



April 2023 Trestle Board

Brainard No. 102 Connecticut Ancient Free and Accepted Masons





From the East:
Worshipful Master's Report
WM Richard A. Miller

Brothers All:

It's hard to believe we are on the verge of May. Things have been moving along very well at Brainard Lodge. Our decision to meet every Tuesday evening has really simplified things.

Our first Tuesday of May is an officers meeting. We will be discussing, among other things, the upcoming Fellowcraft Degree. Entered Apprentice Brother Ryan Edwards has said he will be ready for the Fellowcraft Degree by the 23rd of May, so we will be ready for him to receive the degree on Tuesday May 23, 2023. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. and the Degree at 7:30 p.m.

Our Senior Warden will be sitting in the East that night. The Working Tools will be presented by Brother Dante Simpkins and the Charge will be done by the Junior

Deacon Brother Richard Galbo. Senior Deacon Jon Lamas will do the Middle Chamber Lecture.

We will also be preparing to do another Entered Apprentice Degree because we have elected Mr. Stevenson R. Jones to receive the three Degrees of Masonry as exemplified by Brainard Lodge.

On Tuesday night, May 2, 2023, we will appoint an Investigation Committee to meet with Mr. Bradley Tefft so we can vote on his petition at our Stated meeting on Tuesday May 9, 2023. You will be informed of the date of the upcoming E.A. Degree via next month's Trestle Board. Our Junior Warden W.B. Tyler Beebe will be in the East for that Degree.

Also to be discussed at our Officers meeting will be a Table Lodge in the Fall as well as the Masonic Naval Degree. This is a fun Degree. My Grandson Brother Richard Galbo and I attended this Degree at Meadow Lodge in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts in September of 2022. You'll be reading about these events and more in the next couple of months.

I just want to thank all the Officers and members of Brainard Lodge for their support and willingness to support me this year. This is my seventh time being in the East and it has been the most enjoyable. It's always great when Brother's step up.

Brainard Lodge is becoming much younger. S.W. Seth Beebe is 24 years old, J.D. Richard Galbo is 22 years old, Bro. Dante Simpkins is 22 years old, and E.A. Ryan Edwards is 22 years old. Richard, Dante and Ryan were all classmates at East Lyme High School and graduated in 2019. Mr. Bradley Tefft is 23 years old and Stevenson Jones is 28 years old. The dynamics of Brainard Lodge is wonderful. It's even more so when you consider the difference in our ages. I am 74 years old. It's rejuvenating to socialize with all the Brothers, but the younger Brothers bring a much younger mindset to Brainard Lodge, and it's very welcome.

Fraternally

R.W.B. Richard A. Miller

Worshipful Master



Events Calendar May

- **Tuesday May 2, 2023** Officer's Meeting at 6 p.m. w/Degree Rehearsal
- **Tuesday May 9, 2023** Stated Communication, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Degree at 7:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday May 16, 2023** Officer's Meeting at 6 p.m. w/Degree Rehearsal
- **Tuesday May 23, 2023** Fellow Craft Degree, Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Degree at 7:30 p.m.

- **Tuesday May 30, 2023** Officer's Meeting at 6 p.m. w/Degree Rehearsal
- **Saturday May 27, 2023** District Deputy Investiture for R.W.B. John Henry
Wadsworth 3:00 p.m. dinner to follow Brainard Lodge

Additional

- **Saturday June 24, 2023** Summer Picnic and Strawberry Festival 12:00 p.m.
Brainard Lodge
 - **Saturday July 8, 2023** Officers Picnic and officers meeting P.M's also. 2:00
p.m.
 - **Saturday September 9, 2023** Awards Ceremony 2:00 p.m. Brainard Lodge
 - **Sunday October 1, 2023** Ladies Dinner Langley's Social Hour 1:00 p.m.,
Dinner 2:00 p.m..
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MASONIC WAGES

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold or silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.

*By Bro. Benjamin Franklin
Grand Master of Pennsylvania, 1790*

A Master's Wages

By Brother [Carl H. Claudy](#)

The Master Mason - May 1925

When Masonry was operative, the Fellow of the Craft labored long and earnestly to fit himself to produce his Master's piece, by which he would be enabled to prove himself fit to receive the Mason word - what we know as "the Secret Word of a Master Mason" - that he might go where he would, prove himself a Master and receive a Master's wages.

Now that Masonry is speculative only, many who apply and receive the degrees think that the mere possession of the secret word makes them fit to receive a Master's wages, forgetting that it was not the word, but the fitness to receive it, which qualified their ancient operative brethren for a Master's wages.

But the speculative Mason can no more receive a Master's wages today than in days of old, unless he be truly a Master. Writing "Master Mason" after one's name does not make one such in the speculative sense. Having one's name inscribed upon the by-laws of a Lodge does not make one truly a Master Mason.

Being a Master Mason is wholly a matter of the heart and mind; unless the one be humble, the other eager to learn and willing to study, a man may never truly be a Master Mason-aye, though he take every degree in every Rite and wear a jewel pin for every title he assumes.

In ancient days a Master's wages were paid in coin of the realm. They are no less so paid today, but the realm is of the Inner man, not the world of society. The wages received by a Master Mason who has fitted himself to earn them are paid in that which money cannot purchase. Not by favoritism or influence or high estate can any man win a Master's wages; if he receives them, it is because of what he is, what he thinks, and how he thinks it. From the time a Fellowcraft goes alone to the Altar to make his petition to Deity he stands alone or falls. When he is raised to the Sublime Degree, his brethren and his lodge have done all they can for him; if he is ever to receive a Master's wages, it will be because of what he does for himself.

A Master's wages are paid in the knowledge of the human heart; its dependence upon love and friendship, its eagerness to give for the love of giving, its humble hope of receiving for the simple human joy of being beloved. They are paid in knowledge which girds a man in armor through which misfortune, hard times, ill luck, cannot pierce. They are paid in the security which comes from certain knowledge of millions of brethren sworn to your aid and support - and make no mistake about this, my brother; though you may never need to make appeal, though no man spreads his call for help throughout the whole Masonic world, no matter where that call echoes, there

will be some who hear and heed. A Master's wages are paid in friends of the heart; friends who make life rich with its fairest treasures. The sentimentalist- sings of the friend of his youth. It is true that friendship deepens with time; a common past is the foundation on which many a friendship is based. Freemasonry supplies such a past. Men linked in the Mystic Tie can think, symbolically, of their friendship beginning thousands of years ago! The friends made in Masonry are of tested steel; there are none better. A Master's wages are paid in the knowledge of closeness to and communion with the Great Architect of the Universe. In the practice of Freemasonry a Master Mason draws close to God. The All Seeing Eye to him is a friendly one. No man spends time in a lodge without having his faith strengthened; in days when mental confusion, doubt, debate and argument undermine beliefs less solidly founded, the firm foundation for simple beliefs which comes from Freemasonry is surely not the least of the coins in which a Master receives his wages.

And a Master's wages are paid in strength to endure, in courage to proceed, in hope of the future and in joy in the present.

These are wages worth working for! These are coins besides which those of minted gold show themselves to be the dross they are! For these are the wages given to character.

Freemasonry gives us wages according to our labor; and if we work faithfully, we may be sure, as in the parable, we shall receive each man his penny. But Freemasonry, like any other institution, pays in a sliding scale according to the worth of the labor given; the Apprentice receives less than the Fellow of the Craft, and he less than a Master. See to it, my brother, that you are a Master in fact as well as in name; so shall you learn the real meaning of the Word by which some day you will travel in a far, far country, where there is neither gold nor silver, and where, indeed, the only coins which can be used are those you here fit yourself to receive - a Master's wages.

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Reminder: 2023 Blue Lodge Dues

As a reminder, membership fees are currently due for the 2023 calendar year. If you've already submitted yours, thank you! Please contact our lodge secretary, [James Gilstrap](#), with any questions.



2023 Officers

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Committees

Finance

TBD

Auditing

WM Richard Miller

Seth Beebe

Tyler Beebe

Fund Raising/Philanthropy

Michael Bogdan

By-Laws

Theodore James Nelson

Programs

TBD

Dues and Delinquents

TBD

Membership/Retention

TBD

Scholarship

Theodore James Nelson

Andrew Ely

Investigation

TBD

Marketing

Jonathan Lamas

Information & Technology

James Gilstrap

Jonathan Lamas

John Wadsworth III

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact the [WM](#) or [Secretary](#).

