



James F. Easterling, Jr., 33°



WHAT A DAY!

I would like to thank all of the Brethren that traveled to Columbus on June 21st and helped represent the 21st Masonic District in our Bicentennial parade. It was a great day for Freemasonry here in Ohio and it shows that we are proud of who we are and what our fraternity means to each of us. As I stood in front of all of those who were in attendance to witness the Cornerstone Dedication, it sent chills thru out my body to see the number young and old alike, who wanted to be part of something special that we will not see again in our lifetime.

It's not to late. Our first lady, Mrs. Linda Winnett is having a Lady Linda's Charity Dinner and Silent Auction on September 13th, 2008 in Columbus and you are all invited. The ladies of our District have many gift baskets for the auction and it is going to be a great night. All monies raised will go toward the three Masonic Communities here in Ohio. Tickets are available through myself, and the Grand Lodge web page at www.freemason.com and click on the Lady Linda's List tab or one of the District Deputy Grand Master's names listed.

Start planning. Our Deputy Grand Master, Charles R. Murphy, if elected Grand Master in October at Grand Lodge, is planning on having a Grand Master's One Day Class on June 13th, 2009. If you know a man who is interested in Masonry this may be a way for him to join. Blue Lodge meetings start again in September. I hope you will support your Lodge as we

start looking toward Grand Lodge in October.

Fraternally,
Jim Easterling, Jr.
Grand Marshal

ABOUT PEOPLE

Part of my weekend routine always includes at least one trip to Starbucks. I enjoy their coffee and I find it to be a pleasant place to hang out. I was particularly touched a while back. While waiting for a cup of coffee at their Kent locale, I noticed one of the chairs was cordoned off. On it was a picture and a short note. The note paid tribute to a frequent patron, a professor of German, who had passed away. The picture was probably recognizable to anyone who ever visited the shop, as the gentleman was as much a fixture there as a latte machine. The note was a simple, yet eloquent, gesture on behalf of the employees, remembering a quiet and a gentle man that had touched their lives. While I find their coffee refreshing, I find their simple tribute even more refreshing. It tells me that they aren't just about coffee; they're about people.

The preceding paragraph reflects on change and on people. Our September 2007 Membership Symposium embodied these same two areas. They are the focus of our Ohio Membership Meetings. They are the topic heard at the Secretary Conference in Massachusetts. Our Sovereign Grand Commander writes about it in the August 2008 issue of the Northern Light. Perhaps, you've heard our Northern Masonic Jurisdiction refer to them in a neatly bundled concept called the hedgehog concept.

Jim Collins' bestseller "Good to Great" refers to the hedgehog concept, which draws from Isaiah Berlin's famous essay "The Hedgehog and the Fox". Based on an ancient Greek parable, Berlin divides the world into foxes and hedgehogs; the fox knowing many things, while the hedgehog knows one big thing. Therein lies the important difference. In practice, the hedgehog concept directs a mission statement from being a goal, strategy, intention, or plan to be the best; to an understanding of what you can be best at. The hedgehog of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite is that *"Each Valley must emphasize convenience, inspiration, and*

enjoyment in all its programs and degrees".

To me, this concept recognizes our membership as our most valuable asset. It charts our direction as a people organization, for an about people. It's what we do best.

John D. Gustafson, 33°
Deputy's Representative

CLC BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children with Dyslexia welcomed two new members to the Board of Governor's at their August meeting. **Kenneth E. Gang**, Chairman of the Walk-a-Thon, is President/owner of Ben Gang Lathing and Plastering. Ken's education was in the Akron Public Schools, ITT Technical Institute and Akron University. Ken is 1st Lieutenant Commander of Akron Consistory and a member of the stagecraft crew. Ken serves on the Fellowcraft team for Star Lodge No. 187.

Tom G. Thacker, II, LLP, joins the Board as a non-masonic member. He is VP, Wealth Management with Citigroup Smith Barney and Resident Branch Manager of Smith Barney, Akron. Tom's education was at the University of Missouri, at Kansas City, for both his Bachelorette and Law Degrees. Tom serves as a member of the Board of Education of the Cuyahoga County Service Center and the Greater Cleveland Council Boy Scouts of America.

Ken and Tom are warmly welcomed to the CLC Board of Governors.

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WOOD

Do you have good used or new wood, that you can spare and donate for our Masonic brethren. We are talking about pieces of wood as small as a foot to whatever, but not too long. They use the wood for crafts as well as to repair items for the residences.

Raymond B. Strickland, 33°
Thrice Potent master
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