

The Foundation Light

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Money is the Root of All . . .

Building improvements.

Our beautiful, historic, purpose-built Lakewood Masonic Temple opened on October 1, 1916. In addition to the handsome limestone exterior and lavishly decorated interior spaces, our Temple incorporated modern technologies unique to that era.

Like it or not, that era has come and gone. Many upgrades were made over the decades; but, after more than a century, many of those upgrades are now past their “sell by” dates. For example, much of the interior lighting has evolved from low wattage incandescent to high wattage incandescent to fluorescent and most recently to LED, often requiring the purchase of new fixtures to accommodate the new technologies.

Our heating system has evolved in stages from two manually charged coal fired boilers to a single high efficiency natural gas boiler controlled by programmable thermostats.

In many areas new copper plumbing lines have replaced original galvanized steel pipes, some buried in masonry and plaster walls; but rest room sinks still need to be restored and faucets upgraded and made more accessible. Such mundane areas as our parking lot also need periodic maintenance.

However, even as we continue to undertake necessary “infrastructure” upgrades as available funds permit, we are turning more of our attention to accessibility improvements to accommodate aging members and guests. For example, in early January we will replace our 1960s era stand up water fountains with two-level fountains including bottle fillers. Additional hand rails are in the works for

various steps and ramps.

But all of this takes money. Over the years we’ve been blessed by the generosity of our donors, and now we need to call on our donors more than ever.

Will you help? Gifts and bequests to our Lakewood Masonic Foundation are deductible for federal income and estate taxes to the extent permitted by law. Donors who aren’t interested or don’t benefit from tax deductions should consider making gifts and/or bequests to our Lakewood Masonic Temple Endowment Fund or our Lakewood Masonic Temple Company Operating Fund. (As always, we encourage you to consult your legal and financial advisors for assistance in determining in what form and in what amount you should make any major gift or bequest.)

Every dollar helps to preserve, upgrade and operate our historic home. *Will you help?* You can make your donation by using the form on page 11.

12th Annual Lenten Fish Fries

- Open to the Public
- Every Friday February 20 through April 3
- Serving 4:30p to 7:30p
- Dine In or Take Out
- Basic Meals include fish, shrimp or pierogies plus two sides & beverage
- Live Music
- Building Tours
- Help meet the costs of preserving our historic home.

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New Ways to Donate to our Foundation

Nearly every Mason and Eastern Star who has been a member of our Lakewood Masonic Family has fond memories of his/her experiences. These memories are all the more vivid because of our beautiful Lakewood Masonic Temple, specially designed as a home uniquely capable of supporting our fraternal activities. Many of our members have gone the extra mile by making contributions above and beyond their annual dues. Amazon has ended its Amazon Smile program, but there are still several other new ways to donate to our Foundation.



Facebook users may donate through our Facebook page. Facebook does not charge a fee to our Lakewood Masonic Foundation or other not-for-profit organizations.



Starting in 2023, holders of traditional (not Roth) IRAs must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs) in the year they turn age 73. Distributions made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our Lakewood Masonic Foundation can count toward your required minimum distribution, subject to a collective limit of \$100,000 per year. Such distributions do not incur either federal income or estate taxes but also do not count as itemized deductions for tax purposes.



Donations can be made after death by naming The Lakewood Masonic Foundation as a beneficiary in your will, life insurance policy, IRA, TOD (Transfer on Death) account or the like, either as a fixed amount or a percentage. A will can be amended by codicils without having to be rewritten in its entirety. In matters such as these, you are best advised to discuss your intentions with an attorney and/or tax accountant.



Gifts may be in the form of cash, securities or property. Gifts of appreciated securities and/or charitable gift annuities can be especially beneficial to the donor. In matters such as these, you are best advised to discuss your intentions with an attorney and/or tax accountant.

Some employers have payroll deduction plans and/or matching gift programs for charitable giving. Check yours.

Gifts and bequests to our Lakewood Masonic Foundation (but not our Lakewood Masonic Temple Endowment Fund or our Lakewood Masonic Temple Company Operating Fund) are deductible for federal estate and income taxes to the extent permitted by law. As always, we encourage you to consult your legal and financial advisors for assistance in determining in what form and in what amount you should make any major gift or bequest.

[Note: Amazon has ended its AmazonSmile program. We are grateful to all who used this program to support our Foundation.]

The Foundation Light

published quarterly
by

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Clifton-Gaston Allen Lodge #664 F. & A. M.

Stated Meeting Second Thursday 7:30 p.m. • Special Fourth Thursday • www.cliftonallen664fam.org

Master's Message

December 2025 will consist of one meeting on Thursday 12/11/2025, starting at 7:30p. We look forward to seeing you!



Royal Arch Jewel

The jewel which every Royal Arch Mason is permitted to wear as a token of his connection with the Order. In America it is usually suspended by a scarlet ribbon to the button. In England it is to be worn pendant from a narrow ribbon on the left breast, the color of the ribbon varying with the rank of the wearer. It is of gold, and consists of a triple tau cross within a triangle, the whole circumscribed by a circle. This jewel is eminently symbolic, the *tau* being the mark mentioned by Ezekiel (ix, 4), by which those were distinguished who were to be saved from the wicked who were to be slain; the *triple tau* is symbolic of the peculiar and more eminent separation of Royal Arch Masons from the profane; the *triangle*, or *delta*, is a symbol of the sacred name of God, known only to those who are thus separated; and the *circle* is a symbol of the eternal life, which is the great dogma taught by Royal Arch Masonry. Hence, by this jewel, the Royal Arch Mason makes the profession of his separation from the unholy and profane, his reverence for God, and his belief in the future and eternal life. In the United States of America, the emblem worn by Royal Arch Masons without the Chapter is a Keystone, on which are the letters H, T, W, S, S, T, K, S, arranged in a circle and within the circle may or should be his mark.

—From Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1946.



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Robert D. Bruce Bey, PM

Robert D. Hein, PM

Committed to the Craft



Lakewood Lodge #601 F. & A. M.

Stated Meetings Second & Fourth Mondays 7:30 p.m. • www.lakewoodfreemasons.com

Red Apron Lodges

Under the English Constitution nineteen Lodges are privileged to recommend one of their subscribing members each year to serve as Grand Steward. These are known as *Red Apron Lodges* because the English Grand Stewards' aprons are lined and edged with crimson and the collars are of the same color. The Lodge numbers and names are as follows:

1. Grand Master's Lodge.
2. Lodge of Antiquity.
4. Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge.
5. Saint George's and Corner Stone Lodge.
6. Lodge of Friendship.
8. British Lodge.
14. Tuscan Lodge.
21. Lodge of Emulation.
23. Globe Lodge.
26. Castle Lodge of Harmony.
28. Old King's Arms Lodge.
29. Saint Alban's Lodge.
46. Old Union Lodge.
58. Lodge of Felicity.
60. Lodge of Peace and Harmony.
91. Lodge of Regularity.
99. Shakespeare Lodge.
197. Jerusalem Lodge.
259. Prince of Wales Lodge.

The first mention in the English records of any particular method of selecting the Grand Stewards is in 1775 when a statement is made that the twelve Stewards, that being then the number, came from eight Lodges. In 1813 there were nine *Red Apron Lodges*. The Grand Master in 1815 nominated eighteen Lodges to return one Grand Steward each. In 1904 the Old King's Arms Lodge, which had lost its privilege in 1852 and whose place had been taken by the Old Union Lodge, was restored to the list, from which time the number has been nineteen.

— From Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1946.

Grand Stewards Lodge

According to the Constitutions of England, the past and present Grand Stewards constitute a Lodge, which has no number, but is registered in the Grand Lodge books at the head of all other Lodges. It is represented in the Grand Lodge by its Master, Wardens, and Past Masters, but has no power of making Freemasons . . .

— From Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1946.

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Senior Steward

Jorge Rodriguez

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Pro Tem

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Tyler

Thomas J. Wiczorek, PM

Lodge Education Officer

Brian F. Peebles, PM

Trustees

Thomas J. Wiczorek, PM

Kenneth May III, PM

Christopher J. McDade, PM

Committed to the Craft



Ann Rutledge Chapter #453 O. E. S.

Stated Meetings First & Third Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. • www.annrutledge453oes.org

Matron's Message

The members of Ann Rutledge Chapter have all been installed (but it took two meetings to get it done!). All kidding aside, both Bob and I are happy to have this opportunity to serve our Chapter again; and we all thank Elinor and Harold for a wonderful year.

We have already donated \$2,000 to the K-9 unit of the Lakewood Police Department. Looking ahead we hope to have speakers from Camp Ho Mita Koda, a camp for diabetic children. Warm up your vocal chords for a Christmas sing-along, and look forward to our Valentine's Day meeting.

We still do the Around the Town lunch or dinner monthly, and we always look forward to seeing our members at our meetings.

Please stay safe and healthy this year; and, just a reminder – when the Lakewood City Schools are off because of weather, we are too. We want our members to be safe!

Have a very Merry Christmas and great New Year.

Dates to Remember

Dec 3	Stated Meeting – Camp Ho Mita Koda Speaker
Dec 17	Stated Meeting – Christmas Party
Jan 7	Stated Meeting – Obligation – Initiation Practice – Happy New Year
Jan 21	Stated Meeting
Feb 4	Stated Meeting – Valentine's Day – Initiation Practice
Feb 18	NO MEETING – Ash Wednesday
Mar 4	Stated Meeting
Mar 18	Stated Meeting

Auxiliary

Around the Town meets at noon for lunch. Come to our meeting and find out where we will go next.

Please report sunshine, good or bad, to our Worthy Matron Cathie Vasko or our Associate Conductress Patricia Muntz.



Worthy Matron

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Electa

Elinor Bayse, PM

Warder

Wanda E. King, PM

Sentinel

Barbara Kovalchik

Organist Pro Tem

Terry Selby, PM

Faith is the Fabric



Cunningham Chapter #187 R. A. M.

Stated Convocation Third Wednesday 7:30 p.m. • www.cunningham187ram.org

Past Master

An honorary Degree usually conferred on the Master of a Lodge at his installation into office. In this Degree the necessary instructions are conferred respecting the various ceremonies of the Order, such as installations, processions, the laying of corner-stones, etc. When a Brother, who has never before presided, has been elected the Master of a Lodge, an emergent Lodge of Past Masters, consisting of not less than three, is convened, and all but Past Masters retiring, the Degree is conferred upon the newly elected officer.

Some form of ceremony at the installation of a new Master seems to have been adopted at an early period after the revival. In the "manner of constituting a new Lodge," as practiced by the Duke of Wharton, who was Grand Master in 1723, the language used by the Grand Master when placing the candidate in the chair is given, and he is said to use "some other expressions that are proper and usual on that occasion, *but not proper to be written* (Constitutions, 1738, page 150). Whence we conclude that there was an esoteric ceremony. Often the rituals tell us that this ceremony consisted only in the outgoing Master communicating certain modes of recognition to his successor. And this actually, even at this day, constitutes the essential ingredient of the Past Master's Degree.

The Degree is in the United States also conferred in Royal Arch Chapters, where it succeeds the Mark Master's Degree. The conferring of this Degree, which has no historical connection with the rest of the Degrees, in a Chapter, arises from the following circumstance: Originally, when Chapters of Royal Arch Masonry were under the government of Lodges in which the Degree was then always conferred, it was part of the regulations that no one could receive the Royal Arch Degree unless he had previously presided in the Lodge as Master.

When the Chapters became independent, the regulation could not be abolished, for that would have been an innovation; the difficulty has, therefore, been obviated by making every candidate for the Degree of Royal Arch a Past Virtual Master before his exaltation. Under the English Constitution this practice was forbidden in 1826, but seems to have lingered on in some parts until 1850. "The dis-use of the Virtual Past Master's Degree or Chair Degree in the British Isles has in no way interfered with its continued use in the United States, especially in the older Jurisdictions whose Freemasonry attests its Antient origin (see the footnote on page 145, volume xxviii, 1915, *Transactions*, Quator Coronati Lodge, by Brother W. J. Chetwode Crawley). . . .

For several years past the question has been agitated in some of the Grand Lodges of the United States, whether this Degree is within the Jurisdiction of Symbolic or Royal Arch Masonry. The explanation of its

(continued on page 10)



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Master of the Third Veil
Thomas D. Standen, PHP

Master of the Second Veil
Christen A. Hoyer, PHP

Master of the First Veil
Philip R. Bade

Guard
John D. Mahoney

Chaplain
Damion E. Chatmon

Education Officer
Ronald J. Bokan, Jr., KYCH

An Inspiration for Good



Lakewood Council #125 R. & S. M.

Stated Assembly First Wednesday 7:30 p.m. • www.lakewood125rsm.org

Vault, Secret

As a symbol, the *Secret Vault* does not present itself in the first Degrees of Freemasonry. It is found only in the advanced Degrees, such as the Royal Arch of all the Rites, where it plays an important part. Doctor Oliver, in his *Historical Landmarks* (volume ii, page 434), gives, while referring to the building of the second Temple, the following general detail of the Masonic legend of this vault:

"The Foundations of the Temple were opened, and cleared from the accumulation of rubbish, that a level might be procured for the commencement of the building. While engaged in excavations for this purpose, three fortunate Sojourners are said to have discovered our ancient Stone of Foundation, which had been deposited in the secret crypt by Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty, to prevent the communication of ineffable secrets to profane or unworthy persons. The discovery having been communicated to the Prince, Prophet, and Priest of the Jews, the stone was adopted as the chief cornerstone of the re-edified building, and thus became, in a new and more expressive sense, the type of a more excellent Dispensation. An avenue was also accidentally discovered, supported by seven pairs of pillars, perfect and entire, which, from their situation, had escaped the fury of the flames that had consumed the Temple, and the desolation of war that had destroyed the city. The Secret Vault, which had been built by Solomon, as a secure depository for certain secrets that would inevitably have been lost without some such expedient for their preservation, communicated by a subterranean avenue with the king's palace; but at the destruction of Jerusalem the entrance having been closed by the rubbish of falling buildings, it had been discovered by the appearance of a keystone amongst the foundations of the Sanctum Sanctorum. A careful inspection was then made, and the invaluable secrets were placed in safe custody."

To support this legend, there is no historical evidence and no authority except that of the Talmudic writers. It is clearly a mythical symbol, and as such we must accept it. We cannot altogether reject it, because it is so intimately and so extensively connected with the symbolism of the Lost and the Recovered Word, that if we reject the theory of the Secret Vault, we must abandon all of that symbolism, and with it the whole of the science of Masonic symbolism. Fortunately, there is ample evidence in the present appearance of Jerusalem and its subterranean topography, to remove from any tacit and, as it were, conventional assent to the theory, features of absurdity or impossibility.

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Marshal

Pro Tem

Sentinel

Pro Tem

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KYCH

Education Officer

Pro Tem



Holy Grail Commandery #70 K. T.

Stated Conclave First Thursday 7:30 p.m. • www.holygrail70kt.org

Commander's Message

Sir Knights:

As we enter the Holiday season and celebrate the birth of our Blessed Savior, we will have continued our tradition of conferring the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and Order of Malta in full form. As I write this, we are due to have two candidates for the Order of the Temple in March, which means continued growth for our Commandery. We also currently have no Past Commanders in our progressive line, which is good news for the health of the Commandery.

As noted below, there will be no Conclave on Thursday, 1/1/26 in observance of New Year's Day.

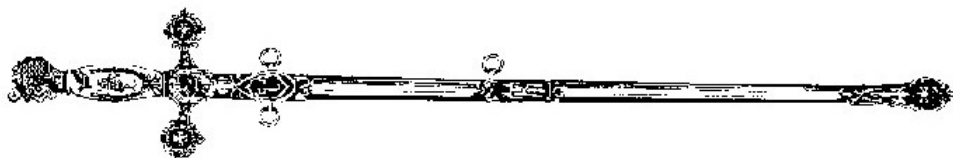
Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to you all!

Upcoming Conclaves at Holy Grail Commandery No. 70:

Thu Dec 4	7:30p	Stated Conclave – Order of Malta (Dinner 6:00p)
Sat Dec 6	4:00p	Light Up Lakewood LMT Information Table – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Thu Jan 1		NO CONCLAVE – HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Thu Feb 5	7:30p	Stated Conclave – Full Form Opening Practice (Dinner 6:00p)
Thu Mar 5	7:30p	Stated Conclave – Order of the Temple (Dinner 6:00p)
Sat Mar 21	2:00p	Special Conclave – Order of the Temple Inspection

Events in the North Central Division:

Sun Dec 14	2:00p	North Central CTA Christmas Observance - Wadsworth MT
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Emmanuel – No Greater Love



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† Cleveland Assembly #15 S. O. O. B.

Stated Meeting First Thursday 7:30 p.m. • www.cleveland15soob.org

President's Message

My Dear Sisters:

It is so hard to believe that my term as Worthy President is now over. I wish to thank everyone for their assistance and support during my time in office.

During our December meeting we held our elections for a new president which will be announced at the next article.

Our combined Inspection with Columbus went well considering all the obstacles we had to overcome. Thank you to Elinor for driving myself and Jane down and back. Thank you to Jan Sutter, Debbie and Ellen for making to trip with a hired driver. Janice, we missed you; but are very grateful that you stayed away and did not share your shingles. We had the joy of initiating our newest sister, (Mrs. Shannon) Cynthia Konold.

Now for our upcoming schedule as follows:

- Jan 1 NO MEETING – HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Jan 8 6:00p Dinner
7:30p Stated Meeting & Installation of Officers
(Wearing of robes mandatory)
- Feb 5 6:00p Dinner with Commandery
7:30p Stated Meeting
- Mar 5 6:00p Dinner with Commandery
7:30p Stated Meeting
- Mar 21 2:00p Holy Grail Commandery Inspection

Lunch Bunch dates to be announced.

My best wishes for a successful year for our new Worthy President. My hope is that everyone had a great Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year Holiday season.

May our New Year and new beginning of this coming year be filled with hope, joy and sisterly love.



Worthy President

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Most Worthy Oracle

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(Mrs. John) Janet Sutter, PP

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(Mrs. Ralph) Pamela Sheetz

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Color Bearer

Pro Tem

Mistress of the Wardrobe

Pro Tem

Daughter of the Household

Pro Tem

Inner Guard

(Mrs. George) Ellen Wadge, PP

Outer Guard

Pro Tem

Past Master

(continued from page 6)

introduction into Chapters, just given, manifestly demonstrates that the jurisdiction over it by Chapters is altogether an assumed one. The Past Master of a Chapter is only a *quasi* or seeming Past Master; the true and legitimate Past Master is the one who has presided over a Symbolic Lodge.

Brother R. F. Gould (*Masonic Monthly*, July, 1882) says in regard to the Degrees of Past Master and the Royal Arch, "The supposition has much to recommend it, that the connection of the secrets of the Royal Arch, is the earliest form in which any esoteric teaching was specially linked with the incidents of Lodge Mastership, or in other words, that the Degree of Royal Arch was the complement of the Masters Grade. Out of this was ultimately evolved the Degree of Installed Master, a ceremony unknown in the Modern System until the first decade of the nineteenth century, and of which I can trace no sign among the Antients until the growing practice of conferring the Arch among Brethren not legally qualified to receive it, brought about by the *constructive* passing through the Chair, which by qualifying candidates not otherwise eligible, naturally entailed the introduction of a ceremony, additional to the simple forms known to Payne, Anderson, and Desaguliers." . . .

The usual jewel of a Past Master in the United States is a pair of compasses extended to sixty degrees on the fourth part of a circle with a sun in the center. In England it was formerly the square on a quadrant, but is at present the square with the forty-seventh problem of Euclid engraved on a silver plate suspended within it. This latter design is also adopted in Pennsylvania.

—From Mackey's *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, 1946.

Would you like to advertise in
The Foundation Light?

The Foundation Board will be pleased to consider business card and larger size advertisements.

For advertising rates, please contact:

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December

3 Wed 1:30p Ann Rutledge OES
3 Wed 7:30p Lakewood R&SM
4 Thu 7:30p Holy Grail KT
4 Thu 7:30p Cleveland Beauceant
8 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM

10 Wed 7:00p LMTC Board of Trustees
11 Thu 7:30p Clifton-Allen F&AM
17 Wed 1:30p Ann Rutledge OES
17 Wed 6:30p Cunningham RAM
22 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM

January

7 Wed 1:30p Ann Rutledge OES
7 Wed 7:30p Lakewood R&SM *Inspection*
8 Thu 7:30p Clifton-Allen F&AM
8 Thu 7:30p Cleveland Beauceant *Installation*
12 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM

14 Wed 7:00p LMTC Board of Trustees
21 Wed 1:30p Ann Rutledge OES
21 Wed 7:30p Cunningham RAM *Inspection*
22 Thu 7:30p Clifton-Allen F&AM
26 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM
28 Wed 7:00p LMF Board of Trustees

February

4 Wed 1:30p Ann Rutledge OES
4 Wed 7:30p Lakewood R&SM
5 Thu 7:30p Holy Grail KT
5 Thu 7:30p Cleveland Beauceant
9 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM
11 Wed 7:00p LMTC Board of Trustees

12 Thu 7:30p Clifton-Allen F&AM
18 Wed 7:30p Cunningham RAM
20 Fri 4:30p Fish Fry Fundraiser
23 Mon 7:30p Lakewood F&AM
26 Thu 7:30p Clifton-Allen F&AM
27 Fri 4:30p Fish Fry Fundraiser

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