Sale, an event in its sixth year, run by and benefiting the residents of

Western Reserve. Each year, the proceeds from the sale are used to buy something extra to help enrich the lives of

those living on campus. In past years, Martha and her team have purchased park benches, new televisions and even a windmill to help clean the scenic lakes. This year they plan to buy a new stationary bicycle for the fitness room.

Martha is also a member of the Yarn Buddies resident knitting group. They meet weekly in the lobby to create warm lap robes and afghans that are distributed to local service agencies to help those in need. The idea for their newest project, “twiddle muffs,” came all the way from England, but will be used right at home by the residents of the Pathways Memory Care Center. These old-fashioned hand muffs are made using several different types of yarn and adorned with ribbons, buttons and braids inside and out. They are meant to help ease agitation in those living with Alzheimer’s and dementia by supplying different soothing textures and trinkets to twiddle for comfort.

“When you get to be older, you don’t need material things,” Martha says, “You just need kindness.” Her own kindness to others has not gone unnoticed. Cathy Wigton, the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation President has dubbed her a “joyful living ambassador,” remembering the cheer of their interactions. If you get out of life what you put into it, Martha Fousek certainly deserves the best.



It's ROAD RALLY TIME!

Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! The 5th Annual Miracle Miles for Memory Care Road Rally is upon us! Everyone is encouraged to participate; no need for a classic car or the latest model motorcycle. Just hop in your vehicle and meet us at the Delaware County Fairgrounds to enjoy a day of food, fun and friendship!

All proceeds from the event will go to help support programming at the Ohio Masonic Home Memory Care Centers across the state. This year a special raffle* will be held to raise additional funds for memory care. Don't miss your chance to win MWB Steven Cokonougher's 2003 Kawasaki Vulcan 1500! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 27!

AUGUST 27



CRUISE IN



**THE MENUS
IN CONCERT**

1:00 - 3:00

For more information, contact Dan Shirk, Director of Fraternal Relations at (937) 926-4305 or Jesse Pertee, Fraternal Relations Associate at (937) 717-8071.



BIKE AUCTION!*

*Motorcycle will be auctioned off at the Road Rally with a \$2,000 reserve bid. Purchaser will have 30 days to acquire financing or to pay for purchase. Other restrictions may apply.



REGISTER TO RIDE AT MEMORYCAREMILES.COM!

KICK-OFF LOCATIONS

Springfield Masonic Community

Springfield, Ohio

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Browning Masonic Community

Waterville, Ohio

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Western Reserve Masonic Community

Medina, Ohio

Registration begins at 8:00 am.

Valley of Cambridge

Cambridge, Ohio

Departing at 9:45 a.m.

Marietta Shrine Club

Marietta, Ohio

Departing at 8:30 a.m.

Rally at JEGS at 12:00 p.m.

101 Jegs Place, Delaware, Ohio

Travel from JEGS to the
Delaware County Fairgrounds,
arriving at 12:30 p.m.

1:00 p.m. - Concert by The Menus



Neal's Story

Neal Kissel (Rising Sun Lodge No. 22) grew up on a 75-acre farm in Ashtabula, Ohio, surrounded by trees and soft, rolling hills. As a child, his favorite chore was mowing the grass with the family's early model Gravely Walk-Behind mower. Now a resident of Masonic Square at Springfield Masonic Community, Neal still looks forward to the task, and in a single month has accumulated nearly 100 hours of volunteer time helping to care for the expansive campus lawns.

One morning in April 2016, Neal sat down to breakfast with Robert Lane, Corporate Director of Procurement for the Ohio Masonic Home, and requested assistance with buying a 1962 Gravely mower. When the attempt failed due to safety concerns, Robert contacted the manufacturer to see if there were any late model riding mowers available. Although the company does offer a seated, zero-turn model, Neal specified that the only good cut is created by blades that are positioned in front of the wheels and seat, not underneath them. In the end, a 2016 walk-behind was selected and outfitted with a seat that is a sight to see.

Neal, a veteran of the United States Air Force, says, "things mechanical intrigue me," and his career path makes that obvious, taking him from the military to the electrical industry where he worked for Southern California Edison for 21 years. He then moved on to construction management, working for Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Neal also owned and operated a classic car restoration business for sixteen years and even built and restored pipe organs as a hobby.

Neal moved from California to Springfield Masonic Community in 2012 to be nearer to his children. When he is not mowing, he can be found reading scientific books, staying up-to-date on the latest classic car restoration trends, and winding the many clocks across campus and in his personal collection. He says that he truly enjoys volunteering his time because it not only gives him something to do but it creates an opportunity to feel pride in a job well done.



Nova Caesarea makes a Difference **IN THEIR NEW HOME TOWN**

Twenty five members of Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2 have used their time and money to support a backpack program at Miamitown Elementary, which is located a few blocks from the lodge hall. The program provides backpacks containing food to help children, who otherwise might go hungry over the weekend.

“In January, we merged with Columbia Lodge No. 44 and relocated to Miamitown. Our Lodge wanted to see if we could help with any local community projects,” explained Worshipful Master Rodney Epperson. “Elementary Principle Dave Kelly spoke at a Lodge meeting and explained that sixty percent of his students did not have food on the weekends. For years, they had wanted to initiate a backpack

program for their students whereby donated food would be placed in backpacks and given to the kids for use over the weekend.”

The Lodge members packed and passed out the backpacks each Friday during the school year. The program grew with the assistance of a local church. As of the end of the school year, the program was able to assist a little over 400 children, and the Lodge will continue the program for the next school year.

An unintended result of the Lodge’s community service is that it has generated three petitions for initiation,” shared Epperson. “But the most powerful example of the program’s impact has come with the comments of one of the teachers. She informed us that she asked her students if they would swim with

sharks for a million dollars. One of her students replied, yes because if she had a million dollars her family would not worry about having food ever again.”

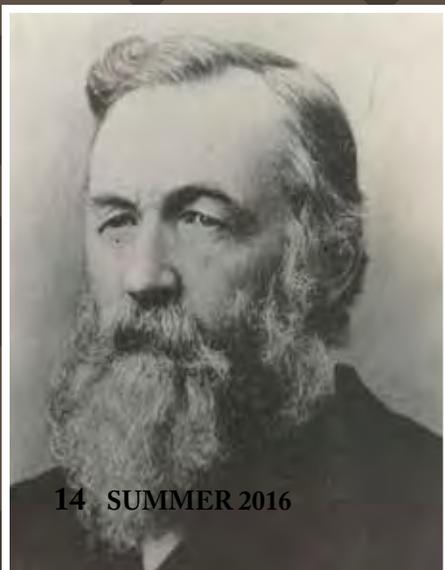


Hands of Thanks poster made by students for Lodge No. 2



Some of the volunteers with the food packages.

Words from our **DEPARTED BRETHREN**



14 SUMMER 2016

“We all have our passions and prejudices, and we should use our utmost endeavors to keep them within due bounds. But whether he comes from the jungles of Africa, the swamps of Carolina, the plains of Hindoostan, the sands of Arabia, the snowcapped summits of Norway, the Emerald Isle, the sunny fields of France, or from whatever nation or clime he may have traveled, if he is a Mason, and can prove himself such, he should be welcomed as a man and a brother into our Lodges and entitled to equal rights in our great brotherhood. The boast of Masons has been that its votaries possess the same mystic language in every clime, that its language is universal, entitled to recognition wherever heard or manifested, and that all Masons, in the character of Masons, stand upon the most perfect equality.”

- Asa H. Battin, Grand Master, Columbus, O., October 19, 1875

The Power OF A SYMBOL

One morning in May, Brother Steve Ware, received a call from one of his co-workers, who had just found a discarded Masonic wallet along Interstate 70 near Wheelersburg, WV. The wallet did not contain a driver's license or any money, but it did have two association cards with the name of the probable owner. Knowing that Steve was a Freemason, his co-worker thought Steve might be able to find the owner.



Brother Lichtman's Masonic Wallet

One of the cards was from the American Speech, Language, Hearing Association. A search for the owner's name on Facebook came up with just one person, whose page included a photo of him in a bright, white lab coat with his name and Doctor of Audiology embroidered upon it.

A quick Google search brought up the office number for Dr. Brandon Lichtman, who happens to be a member of South Hills Lodge No. 761, Bethel Park, Pennsylvania and who was missing his Masonic wallet. Brother Lichtman was very pleased to learn that his missing wallet had been found and was in the hands of a Brother.

Wellington Lodge WILLARD PAINTINGS

Nearly 150 years ago, Archibald M. Willard rose to fame for his contribution to the art world, the very recognizable painting, *The Spirit of '76*. During this time, Willard was also an active Mason, receiving his degree from Wellington Lodge in 1867. His passion for both Masonry and the arts inspired him to use his talent to create a series of charts depicting Masonic teachings. While the exact origin of the beautiful, instructional paintings is not clear, their existence was confirmed in the early 2000s during a conference in Massachusetts.

In early 2016, the paintings made their way to Willard's home Lodge, where they were debuted at a Wellington

Lodge No. 127 More Light Night. These events are designed as an opportunity for Lodge improvement and are often used to help educate the public on Masonic teachings, making it the perfect venue for the charts. Now, the paintings are scheduled to be fully restored and then donated to *The Spirit of '76* Museum to be enjoyed by the public.

(The History of Wellington Lodge #127 by Worshipful Brother Scott Markel, Lodge Historian, November 2008)

(The Spirit of '76' Artist's Masonic Charts Part of Public Display by Katie Nix, The Chronicle-Telegram, May 2016)



Formal Transfer – Cindy Norton, Trustee, Becky Norton, Trustee, Tim Rolfe, Board President, Scott Markel, as Archibald Willard, Board VP, Carl Heckert, Master of Wellington Lodge No. 127, Eric Schau, Senior Grand Warden of the GLO and Ronald Runion, event Chairman.



Willard Painting – Rodney Epperson, Scott Markel, Carl Heckert, WM, Calvin Woods, Dan Shirk and Ron Runion



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Mission Statement OF THE GRAND LODGE

Freemasonry provides opportunities for sincere, honest, forthright men who believe in God and desire to contribute to the improvement of their communities and themselves.

Through our Masonic fraternalism, we reaffirm our dedication and unity to become involved citizens who have a strong desire to preserve the values that have made and continue to make America great.

