

BEACON

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO AND THE OHIO MASONIC HOME

William Batchelder Leads in Ohio House of Representatives By Practicing Principles Learned in Masonic Lodge

William G. Batchelder, III, the minority leader in the Ohio House of Representatives, is part of a five-generation heritage of Masons from Medina, Ohio.

Brother Batchelder was described recently in the Columbus Dispatch as “the most experienced state legislator in Ohio.”

He not only has been a long-time leader as a public servant in both the legislative and judicial processes, but he possesses a deep background in Masonic history and those who have served as Freemasons.

His grandfather and great-grandfather were Masons. His father, William G. Batchelder, Jr., at age 94, is a 65-year member of Medina Lodge #58, and was still a trial lawyer at the age of 93. On the other hand, his son, William G. Batchelder IV, joined Medina Lodge about four years ago.

Brother Batchelder served in the Ohio House of Representatives for 30 years before being elected a judge in the Medina County Common Pleas Court. His time there was brief because soon after his election he was appointed as a judge to the Ninth District Court of Appeals. After leaving the bench in 2005, he was again elected to the Ohio House of Representatives, where his experience has earned him much respect and leadership.

Throughout his legislative tenure, Brother Batchelder has served in numerous key positions on committees.

His two most high profile moments came in the 1980s and 90s. In the Savings and Loan Crisis of the 80s, he worked with Governor Dick Celeste to draft legislation to save depositors’ savings at stricken savings and loan institutions. Governor



William G. Batchelder, III

Celeste thanked Batchelder during his State of the State speech, even though the men were from different political parties.

During the pay-to-play scandal of the mid 1990s, Brother Batchelder referred both the Republican President of the Senate and the Democratic Speaker of the House to a prosecutor; both were convicted. He is the only ethics committee chair ever to

Continued on page 4

Grand Master’s Class Petition Deadline Set For Mid May

All petitions for candidates interested in being in the Grand Master’s (One-Day) Class on Saturday, June 13, must be turned into the respective Lodges by the middle of May.

A class will be held on June 13 in each of Ohio’s 25 Districts, and specific information for each event will be provided by the District Deputy Grand Masters.

The Grand Master’s class is an excellent opportunity for those potential members who normally do not have the time to progress through the degrees in the traditional manner. ✧

The 25th Annual Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 14 at Springfield Masonic Community

See story on page 6



'Reaching' In our Third Century

By Charles R. Murphy, Grand Master

I would like to begin this message by saying "Thank you." As we travel throughout the State of Ohio, the Brotherly Love and warmth of Freemasonry abounds everywhere we go. Regardless of whether we're at a Reception, a Lodge Meeting or any other Masonic event, we are made to feel so very welcome. On behalf of all the Grand Lodge Officers, and our ladies, I thank each and every one of you.

Freemasonry is doing great, and it is because of the efforts of our individual members. Every day the results of Brethren reaching out toward excellence are evident.

We have Lodges that have spruced up their buildings for the Open House, and in so doing, have made them veritable showplaces. We have Lodges taking advantage of the matching advertising funds, and proclaiming their pride in Freemasonry, in their Brethren, and in their Lodge. We have Brethren supporting the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, and wearing their MMSAP pocket watch whenever they can. Our pride is showing!

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Please report all changes of address to your lodge secretary, who, in turn, will notify the Grand Secretary, who maintains the database that produces The BEACON mailing labels.

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When we consider all that's happening in the State of Ohio, one thing becomes evident above all else: *you* are the ones who make it happen. The Grand Master, the Grand Lodge Officers and the District Deputy Grand Masters can try to help provide some direction to the Lodges, but they can't make results happen on their own. It is the members of our Lodges who embrace Freemasonry, who embody the precepts of our fraternity, and who provide the presence on the local level which makes us successful.

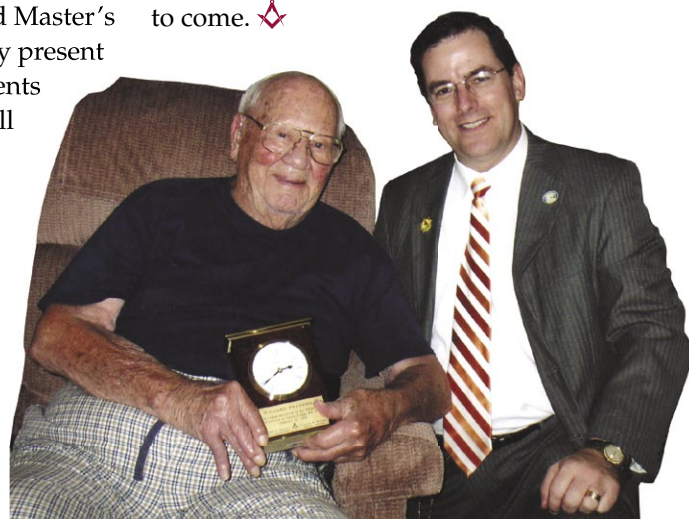
Other than this message in the Beacon it is simply not possible for me to thank you all individually. I do hope you'll ask your Worshipful Master to see his badge, however, which is a way I'm thanking every Worshipful Master in the State. When he comes to a Grand Master's Reception, I will personally present him a badge which represents my gratitude to him as well as to your entire Lodge membership. Every time he wears it, he will be extending my thanks to each and every one of you for the way you represent Freemasonry everywhere you go.

We've started out our third century with a bang, and it shows no sign of stopping. Keep up the great work. Keep reaching out to brethren you haven't spoken to in years, to the youth in our communities and to the widows of our departed brethren. Keep reaching out to help others in need, toward improvement in all your endeavors, and

into your hearts to improve your personal relationships with others and with God. Whenever we make an effort to reach out to others, we can't help but improve ourselves during the process.

Brethren, thanks again for providing Freemasonry with such a great start in our third century. Let's all continue to join together and **REACH** for the stars – each of us in our own personal way. As we see the great things we can accomplish in the name of Freemasonry, we will continue to build the excitement and enthusiasm you already are experiencing.

May the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless you and your families throughout the remainder of the year, and continue to guide, counsel and provide for each and every one of you for many years to come. ✧



80-Year Award Presented by Grand Master

Richard Frederick, left, receives his engraved clock and certificate, representing 80 years of Masonic membership, from Grand Master Charles R. Murphy. The presentation was made in January in Brother Frederick's home near Ft. Myers, Florida. Brother Frederick, who is 101 years old, regularly uses the Internet for communication and research. He joined Carey Lodge #420 in 1928. ✧

The New Economy and A Reliable Source

By Worshipful Brother Wm. David Bannerman,
Chief Executive Officer, The Ohio Masonic Home

I heard someone say that we are facing "Generational Change", the kinds of changes that happen occasionally, but are so significant we do not go back to the old way

mix again with the world". That means we can find refuge in the fraternity in difficult times. We can share our burdens, build each other up and strengthen our connections and relations so that we can endure and survive. Return to your Lodge, Chapter, Council, Commandery or Valley. Renew your relationships and bring a friend.

The Ohio Masonic Home is your place of refuge when you need reputable services for you, your brother or

friends. You can be philanthropic through us, relieve the distressed through us and choose to live and receive services through us built on the values you know so well.

The new economy changed our lives by shifting fortunes, but the strength of The Ohio Masonic Home, now found in many places, (I-CARE, Helping Hands, Cornerstone, Springfield, Browning and Western Reserve) is still here for you. Call us. ✧



Ohio Masonic Home CEO Dave Bannerman speaks to a group at Browning Masonic Community

of thinking. Certainly we have seen the decline of our investments, retirement plans and savings. We have heard of big, solid companies that are struggling to survive. We feel the pain of friends and family out of work or facing foreclosures.

So where do we turn? We turn to each other and to The Ohio Masonic Home. There is a closing prayer that says "You are now about to quit this sacred place to

Badges for Worshipful Masters



Russell Wince, left, Master of Acme Lodge #554 in Newark, receives badge from Grand Master.

For the second consecutive year, Ohio's Grand Master is giving out special badges to those serving as Worshipful Masters during the year. Grand Master Charles R. Murphy has created the badge, right, using the seal of the Grand Lodge as a key design component. The badges are given to Worshipful Masters when they attend the annual Grand Master's Reception in each Masonic District. ✧



Laying the Foundation for Home Health and Hospice

Masonic Senior Services of Ohio has started 2009 by adding another component to its health care options. The organization has acquired an in-home health care and hospice agency. Cornerstone Home Health and Hospice will serve Clark, Champaign and Logan counties with services such as in-home skilled nursing, physical therapy and other forms of therapy and hospice services.

Brother Owen Johnson, M.D., The Chair of Masonic Senior Services, was pleased to be able to add home health and hospice services to their organization. "We looked for a year to find the right organization and Cornerstone is a great fit."

CORNERSTONE HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE



Dr. Johnson says home health is most frequently used for short term help for rehabilitation or recovery from surgery, but it may also be needed for longer periods for more serious medical problems. "The great advantage Cornerstone has is that it also provides hospice services. Those who choose that option can get relief and palliative care with our values."

Mary Lough, director of the agency said, "We are looking forward to serving our clients. I have been with The Ohio Masonic Home and the Springfield Masonic Community for a long time and am pleased to serve more people through the Cornerstone Home Health and Hospice organization. It is an extension of great care." ✧

For more information on Cornerstone Home Health and Hospice, call 877/684-5710.

William Batchelder Leads in Ohio House of Representatives *continued from page 1*

have referred the heads of both legislative chambers to a prosecutor.

He received his Master Mason degree in Medina Lodge in December 1967. He later joined the Scottish Rite in the Valley of Cleveland and subsequently was elected a 33° Mason.

Shortly after becoming a Mason, Brother Batchelder was inducted into the U.S. Army. In one of his first experiences in active duty, a sergeant (seeing his Masonic ring) pulled him aside and asked him if he was a Mason. The young recruit said he was. "Then I am naming you my platoon leader," the sergeant said. "Because you're a Mason, I know you'll never lie to me." The sergeant was not a Mason but had a positive opinion of members. Brother Batchelder did his best to live up to that trust.

Even today, the Ohio legislator acknowledges that Freemasonry continues to have a special presence in his life.

"Freemasonry raises your expectations of yourself and prompts you to put the teachings of honesty and integrity into your life daily," Brother Batchelder said. "I was pleased to inherit this fraternal legacy from my family and brothers who have gone before me.

"It is a special heritage that you must live up to."



Surrounded by Grand Lodge Officers, Brother William Batchelder speaks to a crowd in June, 2008, at Grand Lodge Bicentennial event on Statehouse lawn. He was the only public official who presented remarks that day.

Brother Batchelder was actually elected to the Ohio House of Representatives while still in the military. "When I came to the House, about 60 percent of the members were Masons, including seven Past Masters." He continues to be aware of his Masonic brothers working near him.

"Over the years, I have known many of the leading citizens around the state, and I am proud to know that quite a few of them are Masons."

He also is very active in encouraging young men to

become members of Freemasonry. In recent years, he has helped a dozen young men petition Lodges, most of them legislative aides in the Statehouse.

"There are a lot of young people today looking for light."

Brother Batchelder sees an opportunity for Masonry in the future. "Society – in terms of its morality – has declined. There is a good future, in this time of economic recession, for the values of Masonry to spread and create a great presence of honesty and integrity throughout society." ♦

200th Celebration Continues in Flowers

A model Conestoga wagon was created by twin brothers David and Darl Silvus to help celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and it will continue to display flowers so those passing will be reminded of the accomplishment. The Silvus brothers are members of Mt. Moriah Lodge #37 in Beverly. ♦



Inspired to Get Involved

When asked, "What do Masons do?", our canned response is usually, "We make good men better." This is the story of one of our young men who made the conscious decision to join the fraternity and to *get involved*.

Huber Heights Lodge #777 first learned of a local family's situation through the widow of a former member. She told us of a family whose 6-year-old son, Noah, needed a Speech Generating Device from the Dynavox Corporation. The family's insurance would not cover the device and they could not afford it on their own. As a result, the child's development was suffering at home and at school. He could not speak due to his paralyzed vocal chords. Ron Clement joined the Fraternity in the first one-day class.

Ron contacted Dynavox to determine the cost of the speech generating device with the intent of having the Lodge and the Masonic

Grand Lodge of Ohio Charitable Foundation help fund the expense.

Through the tireless efforts of this Mason, involving a series of e-mails and nearly 10 months of phone calls and follow-up discussions, he was able to assist the family to get the Dynavox Corporation designated as an approved provider through the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps.

In late summer, the family received the speech generating device, which provided the young man with the ability to effectively communicate. There were several accessories associated with the speech generator device that allow interfacing with the family's computer, expanding the capabilities of the speech generator and offering even more capability. With the approval of the Master of the Lodge, a fundraising dinner was held. The fundraiser was a huge success, generating more than anticipated. The additional accessories were acquired and delivered to the family.

Through the efforts of the Lodge, Santa was able to deliver additional accessories for Noah's speech generator



which enables him to communicate with his family, teachers, therapists and friends.

What you should take away from this story is that the young Mason really had no idea what he was doing when he began this undertaking. He had been a military employee most of his life, where everything was pretty much pre-structured, he seldom had the opportunity to be very creative. He relates that this experience has taught him several things. First, and foremost, appreciate what you have been given in life. Not everyone is treated the same. Second, don't be afraid to try something you would not ordinarily do. The rewards are usually multiples of the investment of your time.

Ron deserves our heartfelt thanks and a hardy "Well done!" ✦

For more information on the I-CARE program, call 888/286-0010 or go to www.ohiomasonichome.org.



Sweetheart Banquet Held in Superior Lodge

The 15th Annual "Sweethearts Banquet" of Superior Lodge #179 was held on Feb. 11 in a restaurant in West Unity, OH. The Lodge picked up the tab for flowers, which were given to all the ladies, thanking them for being tolerant when their husbands were at Lodge meetings. ✦



Home Day Returns June 14th for 25th Anniversary

One of the year's most anticipated fraternity-wide events returns to its traditional month when the 25th Annual Ohio Masonic Home Day is celebrated on Sunday, June 14 at Springfield Masonic Community.

Home Day moved to September in 2008 to celebrate the bicentennial of Ohio Freemasonry, and will again vary just a little from its usual first Sunday in June slot to the second Sunday. No matter the date, Home Day is a great way to welcome in summer.

The campus will be turned into a festival of fun, food and friendship with a variety of things to experience including:

- Food and treats of all types available for purchase including our famous strawberry shortcake
- Live musical entertainment
- Crafts and a flea market



Several groups get in on the fun of the Shrine Parade at Home Day.

- Special exhibits and give-aways
- Kids games and treats
- Tours of Springfield Masonic Community's garden villa homes and apartments
- The Shrine Parade

Visitors can view their commemorative stones at the event. Meet Masons and their families from across the state as well as Springfield Masonic Community residents and staff from Ohio Masonic Home campuses and services.

Hours will be 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission to enjoy Home Day. There will be plenty of free parking, including available accommodations for those with special needs. Springfield Masonic Community is located at 2655 West National Road, Springfield. ✧

For more information on how you can be involved in Ohio Masonic Home Day, call (937) 525-3025.

Florida Visits Include Award Presentations

More than 400 Ohio Masons and their ladies attended luncheons with the Grand Master at three sites in Florida in January.

The receptions were held in the Bradenton, Ft. Myers, and Tavares areas.

Numerous presentations of pins and certificates for Ohio Masons reaching new plateaus of membership were presented at the luncheons.

During the visits, the Grand Master and several Grand Lodge Officers presented a 65-year pin and certificate to James H. Christman, in a rehabilitation center in Sebring, FL. In the picture, Brother Christman is seated, surrounded by Grand Master Charles R. Murphy, right, and other Grand

Lodge Officers, from left, George O. Braatz, Grand Secretary; Robert Rill, Junior Grand Deacon; Timothy Jolliff, Grand Tyler, and Gary L. McElfresh, Grand Chaplain.

Brother Christman, who had been a lieutenant colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, received his Master Mason Degree in Quarry Lodge #382.

He was very pleased that the Grand Master would stop by to present his award. Unfortunately, in early February, Brother Christman passed away. ✧





70-year Award Presented in Stockport

Hank Faires, a Past Master and retired Postmaster in Stockport, received his 70-year pin and certificate at Webb Lodge #252 in December. From left in the picture are Glenn Duncan and Timothy Jagers, both District Deputy Grand Masters in the 17th Masonic District; Worshipful Brother Faires; Past Grand Master Richard M. Wilson; and Thomas Harris, Worshipful Master of Webb Lodge. ❖

Three Generations of Active Masons

Past Grand Master Michael Himes, left, was present at the installation of his son, Rob Himes, as Worshipful Master of Golden Rule Lodge #345 in Covington, Kentucky, in late December. At right is Harry Himes (father of Mike and grandfather of Rob) who is a Past District Deputy Grand Master in the 1st Masonic District. ❖



Gibsonburg Lodge Supported by One Large Family

The Tornow Family, who are all members of Gibsonburg Lodge #575 can talk a lot of Masonry at a family reunion. From left in the front row are: Steve Tornow; Donald Tornow, Past Master; Allen Halfhill, PM; Paul Tornow, PM, and Michael Tornow, PM. In the back row, from left, are Ryan Halfhill; Sean Halfhill; Paul Tornow, Jr., PM; and Tim Tornow. Troy Halfhill, serving on duty in the U.S. Army, is not pictured. ❖

Lawrence County School Board Composed of Masons

In December, when this picture was taken, the Lawrence County Superintendent of Schools and all five School Board members were Masons, including two present and past District Deputy Grand Masters of the 12th Masonic District.

From left, are Kenny Shafer, Ohio Valley Lodge #536; Roland Hayes, Ohio Valley Lodge and a PDDGM; Harold Shafer, Superintendent (who retired on Jan. 1), Waterloo Lodge #532 and current DDGM; Darrell Davis, Waterloo Lodge; Phillip Carpenter, Lawrence Lodge #198, and Ray Malone, Waterloo Lodge. ❖



EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Texting, blogging and gaming are ways of life for teens and young people. They aren't alone. Some Springfield Masonic Community residents are also enjoying the benefits of modern technology. Following are four stories of seniors whose lives have been made easier by these conveniences.

Texting as Easy as 1-2-3, LOL

When garden villa resident Polly Baker wanted to talk to her grandson, she found out he could only be reached through his cell phone, and even then not through the speaker. He speaks one language – text.

That wasn't going to stop Polly. She decided to let her fingers do the walking over a cell phone key pad and learned to text. Polly's daughter bought her a new phone for Christmas and it's been like exploring a new world.

"It's been fun, I really like to learn," said Polly.

Already computer savvy, Polly wanted to learn the text language, a sort of shorthand based on a series of letters, and did her research. She

found a 23-page list of text terms. So far, her only frequent terms are ILU (I love you), HT (hi there) and RUOK (are you okay).

Polly began practicing before she even got the phone. Whereas some of their peers shy away from technology, Polly and husband Dale enjoy keeping up with the trends.

"The only sure thing in life is change, it's ahead of death and taxes," said Dale. "You may as well keep up with change."

The Bakers use their home computer to send e-mails, do business, make travel plans, create greeting cards and more. Frequent travelers, they take their laptop



computer on the road to stay in touch with family and friends. And when traveling by car, they use a GPS tracking system to navigate where they are going.

Being able to do so many things is part of the reason the Bakers moved to Springfield Masonic Community. "I didn't come here to sit around and rest, I came here to live," said Polly.

Caught in the Web

Watching television and using the Internet are two of the most popular daily rituals for many people. Independent living apartment residents and sisters Kitty Hohl and Christena Weider can do both through their Web TV systems.

Kitty purchased hers in the late 1990s and encouraged Christena to buy one. It helps they can stay in touch with family and friends through a few keystrokes.

Web TV allows users access to the Internet right through their televisions. Kitty finds it convenient as she can sit in her recliner and use a wireless keyboard with her 32-inch flat-panel television. For her, it beats having a desktop or laptop computer, which would require software updates and a place to put it in her apartment.

"It's like a lifeline, you always know what's going on with family and friends," said Kitty.

Also helpful is a little light on the console that indicates when a new email has been received. Although she doesn't do a lot of Web surfing, Kitty enjoys keeping up with the latest news and features on the system's homepage. And with just a few remote clicks can switch over to cable television.

Web TV especially helps Christena, who has macular

degeneration. Her family purchased her a 42-inch television for Christmas so she can see better. With family in places as far as England, Utah, South Carolina, Oregon and northern Ohio, Web TV lets her keep up with them easily without running up a long-distance phone bill.

When not on Web TV, Christena also enjoys other forms of technology such as DVDs. She has a Netflix subscription and looks forward to new movies arriving. And the big screen lets Christena see the scroller on cable news channels from her chair a few feet away with no problem.

And even though Kitty and Christena reside on different floors in the same building, they said sometimes it's just fun to e-mail each other.



A 'Smart' Auto Decision

Independent villa home resident Betty Schmitt never thought she'd own her own car, much less a conversation piece. Cars she'd previously had were ones her husband drove.

Deciding she needed a new one, Betty got one unlike most on the road – a Smart car. Smart cars differ from normal automobiles in that they are very small, about the width of a normal parking space, and you could fit two or three in lengthwise.

"Not only is it fun to drive, but it makes me feel younger again," said Betty.

Betty's daughter drives a Smart car and Betty became interested. But she found it could take up to a year-and-a-half to get a brand new one.

So her family scoured eBay and located one in Cleveland.

The color was just right, there was only 7 miles on it and Betty knew this was her car. The model is a 2008 Smart Fortwo, which has a passenger seat.

Betty's Smart Fortwo appeals on several levels. Although not a hybrid, it averages 41 miles on the highway and 30 in the city, which helps when Betty visits her church in the Columbus area, and when gas prices are high.

It's actually very roomy inside, which Betty said surprises a lot of people. It is very easy to go around corners and park and quite easy to get out of with its big door.



Getting around in the snow wasn't a problem either despite a harsh winter. Betty faced bad weather returning from church one Sunday and the Smart car did just fine.

It's also a conversation piece. Betty was amused to hear a pair of motorcyclists pass her talking about the Smart car when she first got it.

"I meet a lot of people and everybody wants to talk about it," Betty said, smiling.



Wii Warrior

Assisted living resident Ron Turnbull enjoys trips to the bowling alley, the baseball diamond and tennis court without ever having to leave his floor on Hillman Manor. The Nintendo Wii video game system has allowed him to be the games master of the campus.

Ron said he was excited to hear the Wii system was coming to the campus last year. He used to play a lot of video games and was an athlete in younger years, so having a system that indulged in both was ideal.

Ron is proud his skills on Wii bowling have earned him "pro" status. He enjoys playing against other residents or campus activities coordinator Kris Zeigler.

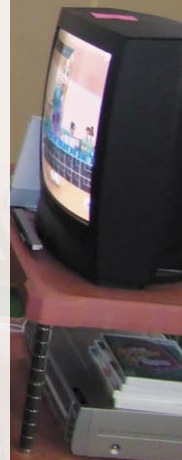
The chance to play Wii has helped Ron physically and emotionally. The hand-eye coordination involved in gaming has helped his strength, and looking forward to playing the system gets his spirits up and mind off other things.

When not playing Wii, Ron has another choice to keep him going – the mPower machine, a computer system that uses quizzes and interactive technology to challenge a user's mind.

"I didn't think I'd like it at first, but now I'm on it five times some days," said Ron.

He's hoping the activities department will be able to purchase new Wii games to enjoy and master in the future.

"I can't say enough about the staff we have here," he said. "Their being here for us and giving us things like this to do has really helped me out."



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Western Reserve Earns High Rankings in Surveys Springfield, Browning also earn strong marks



The nursing homes at Western Reserve Masonic Community and Springfield Masonic Community earned strong rankings in two recently released 2008 surveys.

Both communities merited four stars out of five overall from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Five-Star Quality Rating System for nursing homes. Both also earned four stars for health inspections and nursing home staffing.

The Five-Star Quality Rating System was created to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily and help identify areas in which they may want to ask questions. Nursing home ratings are

taken from three sources: Health Inspections, Staffing and Quality Measures and then combined for an overall rating.

The Family Satisfaction Survey from The Ohio Department of Aging saw Western Reserve earn a 92.5 percent rating and Springfield a 91.5 against the state average of 88.2. This survey reflects the care as reported by residents' family members, friends and guardians and covers a variety of questions across various departments.

Earlier in 2008, Springfield, Western Reserve and Browning Masonic Community (which does not have a nursing home on

its campus) earned above-average marks in the first national and state rankings of residential care, or assisted living, facilities.

Browning had a 96.6 rating, Western Reserve 95.7 and Springfield 92.4, all above the state average of 91.7. These measurements are based on the Ohio Residential Care Facility Resident Satisfaction Survey and cover all aspects of residents' living environments. ♦

For more information on Western Reserve Masonic Community, call 866/433-1514; for information Springfield Masonic Community, call 888/290-2664; for information on Browning Masonic Community, call 866/878-4055; or go to www.ohiomasonichome.org.

'Flying' Bean Bags in Cincinnati

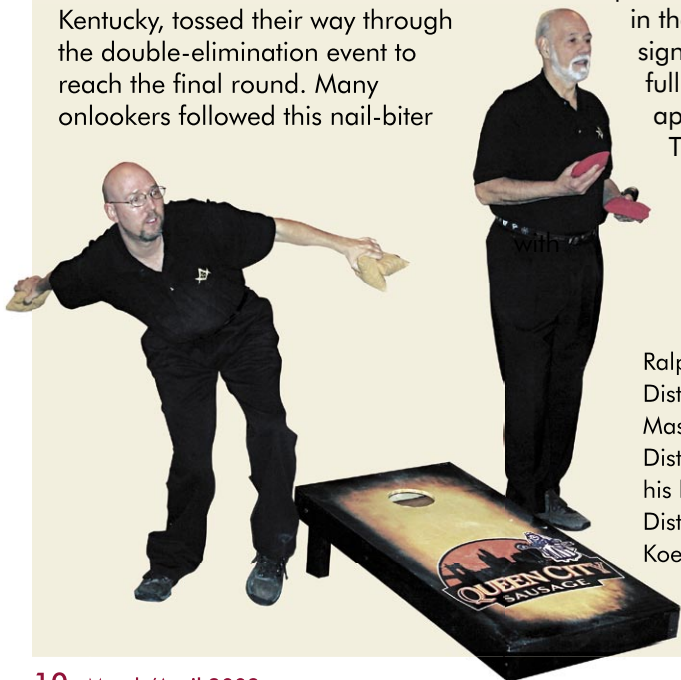
Bean bags flew across the Cincinnati Masonic Center's Grand Ballroom on January 31 as Freemasons from the Greater Cincinnati area and their teammates squared off in a hotly contested cornhole tournament.

A total of 21 teams from the First and Sixth Masonic Districts of Ohio, as well as brethren from Northern Kentucky, tossed their way through the double-elimination event to reach the final round. Many onlookers followed this nail-biter

to the end, when the team from Queen City Lodge #559 emerged victorious and was crowned Grand Champion.

The inaugural Tri-State Masonic Cornhole Championship sold sponsorships, giving Lodges, local businesses, and individuals promotional opportunities in the form of floor signage or custom, full-color graphics applied to the boards. The tournament also featured an area for children, complete tabletop sets and age-appropriate entertainment. ♦

Ralph E. McLemore, Jr., District Deputy Grand Master in the 1st Masonic District, prepares to toss his bean bag, as Past District Deputy George W. Koehnke waits his turn.



Records and Achievements

Recent news has highlighted three achievements by members of the Masonic Fraternity:

- **Denton True Young** – better known in the baseball world as Cy Young – was selected in January, among others, to receive a Great Ohioan Award. Brother Young was one of the greatest pitchers in the history of baseball and was a member of Mystic Tie Lodge #194 in Ohio. He died in 1955, having been a Mason for 51 years.
- **Walter Breuning**, Great Falls, Montana, has been identified as the nation's oldest man at 112 years old. He was a Past Master and long-time Secretary of his Lodge in Montana.
- **Robert Wadlow** was known as the "world's tallest man" when he died in 1940. He was also the "world's tallest Mason," being a member of Franklin Lodge in Illinois. He was 8-feet, 11-inches tall. ♦

Masonry in Motion

Cyclist and Brother James J. Sasak has announced his plans for a 26-day, "round the state" cycling tour to promote Freemasonry's support of the Ohio Special Olympic Summer Games. The tour will begin on June 1 at the steps of the Cuyahoga County Courthouse and will travel in a clockwise perimeter of Ohio's County seats.

Brother Sasak joined Lake Shore Lodge #307 in 2007 and became interested in its support of Ohio Special Olympics almost immediately.

"My plan is to arrange visits at each county seat along my route with representatives of both the county Special Olympics coordinators and my Masonic Brothers," said Sasak. "I feel strongly that with the backing of



my Brothers, I can turn my small media splashes in each county into a huge wave of interest and support for these athletes and Freemasonry."


The itinerary will touch 37 counties, 19 Masonic Districts (home of 80 Lodges), and cover about 1,200 miles.

Brother Sasak hopes that Brothers in the border counties of the state might be willing to offer him a warm meal or a hot shower along his way. Those wishing to assist can contact him at 440-352-3993.

"Jim did a version of this tour last year, but it was under the radar of most of our Brothers," explained Mike Cecil, chairman of the Grand Lodge Special Olympics Committee. "I hope this year the fraternity will come out and support him in this awesome undertaking. We will keep everyone updated on his

progress on www.freemason.com starting June 1."

After biking the border counties from Cuyahoga around the state to Lorain, Sasak will bike south through Ashland, Richland, Morrow, Delaware, and Franklin Counties, arriving at the Jesse Owens Stadium on the Ohio State campus in time for the start of the opening ceremonies for the Summer Games.

For regular updates about Brother Sasak's journey visit www.freemason.com 

Masonry Showcased At McKinley Museum

In recognition of the Bicentennial of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, the William McKinley Presidential Museum and Library, located in Canton, will showcase an exhibit on Ohio Freemasonry from January 31 to June 7, 2009.

President William McKinley's Masonic membership is the lynchpin of the exhibit. His Knights Templar sword is displayed adjacent to a composite photograph of the officers of Hiram Lodge, Winchester, Virginia, who initiated McKinley during the Civil War.


Artifacts relating to Garfield, Taft, and Harding, the other three Presidents from Ohio who were Freemasons, are included in the exhibition in addition to Masonic artifacts from around the state.



Local Masonic support for the exhibit has been strong both financially and through the loan of artifacts, including a complete set of Lodge furniture and early 19th century officer jewels from Clinton Lodge #47 in Massillon.

A large portion of the artifacts on display are from the collection of the Grand Lodge Museum and were part of the American treasures exhibit during the Grand Lodge session last October.



This exhibit will be available for display in other county museums, beginning in the middle of June 2009. Anyone with interest in bringing the exhibit to their local museum should contact the Grand Secretary's office, 1-800-292-6092. 

Ohio Represented at National Conference

Grand Master Charles R. Murphy and several Grand Lodge Officers represented Ohio at the annual Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America in Anaheim, California.

Numerous programs, workshops, and break-out sessions were held on issues important to the business of Freemasonry across the many jurisdictions in attendance. The ability to visit with officers of other Grand Lodges and discuss common problems and programs made the experience most valuable.

During the time, the Grand Master presented a 70-year pin to Brother Simon S. Apple in his home in Hollywood. He is a member of Forest City Lodge #388 in Lyndhurst, Ohio, and is 101 years old.

Also in attendance from Ohio, but representing other organizations were: C. Michael Watson, Past Grand Master, and currently Grand Master of DeMolay International; Jim S. Deyo, Past Grand Master, and



Three distinguished guests from Ohio, who attended the Conference of Grand Masters were, from left, Jim S. Deyo, Past Grand Master and Grand Lieutenant Commander of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; William H. Koon, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; and C. Michael Watson, Past Grand Master, and currently Grand Master of DeMolay International.



Simon S. Apple and his wife are surrounded by dignitaries, as the Grand Master presented his 70-year pin and certificate. Included, from left, are George O. Braatz, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master; Bradford A. Goebel, Senior Grand Warden; Charles R. Murphy, Grand Master; Franck T. Kakou, Worshipful Master of Forest City Lodge #388; Thomas H. Galyen, Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Master; and Terry W. Posey, Deputy Grand Master. Brother Apple, at 101 years old, is a member of Forest City Lodge.

Grand Lieutenant Commander of the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; and William H. Koon, Grand Master of the Grand Encampment, Knights Templar.

Several Ohio Masons received special recognitions at the event:

- **Terry W. Posey**, Deputy Grand Master, was named to Planning Committee for next year's Conference of Grand Masters in Virginia.
- **Thomas H. Galyen**, Grand Treasurer and Past Grand Master, was re-elected to another three-year term on the Board of

Governors of the Masonic Service Association of North America.

- **Ronald L. Winnett**, Past Grand Master, was elected to a three-year term on the board of the National Foundation for Children (Masonic Model Student Assistance Program). He had been serving the unexpired term for Past Grand Master Thomas E. Reynolds, who died last year.
- **George O. Braatz**, Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master, was elected to a three-year term on the board of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. ✦

Charitable Foundation Surpasses \$350,000 in Aid

The Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation, with several recent grants, has now surpassed \$350,000 it has given out to needy individuals and families since the Foundation was created in 1994. A total of 245 separate grants have been approved over that period of time.

The concept of the Charitable Foundation was established to help those in need by Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Zahler, when he was Grand Master.

All requests for possible assistance must be sent through an Ohio Lodge to the Charitable Foundation. ✦

Link Up With a Legend at Golf Classic

The Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic will return to Northeast Ohio for its second year on Monday, July 27.

The Legends Classic is one of the most unique golfing experiences available -- a chance to spend a day on one of the area's top rated public courses with a retired professional sports figure, pick up some great merchandise and priceless memories. The event is presented by the Benevolent Endowment Foundation of The Ohio Masonic Home. Proceeds will benefit residents at Medina's Western Reserve Masonic Community.

Major league baseball players, NFL players, NBA players, boxers, coaches and officials are among the celebrities who have played in past Legends events. The Medina event



Playing with a sports legend such as former Cleveland Browns receiver and current broadcaster Reggie Rucker is just one of the highlights for participants of the Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic.

features several local players from the Cleveland Indians and Browns.

The event is held at Medina's Blue Heron Golf Club, named one of the best new public courses in America by Golf Digest. Helping the Foundation run the tournament will be several Cleveland-area Masons and their families and staff and residents of Western Reserve Masonic Community.

In addition to being able to golf with a sports legend, participants can dine with their legend at a dinner following the day's play and

have the chance to bid on several unique items in silent and live auctions.

Following its cancellation in 2008 due to the damage caused by Hurricane Ike, the Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic will return to Greene Country Club in Fairborn on September 14. ♦

For more information or to register for the Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic, call the Benevolent Endowment Foundation at 888/248-2664.

I-CARE Program Adds Coordinator, New Committees

To better serve the growing needs of customers and committees, the I-CARE program is meeting the demand with a new coordinator.



Deb Dunseath

Deb Dunseath has joined to cover the South Central Ohio area.

I-CARE, which stands for Independence through Coordination, Assistance, Referral and Education, is subsidiary of

Masonic Senior Services, serving senior Masons, their wives and widows and Eastern Star members who want to remain independent in their own homes. I-CARE has seven coordinators, each covering each area of the state.

Deb was a Rainbow girl in Hanoverton, Ohio, and her in-laws were involved in Masonry and Eastern Star. She's spent more than 30 years in social services in several areas. Deb was also part of a Red Cross team that helped with assistance during the Hurricane Katrina disaster in Louisiana.

"Elderly people are my favorite population," Deb said of her joining the I-CARE team. "I am a people

person and enjoy the interaction with lodge members and others. This program challenges me to think outside the box and to be creative."

The I-CARE program would like to welcome the newest lodge committees: Rubicon #237 and Sylvania-Pyramid #287 in District 11; Ohio City #486 in District 23; Mid-Century #725 in District 22; and Hanselmann #208 in District 1. There are now 25 volunteer committees in Ohio and more are always needed. ♦

For more information on the I-CARE program or how to form a committee, call 888/286-0010.

Our Own Stimulus Package

By Right Worshipful Brother Timothy B. Strawn, CAE, President,
The OMH Benevolent Endowment Foundation



At this writing, we are awash in new and foreboding financial terms...TARP, bailout, stimulus package, etc. It seems the financial landscape is changing instantly and constantly. Just yesterday we learned that another attempt to "help out" will send a \$250 check to all Social Security recipients by June 1st.

Some say "How will that help?"...others say "I don't want that money...use it to help pay down this massive debt that's being created." Still others say things that are probably best left unreported!

While preparing to write this column, I received a phone call from two of our residents on the Springfield campus, Betty and Gene Shay. They are long time volunteers and residents, having begun volunteering long before

they moved to the campus. They've determined they want to make a gift of their \$250 checks (total \$500) to our Campus Beautification Fund which enables us to plant flowers, trees and shrubs throughout our campuses to bring additional, continual beauty to them. "Tim, we don't need this money...we have everything we need...and the Home (Springfield Masonic Community) takes such good care of us we'd like to do something nice for it," said Betty. "You know how we love flowers and shrubs. Please put this money in your Campus Beautification Fund. Maybe others will see what we've done and want to do the same," she continued. Thanks, Shays! What a great idea. Consider it done.

If you'd like to join the Shays in making your stimulus check

a stimulus for our Campus Beautification Fund, please send your checks to the Foundation, 5 Masonic Drive, Springfield, 45504-3658 and note "Campus Beautification" on the memo line or in a separate note. You may designate your gift for use on any of our three campuses (Springfield, Browning or Western Reserve) or, if you prefer, indicate no preference and it will be shared among all campuses.

Thanks for your consideration and creating something of beauty for our landscape from the stimulus program! ✧

For more information on how a Charitable Gift Annuity can be beneficial to you, contact the Foundation office toll free at 888/248-2664! We think you'll be glad you did!

Helping Hands Celebrates First Year with Innovations

The Masonic Helping Hands program has made strides in its first year in operation. The Springfield/Dayton office has served 109 clients in Clark, Greene, Montgomery and Miami counties since opening in December 2007.

The Cincinnati office, serving Butler, Hamilton, Warren and Clermont Counties, opened in July of 2008, followed by the Toledo office, serving Lucas, Fulton, Wood and Ottawa counties, in December 2008.

Helping Hands is an hourly paid service that offers a variety of services for those who want to stay independent in their homes, ranging from companionship, laundry and cooking to preparing meals, help with pets and transportation.

One of the things that sets Helping Hands apart is the unique 24/48 service policy. If a client calls for services, the organization can have a staff

member visit them within 24 hours for a free evaluation, after which a companion will be in the home within 48 hours to provide service.

Another important feature is having a live person available 24 hours a day to answer inquiries and set up service. ✧

For more information, call the Springfield/Dayton office at 877/564-0210, the Cincinnati office at 877/401-8653 or the Toledo office at 866/229-0907.



Brother Crosby Provides Entertainment at Banquet

Comedian Norm Crosby provided entertainment at the Conference of Grand Secretaries banquet. Here, Grand Master Charles R. Murphy and his wife, Zoellen, had a chance to meet with him briefly afterwards. Brother Crosby is a long-time Mason, living in California, but with a membership in Massachusetts. ✧

Three-District Inspection Successful


Thornville Lodge #521 in the 13th Masonic District, Muskingum Lodge #368 in the 18th Masonic District, and Jackson Lodge #85 in the 19th Masonic District, respectively, conferred the three degrees of Freemasonry, one after the other, in a three-lodge, three-district inspection on Feb. 7 in a school building in Gratiot.

Nearly 200 persons attended some part of the day-long event.

Grand Master Charles R. Murphy, and all 12 Grand Lodge Officers, plus 9 District Deputy Grand Masters from the three districts, were present.

Although there is no conclusive record, it is believed this is the first

time such a three-district event has ever been planned.

Coffee and donuts were available as Masons arrived, and a full lunch was served in the middle of the degree work. 

Thank You For Your Generosity

We offer our grateful appreciation to the estates, individuals, groups, or other Masonic bodies who have supported The Ohio Masonic Home with gifts given between December 1, 2008 and January 31, 2009.

\$10,000 +

Briester, Charles E.
Grand Lodge of Ohio, F&AM
Morgan, Frederick W. & Thelma
Mueller, Mildred B.
(In Memory of Brother William A. Mueller)
Rammelsberg, Merle
Sturdivant, Webster

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bannerman, Wm. David & Anita
Falk, Flora E.
Greenholz, Richard
Kelly, William H.
Moss, George K.
Seifert, Dorothy T. & Myron T.
Sheeler, Howard M.
The Springfield Foundation
Waddell, Harry D.

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Aldridge, James W.
Armstrong, Eugene A.
Grand Commandery of Ohio, KT
Schulze, Vivian H.
Scofield, Royal C.
The Gregory Hackett Family
Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Acacia Lodge #651, F&AM
Arters, George D. & B.J.
Baist, George H. & Dorothy
Clarington Lodge #597, F&AM
Cone, Grace
Davis, Orlando W.
De Vore, Robert
Gooding, Mabel C.
Grand Council of Ohio, R&SM
Hosler, Bessie V.
Houtz, A. G. & Patricia
Isreal, Rick
Kissel, Neal L.
Shrive, Harold George
Stahlman, George

\$500 - \$999

Allen Lodge #276, F&AM
Amelia Lodge #590, F&AM
Arabic Club Foundation
Cameron, Janis E.
Center Lodge #86, F&AM
Community Lodge #684, F&AM
Copper Penny Lodge #778, F&AM
Cortland Lodge #529, F&AM
Edwin S. Griffiths Lodge #749, F&AM
Jefferson Lodge #90, F&AM
John W. Barkley Lodge #621, F&AM
Johnson, Owen E., M.D. & Joyce
Kelly, Floyd

Madison Lodge #221, F&AM
New Harmony Lodge #435,
F&AM
Ralph R. Rickly Lodge #670,
F&AM
Seigla, Ronald E. & Patricia
Shadyside Lodge #724, F&AM
Williams, Frank R.
Yellow Springs Lodge #421,
F&AM
Zimmerman, Kermit V.

\$100 - \$499

Abend, Richard G.
Adams, Leroy
Allen, Donald Leroy
Anderson, Jerry L.
Armor, John D., Sr.
Baker, Dale L. & Pauline
Barnes, Jack
Bayliff, Gene
Beaver, Glenn L.
Black, Ross R., II & Linda
Blanchester Lodge #191, F&AM
Bloomingburg Lodge #449,
F&AM
Boyd, William Robert
Brewer, Elbridge H., Jr. &
Mareetta
Brigham, Charles A., III & Mary
Brookins, Gary J.
Brown, Nolan W.
Buckeye Lodge #150, F&AM
Calvin, Delo A.
Capital City Lodge # 656, F&AM
Caplinger, J. Rodger
Carpenter, Charles L. & Jennifer;
Bonnell, Dave, Deedee & Kids;
Carpenter, Shawn; Carpenter,
Mitch; Lawrence, Nate & Missy
Carrender, Harold D. & Virgilia
Cline, Thomas E. & Marjorie
Conn, William C.
Cooper, Marion D.
Corinthian Lodge #111, F&AM
Cornell, Lawrence L.
Crocker, Alfred James
Davis, Willard L. & Norma
Deluse, Robert Carl
Dircks, Lehr L.
Dunlap, Galen L.
Engle, Wilbur E.
Felicity Lodge #102, F&AM
Fenton, Craig B.
Fields, Truman D.
Fletcher, Robert F.
Forrester, Sean F.
Frank, James F. & Mary
Franks, Walton
Gard, Charles A., D.O.
Garrettsville Lodge #246, F&AM

Gasior, Robert W.
Gist, Ronald
Goff, Martha J.
Grammer, William R.
Grand Court Order of Amaranth
Grove City Lodge #689, F&AM
Grove, Harold J. & Elizabeth
Hamer Lodge #167, F&AM
Harbrecht, Joseph W.
Harmar Lodge #390, F&AM
Harpster, Warren T.
Hartung, Robert C.
Hatcher, Okey J.
Hawkins, Oscar
Henderson, Dean & Virginia
Henrich, William E.
Hight, Myron E. & Shirley
Hite, Paul R.
Holcomb, J. Robert & Antoinette
Horner, William Emile
Hoyer, William C.
Hunter, Robert Lee, Jr.
Jenkins, Stephen G.
Jones, Donald S. & Janet
Jones, Ernest L., Jr.
Karr, Thomas W. & Diana
Karth, Charles E. & Marjorie
Kellum, Jesse B. & Mary
Knepper, Arlo A.
Kreigh, Robert
Kuyoth, Liane S.
Leesburg, Jeffrey A.
Lemon, Howard G.
Lightle, Francis W. & Jean
Lilly, Hanson C. & Harriett
Lowell Lodge #436, F&AM
Marsenburg, Kenneth & Cora
Mattausch, Michael R. & Sally
McCorkle, Leon M., Jr.
McDowell, Walter D. & Audrey
McGowan, Arno R.
McKibben, Kenneth D.
McMillan Lodge #141, F&AM
Meggyesy, Dennis
Metzger, Jack W.
Mingo Lodge #171, F&AM
Minton, Allen W.
Moesle, Frank J. & Evelyn
Montpelier Lodge #547, F&AM
Mt. Olivet Lodge #226, F&AM
Mt. Sterling Lodge #269, F&AM
Mueller, Clay A. & Betty Lou
Mulligan, Edwin F.
Murphy, Charles D. & Patricia
Muskingum Lodge #368, F&AM
Neeper, Jeffrey R.
Nevada Lodge #343, F&AM
New Burlington Lodge #574, F&AM
Noble, Craig A. & Lisa
Oak Harbor Lodge #495, F&AM
Ohio City Lodge #486, F&AM

Oola Khan Grotto
Orphans' Friend Lodge #275,
F&AM
Oxford Lodge #67, F&AM
Page, Timothy Patrick
Palm, Richard H. & Janice
Paulson, Edward E., Jr.
Perts, Charles A.
Peterka, Roberta A.
Pfeifer, Carl E. & Norma
Prine, Lewis E. & Gayle
Prosnik, Vincent P. & Charlene
Purmort, John S.
Puskarich, Michael T. & Judy
Quirk, Shirley & Edward
Rannebarger, Jeff L.
Reisinger, LeRoy
Rhoades, Harold B.
Robertson, Peter
Rogers, Colin
Rubennacker, Larry G., Sr.
Schmitt, Betty J.
Shank, Harold & Josephine
Shepherd, Elsbeth
Short, Jack
Smalley, Neil M. & Willa Jean
Smithfield Lodge #182, F&AM
Social Lodge #217, F&AM
Stearns, Richard L.
Steers, Harlan H. & Shriley
Stonebarker, Charles E.
Storie, Eugene C.
Sulgrave Lodge #696, F&AM
Tapper, Eileen M.
Taylor, Charles H.
Taylor, Jeffrey Allen
Trotwood Lodge #755, F&AM
Twin Valley Chapter #240, RAM
Valley of Dayton, AASR
Van Wert Lodge #218, F&AM
Vargo, John J.
Vernon, Carl W. & Joyce
Warpole Lodge #176, F&AM
Warren Lodge #24, F&AM
Weibley, James E.
Wermuth, William
West, Max E.
Western Reserve Lodge #507,
F&AM
Whiston, Howard
Whitacre, Jo Ann
White, Margaret P. & Lloyd
Williamson, Gregory A. &
Deborah
Willis, Jimmie D.
Wilson, Norman
Winchester Lodge #236, F&AM
Wise, Forrest
Woods, Herschell R., Jr. & Betty
Woolley, William E.
Zimmerman, John C.

Being the Red Ant

Brother Dan Arnold



Brother Dan Arnold is willing to be the red ant. That isn't a superhero alias or Halloween costume, it's what he hopes will help him serve the Ohio Masonic Home as one of the newest members of its Board of Trustees.



Brother Dan Arnold

A red ant, according to Dan, is someone who isn't afraid to question something if it leads to better ideas or reasoning in figuring out solutions. The board is a group he's excited to be a part of after being appointed earlier this year.

"I'm astounded at the qualifications of our board members, everybody brings something different to the table," said Dan. "In this econo-

my there is no crystal ball, we need to maximize effectiveness, so it's up to us to help figure out these ways."

Dan has a diverse background, from heavy equipment operation to a management position at Western Electric Corp. to opening his own retail business, specializing in work and western attire. He spent 25 years as an entrepreneur, and has served as chairman of his church board and on the boards of other organizations.

"Small business problems and large business problems are actually similar, you attack them and solve them," said Dan.

Dan was raised a Mason in 1978 in Harrisonville Lodge #411. "Masonry is an important part of my life," said Dan. "It's about brotherhood. You meet brothers from all walks of life.

He's held numerous titles for various Masonic bodies over the years. One of his proudest fraternal

moments came last Thanksgiving when he initiated his grandson, Justin, with the Entered Apprentice Degree. Justin, a member of the U.S. Navy, was home on leave and he is back at sea serving, and Dan looks forward to helping him complete the other degrees.

Dan said younger members like Justin are what will keep the fraternity going and he's enthusiastic about seeing new blood bringing sharp, new ideas to take Masonry forward.

When not involved in church or Masonry activities, Dan, who is retired, spends much of his time on his 125-acre farm near Harrisonville with wife Patricia, where his family has lived for decades, although they don't do any actual farming there, Dan has plenty to keep him busy, with his son living across the street. His hobbies include private piloting, motorcycling and restoring antique automobiles. ♦



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Web site: www.freemason.com

March/April 2009 • VOLUME 16, ISSUE 2

In This Issue:

Batchelder is Proud Mason	Page 1
80-Year Member Award	Page 2
Inspired by I-CARE	Page 5
Embracing Technology	Page 8-9
High Rankings Achieved in Surveys ...	Page 10
Biking for Special Olympics	Page 11