

# Look to the West



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## Greetings

What good is a message if it is never delivered? What good is a light if it is never seen? How useful is a tool if you never use it? Over the years, many have contributed to this wonderful fraternity of ours. They shared their messages; they shined their light and gave us the tools to have an organization of which we are proud. The intent of this newsletter is to share the news and events of Crittenden Dry Ridge 694. We will also highlight events and Brothers from across Masonry, as we can.

### GOING FORWARD

Transforming a document from word, to PDF is an unbearable ordeal. We will be changing to a much more streamlined format shortly. Life is too short to keep dealing with poor formatting from translations!

## The Overlooked Degree?

Masonry has within it, many memorable, and profound degrees. No matter if a man joins a Rite or stays within just the Blue Lodge system. And many of us have our “favorite” degree. The one that touches or resonates within us. I have attended many degrees during my time. I have witnessed countless men just start their journey on the first degree, seen over a hundred be raised to Master. I have seen, and read the degrees of the Scottish Rite, and am currently winding my way through the York Rite. Yet, I have witnessed very few Fellowcraft Degrees. And, it seems, I am not alone.

In conversation I have spoken to many who have rarely attended a Fellowcraft Degree, and even those who will say, I do not really care for that degree. And now as I study that degree, I find myself wondering why.

Aside from its historical significance, the second degree seems to try to convey all that is Masonic in a single degree! Aside from the architecture references, which after being modeled on a building society, is self-explanatory, it goes into great detail about Man's roll in studying God's creation, how he interacts with others,

And, how he should govern himself. In essence the Fellowcraft being the second degree now, is fittingly the “core” or center of Freemasonry.

The working tools teach us how to behave as men and towards others. Walk upright in your path with God and man, treat everyone fairly, and travel upon the level path of righteousness.

In this degree we cover the senses of man. Those invaluable gifts given us to be able to explore and learn from the world around us. We learn about the liberal arts, or systems of instruction that allow us to order and express our thoughts so that we may be able to share knowledge with others.

We also here find the great reverence a man is expected to show towards his creator. How geometry or Masonry, opens our minds to understand both moral and natural laws.

And again, this degree teaches us judgement, and how we are to use it. Not as the cudgel of a Tyrant, but to gently admonish when needed. And here we are taught the internal qualifications of a man, and not the external are what Masonry regards, something so many forget.

I must admit, it's certainly a degree we should often revisit.

## Lessons Learned

Charity is a core function of who we are.

We must take care of ourselves to take care of others.

Though we support many charities, many don't support us when we are the ones in need.

Masons Helping Masons is a great program.

We could all donate a dollar a month and start a fund that could generate profound change.

All living things have access to your kind offices, especially the faithful.

There are better ways to do some of the thing we already do, it is time we explore them.



Taking a stab in the dark here. How much help did our lodges, who were recently affected by the floods, receive from non-masonic organizations? My guess is little to most likely, none.

Yet when a disaster or need comes along, who is there always willing to lend a hand or offer relief. If you guessed Masons, you are right.

Gentlemen, if you have not figured it out yet, we are a minority. Our numbers are shrinking, and we no longer hold the status in society we once enjoyed. We can have the debate as to why some other time.

We help and give because that is what we are hard wired to do. Freemasons want to help. And we should continue to help others. Love thy neighbor even if they don't love you back. We set the examples for others to follow.

However, ask yourself this simple question. Shouldn't we endeavor to take care of our own first? Should our brothers suffer, while we work to raise money for other charities?

Other charities who would likely never help us in return, much less care about who we are. The answer is No, we should not.

**“Never look down on someone, unless you’re helping them up.”**

We all took an obligation to help each other. We share a bond that is special, it means when one of us is down and out, the rest of us are there to pick him up.

Consider this. Let us assume we have approximately 25,000 members in our state. Take half of that amount, 12,500. Now if those brothers resolved to donate \$1.00 a month to Masons Helping Masons, just think how much good we could do for our brothers when they find themselves in need. Surely \$1.00 a month is affordable for half the Masons in Kentucky.

Let us go one step further. If we invested, monthly \$5000 dollars of that \$12,500 we would be taking in each month, and invest it in a low

## Masons Helping Masons First.

**You must take care of yourself if you ever wish to help others.**

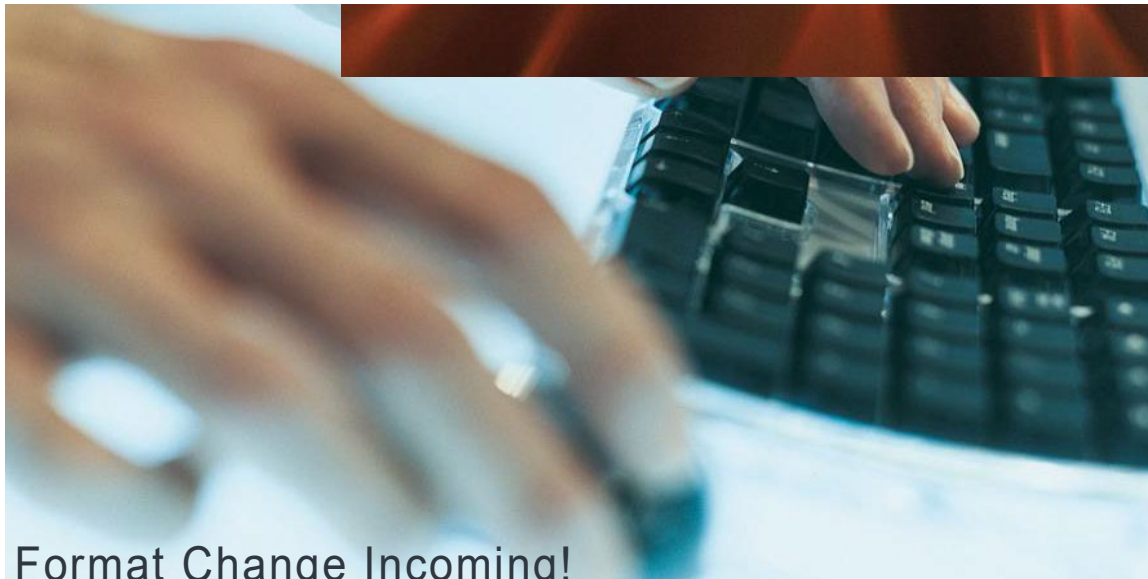
By: Robby Ratliff

cost, low turnover index fund and leave it to grow, we can in time ensure brothers will always have the help they need. Or even only allow the fund to pay out from the interest, while the capital continues to grow.

This is not meant to sound as though we should not help others. As stated above we already do and should continue to help others when we can. But, first let's ensure we are helping the ones we obligated ourselves to help first.

While the selling of ties, hats, knives, pins may bring in some funds, it also incurs an expense if items don't sell. I have heard other ideas from brothers on how to make this more efficient, and we should listen to them!

Our Grand Lodge has a link on their website, the QR code is shown in the picture above, where we can donate to Masons Helping Masons, Youth Scholarship Fund, and the veterans program. The option is in place to make a reoccurring monthly donation. Please consider donating a couple of dollars a month. It's easy to forget until it could be one of us in need.



## Format Change Incoming!

We hope you are enjoying our newsletter. We do not sell advertisement space, nor will we. We try to write on topics to engage and educate, that will not change.

What will change, will be the layout. Writing a message is hard enough, then having to shoehorn it into a tiny space is even harder. We are blessed to have the technology and the people to work on these things, but they are volunteer so making it easier on them, makes it better for everyone else. .

We are always looking for people that would like to contribute. It is not that we run out of things to say, it is because we want to share a platform. We have the technology, we have the people willing to put it together, and we do not mind sharing.

April is traditionally a month dedicated to rebirth and regeneration, so it feels like a suitable time to regenerate this newsletter and see what we can do with it!

For once going to end this article early and leave it at, if you have comments, suggestions, or submissions, reach out to us. Subscribe, and remember check your spam folders. Hiram of Tyre is the name on the Gmail account this newsletter comes under.

## Up Next at CDR Regularly Stated Meeting

April 11<sup>th</sup> is next regular scheduled meeting. We will be conferring the Fellowcraft Degree. This will be our education for the day as well.

If you need directions, please visit [www.cdr694.com](http://www.cdr694.com).

## Pork Chops Hoosier Style

April 11<sup>th</sup> we will be travelling to English Lodge in Lexington Indiana for a pork chop dinner to support Brother David Cooper.

## This Month's Masonic Spotlight

### Joe Pierce Boone United #264

Joe was Raised at Fellowship Lodge 681 in Anderson Indiana in 1977. Not much is known about intervening years, though legend has it he was a bank baron in Indiana!

Though he currently sits in the West as Boone United's Senior Warden, Joe has been a remarkably busy Mason. Like the Killroy was here advertisements of old, if you have visited a lodge, you may just find that Joe was there first!

Brother Pierce has also become quite adept at degree work as well. Though being called a

District 18's Mason of the Year, Joe goes by a much more noble title, Brother! A true credit to the Craft.





## Suggestions

We are always looking to improve. If you would like to make a suggestion, please reach out to us, in person, via text, or on the web! We are pretty easy to find!

## Upcoming Events

- **April 11th**

Regular Stated Communication, Education is open to all FCs and MMs, Meeting is Master Mason Only. 9 Am