

# Make Magic Happen!



THE OHIO  
**BEACON**

Volume 22, Issue 2 Spring 2015

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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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Steven E. Cokonougher  
Grand Master

# Make Magic

It is hard to believe that the 2015 Masonic year is more than half gone. Time flies when there is a lot to do. We have said many times this year that we are having more fun than is allowed. Rebecca and I have received many blessings as we have traveled this great state. It has been a "Magical Year."

One of the key components of this year has been to respect each other's time. We have tried to do that by ending receptions early, shortening inspection nights and keeping comments short and to the point. Many of you have heard me talk of the "Seven Minute Speech." I firmly believe that if you can't say it in seven minutes then it probably isn't important. I know you will keep me on task when I run over seven minutes. There is magic in the seven minute speech.

The initial round of the Masons Lead Better (MLB) training is complete, but there is much more to do. Leadership excellence is essential in making our Lodges, Districts, and Grand Lodge stronger. Mike Clevenger has done an outstanding job developing and teaching this concept. We are blessed to have his expertise on the job. Most of the Wardens' and Deacons' courses are also complete. The officers who complete these training classes will be well prepared to "Make Magic Happen" in their Lodges as they progress through the officers' line.

Freemasonry is in many ways a magical organization. As one progresses through the various degrees and bodies, there is a magical sense about all of the historical, Biblical, and educational lessons learned by each candidate. Every brother's experience is somewhat different; but, most will say there is some magic in the degrees as each allegory unfolds its lessons of morality, civility, truth, brotherly love, charity and many more.

Your Grand Lodge Officers are working hard to "Make Magic Happen" in terms of membership, leadership, and knowledge. They are committed to making Masonry the premier fraternal organization in the state. I have said many times that if I were to start a business, the seven moving line officers of the Grand Lodge would be my board of directors. Please support them as they move Grand Lodge forward with technology and training. Please help them "Make Magic Happen" by supporting their ideas and initiatives.

# Magic Happen

Do you believe in magic? Some of you, like me, remember a song with that lyric in it. For those of you who don't, it was a fun song that talked about the magic of being together and being on a journey. Do you believe in magic? Some say it is just a slight of hand, or an illusion meant to fool your senses into believing something that isn't real. Do you believe in magic? I do, but my definition might be a bit different than yours. Magic to me is the unexplainable feeling I get when I am surrounded by positive people, and positive things are happening around me. You know when someone gives you that great big smile when you see them, or hugs you to let you know you are special. Magic is when you shake someone's hand, look them in the eye and greet them with a hello or a goodbye. Sometimes this handshake can be to seal an agreement between two people who want to make something magical happen. You see, you and I can make magic happen by what we say or do to others.

The Ohio Masonic Home is a magical place with people committed to care, compassion and concern for each other. When we are committed to serving each other through our Masonic Obligation, and truly living our values and tenets, then magic happens. When we ask someone how they would like their day to go and how can we help them, then magic happens. When we help someone attain their goals of staying in their home or assisting them in a life transition, then we make magic happen. When we support this great organization with time, treasure and talents, then magic happens. When we support and are involved in our great fraternity, then magic happens.

To each of you I wish the magic of knowing you are special, cared for and supported in all that you do and say. Thank you to all of you who help make magic happen by your support of the Ohio Masonic Home. Together we are on a magical journey of Brotherly love, relief and truth.

Tom Stofac  
Ohio Masonic Home CEO



## Scottish Rite is now accepting applications!

Springfield Masonic Community is looking a little different these days as you pass through the underground walkway. Located on the lower level of the Hillman building are the new fitness center and clinic.

Residents are enjoying the new, brighter and energizing space, evident by the fact that it is almost always in use.

Outside, moving in the opposite direction, walls are going up higher each day on the new Scottish Rite building. We look forward to sharing updates as the construction progresses, and we create an innovative and engaging space in partnering with our residents in aging how they want, where they want. For more information or to apply today, contact Brian Clayborn at 937-525-3023.

# A Lifetime of Magic

Harry of Springfield Masonic Community (SMC) has been making magic happen for 81 years. In 1934, Harry's life changed forever when he came down with a case of scarlet fever. In order to keep him entertained during his illness, Harry's father bought him his first magic set, sparking a life-long passion for the art of illusion.

Taking inspiration from heroes such as Houdini, Harry became skilled in tricks ranging from the classic disappearing handkerchief to more daring illusions, one of which features a box, nine swords and his assistant's head! As a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, the world's largest organization for the magical arts, Harry stays up-to-date on all the latest magical feats through his subscription to the members-only magazine *The Linking Ring*. Harry is constantly practicing and working to perfect new tricks before performing them live.

In 2007 Harry hired his assistant, Elaine, who could give a very convincing performance when it came to performing Harry's favorite trick, called simply, "Sword through Head."

Although Elaine is never truly in danger, her shrieks are so realistic that Harry can remember one performance when an audience member got up and ran for help in the middle of the act. After Elaine was revealed

unharmed, Harry was able to resume the show, but with a bit less screaming.

Harry's favorite performance was also one of the most bittersweet. As part of a Make-A-Wish® event, Harry gave a show at King's Island for an audience of nearly 500. Though the performance was an emotional one, Harry was thankful to be given the opportunity to bring some magic into the lives of those ailing children and their families.

*"...an audience member got up and ran for help..."*

A resident of SMC since 2013, Harry and his dog, Mickey, enjoy an active lifestyle. Harry's decision to live on the SMC campus was fully influenced by his Masonic affiliation. Raised a Master Mason in 1965 at the Montgomery Lodge #94 in Montgomery, Ohio, Harry is proudly celebrating a milestone this year as part of the Fraternity, receiving his 50-year pin from Scottish Rite.

Harry can be seen most days on campus doing magic for his fellow residents at lunch and dinner in the community center. He enjoys mystifying visiting grandchildren and checking in with new residents, making sure they are settling in comfortably while sharing a magic trick or two. "My thing in life is to make people happy, especially the kids." There is no question that Harry brings joy to everyone he meets; a true example of making magic happen!



## ARIZONA MASONS ENCOUNTER *Disappearing Act*

Recently, a young couple began a new chapter in their lives. Having secured new jobs, they loaded up a moving van, hitched their car to the back, and left northwest Ohio for Tucson, Arizona. Things went well until they reached Albuquerque, New Mexico, where they stopped overnight. They awoke the next morning to discover that their moving van and car had disappeared.

They called the local police to report the theft and then the young man's mother and stepfather back in Ohio. Everything they had was in that van and car, but they had insurance. They needed to get to Tucson for work, so they rented a car and headed on down the highway.

The police found their car and van. The car's rear window was smashed in and both were empty of their belongings. The couple was at a loss as to what they were going to do once they got to Tucson. They had neither friends nor family there, neither did they know how long it would take for the insurance company to respond.

The young man's stepfather is a Freemason - Master of his lodge in fact. So he called the Grand Lodge office late on Friday afternoon asking for help. In turn, a call was placed to the Grand Secretary and then to the Junior Grand Deacon of Arizona, who resides in Tucson. Within an hour of the young couple arriving at their new apartment that same day, the Freemasons of Tucson arrived with an air mattress, sheets, towels, pots, pans, dishes, kitchen table with chairs and a TV.

Freemasonry is very much an extended family.

### *Indian Lake Lodge hosts Special Presentation*

The Brethren of Indian Lake Lodge No. 722 recently gathered with their families for a special presentation. Brother Chuck Wood from Marsalis, Illinois presented a bicycle specially designed for Orion Reams, the son of the Lodge's Senior Warden, Brother Joe Reams and his wife Melanie. The bike is designed to meet Orion's special needs, and it will adjust as he grows. Orion is ready for a summer of safe, riding fun.

*"Freemasonry  
is very much an  
extended family."*



# THE MAGIC OF



Sgt. William J. Dormaier  
February 1943

William J. Dormaier was born on April 24, 1908 in Kent, Ohio. At 107-years-old, he is not only the oldest living veteran in the state, but one of the oldest Masons as well. When William enlisted in the United States Army in January 1943, he simply wanted to do his fair share for his country, but due to his age, special waivers were required. These waivers proved unnecessary as William excelled during training in California and Florida, earning an immediate promotion.

Now a Sergeant, William returned home to marry the love of his life, Jayne Dick of Marion, before shipping out to Germany. The oldest member of Battery A of the 226th Searchlight Battalion, he was fondly given the nickname Pops by the other soldiers in the unit. Although he was nearly twice the age of some of the men with whom he served, the unit quickly bonded and became true brothers in arms.

*“His story is one of a life lived fully and with wonderful purpose.”*

Stationed a mere 100 miles outside of his father’s hometown, William’s company used powerful searchlights to watch for enemy aircraft, and aided the anti-aircraft gunners with .50-caliber machine guns. It was dangerous work, near enemy lines, and German planes would sometimes use the searchlights as targets, with explosives hitting within feet of Dormaier’s foxhole. It was during times like this that he would pray the hardest, hoping to be able to return home safely to his wife.

After Paris was liberated in 1944, Sergeant Dormaier became the first American to tour the eerie catacombs which had been used by the French Resistance during the Nazi occupation (*history.com*). Although Paris had been freed from



William relaxes at home where he has lived with Jayne since 1972.

German rule, the rest of France was still in bad shape. William recalled the popular habit of leaving USO food on the tables of the bivouacs for the hungry townspeople. The French police would look away while the women would clear away the food to feed their families.

With the war in Europe dying down, William was briefly sent to the Philippines to work in a vehicle maintenance unit. As a young man he had spent many years employed by Mansfield Tire, and was fully capable of the new assignment. In late 1946, William finally returned home to Jayne, receiving an Honorable Discharge just a few days before Christmas.

During his tour, William earned



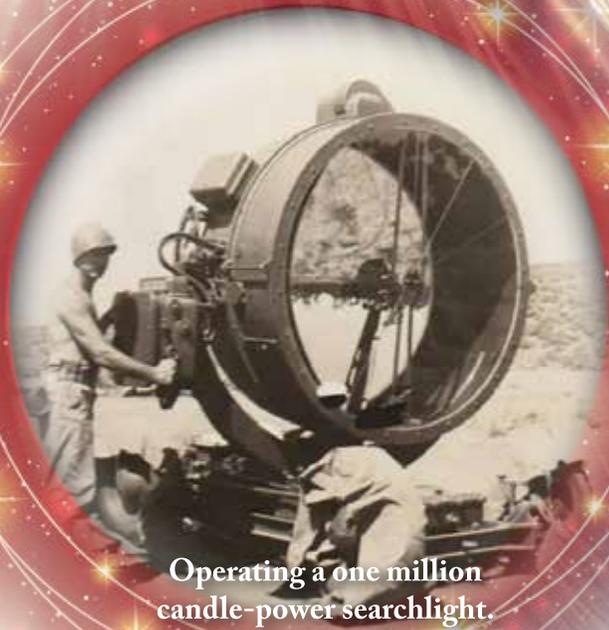
With his wife, Jayne.  
June 1944

# MASONIC PATRIOTISM

many awards and medals including the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star and the World War II Victory Medal among many others. His experiences overseas made him more appreciative of his life. Although he had seen many countries during the war, William and Jayne began to explore the world, visiting foreign lands as well as almost each of the United States.

In February of 1952, encouraged by coworkers at Mansfield Tire, William became an Entered Apprentice at the Mansfield Lodge #35. He was raised a Master Mason on March 31, joining the Ohio Grand Chapter #28, the Ohio Grand Council, the Ohio Grand Commandery and the Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus in the same year.

William earned his 60-year pin in 2012; although he is now partially blind and nearly deaf, he still believes strongly in his Masonic values and those he learned in the Army. His story is one of a life lived fully and with wonderful purpose.



Operating a one million candle-power searchlight.  
July 1943

*13th Annual*  
**CRUISE IN**

**RAIN OR SHINE!**

**FREE ADMISSION AND SPECTATOR PARKING!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 25**

Join us for the 13th Annual Browning Masonic Community Cruise In! Don't miss this opportunity to see stunning cars from every decade. Enjoy music, a white elephant sale and delicious food as you spend a summer day admiring these shining beauties! Car entry forms are available at Browning Masonic Community. For more information, please call (419) 878-1898.



**SPRING 2015** 7

# CONSTRUCTING A MASONIC

William Boyd Burgett was born on May 29, 1930 in Bloomfield, Ohio. From an early age, it was apparent that he had an aptitude for mechanics. As a child his preferred toys included a Gilbert Erector set, hammer and nails, and used grocery crates for building supplies. His talents in construction, combined with encouragement from his family, led to the creation of the Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., and a legacy built on honesty, integrity and hard work.

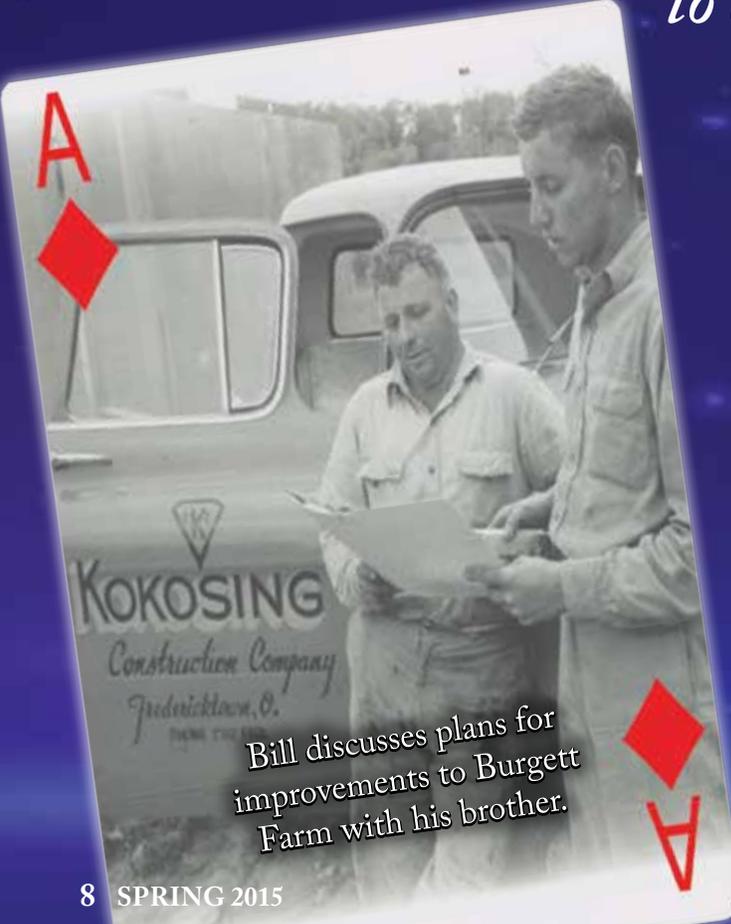
By the age of 14, Bill Burgett had accumulated enough tools and equipment to begin building farm equipment for his father, which quickly led to projects

for neighbors and other local farmers. Throughout high school, these projects were Bill's only outlet for creativity, as there were no shop classes available in such a small district. High school did provide him the opportunity to create robust friendships with boys who shared his strong Christian values.

*“Bill’s generosity will ... touch the lives of many over the years to come.”*

During his senior year, Bill met the girl he would marry through a botched double-date. After graduation, he searched enthusiastically for work, quickly starting his first real job with the Clever Brothers Construction Company. With a fresh diploma and a job he loved, Bill married Shirley Ackerman on Friday, August 13, 1948 in a quiet ceremony in Johnsville, Ohio.

Bill and Shirley's first child, Valerie, was born on May 27, 1949 and not long after, Bill began working with his future business partner, Lester Rinehart. When Clever Bros. went out of business in December of 1950, the pair began working on remodeling the Perry Township Hall, this led to other projects as word spread about the quality of Bill and Lester's work. In early 1951, with both men expecting



Bill discusses plans for improvements to Burgett Farm with his brother.

# SUCCESS STORY

additions to their families, the William Burgett Builder and Concrete Work was formed, and the team embarked on building their first house for a local filling station owner. Although they faced many hurdles in that first year, they completed 21 different jobs and earned over \$48,000 with business steadily growing.

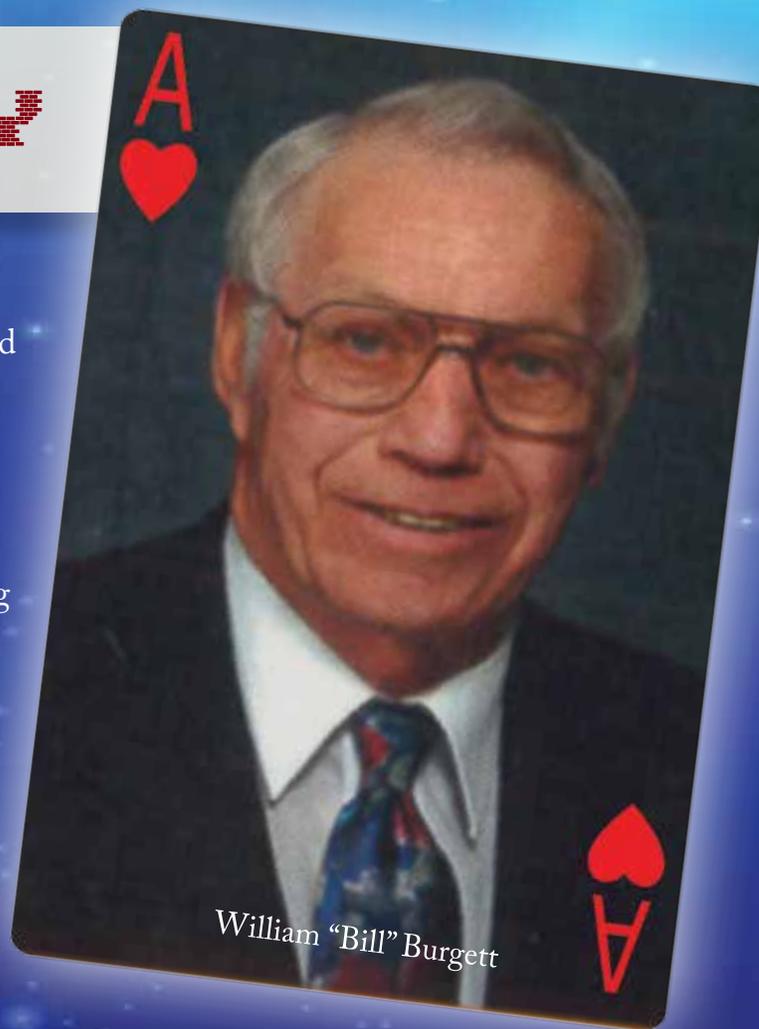
The next several years brought significant jobs, including a large, elaborate home for another local businessman and a county animal shelter. Bill and Shirley's family grew again and with business booming, Bill was able to begin construction on his company's first office building and shop. It was in 1954, urged by a friend and mentor, that Bill changed the name of his company to Kokosing Construction Company, taking the name from the nearby Kokosing River or Owl Creek.

His personal values echoing those of the Masonic Brotherhood, Bill was raised a Master Mason on June 29, 1959 at Thrall Lodge #170 in Fredericktown, Ohio.

He received his 50-Year award

in 2009. Now, mostly retired from the business, Bill finds value in the fraternity and has graciously stepped forward to be the presenting sponsor of the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation Miracle Miles for Memory Care Golf Classic and Road Rally. This gift will directly benefit those living with Alzheimer's in the innovative memory care centers recently opened, and located on each of the Ohio Masonic Home campuses across the state. Through his gift, Bill's generosity will become a legacy as he continues to touch the lives of many over the years to come.

*(Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., An American Success Story in Fredericktown, Ohio 2011, Glenn Myers)*



# JOIN US

## ROAD RALLY LODGE CHALLENGE

4th Annual Miracle Miles for Memory Care Road Rally  
Saturday, August 22

Think you have what it takes to be the Road Rally Champion? Challenge your Lodge members to collect the most donations and win the Road Rally Trophy!

Visit [memorycaremiles.com](http://memorycaremiles.com) for more information and to download the official form. Results must be received by August 21. Winners will be announced the day of the event!

Raffle tickets are now available for purchase!  
Contact Dan Shirk at (937) 926-4305 or [dshirk@ohiomasonichome.org](mailto:dshirk@ohiomasonichome.org)



## HOME DAY

Mark Your Calendars for  
Sunday, June 7 at 11:00 a.m.

Come celebrate the 31st Annual Home Day festival at the Ohio Masonic Home. Bring the family out for a fun-filled day including great food, a kids' zone, ferris wheel rides and a parade!

The festival takes place rain or shine, parking and admission are free.



## GOLF CLASSIC

Last Chance to Reserve Your Space!

Sign up now for the 2nd Annual Miracle Miles for Memory Care Golf Classic hosted at the exclusive Wedgewood Country Club and Golf Course located in Powell, Ohio.  
Monday, June 1 - Shotgun start at 12:00 p.m.

Sign up today online at [memorycaremiles.com](http://memorycaremiles.com) or contact Mark Harris at 419-410-2086!





# 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Shriners / Masons Family Day at Great American Ball Park



**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015  
at 1:10 p.m.**

**Arrive at the Kroger Fan Zone at  
12:05 PM for the Pre-Game Parade!**

Field Box \$20 x  \$

Regularly \$36

Outer Mezzanine \$14 x  \$

Regularly \$20

Lower View Level \$11 x  \$

Regularly \$17

**+ \$3 Service Charge**

TOTAL \$

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This offer is only available through Group Sales, and forms must be received prior to game day. Orders must be received 10 days prior to game date for return mailing of tickets. Otherwise tickets will be left at Will Call under name on order form. Photo I.D. required for Will Call pick up.



# How Rough is Your Online Ashlar?

We are an ancient tradition in the 21st century. We need to look the part or we're doomed. Period. End of story. Your lodge may have the greatest ritual work, pancakes or the youngest officer line in the fraternity, but there's more to being relevant in this age. If you want your lodge to survive in the coming millennia and capture the interest of my fellow millennials, let's get digital.

First let me say, greetings from Blendon Lodge No. 339 in Westerville, Ohio. I'm Matt Johnson, a 30-year-old, who is Senior Warden this year, and I've been the caretaker of [www.blendon339.com](http://www.blendon339.com) since my raising in 2009. I also happen to be a professional marketing director, with relevant experience that I will be applying to my lodge's future this year. I'm here to ask you some serious questions about the future of our fraternity.

I'm legitimately concerned for us, so let's role-play for a moment. If I know nothing about Freemasonry and live in your area - what am I going to find when I look around? Where am I going to look?

I'm going to start by searching online for a local lodge, using my computer, smartphone or tablet. Am I going to find your lodge's website (you have one right?) with current or accurate information? Some lodges haven't updated their websites in over a decade. Many have very confusing layouts and designs reminiscent of the late 1990s. Our most basic and essential marketing tool - working 24/7/365 - isn't being utilized very well. You need a perfect online ashlar upon which to build a firm fraternal foundation.

This is an internet-driven era. You have approximately 10 seconds or less when I find your homepage for me to gauge if I'm wasting my time. I'd be more likely to close the page, never looking back because I think Lodge XYZ is essentially dead. I often hear "we only want the most interested candidates," that's great, but give them something to keep their interest.

## Key Thoughts

- Does your lodge look alive to the outside world?
- How easy is it for the curious public to find you and learn more about you?
- Can they subscribe to you via email, Facebook, etc?

You don't need an executive level website or a daily blog; but you do need to consider if you're at least doing the basics well. Visit [freemason.com](http://freemason.com) and look for my articles so we can explore together how to make your lodge's website one of the working tools of our profession.



## OHIO FREEMASONS REMEMBER *President Lincoln*

In April, Ohio Freemasons helped to bring the national commemoration of the American Civil War to a close by observing the 150th anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln, the savior of the Union.

Members of several of the Lodges in Cleveland and the Grand Commandery of Ohio marched in the reenactment of President Lincoln's funeral procession held in Cleveland on April 26, 2015 - as it was 150 years ago. They were joined by the members of Eureka Lodge No. 52, Prince Hall Affiliated, which had also participated in 1865.

On April 28, 2015 representatives of Cleveland Lodge No. 781 and Forest City Commandery No. 40 partnered with the Cuyahoga County Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument and the Lincoln at Cleveland Committee in the dedication of an Ohio Historical Marker, which honors the events of April 28, 1865, when the city of Cleveland hosted one of 12 public viewings of the body of America's first assassinated president.

Members of Lodges in Columbus performed a special memorial service in the rotunda of the Ohio State House on May 2, 2015. The State House and rotunda were again decorated as they had been when Lincoln's body laid in repose in the rotunda on April 29, 1865. That same evening, members of Columbus Lodge No. 30 and Magnolia Lodge No. 20 held a private memorial and dinner to honor the President. Both these Lodges held positions of honor in the procession as it circled the State House under the direction of Mark Melroy, Pipe Major of Aladdin Shrine, prior to entering the State House for the 150th anniversary memorial service.

## 21ST MASONIC DISTRICT *Shares the Magic*

Over seventy Freemasons from Ohio's 21st Masonic District have collaborated on a unique fundraiser project, the new book *The Successful Lodge: Best Practices in Freemasonry*. This handy Masonic manual is a collection of a diverse array of tips and techniques to keep a Lodge productive and harmonious. Past Grand Master James F. Easterling, Jr. assembled the book with the help of David Ferris, Master of Meridian Sun No. 69.

"This book represents the labors of seventy different Brothers, from different lodges, from different generations, with various areas of expertise and diverse aptitudes — all joining together to offer their best advice on how to make your Lodge more productive and harmonious," explains Easterling.

Three questions were posed to the Brethren of the 21st Masonic District and formed the basis for the book:

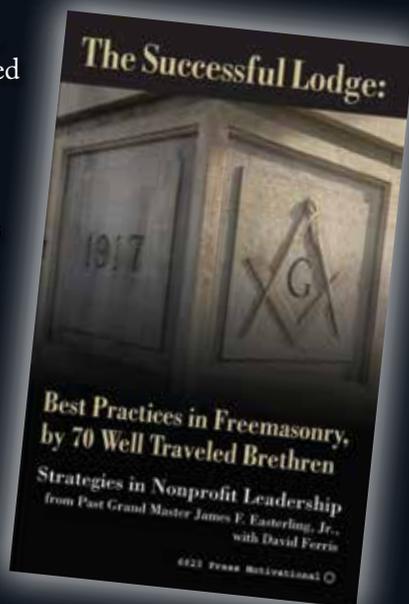
- What makes a Lodge successful?
- What is necessary to have a successful Lodge?
- How do you make a Lodge successful?

"The Brothers who took time to answer these three thought-provoking questions have some great ideas," says Easterling. "This book helps with the 'what to do and not do' issues during planning. And our book does not represent one theory, or one approach, or one single person's ideas. If one Brother's experience doesn't match your Lodge's challenges or demographics, I'm willing to bet that you'll learn something from the dozens of other veteran leaders in these pages."

In the book, experienced officers discuss dozens of subjects that effective officers and Masonic leaders need to contemplate, including communication, planning, management, goals, programming, diversity, education programs, member needs, building management and more. Some Brothers answered the questions as they were presented, some wrote case studies, others relayed lessons from their long history in the Fraternity. Proceeds benefit the Easterling Scholarship Fund.

Established in 2013, the fund awards a \$1,000 scholarship annually to assist graduating high school seniors who are active in the 21st Masonic District, who demonstrate a strong will to pursue higher education and have the greatest need.

The paperback and e-book versions are available online exclusively via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR *Masonic Restoration Foundation Symposium*

The sixth annual Masonic Restoration Foundation symposium will be held in Philadelphia on August 21-23. The Philadelphia Masonic Temple is one of the grandest in the United States and will provide an awe inspiring backdrop for this event.

The symposium is the largest gathering of Masons in the United States who are expressly committed to observing the highest standards of excellence in the Craft. Registration is open to all Master Masons with a desire to improve their Masonic lodge experience.

The symposium will begin with an authentic English-style Festive Board on Friday evening, conducted by the Brethren of Fiat Lux Lodge No. 1717, an English Emulation Lodge chartered under the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, and featuring comments from keynote speaker, Robert Herd. Along with an all-star lineup of interesting speakers, Brothers will have the opportunity to witness an Entered Apprentice degree performed according to the unique Pennsylvania ritual.

Registration for the Symposium is \$110.00. Excellent rates have been secured at the Courtyard Marriott directly across from the Temple. All necessary information regarding the symposium, including speakers and registration, is available at [masonicrestorationfoundation.org](http://masonicrestorationfoundation.org)



Team WRMC shows their Road Rally spirit!

### MIRACLE MILES FOR MEMORY CARE

## Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

William & Shirley Burgett and Corna Kokosing Construction Company



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# TAKING MAGIC *On the Road*

Western Reserve Masonic Community (WRMC) is eagerly anticipating participating in another magical Miracle Miles for Memory Care Road Rally!

This is the fourth annual Road Rally which supports memory care programming and awareness at the various Ohio Masonic Home campuses throughout the state. This is the second year that WRMC has a team raising money and driving. As of April, TEAM WRMC has already more than doubled driver and supporter participation...and they are not stopping!

TEAM WRMC has a goal of \$3,000, which they hope to exceed with various fundraisers—including basket raffles, bake sales, and ice cream sundae sales—and donations. The team's momentum is going strong; they have raised nearly 1/3 of their goal!

The team itself is comprised of employees, residents, and family members, but it doesn't end there. Every person connected is considered part of the team. As President Jay Dettorre says, "One Team, One Mission...together, we can accomplish our goals!"

*"...more than doubled driver and supporter participation..."*

If you would like to support TEAM WRMC and this wonderful cause, please consider attending one of these upcoming events:

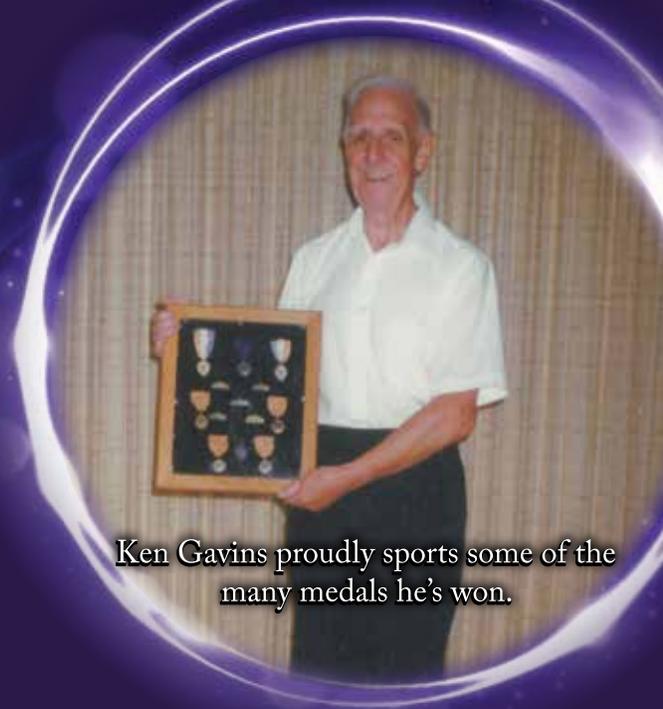
- Bake Sale; June 12; 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All proceeds go to TEAM WRMC
- Father's Day Gift Basket Raffle; Drawing June 16: Tickets available June 1-15
- Summer Gift Basket Raffle; Drawing July 22: Tickets available July 6-22
- Summer Lawn Concert "The Swing Machine;" July 22; 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Proceeds from ice cream sundaes (available at the concession booth) go to TEAM WRMC
- ROAD RALLY; August 22; Registration 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. and Kickoff Breakfast 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.; Drivers depart 10:00 a.m.

You can also join TEAM WRMC or donate online by visiting [www.memorycaremiles.com](http://www.memorycaremiles.com). Follow these steps to become an official team member:

- Click on the link for the 4th Annual Miracle Miles Road Rally.
- Click on "SIGN UP TODAY!" on the left sidebar.
- Click "Join a Team" and choose "Western Reserve Masonic Community" from the drop down bar.
- Complete your registration and help us raise funds and awareness for memory care at WRMC and across the state!

For more information, please call Lindsay Vanover at (330) 721-3257 or visit Western Reserve Masonic Community at 4931 Nettleton Rd, Medina, Ohio 44256.

# THE MAGIC OF *Roller Skating*



Ken Gavins proudly sports some of the many medals he's won.

The first recorded use of roller skates was during a London theater performance in 1743. These two and later three-wheeled skates allowed the wearer to move forward, but little else. Although flawed in design, early roller skates remained virtually unchanged for more than a century until the four-wheeled skate was invented out of frustration in 1863 by James Leonard Plimpton. Speed and direction could now be controlled, opening up a world of competition and recreational possibilities. (*rollerskatingmuseum.com*)

Kenneth Gavins of Sarasota, Florida is one of the many to benefit from Plimpton's frustration with early-model skates. Born in Doncaster, England in 1925, Kenneth began roller skating as a young child simply as a means of transportation to and from school. After serving in the British Royal Navy from 1945 to 1947, Kenneth was introduced to speed skating, fell in love with the sport and joined the Batley Speed Club in Yorkshire. He raced with the team for five years, winning the British Nationals

twice before immigrating to Canada in 1951.

The 3,500 mile move didn't dampen

Kenneth's enthusiasm. He quickly formed a new speed team in Toronto and began taking lessons. As his passion grew, so did his list of achievements, including Bronze Bars and Medals in dance, freestyle and figure skating and a Bronze Bar, Bronze Medal and Silver Bar in speed skating as well as two Eastern Canadian

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Speed Skating Championships. In 1956, Kenneth was married to his wife, Sybil and a year later they immigrated to the United States, settling in Cleveland where they both continued to skate recreationally.

In May of 1970, Kenneth was raised a Master Mason at the Gaston G. Allen Lodge #629, now the Clifton-Gaston Allen Lodge #664. Over the next two decades, he served as the Worshipful Master three times, as well as the Education Officer and Deputy Grand Master for District #22.

Kenneth and Sybil have lived in Florida since 1993, when they moved to Sarasota to retire. It was in

Florida, that Kenneth began taking private lessons again and rekindled his love of skating. At 89-years-old, his commitment to the sport has earned him further accolades in addition to keeping him healthy and active. He and Sybil, now 85, still make time every week to skate.

He also remains an active Mason, serving as Chairman for the Grand Master's Reunion in Sarasota. "2016 will mark my 20th year!" he says proudly of the luncheon he organizes each year.

Kenneth's life-long devotion to roller skating is inspirational, to say the least. His determination to continue learning should act as motivation to us all to pursue our dreams, becoming better and better at the things we love!



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