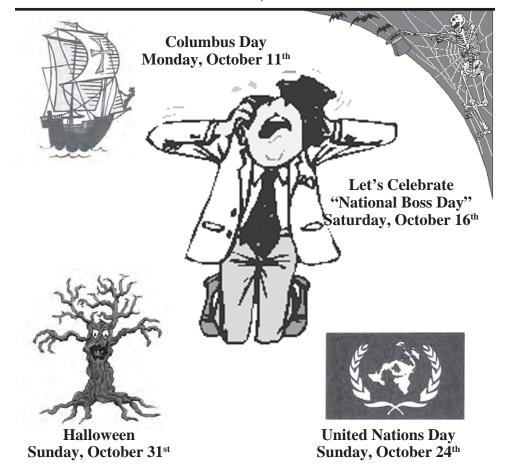


# The Masonic Bulletin

Published since 1918 by the Masonic Bodies of Canton, Ohio "Building our Future Together"

Vol. 91 October, 2010 No. 8



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# Canton Lodge No. 60, F. & A. M.





#### Mailing address 836 Market Ave. North Canton, OH 44702-1021

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Wed., Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Grand Lodge Legislation

Mon., Oct. 11 - Columbus Day

Fri. and Sat. Oct. 15 and 16 - The Grand Lodge of Ohio Annual Communication

Sat., Oct. 16 - National Boss Day

Wed., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting

Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day

Wed., Oct. 27, 4:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. - Bean Soup & Chili Dinner

Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween

Wed., Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Annual Meeting and Election

Brethren, our Masonic year is quickly coming to a close but we still have some work that should be done before the new officers take their new positions in the lodge.

The 201st annual communication of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Ohio will be held in the city of Dayton, Ohio on October 15th and 16th at the Dayton Masonic Center. We look forward to representing your lodge at this communication, so be sure to attend Lodge this month to hear the issues that will affect us in the future.

Remember Canton Lodge will be having their euchre tournament after our stated meeting on the  $20^{\text{th}}$  of October. Come and play some cards and enjoy the fellowship and a light snack with your brethren.

Would you like a great dinner at a cheap price? One the whole family can enjoy? Then stop by the Temple on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for some of the best cornbread, chili and bean soup in town. Officers will have tickets at our stated meetings or you may purchase them at the door the evening of the dinner. This year it is being prepared by our Junior Warden, Mike Emery.

The stated meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be our Annual Meeting. All members of Canton Lodge No. 60 are reminded that they must have a paid up dues card to participate in this important meeting. Election of officers will take place and the happenings of Grand Lodge will be discussed; also the annual report will be read. Don't miss your opportunity to help select the officers who will serve and lead your Lodge for 2011.

# Thanks, Al Phillips, Master







# Wm. McKinley Lodge No. 431, F. & A. M.





Rlichard M. Wheeler, W.M.

Richard M. Wheeler (330) 875-1735 .... W.M. Gust Goutras (330) 494-5541 .... S.W. William E. Peters (330) 499-8350 .... J.W. Fred L. Hocking (330) 494-4537 .... Sec. Daniel D. Thomas (330) 499-8758 .... Tyler

#### Mailing address:

836 Market Ave. North Canton, OH 44702-1021

Visit our web siteat: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Fri., Oct. 1, 7:00 p.m. - Special Meeting, Degree Work
Fri., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Senior Warden's Night
Mon., Oct. 11 - Columbus Day
Fri. and Sat., Oct. 8 and 9 - Summerfield Studios Picture Days
Fri., Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m. - Fellow Craft Team Meeting and Practice
Sat., Oct. 16 - National Boss Day
Fri. and Sat., Oct. 15 and 16 - The Grand Lodge of Ohio Annual Communication
Fri., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting
Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day
Fri., Oct. 29, 7:00 p.m. - Special Meeting, Degree Work
Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween
Fri., Nov. 12. 7:30 p.m. - Annual Stated Meeting and Election of Officers

I want to congratulate Bro. Bill Peters for an excellent job on Junior Warden Night. It was a very fun, informative and well-planned meeting. I look forward to watching Bro. Peters over the next couple years. McKinley Lodge is going to be in good hands.

October is an exciting month for your lodge officers Brethren; it's also going to be very busy. We have special meetings on October 1st and October 29th. Numerous candidates are working their way through the degrees. Your presence at these meetings will not only impress them but show how strong the fellowship is in McKinley Lodge.

October 8th will be our Senior Warden's Night. This is a special night for us as we get a glimpse of what he may bring to the lodge in the upcoming year. I'm very excited because I know he will do an amazing job. Be there to show him and Wm. McKinley Lodge your support.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> your lodge officers are traveling to Dayton for the Grand Lodge of Ohio's Annual Communication. We have proposed legislation to go over. We will also elect and install the new Grand Lodge Officers. Grand Lodge is open to all Masons and is always a good time.

Don't forget, if you haven't made an appointment to have your family photo taken, you still have time. Call Summerfield Studios at 1-877-764-4535.

See you in lodge!

#### Rick. W.M.

Hello brethren! One thing I may add to the Master's article is that for the November, 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, a paid up dues card is required to participate in the election of lodge officers for 2011. This is a really important meeting and you should be present and voice your opinion in the selection. The future of your lodge is being decided with the officers you choose. **Bobel** 



# Trinity Lodge No. 710, F. & A. M.





Steve S. DeNayer, W.M.

Steve S. DeNayer (330) 966-8748 ......W.M.
Ronald M. Nave (330) 832-3002 ....... S.W.
J. Michael Paynter (330) 324-3669 ......J.W.
Clyde L. Roberts (330) 455-6494 ..... Sec.
Dennis P. Moriarty (330) 479-9722 ..... Tyler

Mailing address:

836 Market Ave. North

836 Market Ave. North Canton, OH 44702-1021

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Thurs., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting, Fellow Craft Degree Mon., Oct. 11 – Columbus Day
Fri. and Sat., Oct. 15 and 16 – Grand Lodge
Sat., Oct. 16 – National Boss Day
Thurs., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting, Master Mason Degree Sun., Oct. 24 –United Nations Day
Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween
Thurs., Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. – Annual Meeting, Election of Officers

We had a great evening of food and fellowship at our annual memorial and awards night. I would again like to thank Wor .Bro. Johnnie Jones for preparing an excellent meal.

As I said last month, we will be conferring degrees at both October stated meetings to fulfill our code obligations. We will need the assistance of the Fellow Craft Team at the Master Mason Degree conferral on October 21st.

Masonic Funeral Services were conducted on September 7<sup>th</sup> for Brother Floyd Snyder. We were also saddened to hear of the death of Brother Thomas P. Marino. We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to their families.

Some of the lodge officers will be traveling to Dayton to represent Trinity No. 710 at the 201<sup>st</sup> communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Reports on legislation and the state of the craft will be given at our annual meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. That will also be our annual election of officers. If anyone is interested in serving Trinity in the coming year, please let me know. If Trinity is going to continue on, we need brethren willing to serve as officers.

Don't forget that dues are also due by the annual meeting.

Steve, Worshipful Master





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Gary Gruber, Monarch

Gary Gruber (330) 966-2921 ......Monarch Kevin Sanders (330) 622-1966 ......Chief Justice Bruce Vance (330) 484-6630 ... Master of Ceremonies

Mailing Address

Office: (330) 588-8323 E-mail: nazirgrotto123@aol.com

1717 6th Street S.W Canton. OH 44706 Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Thurs., Oct. 7, 4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. - Spaghetti Dinner

Mon., Oct. 11 - Columbus Day

7:00 p.m. - Officers Board Meeting

Wed., Oct. 13, 6:00 p.m. - Attitude Adjustment

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:15 p.m. - Nazirettes Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Nazir Grotto Stated Meeting

Sat., Oct. 16 - National Boss Day

Sat., Oct. 23, 8:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. - Turtle Dance, Refreshments Provided after Turtle Initiation & Reconfirmations

Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day

Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween

# Saturday Mornings 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Breakfast at the Grotto!

Pancakes, Waffles, Sausage, Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Complimentary Coffee & Juice

## **Monarchs Message**

It's been a grand old summer and we had fun but now it is time to get back to work. We will start work nights in October and I hope you can come out and help. I would really like to see some new faces this year.

The Dinners and breakfasts have been going great! We just seem to get more people all of the time. Thank you to the Stewards and the volunteers who have worked so hard and not forgetting the Nazirettes who are always there for us. Thanks to all of you, we "kicked butt!" We will be looking for new Officers to fill positions for next year. If you are interested please call Art or myself.

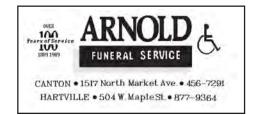
As always go back to your Blue Lodge. Also please donate to the Canton Masonic Association if possible when you pay your dues.

Thank you for your Support.

Gary Gruber, Monarch 2010

As you approach Cleveland Avenue from 55th Street near North Canton, there is a sign warning it is unlawful to post a sign there!

Bobel





# Canton Chapter No. 84, Royal Arch Masons





W. Steven Foutty, High Priest

W. Steven Foutty (330) 699-4671	High Priest
Robert Habony (330) 546-0975	King
Robert Smith (330) 477-8125	Scribe
Steve S. DeNayer (330) 966-8748	Secretary

#### Mailing address: 2180 Zircon St NE Canton, OH 44721-1737

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Mon., Oct. 11 - Columbus Day
Sat., Oct. 16 - National Boss Day
Tues., Oct. 19, 7:00 p.m. - Stated Meeting
Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day
Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween

# A message from the King!

To keep Royal Arch Masonry strong and everlasting, we need the younger members to come forward and take over for the companions that got us this far. History has proven there is strength in numbers. The more companions we have show up, the less the load is for everyone. Don't give up on something you haven't tried.

Thank you

Robert Habony, King

# **McKinley Hartville Day**

Saturday, October 16, 2010, those Masons not attending Grand Lodge in Dayton may wish to visit the festivities at the intersection of Routes 43 and 619 in Hartville, Ohio while they celebrate the ties to the area of our 25<sup>th</sup> president, William McKinley. Many enjoyable and interesting events are planned, beginning at 8:00 a.m. that day. For those who may be interested, there are opportunities for Masons to volunteer at this event:

#### Events:

- (1) There will be a train ride excursion between Hartville and Mogadore leaving approximately every two hours beginning at 9:15 a.m., last ride at 3:15 p.m. The planning committee is looking for volunteers willing to spend a couple of hours collecting money and tickets for this ride.
  - (2) There will be a kiddy train ride which also needs volunteer ticket and money takers.
- (3) From 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. there will be antique appraisals for a nominal fee and again, money collectors will be needed.

The Chairperson for this event is, Karen Koch of the Congress Lake Club. Please urge any of your members who believe they might like to offer their services and help at this event to contact Karen Koch directly for further details. Karen's numbers are: cell phone (330) 671-6216 or her work number is (330) 877-9318 x 145. E-mail address: communications@congresslakeclub.com

Your assistance is greatly appreciated by all involved with this terrific event.

Fraternally, Jim Fidler



# Canton Council No. 35, Royal & Select Masons





Frederick Memmer, Master

#### Mailing Address:

2180 Zircon St. NE Canton, OH 44721-1737

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Mon., Oct. 11 - Columbus Day
Sat., Oct. 16 - National Boss Day
Tues., Oct. 19, 7:45 p.m. - Stated Meeting
Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day
Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween

Our October meeting will be awards night. We have three council members eligible to receive fifty year awards. They are: Robert Saeger, Earl Blazer and Richard D. Smith. Please come out and support them and all of our York Rite award winners. Also please remember our sick and shut-ins and the men and women serving our country where ever they may be.

Rick Memmer, Illustrious Master

# York Rite Brotherly Love

The Lighter Side of Masonry

Compiled by: Stewart M. L. Pollard

With only two Commanderies of Knights Templar, there is no Grand Commandery in the State of Delaware. The Delaware Commanderies are chartered by and work directly under the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the U.S.A. Every so often, there is a move to have the Delaware Commanderies placed under the jurisdiction of the Grand Commandery of Maryland. At one Grand Encampment session, when such a proposal was presented, a Delaware Sir Knight effectively and eloquently spoke in opposition. He closed his argument with these words: "While we have a deep and abiding love for our Brethren in Maryland, that doesn't mean that we want to sleep with them."

The motion was defeated.







# Canton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar





W. Dan Jones, Commander

W. Dan Jones (330) 364-3245	Commander
Robert Habony (330) 546-0975	Generalissimo
William D. Stratton (330) 628-1287	' Captain General
Randall L. Hahn (330) 493-1942	Recorder

Mailing Address: 836 Market Ave. North Canton, OH 44702-1021

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Fri. and Sat., Oct. 8 and 9 – Grand Commandery Mon., Oct. 11 – Columbus Day Mon., Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m. – Degree Practice Sat., Oct. 16 – National Boss Day Tues., Oct. 19, 8:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting Sun., Oct. 24 – United Nations Day Mon., Oct. 25, 7:00 p.m. – Degree Practice Sun., Oct. 31 – Halloween Mon., Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m. – Degree Practice

Sir Knights, we have degree practice and degree work starting in October. The drill team is still having practices and if you wish to participate, come out and join us. No special dress, only a smile. November and December we have been called to post the colors at various blue lodges and in January, the district inspections begin.

Past Commander Richard Snider, Sr. has been elected President of C.T.A. for 2010/2011. We wish him good fortune in his new responsibilities.

Our District Eye Foundation chairman, Past Commander, Charles Ebright, has been working diligently in his goals. Your support in contributing to the foundation by becoming a life member is earnestly sought. The cost is a minimum one time only, \$30.00 donation. Information is available at the Sentinel's desk.

Grand Commandry will be meeting October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. If at all possible, the officers should try to attend this important evening. Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> the drill teams will be tested for the best in the state. Our drill team has been practicing and has become that "mark of fame team" that Canton Commandry is known for.

Past Commander, Larry J. Legros, donated his full uniform and sword to the Commandry. As a memento of his donation he will be presented a lifetime Eye Foundation certificate or a contribution will be given in his name. This is done at no expense to the Commandry.

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# Delta Chapter No. 539, Order of the Eastern Star Motto: Masonic Family - The Ties That Bind





Jodi Sproul Worthy Matron

Jim Groetz Worthy Patron

Jodi Sproul (330) 665-3745	Worthy Matron
Jim Groetz (330) 875-3555	Worthy Patron
Patricia Slatzer (330) 484-	1548Secretary
Jane Erickson (330) 244-1	1982Sunshine

#### Mailing address: 1034 Lillian St. S.W. Canton, OH 44706

Visit our web site at: www.cantonfreemasons.com

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Sat., Oct. 2, 1:00 p.m. - Past Grand Matron's & Patron's, School of Instruction 7:30 p.m. - Delta Chapter Installation of Officers

Mon., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m. - Practice for First Meeting

Tues., Oct. 5, 10:00 a.m. – Auxiliary Meeting

Fri., Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, (long form)

Sat., Oct. 9, 1:00 p.m. - Worthy Grand Patron's School of Instruction

Mon., Oct. 11 – Columbus Day

Sat., Oct. 16 – National Boss Day

Wed., Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. - Practice for Installation

Fri., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Initiation

Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day

Sun., Oct. 31 - Halloween

Fri., Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting

It's the start of a new term and boy, are we excited! After all, Delta Chapter will be in the spotlight this year with the new Worthy Grand Patron, Trevor Sproul. We will hit the ground running. The week after installation we'll attend the Worthy Grand Patron's School of Instruction. We hope everyone who can will show up to support our own Trevor. With petitions already submitted, we will have our first initiation right away. Officers please start cracking on those parts. One good thing about this, is we will have a great jump on the initiation for our inspection in April. My father and I are really looking forward to a fantastic term with Delta Chapter this year.

Our theme is "Masonic Family: the ties that bind." In recent years, there has been a push for people in the community to get to know our Masonic family with billboards and open

houses. This year we hope to help those even in our own organizations to know what other great opportunities and groups are out there in our Masonic Family. From the youth groups, to the ladies organizations, to a number of men's groups you can be a part of, just because you're part of this great order. We hope you will join us in all the fun we have planned for 2011.

# Star Love, Jodi & Jim Auxiliary

Delight Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, Continued on page 11

# FORMET-CLEVENGER 8 GORDON Funeral Home

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456-4766



Katherine Oesch, M. C. O.

# Daughters of Mokanna



### Mailing Address:

6272 Firestone Ave. N.E. North Canton, OH 44721-3309

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Tues., Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. - Stated Meeting, Election of Officers Mon., Oct. 11 – Columbus Day

Sat., Oct. 16 – National Boss Day

Sun., Oct. 24 - United Nations Day

Sun., Oct 31 - Halloween

Well, September is gone and it is hard to believe that October is upon us. I am enjoying the cool evenings and cooler days. I am a fall person and truly enjoy the beauty of the season. God outdoes himself with all the colors we are witnessing. This is the time of the year you should slow down and take a drive just to view the sights.

It is very hard for me to think that my year as M.C.O. is finally coming to a close. I want to thank all the officers who served with me this year. I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve Nazir Caldron. Election of officers for 2011 will take place in October. All daughters are encouraged to attend and please if you are willing to take an office let someone know of your wishes.

Supreme Session is in the past and was enjoyed by the 10 daughters who were able to attend. I will have a report of all the happenings for the October meeting.

Remember to think of our shut-ins and keep them in your prayers and thoughts. Hope to see you at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Katherine, M.C.O.

#### **Sunshine**

Get well cards were sent to P.M.C.O. Jane Erickson, P.M.C.O. Carol Jones, Louise DeNayer and Linda McGavern.

All daughters were saddened by the loss of Daughter Mary Welch. Please contact P.S.M.C.O. Lora Givler or P.M.C.O. Millie Thompson should you know of a daughter in need of a card or a visit.

## Lori, Sunshine

Snowbirds, do not forget to inform the Bulletin of your winter address change. Your Bulletin will be sent to you in the sum.



# Delta Chapter No. 539, Order of the Eastern Star

Continued from page 9

October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Auxiliary Dining Room. We need to set up the sales table and decide what Christmas items we want to buy or make. We will address cards for our shut-ins and have lunch around noon. We do hope you can make the meeting.

Carol Sunshine

A carnation bowl was sent to Linda McGavern at Mercy Medical (surgery); get well card was sent to Fred McGavern (surgery.)

Sympathy cards were sent to: Terry Welch and Kathy Berlyung (death of mother Mary Welch.)

One dozen yellow roses were sent to Phil and Dorothea Jones (50th wedding anniversary).

Jane Erickson, Sunshine

# Canton Commandery No. 38, Knights Templar

Continued from page 8

My e-mail address is jones@wilkshire.net. Hope to see you on the side lines for the Commandery practices and stated meetings.

Dan Jones, Commander

# **Editor's Message**

My brethren, in writing that check to pay those yearly dues to that Masonic organization, please remember to include a little something for the favorite charities your group supports, always keeping in mind that "charity begins at home" and your Masonic home is the Canton Masonic Temple. This beautiful old building is in need of every ones attention financially. You have read and listened to several programs presented in your lodge and in this publication regarding this money pinch, so there is no reason to state the exact figures and problems here again. What is important is that you help with whatever is comfortable with your financial structure. You may commit to a weekly, monthly or yearly pledge. You may drop extra change in the several jars located around the building. You may send a check to the Masonic Association directly but whatever you do, you are helping with the welfare and longevity of that beautiful building located at the corner of 9th Street and Market Avenue North, which is known as the Canton Masonic Temple, "your home away from home."

Your Editor, Bob







# 21st Masonic District Travelling Award





Senior Warden Gust Goutras

Past Master Don Mellon

Brother Robert Habony

Past Master Louis Beaver

William Peters, Jr. Warden, (not shown) Gust Goutras, Sr. Warden; Wor. Bro. Don Mellon; Bro. Robert Habony and Wor. Bro. Louis Beaver are showing off the earning of the coveted Traveling Award for attending other lodges in the 21st district over the past year. These Wm. McKinley members have traveled over the district for several years and have earned the respect of both their lodge and members of other lodges. "They're always on the sidelines ready to help with degree work or even sit in the chairs if asked." Way to go guys! Masonry is in good hands as long as we have men like these contributing and leading the way.

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# Masons say one thing, anti-Masons say another, just whom should I believe?



This article is presented to the non-Masonic doubters.

Masonry has been bombarded recently, and over the years, by anti-Masonic rhetoric on tv, internet and literature circulated from many self serving, want-to-be famous loud mouths, who obviously know very little about Masonry, its history or its brethren. Proving this lack of knowledge, let's draw from an article (abridged for Bulletin use) written by Roger Firestone entitled "Difficult Questions about Freemasonry" where he tackles many accusations about Masonry head on with facts, not fantasy.

The history of Freemasonry is well documented, and its major players include a vast number of contributors to society. These are men such as Washington, Truman and Churchill in politics; Goethe, Schiller and Conan Doyle in literature; Burl Ives, Ernest Borgnine and Gene Autry in the performing arts; Mozart, Haydn and Irving Berlin in music and on and on. Freemasons played essential roles in the civilization of the New World, taming the west (Kit Carson was a Freemason) freeing Latin America (Bolivar was a Mason as was Bernardo O'Higgins) and so on. Freemasons have established a vast array of charitable activities primarily focusing on the health field, such as the famous Shriners' Children's Hospitals for treatment of orthopedic problems and burns, the Scottish Rite speech disorder clinics, the Masonic cancer centers, the Tall Cedars' activities for muscular dystrophy and many others. Not to mention homes for the aged and even dormitory accommodations at the University of Texas.

Among the anti-Masons, one can count only a single president of the US, John Quincy Adams as anti-Masonic while Masons count thirteen presidents who were loyal Masons; two literary figures: Edgar Allan Poe and Charles Dickens as anti-Masonic but it is not clear whether Dickens was really an anti-Mason or one who simply felt that the Masons of his time were not living up to their standards and were therefore hypocrites. Almost no one else of any consequence in history or who has made a significant contribution to the humanities can be classified as anti-Masonic. The anti-Masons operate no charitable groups but engage in fund-raising only to support themselves. They sell books for profit, seek donations to keep their so called "ministries" operating on television and contribute nothing to society at large.

All of this is a matter of public record; these facts do not depend on ones ability to determine who is telling the truth. Furthermore, we have the experience of history to teach us what to believe of any group of "anti-" something-or-other, whether they may be anti-Semites, anti-Catholics, or anti-Masons. That historical experience has shown that those who single out any group, especially one different from the majority in society, for opprobrium and hatred, are generally not telling the truth about that group but are seeking to benefit themselves by stirring up the passions of the mob.

In other words, if we knew nothing of the Masons or of the anti-Masons, it would be difficult to know whom to believe. But we are not as ignorant as that. There are plenty of epistemological reasons to choose to believe that Masons are telling the truth, as opposed to accepting the word of the anti-Masons. One epistemological principle is known as



# Masons say one thing, anti-Masons say another, just whom should I believe?



# Continued from page 13

"Occam's Razor." This principle tells us to accept the simplest hypothesis that explains the known facts. The anti-Masons, when confronted with their own contradictions pile on ever more assumptions. Prove that "Lucifer" is not mentioned in the Symbolic Rite of the first three degrees and they will assert that it is the Scottish Rite that teaches "devil worship." Prove that there is no such thing in the 32 degrees and they will claim it is taught in the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. A denial by a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason will lead to the attribution of Satanism to the Knights Templar and so on. The simpler hypothesis is that there is no such "Satanic" nonsense in Freemasonry when given the conflict of assertions. "Occam's Razor" direct us to this choice. The anti-Masons also engage in circular reasoning. They claim that there is a great "Masonic conspiracy" to control the world. Show the fact of absents of any evidence of this, and they claim that the very lack of evidence is "proof" of the power of the conspiracy. Even Congressmen have engaged in such reasoning. You may remember the case of the "October surprise" investigation; where Tom Foley suggested that the very lack of evidence was what justified a Congressional hearing. An inability to reason against one's own prejudices is not unique to anyone especially the anti-Masons.

Anti-Masons, in discussing some of the more inflammatory allegations about Masonry, such as the worshiping of satanic or pagan gods, also assert that the vast majority of Masons are totally ignorant of the "real" nature of Masonry, which is revealed only to a few "high" Masons. Yet these anti-Masons, who are not Masons themselves, insist they themselves know these hidden secrets not known to most of the millions of active members of the Masonic fraternity. Is this a credible state of affairs?

In other words, there are very good reasons to believe that Masons, rather than anti-Masons are telling the truth about the Fraternity, based on the history of Freemasonry, the known character of those who have been Freemasons and the principles of epistemology. Of course, if one is ignorant of the history and background of a witness, as well as ignorant of the theory of knowledge, one is at the mercy of every smooth-talking mountebank and charlatan to come along. Why do you suppose the criminal defense lawyers seek the most uninformed jurors possible?

Because the internet is world wide and very fast, anti-Masonic web postings are very hard to pin down and stop because they can be coming from anywhere in the world. Also most anti-Masonic sites use anonymous names or attach themselves to valid signatures in the form of viruses. Hackers in Australia have been especially active for several years even intercepting valid Masonic traffic, issuing "Cancel" notices and replacing the material with anti-Masonic material and sending these postings in large numbers to newsgroups. The



evidence of those actions can be found at what used to be known as Deja News. Anti-Masons frequently allege that Masons are part of some worldwide criminal conspiracy. But when they are caught doing the same, what does it mean for the

Continued on page 15



# Masters, Wardens & Deacons Association of Stark County

#### TRESTLE BOARD

Mon., Oct.18, 7:30 p.m. – Stated Meeting Canton Temple Blue Lodge Room

Brethren if Masters, Wardens, & Deacons Association is to be a viable organization in which officers of all eight lodges can meet and discuss common problems, support each other and meet challenges which we should and could face together; we won't be around for very long? The last four meetings have not produced much, as a quorum of representatives has not been realized. I feel every Master should see that a representative be SO business present can conducted. Please consider this a plea to the eight lodges in Stark County.

Sincerely, Gordon L. Broome

# Just whom should I believe? Continued from page 14

credibility of their accusations? And why would anyone take the word of a source or group of sources that choose to be anonymous.

The matter of whom to believe is not one which requires hard thought to resolve.

## Your Editor, Bob



# **MARTELET RENTALS**

Housing with a smile
North Canton
Canton
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330-492-3689

### THE MASONIC BULLETIN

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