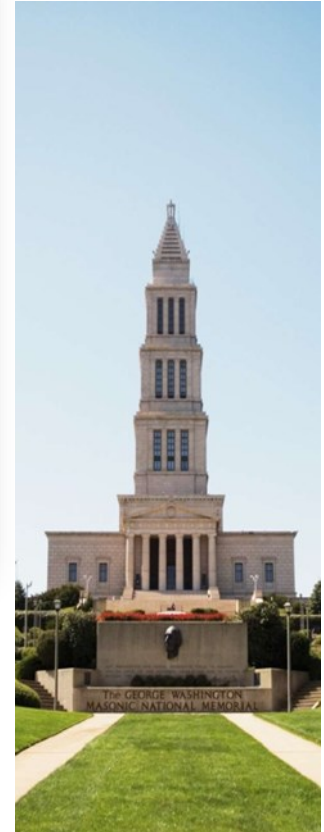


Proctorville Lodge #550

February 1, 2024
Volume 3, Issue 3

The Lamp Post:

The Pillar of Light



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024

Front (L-R): Tyler Perry, DDGM & Chaplin; James Edward Pine, Tyler; Jim Mann, PDDGM & Secretary; John Allen, JS; Daniel Preece, SS; Bill Wood, Trustee; Wilson Shoemaker, PDDGM, Installing Officer **BACK (L-R):** Ray Newby, Junior Deacon; Nathan White, Junior Warden; Jon Anson, WM; Jamie Akers, Senior Warden; David Perry, Senior Deacon; Jimmy Perry, LEO; NOT SHOWN: Larry Thompson, WB, Treasurer; Glenn Galloway, Trustee and Mike Riley, Trustee

A WORD, FROM OUR WORSHIPFUL MASTER,

By WM Jon Anson

Welcome, Brethren! I am both humbled and proud to have been given this opportunity to serve as Master of this historical Lodge. It is unnerving to preside over a Lodge that has, and does, exemplify a deep knowledge and understanding in the precepts of Freemasonry. The Brothers preceding me have proven both their leadership skills and knowledge in serving as a WM, not only in this Lodge but in the various positions that they have held in the past. This is a daunting task but I will work hard to live up to the standards that have been set by my predecessors. Finally, I hope that you will enjoy our new Newsletter format which I will refer to as our "NEWSLETTER PREVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2024."





PROCTORVILLE 550 AWARDS NIGHT

While it has not yet been finalized, Proctorville Lodge 550 Awards Night has been tentatively scheduled for Saturday evening, April 20th. Several awards for members with 50 years or more of service are slated to be presented. Also, nominations for the

CAPTION—LEFT: Dr. Bill Dingus, Recipient of our Outstanding Citizen's Service Award.

annual scholarship award and for individual member awards will be accepted through April 1st. The scholarship application is already available on the new web page, www.proctorvillelodge550.org, and paper applications are available at the Lodge or by mail. If you need a form mailed to you, please call or text Bro. Larry Thompson, 304-972-5786.

PROCTORVILLE LODGE #550 INSPECTION This February 17th, 2024

The annual inspection of Proctorville Lodge #550 F&AM will be conducted on Saturday evening, 6-9 PM

THIS NEW TRESTLEBOARD VERSION NOW COMING TO YOU THREE TIMES A YEAR!

ISSUE#3 – MARCH 1, 2024

ISSUE#4 – JULY 1, 2024

ISSUE#5 – NOV. 1, 2024

PROCTORVILLE LODGE #550 & STAR

MASTERS CALENDAR FOR 2023-24

NOTE: All Lodge "Stated Meetings" are held on the first (1st) Thursday of each month.
Dinner at 6:30pm and Lodge will be held at 7:30 pm

Lodge Inspection by Dist. Office	2/17/24
The White Apron Lodge Degree	TBA
Deadline - Scholarship Applications	4/01/24
Awards Night	4/20/24
The Rusty Nail	5/09/24
The Table Lodge	6/22/24
The Wild Boar Degree	8/03/24
Milton Pumpkin Festival	TBA
Bob Evans Festival	TBA
Chesapeake Octoberfest	TBA
Proctorville Festival	TBA
Proctorville Christmas Parade	TBA
Lodge Election of Officers	11/07/24
Lodge/STAR Christmas Dinner	TBA

In Memory of our Brothers

JAMES EVANS, 70, June 16, 2023- Raised: Aug. 17, 1981 - Years of Service: 31+

JOHNNY KUHN, 70, July 20, 2023- Raised: July 15, 1977- Years of Service: 46+

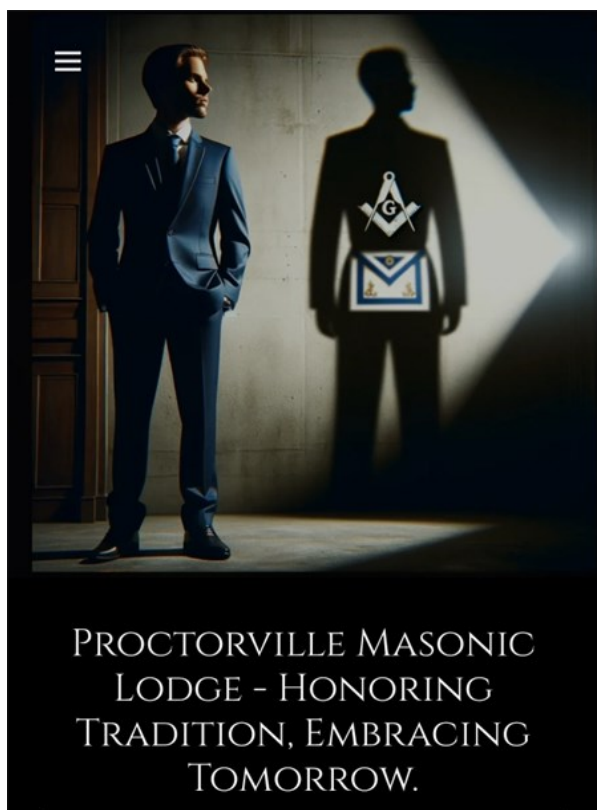
JACK MEENACH, 97, Aug. 1, 2023 – Raised : June 26, 1980 - Years of Service: 43+

GALLEY VERNON MILLS, 91, Feb. 4, 2023 - Raised: Nov. 12, 1970 - Years of Service: 52+

LANCE PAULEY, 77, July 14, 2023 - Raised: June 17, 1989 - Years of Service: 34+

LARRY WILKES, 80, Dec. 25, 2023. - Raised: May 29, 1980 - Years of Service: 43+





Web Front Page: www.proctorvillelodge550.org

Proctorville #550 launches it's new WEB Page, by WB Larry Thompson

Thanks to our Brothers Daniel Preece and Jackie Arrowood, the new Proctorville Lodge web page is up and running. As of this writing, the site is being fine-tuned but is already garnering praise and acceptance by the members. The site features easy access to the Master's Calendar, Grand View from the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and pages devoted to Teresa Chapter 257 Order of the Eastern Star. The Web address for the new site is www.proctorvillelodge550.org and the old site is in the process of being discontinued. I think it's one of the nicest web sites that I have experienced and it is easy to use, intuitive, and easy to navigate.

You will be able to look at our "Master's Calendar" showing all of our scheduled events and activities through the year; chat online with other brothers; and have the ability to send questions about needed information related to the Lodge, etc. There is almost no limit to the information and other things going on in our Lodge.

This web page shall serve as our communication hub to all parts of the operation of the Lodge such as:

1. Electronic Trestle Board: that displays the **"The Master's Calendar"** and all of the upcoming events for the coming month for both the Masonic Lodge and the STAR.
2. Robo Calls - Will direct communications via e-mail, texting, or

specialized groups of Brothers (committees, etc.) for important or urgent messages.

3. Masonic Scuttlebutt: Our Masonic Chat Room
4. In-lodge messaging application/s (includes the capability to reach/communicate with all brothers via text messaging, e-mailing, telephone, & chat room features)
5. BricksMasons.com – A retail supplier link of all Masonic material & supplies for purchase.

How these changes will affect you:

We are going from one newsletter per year to three newsletters per year in a different and shorter format, which will also reduce the number of pictures that were included previously in the old format. However, you will be able to access many, if not all, pictures that were taken for those events by accessing our new web-site. There will be a link to Instagram (no charge) that enables you to see many more pictures not originally included in the newsletter.

Crafting Unity: Elevating Communication in Our Masonic Lodge, By Daniel Preece, S. Steward

Greetings, brethren and friends. In this edition of our newsletter, we focus on the crucial role of communication in enhancing the unity and effectiveness of our Masonic Lodge. As we embark on this journey of improvement, let us reflect on both the challenges we face and the steps we are taking to overcome them.

Our fraternity, a vibrant assembly of individuals seeking moral and spiritual growth, relies heavily on effective communication to maintain its cohesiveness and purpose. My recent initiation into this brotherhood has allowed me to view our digital presence and communication strategies from both an outsider's and a member's perspective, revealing areas where I'm confident we can significantly improve.

The digital landscape of our Lodge, a key gateway for engaging current and potential members, has presented notable challenges. Our presence on social media, particularly Facebook, has been fragmented and outdated, with some pages not updated for years. This lack of coordination and current information hinders our ability to present a unified, dynamic image of our Lodge. Our website, while functional, does not reflect the vibrancy of our brotherhood, and the scarcity of recent updates fails to convey the depth of our community engagement and the personal growth opportunities we offer.

Internally, we've grappled with issues of information dissemination within the Lodge. The absence of a central, easily accessible calendar has led to last-minute additions and updates, discrepancies between brothers on what event is when, and information attempting to be spread via word-of-mouth which rarely ends up being 100% accurate. A significant portion of our communication has been confined to the Lodge premises, limiting access for members planning their involvement from home. All of these issues resulted in lower event attendance and reduced member engagement.

To address these challenges, our strategy involves two key missions.

This involves developing a more accessible and dynamic calendar system and ensuring timely, accurate information sharing to improve event planning and participation. This will also include implementing strategies to coordinate the dissemination of these events and information through multiple digital and physical mediums. Enhancing our internal communication also means fostering stronger connections between lodges, encouraging camaraderie and collaboration.

Our second mission is to revitalize our public narrative. It is essential that we present our Lodge not as a relic of the past but as a living, active community pillar. We will achieve this by showcasing our commitment to personal development, our involvement in charitable activities, and the positive impact we have on individuals and the community. Highlighting these aspects will not only garner respect for Freemasonry but also attract those seeking to join our ranks.

As we forge ahead, your participation and commitment to these goals are invaluable. We invite each member to contribute to this transformative process. By working together to enhance our internal and external communications, we not only strengthen our brotherly bonds but also extend the reach and influence of our ancient and noble craft. Let us unite in this endeavor to ensure our Lodge's enduring presence and impact for generations to come.

From the Secretary's Cave:

As we enter a new year, let's make a belated New Year's resolution: to be more active in our Lodge! My first year as Lodge Secretary, our attendance averaged more than forty brothers per meeting. The District Deputy of that time said Proctorville 550's attendance was greater than any of the other seventeen lodges in the 12th Masonic District! He had me show the attendance sheets to prove our attendance. Now seventeen years later, we are averaging fewer than twenty of the brethren in attendance at our meetings!

Attending meetings will enable you to develop closer relationships within your lodge that may last throughout the rest of your (hopefully long) life! As you "increase in knowledge, you will improve in social intercourse." This should be the ultimate goal of Masons, to assist in helping your Lodge, your community, and your nation.

Fraternally,

Jim Mann PDDGM
Secretary, Proctorville 550

**Lodge Email: jhowellmann@gmail.com
Proctorville Lodge #550**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 483 Proctorville, OH 45669

THANK YOU !

THANK YOU..... Brother!

Thank you Brother Jackie Arrowood for your selfless work for the many years that you labored to keep our Lodge's Web-site in proper working order, and making it relevant to the ever changing demands of the technical revolution. We are most hopeful that you will continue to provide your technical prowess and insight to our Lodge by any means you are able. You are, and have been, invaluable to all concerned! AGAIN, THANK YOU!

RETENTION, DID YOU KNOW?

THE TOP 14 REASONS: What men value/want from Freemasonry?

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Fellowship | 11. Brotherly love and fellowship |
| 2. Connections | 12. Connecting with good men and establishing a good relationship |
| 3. Education | 13. Personal growth and development (building self-confidence) |
| 4. Mentorship | 14. Being useful to others & relieving the suffering of others, or making a difference" |
| 5. Tools for Leadership | |
| 6. A sense of belonging | |
| 7. Opportunity to give back | |
| 8. Charity | |
| 9. Prestige | |
| 10. A set of shared ideas to live by; | |

God, patriotism & family

Renewed Masonic Focus, by Tyler Perry - District Deputy Grand Master (12th District)

Brethren, upon your receipt of this newsletter, our district inspection season is already in full swing! This is a great time to visit the surrounding lodges in our district and to renew our friendships with our surrounding brothers. This is also a great way to refresh our minds around the meaningful lessons inculcated in our Masonic Degrees. I encourage you to refer to our webpage for a complete schedule of inspections which will last until the end of March.

One of the areas of focus our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Paul A. Weglage, has chosen is membership. The plan is called the 3-5-7 membership plan. The hope is that when our lodges carry out the three pillars of this plan, we will see an increase in our overall membership and reignite the fires of enthusiasm within our membership rolls.

The three areas of the plan are:

- 1) Raise 3% of our 2023 year-end membership as new Master Masons,
- 2) Reinstate 5% of our membership that have left the fraternity, and
- 3) Lose no more than 7% of their membership (demits, withdrawals, suspensions, expulsions, or deaths).

In addition to this plan, all Ohio Lodges are strongly encouraged to hold an Open House during the month of April as a time to invite

Renewed Masonic Focus.....continued

Those brethren who have not been active in the Lodge back as well as showing the beauties of our buildings and members of the community.

As we renew our focus, we must remember that Freemasonry has so much light to offer a world so often enveloped in darkness, and the world needs our lessons now more than ever. We must showcase our fraternity in the best light possible by highlighting our growth and the current events in our lodge that make for a rewarding and enriching fraternal experience.

I look forward to seeing you during the travels this year and wish each of you well.

COMING SOON: THE “PAST MASTER WHITE APRON DEGREE”

“Freemasonry is an institution founded on eternal reason and truth; whose deep basis is the civilization of mankind, and whose everlasting glory it is to have the immovable support of those two mighty pillars, science and plurality”

Brother George Washington, 1st President of the United States

“The Order of the Rusty Nail Degree”

THE ORDER OF THE RUSTY NAIL

On Thursday May 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM the Proctorville Lodge #550, will be offering “The Order of the Rusty Nail” program to all interested Masonic Brethren that wish to become reacquainted with Freemasonry.

This ceremony is used as a means of re-acquainting those Brothers who have not been to Lodge regularly and may have forgotten or are fearful of having forgotten some of the signs, tokens and words, as well as the symbolism connected to the Lodge. This degree makes it possible for these brothers to be gathered together with other brothers who have the same experience and receive abbreviated exposure to the signs, tokens and words that will make attending Lodge more comfortable.

All that is required of them will be to have their paid-up dues cards with them on the night specified.

This program is instructional in its purpose. Brothers who are returning for reinstruction are doing so because they want to get back into Lodge comfortably and without embarrassment.

This Program will be available to all eligible (qualified) Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of Ohio

There is no charge.

Food and refreshments will be available from 6:00—7:00 PM

The Program will be: 7:00-8:00 PM

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

**DEADLINE
DUE April 1st, 2023**

go to:

proctorvillelodge550.org

Resources tab: for the qualifications then follow the instructions.



This is why we support our area youth leagues (Fairland & Chesapeake) as part of our Community Services Project.

WILD BOAR DEGREE

Saturday August
3, 2024

The Wild Boar Degree will be held at our Lodge. Please keep checking our Web site or Facebook @ Proctorville Ohio Lodge #550 F&AM or Proctorville's Masonic Scuttlebutt at the Lodge Web-site at: proctorvillelodge550.org



Please be watching for our famous Apple Butter products coming this fall at the BOB Evans Festival, Milton Pumpkin Festival, Proctorville Fall Festival, Chesapeake Octoberfest and other locations.



In Conclusion, by Kenny Ater

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding this publication please feel free to e-mail me at bbpeak03@msn.com.

I encourage you Brethren and others that are interested in Freemasonry to visit our new Web-site at "proctorvillelodge550.org" for up-to-date information about what is going on, not only in our Masonic Lodge, but all Freemasonry as well.

Additionally, our web site will provide our readers with the latest information in all of our current, past and future publications. This will enable you, regardless where you now live, to access information not only about your Lodge, in particular, but Freemasonry in general terms.

I would imagine in the future, with the rising costs of printing, that we will have to resort to a digital format of our newsletter becoming only available through our Web site. Until that day should arrive, we will continue to send, via regular mail, our Newsletter issues directly to your home.

Finally, I want to thank RWM Larry Thompson and Brothers Arlan Elkins and Daniel Preece, for their kind assistance and input in this endeavor. Thank you.

