

October 30, 2026 #174

Dear Brethren and Friends,

Important Announcement:

Dues notices have gone out. For regular members, of the \$200 dues, \$175 stays with the lodge. \$25 goes to Grand Lodge for their operations.

Our annual expenses total approx. \$24,000. Our dues cover about \$14,000 of those expenses. We receive approx. \$8,100 other revenue such as donations from organizations that use our lodge for meetings and our earnings on our Perpetual Memberships. All in, it costs approx. \$64 per day to maintain our lodge and pay for our programs.

So, our dues are absolutely critical for us to maintain the basic functions of the lodge.

We have approx. 14 members that have 50 years or more of service that do not pay dues, but we are still required to pay the \$25 Grand Lodge Per Capita. We would ask these brothers to donate \$25 or more if it does not cause hardship. This will help close our funding gap and allow us to do more charity work in the community.

Thanks for your continued support. You may pay your dues here:

<https://balodge243.square.site/>

Saying of the Week:

You change your life the moment you stop being bad at stupid stuff. Not everything deserves your energy; the rude email, the driver who cut you off, the comment on Instagram. High performers don't waste time being offended. They save the energy for growth, no gossip. Before you react, ask yourself: "Will this matter in a month?" If not, move on. - author unknown.

My Ramblings by W.: Scott A. MacDonald © 2026

This Is The Best Of All Possible Worlds



Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz was born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1646. A remarkable intellectual talent, he began studying philosophy and mathematics at an early age and eventually became one of the most influential thinkers of the Enlightenment.

Leibniz lived during a period when European thinkers were questioning traditional beliefs and attempting to understand the universe through reason, scientific discovery, and religious faith. He believed that human knowledge could be unified into a comprehensive system that explained the nature of reality, the existence of God, and humanity's place in creation.

Unlike philosophers who viewed the world primarily through material objects, Leibniz believed that reality was fundamentally spiritual and composed of simple, indivisible substances he called monads.

His work helped shape modern mathematics, metaphysics, logic, and the philosophy of religion.

His Philosophy and Contributions

1. The Monad – The Fundamental Nature of Reality

- Leibniz proposed that the universe is composed of infinitely many simple substances called monads. These are not physical particles but individual centers of perception and activity.
- Each monad reflects the universe from its own unique perspective. Although they do not physically interact, Leibniz believed they operate in a coordinated harmony established by God.
- This concept suggests that reality is more complex than what we perceive through our senses and that everything possesses an underlying order.

2. The Best of All Possible Worlds

- Leibniz argued that God, being perfectly wise and good, created the best possible world among all the worlds that could exist.
- He did not claim that our world was free from suffering or evil. Rather, he believed that the existence of certain imperfections could be necessary within a greater order that ultimately produces the greatest possible good.
- This philosophy became known as optimism, although Leibniz's position was more complicated than simply believing everything happens for the best.
- His ideas later became the subject of criticism, particularly by Voltaire, who questioned whether such optimism could be justified in a world containing tremendous suffering.

3. Reason, Logic, and Human Understanding

- Leibniz believed that reason was one of humanity's greatest instruments for discovering truth.
- He developed principles of logic and proposed that truths could be understood through two fundamental categories:
 - Truths of reason: Necessary truths that can be demonstrated logically, such as mathematical principles.

- Truths of fact: Facts about the world that could have been otherwise and require experience or explanation.
- He believed that the universe operated according to rational principles and that human beings could progressively discover those principles through intellectual inquiry.

4. Mathematics and Scientific Achievement

- Leibniz independently developed calculus, alongside Isaac Newton, creating mathematical tools that transformed science and engineering.
- He also developed the binary number system, which became fundamental to modern computer technology.
- His contributions demonstrate his conviction that mathematical reasoning could reveal the underlying structure of reality.

Leibniz and the Meaning of Human Existence

Leibniz believed that human existence was part of a greater universal order.

He viewed individuals as unique expressions of reality, each possessing an independent perspective and an inner capacity for understanding.

For Leibniz, the pursuit of knowledge was not simply an intellectual exercise. It was a means of recognizing the harmony of creation and understanding humanity's relationship with God.

His philosophy encourages us to consider that our individual experiences may represent only a small portion of a much greater reality.

He also believed that human beings possessed the capacity to improve themselves through reason, moral development, and the pursuit of wisdom.

Leibniz and Freemasonry

Although Leibniz lived before the establishment of organized speculative Freemasonry in its modern form, several aspects of his philosophy are interesting when considered alongside Masonic teachings.

- The pursuit of knowledge: Leibniz believed that intellectual development was essential to understanding the universe. This parallels the Masonic emphasis on education, self-improvement, and the pursuit of truth.
- The harmony of creation: His belief that the universe possesses an underlying order resembles the Masonic contemplation of the Great Architect of the Universe and the principles governing creation.
- The individual and the greater whole: Leibniz's monads represent unique perspectives within a universal harmony. This provides an interesting philosophical parallel to the Masonic idea that individual men, despite their differences, can work together toward a common purpose.

Lord, remind us that the pursuit of wisdom is a lifelong pursuit that must be guided by your love and wisdom. In His name I pray. Amen.

Lodge Calendar

Oct 31 (Saturday) - Broken Arrow Spooktacular - 5 pm to 9 pm. The lodge will be handing out candy and popcorn. We need lots of volunteers to help. The popcorn will be made at the lodge beginning mid-afternoon. Wear your favorite costume if you like and bring your family! Also, please buy some candy and bring it to the lodge.

Nov 3 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Nov 10 (Tuesday) - EA Degree. Dinner at 6 pm with degree to follow.

Nov 11 - 14 - Grand Lodge and Grand School in Guthrie. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend. This year is a little different with a Grand Lodge on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. You can still buy tickets to the Grand Masters Dinner on Friday night and a boxed lunch on Saturday. "Masonic Ladies Paint, Brunch and Fellowship" is on Saturday from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm. All three tickets can be purchased here: <https://gloklahoma.com/product-category/events/>

Nov 17 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Nov 24 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

Dec 1 (Tuesday) - Lodge election night and Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6 pm, Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 6 (Sunday) - Officer Installation. 2 pm light refreshments to follow.

Dec 8 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm.

Dec 12 (Saturday) - Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Officer installation at the Lodge. 1:30 pm.

Dec 15 (Tuesday) - Stated Communication. Dinner at 6 pm. Lodge at 7 pm.

Dec 22 (Tuesday) - Fellowship. Dinner at 6 pm

Dec 29 (Tuesday) - 5th Tuesday Dinner

International Order of the Rainbow for Girls Assembly #74 - Calendar

Nov 1 (Sunday) - Potluck Party. Costume Party - Theme is Feast of the Gods. Hosted by IORG Assembly #74 and BA OES Chapter. 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. BA Rainbow will provide the meat; guests are asked to bring a side dish to share. Girls ages 7 to 20 and their families are invited. Held at the Lodge.

See you at the Lodge!

Sincerely,

W.: Scott A. MacDonald, Treasurer and Membership Calling Chairman