



PROCTORVILLE LODGE #550  
P.O. Box 483  
Proctorville, OH 45669

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## Proctorville Lodge #550 F&AM



VOLUME 1 - FIRST EDITION, FEBRUARY 2023



## Welcome everyone to our newsletter.

Thank you to the brothers who took charge of this project to see it is getting done.

I look forward to my year in the East and have set a lot of goals for this upcoming year. I consider it a privilege to be elected Worshipful Master of such a wonderful Lodge as Proctorville Lodge #550. Thank you brothers for your vote of confidence.

I've been thinking about my journey through this fraternity and this is what I would like to express about my thoughts regarding the Fraternity of Freemasonry:

The definition of fraternity is "A group of people sharing a common profession or interests."

Some concerns:

As either the Worshipful Master or a Master Mason I feel we are pushing so hard to get people into the Lodge that we are forgetting one of the most fundamental or important aspects of Freemasonry. That is to make sure that our new Brothers are grounded in the fraternal precepts, historical concepts and foundational principals of brotherhood before we advance them to the full rights of Freemasonry.

We often fail to adequately instruct them in the value of our ancient brotherhood and how this applies to our modern speculative masonic values without explanation of our terminology. Nor do we spend sufficient instruction in how we are to interact with each other, as well as our society.

Finally, I ask you to remember the second definition of Fraternity "The state or feeling of friendship and mutual support within a group."

I'm happy to be a part of Freemasonry that gives me a sense of being and where others are glad that I am here.

David Perry,  
Worshipful Master



Past Master Jimmy Perry (L) and newly installed Worshipful Master David Perry  
**Passing the Gavel to his Brother (literally and figuratively!)**

## **SCHEDULE OF 2022-23 LODGE ACTIVITIES**

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

- December 1, 2022: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
December 10, 2022: Christmas Dinner – 6:00 pm
- January 3, 2023: Officer's Meeting – 7:30 pm  
January 5: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
January 10: Short/Long Range Planning Committee – 7:30 pm  
  
January 31: Officer's Meeting – 7:30 pm
- February 2: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
  
February 7: Short/Long Range Planning Committee – 7:30 pm  
  
February 27: Officers Meeting – 7:30 pm
- March 2: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
March 7: Short/Long Range Planning Committee – 7:30 pm  
March 25: Lodge Inspection – 8:00 am
- April 1, Scholarship applications due
- April 6: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
April 15: Awards Night-Dinner -TBD  
April 22: Lodge-Star Dinner- TBD
- May 4: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm
- June 1: Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
June 24: Table Lodge – TBD
- July 6: Lodge Stated Lodge – 7:30 pm
- August 3: Lodge Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
August 5: Wild Boar Degree – TBD
- September 7: Lodge Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm
- October 5: Lodge Stated Meeting – 7:30 pm  
October 24: Short/Long Range – 7:30 pm
- November 2: Lodge Stated Meeting & Election of Officers – 7:30 pm

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 2022-23



**Front row (L-R)** Nathan White, Junior Deacon; Arlan Elkins, Lodge Education Officer; John Anson, Senior Warden; David Perry, Worshipful Master; Jamie Akers, Junior Warden; and Bill Wood, Tyler.

**Second row (L-R)** Henry Hatfield, Acting Chaplain; Glenn Galloway, Senior Steward; Kenny Ater, Junior Steward; Jim Mann, Secretary; and Wilson Shoemaker, Installing Master.

**Third Row (L-R)** Larry Thompson, Treasurer; David Adkins, Senior Deacon; and Tyler Perry, Chaplain.

*“There is no doubt in my mind that Freemasonry is the cornerstone of America”*

Brother Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy’s

*“Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will bear the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man”*

Brother Douglas MacArthur, Five Star General, United States Army

## Brotherly Love:



*(John 15): 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.*

As Freemasons, our core principles are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Every true Freemason will show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and will behave with compassion and understanding to his fellows. Brotherly Love is professed among Masons more than any other Masonic value, but it may be the least understood despite its common usage.

Many of us believe that a warm smile and kind words accompanied by a pat on the back is Brotherly Love in action. That's how we understand it and that is usually the extent of our application of Brotherly Love on a day-to-day basis. Many of us also believe that being generous to less fortunate others define Brotherly Love. This generosity, although admirable, is only a small portion of the philosophy and actually intermix the concepts of Brotherly Love and a Masonic Charity.

As Entered Apprentices, we learn that the three Principle Tenets of Freemasonry are Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. And you will recall that the specific section begins with the phrase, "by the exercise of Brotherly Love..." Right here, before we go any further because that word structure is no accident. This opening phrase says that we are not waiting for a definition of Brotherly Love, we are exercising it as a whole philosophy construct, already. There are other ways that the phrase could have started: "In Brotherly Love, we are taught to..." or, "Brotherly Love teaches us to..." but both changes would distort the meaning in the Lecture and alter the underlying Masonic philosophical structure.

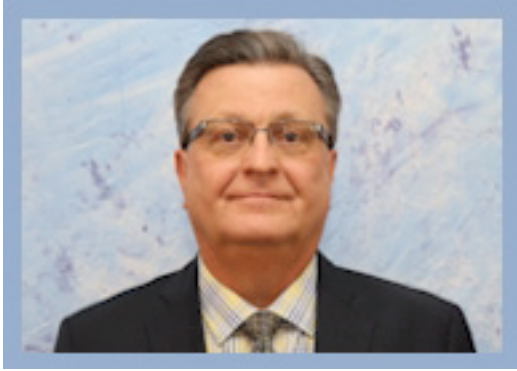
Brotherly Love is broader in scope than simple definition in this first light allows; as Masonry is a progressive moral science, we have not yet received it's full meaning at the time and it is referred to for later reflection. It's definition becomes whole for us only after the fact of our completion. As explained by Webb and Mackey, two eminent Masonic scholars, Brotherly Love is founded on the fraternal meaning of the Five Points of Fellowship. Each point's explanation, taken as a whole, constitutes the philosophical structure for Brotherly Love. The resulting philosophy is uniquely Masonic, intrinsic to the Five Points of Fellowship, and for the benefit of Brother Masons, but it can be and is often applied to the outside world. Our internal philosophy of Brotherly Love is reinforced by this positive external application by its exercise and extension to others, but it's primary object is to cement a stronger Brotherhood within Masonry.

We can now see by this that Brotherly Love is the philosophic and obligatory mortar that cements Masons throughout the world together, Masons high and low, rich and poor, and by exercising our philosophy of Brotherly Love among ourselves, we become the representatives and facilitators for mutual understanding, fidelity, and the support possible among all men, just as it is, first, among all Masons.

Tyler M. Perry, Chaplain & Assistant Secretary

District Education Officer (12th Masonic District 2022-23)

## From the Secretary's Cave:



Hello to the brethren of Proctorville Lodge #550! I was tasked to write a short article for the new newsletter about anything that comes to my mind, so here it goes. I am told this printing will be mailed to all members of our Lodge, while future editions will be sent by Email to those that have supplied their Email address to us, while the balance will receive a copy by mail.

Here is a problem! Currently only 41 percent of our membership has supplied their Email addresses to us, and only thirty six percent of telephone numbers are on record. Many of both numbers I have been able to capture off personal checks when you send your dues payments in

(thanks for that!).

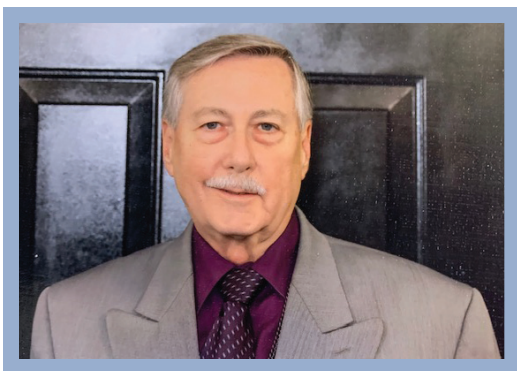
Regular mailing is both expensive and slow. We are requesting that you take a few moments and send both telephone and Email addresses to us so that they can be added to your records in the Grandview computer system. Having the Email addresses will enable the Lodge officers to communicate important upcoming events and items of interest to us all.

Please be assured that there will be no sharing of your information to anyone outside of Proctorville # 550. You can supply the requested items to me @ [jhowellmann@gmail.com](mailto:jhowellmann@gmail.com), by telephone @ 304/633-7781 or by regular mail to P.O. Box 483, Proctorville, OH 45669. Once again, there will be no sharing of your private information to anyone by this office.

Thanks and have a great 2023!!

Fraternally,  
Jim Mann P.D.D.G.M  
Secretary, Proctorville Lodge #550

## Why Ritual?



Every man is in search of something. For me, I was in search of friendship, and I found it inside the Masonic Fraternity. I suppose the first friendship I developed was with the one Brother who was assigned as my coach. He lived and worked on the same road I lived on. It was convenient to stop by his business, and because he was the boss, he was able to make time for me to come by and pick his brain. But, Brother Mike Riley was also a stickler for making sure I knew the right words, the same ones he had learned, just a few years earlier. As it turned out they were the same words I was able to pass on to other Brothers who had the misfortune to have me as a coach, and that includes two of my sons who joined the Lodge. The second friendship I developed within

the circle of friends and Brothers within the Lodge was with another great ritualist. The first real lesson, about where ritual comes from, was given to me by this Brother. It was my job to conduct a candidate on this particular night, and it was his job to deliver the Apron Lecture, one of the most beautiful pieces of ritual ever to be written. When the candidate and I left Brother Jim Harvey that night, we both had eyes full of tears, because the real lesson had been given, because it had been delivered sincerely, and from the heart. He had just given us both a piece of himself, as well as the most beautiful Apron Lecture I had ever heard.

I've made many friends within the Masonic Fraternity, but as it turned out I have earned another friend I didn't expect. I admit that I'm friends with the ritual. I've been critical lately, about some of my Brothers not taking the time to learn the lectures and charges. Everyone learns at their own pace and in their own way. For me, it

was simply from repetition. Saying it over and over, out loud so I can hear it, again and again.

Here's what I'm hoping. I hope everyone who will, will take, or make the time to become friends with the ritual. Every time you deliver some of these beautiful lectures or charges, you will give them sincerely, from the heart. So that your listeners will have received a piece of you when they hear you speak.

There is no great secret to learning the ritual except repetition. There is no great secret to delivering the ritual other than to give of yourself, sincerely and from the heart. The only prize is a lecture bar, and the knowledge that you have accomplished something few Brothers are willing to do.

But, you ask Why Ritual, because if you don't, and again few will, who will? Who will deliver the next truly great Apron Lecture, or absolutely meaningful Entered Apprentice Degree Lecture? Who will give the next most informative Fellow Craft Degree Lecture? Who will tell the next great story of what happens in the Master Mason Degree? If it is not you, who will? Will it be given from a cold uncaring tape recorder, without any heart or feelings? I hope not.

Let's all decide to be friends with the Ritual, after all it is one of the things we all like about the Masonic Fraternity, and we learn from each other because we were sticklers for the right word.

H. Wilson Shoemaker, Past Master,  
Past District Deputy Grand Master

## Brotherhood:



As I think about the word Brotherhood and I think about how I am never alone. I have friends and acquaintances that are closer to me than words can ever describe. Brothers don't care that it's been a day a week or a year since we last conversed or even seen each other. They are always there ready and willing to help in any way necessary. These brothers are people we can always count on for prayer, advice and a helping hand no matter when we call upon them. It seems when we're together there is an openness and a willingness to work through any issues that may arise. As a Mason, we should all strive to love and care for each other and always show respect for each and every brother, and work to bring out the best in all our relationships.

Freemasonry and Brotherhood are synonymous with affiliation. We should work together to develop the fellowship and friendships into affiliation with the group. We have men that are willing and able to extend a hand, word or deed to enhance your experience at the Lodge. Think about attending a meeting or call your mentors from days gone by. Remember and relive the excitement you once had when you first knocked on the door of the lodge. The fraternity needs you and your talents. Come and see us. Pick-up where you left off. We will be looking for you.

Arlan Elkins,  
Lodge Education Officer



## Brotherly Love:



We all know who is our brother and who isn't. Not everyone in our fraternity is there for the same reasons or have the same abilities.

Those who have the abilities to help, should. Everyone has some special gift to pass to others.

It isn't always lodge related; however, we should be looking out for each other at all times.

As in every organization there are different friendship groups, even within the lodge. We have hunters, fishermen, golfers, car enthusiasts, motorcyclists and couch potatoes, but each brother has a gift to share with others. We shouldn't be belittling one another or looking to find a fault with our brothers.

A friend once told me a true brother is not the guy who bails you out, but rather he is on the bench beside you laughing and saying, "What a night!"

So, what kind of brother do we want to be? One who stops by, after the fact, and lends an ear; or one that goes through hard times with a brother and gives wholesome advice?

John Anson,  
Senior Warden

## OFFICERS & TRUSTEES



Bro. Larry Thompson  
Treasurer, Past Master



Bro. David Adkins  
Senior Deacon



Bro. Nathan White  
Junior Deacon



Bro. Bill Wood  
Tyler



Bro. Larry Aldridge  
3rd year trustee  
Past Master



Bro. Mike Riley  
2nd year Trustee



Bro. Glenn Galloway  
1st year Trustee  
Past Master



Bro. Lee Whitley  
Treasurer Emeritus



## A Historical Account of Freemasonry



The origins of freemasonry in our country was shaped by some amazing men who changed the world and the principles and moral compass that guided these men are still true today and part of what we learn today, which is brotherly love, relief and truth. The same light that our brother searched for hundreds of years ago is that very same light that we seek today.

It's impossible to think about the founding of our country without the name Benjamin Franklin coming to mind. Brother Franklin was initiated into Masonry in 1731 at St. John's Lodge in Philadelphia in what many historians say was the Lodge's first meeting. This 60 year Mason

had an extraordinary list of accomplishments as an author, printer, publisher, philosopher, diplomat, scientist and inventor while still devoting so much of his life to the craft.

In 1734 Brother Franklin was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and during that time along with his brothers from St. John's Lodge laid the cornerstone of the statehouse in Philadelphia, commonly known now as Independence Hall.

Following his year as Grand Master, Brother Franklin published the Constitutions of the Free Masons, the first Masonic book printed in America. It was reprinted in America. It was a re-print of Anderson's Constitutions, first published in England and contained Masonic history, Charges and regulations.

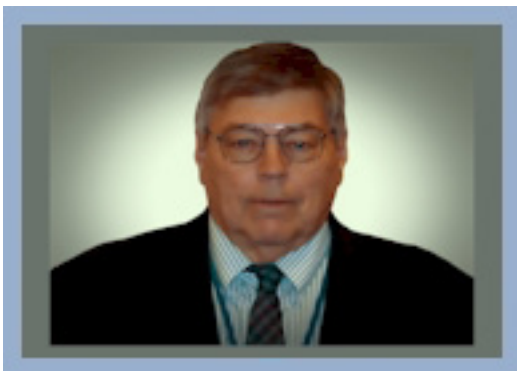
He visited lodges around the Northeast and Europe and was present at important meetings and ceremonies and in June of 1760 he was elected a Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England.

Brother Franklin was an active member of our fraternity until he passed away on April 17, 1790, at 84 years old.

Reading about the life of Brother Franklin made me think .We all have a reason why we knocked on the door of the Lodge and each reason is personal to the individual brother. So, I will leave you with this question to ask yourself. Are you leaving the next generation of Masons an inspiring story of brotherly love, relief and truth?

Brother Jamie Akers,  
Junior Warden

## Lodge Planning, Re-organization and Outcomes



In **2019-20** our Lodge took a huge leap into examining ways and means to address problems and/or issues that were hampering our ability to address problems that were inhibiting Lodge growth, participation, and in particular, candidate retention. Under the leadership of **Right Worshipful Wilson Shoemaker**, he appointed a committee to discuss these issues and make recommendations to the lodge for possible solutions.

By-the-way, these are issues that many lodges continue to experience this very day, including ours.

Ironically, this effort led to a special committee that became very involved in the problems that we were assigned to resolve but rather, it evolved, or took on a life of its own, and we began to look upon many extraneous problems that restricted the lodge in its ability to be pro-active rather than reactive on many fronts.

Although we haven't found the magic solution to some of the initial problems that were assigned to us by the Worshipful Master, we were able to pass Lodge Resolutions within the By-Laws to:

1. Change the organizational structure of committees within the Lodge. We reduced the number of committees from twenty-three (23) to four (4). Each Committee chair is responsible for holding meetings as appropriate and submit reports of activities at each "stated meeting." The four committees are; Administrative, Ritual, Internal Development and, Short/Long Range Planning.  
Needless to say, in my opinion, this change in itself has brought an immense boost in pro-active action within the Lodge.
2. Creation of a Lodge Scholarship Program - In the past, the Lodge awarded scholarships to various local high school students. We now handle the awarding of scholarships in-house to relatives (only) of active Freemasons at Lodge #550.
3. Award Program Night - see article "Award Program Night"
4. Changed requirements for an individual to advance to the position of Worshipful Master
5. Created The Investigation Committee Standardization Team
6. Implementation of a six month restriction of new members from holding office
7. Created a By-Laws and Standing Resolution Biennial Review
8. Requiring a Pre-payment of all Candidates fee

Finally, in spite of the times of COVID that devastated Lodge activities from occurring, there have been numerous other projects or efforts within the Lodge that we are all proud of completing the last three-four years. Some of the more obvious projects are: the remodeling of the exterior of the building (see front of newsletter), remodeling the recreation room, a new pool table, a new big screen television for the lounge area, created an Assistant Secretary position, obtained a defibulator and provided said training to the Brethren.

Our remaining goals for this year are to discuss and propose to the Lodge are:

- **Increase retention of candidates**
- **Encourage Brothers to learn Lectures/Charges by changes in learning methodology**
- **Adopting a permanent Community Service Project**
- **Renovation of parking lot facilities**

Kenny Ater,  
Jr. Steward, and Chairman of Long Range Planning Committee



**NOT JUST A MAN. A MASON.™**



***"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 morality."***

Brother George Washington, 1st President of the United States

## Lodge Web-site Information:



is alive & well within this Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons! Home of the Best Home Made Apple Butter in the Country (Co-Maker with the Eastern Star Teresa Chapter #257) and host of the Annual Wild Boar Degree & Pig Roast since 1988 (the first 30 years were co-hosted with Ohio Valley Masonic Lodge #536)! We were Chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ohio Free & Accepted Masons on October 24th, 1888, & we strive to be a shining beacon of Freemasonry in this little village along the bank of the Ohio River, taking good men & giving them the tools to make themselves better! All Proctorville Ohio Lodge & Eastern Star members are urged to join and actively participate within

our Bulletin Board Forum, but members in good standing from all Lodges & Chapters recognized by the Grand Masonic Lodge & OES Grand Chapter of Ohio are more than welcome to join in. I ask you to visit regularly to stay apprised of all organizational news (new and old) for our Lodge & Chapter.

**It is our desire to keep all of all our Lodge and STAR members fully informed of events and activities that will occur through the 2023 calendar year.**

Please feel free to contact us with any issues of concern with the website. Our contact information is listed at:

**<http://www.proctorville.net>**

Jackie Arrowood, Web Page Administrator

### **ADDRESS CORRECTIONS?**

Please update your information via Grandview  
**@ freemason.com Members Portal**  
or report all changes of address to your  
Lodge Secretary, who, in turn, will notify  
the Grand Secretary, who maintains the database  
mailing lists.

## **AWARDS BANQUET NIGHT**

ALL BROTHERS, family, friends and guests are invited. We are planning a special evening with a great meal and lots of fellowship.

**Saturday evening, April 15, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

Come join us to recognize our award recipients. This is one of our most important events that you won't want to miss. Plan to attend the celebration and reconnect with your brothers, their family and friends.

## **WILD BOAR DEGREE**

**Saturday, August 5, 2023**

The Wild Boar Degree will be held at our Lodge. Please keep checking Facebook @ Proctorville Ohio Lodge #550 F&AM; or, Proctorville's Masonic Scuttlebutt at the Lodge Web-site at: <http://www.proctorville.net>

## **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**Due April 1, 2023**

Go to <http://www.proctorville.net>

Resources tab: for the qualifications then follow the instructions.

## **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Lodge Email: [jhowellmann@gmail.com](mailto:jhowellmann@gmail.com)**

**Proctorville Lodge #550**

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 483**

**Proctorville, OH 45669**

# District Installation of our own RWB Tyler Perry as District Education Officer of the Magnificent 12th Masonic District



*MWB Rich Dickerscheid (L) and RWB Wilson Shoemaker*



*(L-R) Installation of RWB Tyler Perry as District Education Officer. RWB Wilson Shoemaker, Installing Officer; and Guy (Gene) Bing, District Officer*



*(L-R) MWB Rich Dickerscheid with RWB Tyler Perry, District Education Officer*





*Brother Rick Jones playing a game of eight ball on our new table in our recently renovated pool (billiard) room*



*Three brothers Arlan, Larry and Tyler*



*"Brothers of the Lodge" attending a monthly "Eat & Shoot" luncheon and target practice (afterwards) at Bare Arms Shooting Range*



*Bros. Jimmy Perry (L) and Larry Thompson taking their turn stirring the Apple Butter at the Bob Evans Farm festival. A great shout-out to WM. Jimmy Perry for his exceptional leadership this year with the Apple Butter Project, joined with our partners of the STAR, Teresa Chapter 257!*



*Glenn Galloway says, "Just doing my job! Preparing apples for cooking."*



*Brothers trip to Lake Erie for fishing on a chartered boat*



*Lodge Building undergoing our exterior remodeling program*



*Annual Degree Day, the Ballot of Cincinnati visit the Lodge for Degree work*

*“Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and man.”*

Joseph Fort Newton



*Definitely two hot dogs to go!*

### ----IN CONCLUSION----

Brothers as you can see in the newsletter we have a lot of good things happening at the Lodge. If you haven't attended in a while we miss you and encourage you to attend whenever possible. Renew old relationships and enjoy your membership in the fraternity. We now have several ways we post events and communicate with our membership. Additionally we have events throughout the year the whole family can enjoy. Check our calendar and/or dedicated web-site for constant up-dates on activities, events and lodge matters that might be important to you and the membership at:

**<http://www.proctorville.net>**

We anticipate another newsletter publication coming out late this summer as well. Remember that this same publication will be posted on our web-site also. So you never have a reason to miss it!

**We will be looking for you!**