

Trestleboard

Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636



1996-2022
26th Anniversary Year

March, 2022

**Stated Communications: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays
7:30 PM**

Freedom Masonic Temple
4557 Lemay Ferry Road
St. Louis, MO. 63129

Web Site – www.lodge636.com

Worshipful Master
WB Stephen E. Jones
5330 Southview Hills Court
Oakville, MO 63129-2458

secretary
RWB Michael L. Apple
912 Kylemore Drive
Ballwin, MO 63021

From the East

Historians tend to take a long dispassionate view of history. They note that there have been all forms of government that have taken place in the history of mankind. Everything from tyrannical despots to benevolent monarchies to tribal leadership have occurred in our collective history. Democracies have also appeared most notably the Greek society tried it a couple of times. They never really lasted very long. Our own democracy is referred to as an experiment and for good reason. No one is sure how long it can last.

Right now our institutions that support our Democracy are under enormous pressure. In order to “secure a more perfect union” you have to have freedom of the press. When an Authoritarian leader shows up the first thing they do is to dismantle or discredit the press. The freedom to vote and the belief in fair and free elections is also key to securing a democracy. On paper, Russia is a democracy, but since president Putin has been in office for 26 years it is very apparent that democracy does not exist in Russia. Putin is a dictator. The Russian paper “Pravda” is the voice for the state. There is no free press in Russia and all political opponents to Puten’s rule are dead or in jail. That is one way to stay in power.

Our own country is in terrible trouble. The founding Fathers who gave us the gift of our constitution and the three separate branches of government did everything in their power to forsee any problems that could arise in the future. After all they had lived lives under a system of government that had taken away all of their political power. They knew exactly what tyranny was.

Another key component to Democracy is the concept of compromise. These days that is almost unheard of. This scorched earth policy of “my way or the highway” is very damaging to our democratic system of government. This idea of no compromise has led to endless gridlock in congress. It has gotten to the point where many lawmakers have just walked away because they cannot get anything done and they are tired of wasting their time.

We have been divided before, usually through the mechanism of fear. In the 1950’s Senator Joseph McCarthy used the fear of Communism the “Red Scare” to amass great power for himself and to destroy anyone who stood in his path. It worked. It got to the point where all one had to do was be accused and you were finished. His main target was Hollywood. He did not like their values so he set out to destroy the industry and he mostly succeeded. It took a few years and some very brave men and women who stood up to him to finally put an end to the phony Senator McCarthy. Now when people look back they find it hard to believe how easily the American public was led astray.

Human nature does not change. We have lawmakers today who make outrageous comments and they (this is brilliant) raise money for their causes. Whatever this is, it is not democracy.

My interest in Masonry was fueled by my interest in American history. I found Masonic fingerprints all over our constitution, our emblems and even our currency. It turns out that at least twelve US Presidents have been Masons and one of my favorites is President Harry Truman who was Grand Master for the state of Missouri. I read his biography and saw the movies and that fact was never even mentioned.

So where do we go from here. If we want to keep our democracy we need to reaffirm the basic principles of democracy, and the institutions that support democracy. We cannot always have our way. Compromise is the key to getting anything done and we need to elect leaders who believe in the rule of law and the constitution. Recognize fear mongering for what it is and do not allow ourselves to be duped by the con man.

Masonry is about the belief in God and respect for all of mankind. We can lead by example and maybe just maybe we can save our democracy for the generations to come.

WB Stephen Jones
W.M. Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636

SECRETARY’S MESSAGE

Please open the Website noted on front page. It is new. It is in its infancy. Please comment as to pros and cons to the secretary. We need your input. Brother Jeff Horton has been working hard to make this something we can be proud of. I thank you in advance for your assistance with this project.---secretary, Mike Apple

46 have not paid their dues, **so PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!!!!!** Or you will be suspended **on April 2, 2022**. Those 50 or so who paid in the last month, we say, **THANK YOU**. **If you are having financial or health difficulties, please contact the secretary and let him know. He will present to the Lodge Members at our next meeting, but time is running out.**

Please remember the dues were payable by 1-1-2022. After that you cannot visit another Lodge or any other Masonic Organization. Please refer to Page 6 of this Trestleboard for updates especially for dues collection. If not paid or at least contact the Lodge secretary, YOU WILL BE SUSPENDED on April 2, 2021. If you are having financial or health difficulties, please contact the secretary and request assistance.

To use PayPal, put in Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636. It should open.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE SECRETARY. EMAIL IS THE BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR EXPENSES DOWN AND COMMUNICATE QUICKLY.

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING YOUR TRESTLEBOARD BY U.S. MAIL, THEN WE DO NOT HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL.

Please remember you can go to the Grand Lodge Web Site (momason.org) using your member number noted on your dues card, follow the prompts to make changes in contact info (if you do, please notify the secretary as the GL does not.)—this is also how you input in your wife’s information.

If you hold a sub card, the Grand Lodge has requested you look at your information on the Portal to determine if all are up to date. They will be publishing a list of all who have sub cards in the various Regions as reference for those who need help.

If anyone has suggestions on how to improve the Trestleboard, please contact the secretary.

Just a note, the secretary, RWB Michael Apple notified the Lodge Members present at our 1-4-2022 meeting that he would not be continuing as secretary the next term for personal reasons. At the Annual March Meeting of the Past Masters Club he will not accept the position of president.

Fraternally,
Michael Apple, secretary

Sickness and Distress: Please keep in your thoughts and prayers for the following: David Johnston, Bud Occhi, Walt Sawicki, Steve Dodson. Please notify the WM or secretary if anyone else should be recognized.

The Lodge still needs members to step up to take the positions of SS and JS as well as a full time Tiler. We must plan ahead now for improving the Masonic knowledge of our current officers and those stepping in to take the various positions for the future. If not now, then when will you step up. The Lodge needs you.

The Grand Lecturer has reinstating the Round Robin Competition for the Candidates lectures. If interested in participating, please contact RWB Mike Apple and he will help.

3/1/22	Meeting	7:30 p.m.	We have 3 petitions for degrees in the works.
3/8/22	FMTA 3 rd Degree?	6:00 p.m.	3-15-2022 Past Masters Club Elections 6:00 p.m. Need all Past Masters to Vote.
3/15/22	Meeting	7:30 p.m.	2 Master Mason Degrees will be scheduled. Notice will be sent out by email.
3/22/22	3 rd Degree?	7:00 p.m.	

Meals for the First Meeting of the Month will be a pitch in with the Brothers providing dessert and the Lodge providing meat, etc. The Second Meeting, the Lodge will provide a light meal with all meals starting at 6:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. if Degree Work.

The following locations for practicing various aspects of the Ritual are: Tuesday morning breakfast at Overland, 9:00 breakfast and 9:30 to 11:00 practice. ---- 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesdays at Fenton 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Algabil-Freedom Normal Practice session 2nd and 4th Tuesdays) ----Thursday morning at Fenton, coffee/donuts/fellowship 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.—practice 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. **Please remember, “Ritual is the Basis of our Art”**

Please MARK YOUR CALENDARS and see Steve Jones or Mike Apple for details.

Lodge of Instruction the first and third Mondays of each month from November thru April with light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and practice at 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. All Master Masons and especially Lodge Officers are encouraged to attend. The locations are the first Mondays at Overland-Occidental Lodge and the third Mondays at Meridian Lodge.

Two new items have come to the secretary by at least two sources: **First**, the Grand Lodge for 2022 will be held in October 2022 at St. Charles, MO. **Second**, Bethel 47 who have been meeting at Freedom Temple for many many years will be moving to Beacon Lodge on January 1, 2022. We are all sorry to see them go.

BIRTHDAYS— March 2022---Gary Mann, Michael Singer, Sr. Fred Shoemake, Gary Hayes, Donald Gabel, Walter Gilbert, Terry Coff, Marion Sims, Glenn Neal, Jewell Franks, Wayne Boston, Elmer Wilke, Robert Webb, Richard Jacobs, Bradley Boggs, Steven Lovell, Benjamin Wechsler, James Maller, Bruce Davis, Jeremy Rollins, Mark Narens, Samuel Puttman James Conley, Zachery Stone, Adam Mitchell, David Hudson

THOSE WHO WILL OBTAIN THEIR 50 YEAR STATUS WITH THE FRATERNITY IN THE NEXT 3+ YEARS.

Bruce E. Williams – 9-2-2022, Norman G. Schlagenhauf, Jr. - 10-28-2022, Thomas J. Noel - 2-21-23, Fred Wayne Shoemake – 5-7-23, Jimmy H. Elam - 5-8-2023 – Harry C. Scurlock, Jr. – 8-31-2023, William J.B. Mathis Jr. – 9-15-23, Terry L. Coff – 10-14-23, Charles E. Woolf – 6-4-24, Robert H. Burnette – 10-8-24, Stephen W. Marquard – 10-9-24, Dennis E. Fetter – 10-22-24, Thomas J. Moser – 12-16-24, Richard A. Mirkay – 2-1-25, Donald J. Earll – 4-5-25, Joseph M. Walker – 6-10-25, Joseph R. Rivituso – 6-24-25.

The Trestleboard will be emailed and/or mailed monthly. We will email other information as it becomes available. (SO, PLEASE REMEMBER WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO PROPERLY COMMUNICATE.)

Masonic Funeral Services: Please inform your family your desire of having a Masonic Service. Most families are not aware of the service and its meaning. It is the Fraternities way of saying good bye for a while until we meet again.

DIRECTIONS: To Freedom Masonic Temple--- take I-270 South to the I-55 North / Lemay Ferry exit. Turn right on LeMay Ferry for about 1/2 mile. Lodge is on the right. Look for the lighted sign board

Please fill out the following and send to the secretary via email or snail mail as soon as possible. We are trying to update our Membership list and wives information and need **everyone's** help.---Thanks, Mike Apple, secretary

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

WIFE'S NAME _____

Please note, the Lodge members have decided not to have any large group meetings for the time being until it is determined to be safe from COVID-19. Once we resume special meetings, etc. All will be notified by email and Trestleboard. This was not an easy decision.

HISTORY OF OUR BROTHERS

When I took over as secretary of Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636 there was a project that I felt was very important. Recognizing those who have been long term members. And recognizing them by certificates, etc. (such as 50 year, 25 year, 40 year, 60 year, 65 year, 70 year and 75+ years.

Well I got the time and this is the beginning of recognizing those with many years of service.

- Robert E. Meyer—77.28 Years—11-13-1944**
- George W. Koertel—71.86 Years---5-15-1950**
- August J. Vogler, Jr.---70.78 Years---5-16-1951**
- Russell L. Francis---70.67 Years---6-23-1951**
- Anthony E Leeker, Jr.---69.95 Years---10-10-1951**
- William D. Baker---70.32 Years---10-31-1951**
- Duaine W. Pryor---70.11 Years---1-13-1952**
- Allen G. Renz---69.41 Years---9-26-1952**
- James Swan---68.69 Years---6-17-1953**
- Kenneth O. Baker---65.95 Years---3-13-1956**
- Robert E. Potter---65.15 Years---6-30-1956**
- Fred R. Caress, Jr.---65.61 Yers---5-16-1956**
- William F. Volk---64.81 Years---5-4-1957**
- Jerome R. Rodgers---64.29 Years---11-9-1957**
- Robert Kannewurf---63.71 Years---6-10-1958**
- James Shade, Jr.---63.42 Years---9-23-1958**
- David J. Johnston, Jr.---63.02 Years---2-16-1959**
- Glennon P. Schleper, Sr.---61.69 Years---6-15-1960**

Leslie C. Davis---60.99 Years---1-28-1961

Two more things, If you know any of these Brothers, call them. Of these 19 Brothers there is one person who had .40 time lost. They truly are from the Greatest Generation.

MESSAGE FROM THE TEMPLE BOARD PRESIDENT

The Temple Board decided at their January meeting to start having meetings every two months. When special items come up the Executive Committee will hold a special meeting. For security within the building we are changing the locking and alarm system so as to have an alarm on the downstairs door from the parking lot and an alarm on the door by the secretaries desk. Everyone who has a key must notify the Temple Board so as to make sure the key is identified and serial number utilized for entrance into the building. In other words the number on your key will be the pass code. The chair lift has been installed.

Thanks, Steve Dodson, president FMTA

INFORMATION FOR OUR WIDOWS—PLEASE RESPOND

The Widows committee is working hard to make contact with all of our Widows. Please fill out the form on the previous page and mail or email to the Lodge secretary as soon as possible so we can make you aware of what is going on with the Lodge. To date, we have very few phone numbers and even fewer email addresses. We sent out stamps again this year. *If you did not receive stamps, Please confirm your mailing address, the stamps will then be sent to you. Your phone number and email address are also needed as well.* The committee has made the decision if no updated info is received by 4-2-2022 we will remove the Widow from the mailing list and remove from the Grand Lodge Portal. ***We need your help.***

—Thanks, Norm Schlagenhauf III, chairman

ALGABIL-FREEDOM LODGE No. 636 A.F. & A.M.

2022

ALL DUES ARE PAYABLE and were due on JANUARY 1, 2022

The information below conforms to Section 18.010 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws

LODGE DUES---MANDATORY	\$61.00	
Grand Lodge Mandatory Assessments	*\$35.50	
*Masonic Home		
*Masonic Children's Foundation		
*Masonic Scholarship		
*George Washington National Memorial		
*Public Relations Fund		
Mandatory Liability Insurance	\$2.00	
TOTAL (required dues)		\$98.50

VOLUNTARY DONATIONS:

GRAND LODGE:

Penny--A-Day for Masonic Home	\$ _____
Lodge of Research	\$ _____
Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
MoChip	\$ _____

	TOTAL	\$_____
ALGABIL-FREEDOM:		
	Algabil-Freedom Charity and Relief Fund	\$_____
	Lambskin Scholarship Fund	\$_____
	Benevolent Fund	\$_____
	WM Charity Fund	\$_____
	Printing of Trestleboard	\$_____
	Contribution to General Fund	\$_____
	TOTAL	\$_____
	YOUR CHOICE WITH secretary applying as needed	\$_____
	GRAND TOTAL	\$_____

SUSPENSION DATE WAS CHANGED FROM 6-2 TO 4-2 IN 2021.

If **you need assistance paying**, please let the secretary know **NOW** or you will be suspended.
SEND YOUR PAYMENT TO: Michael L. Apple, secretary, Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636 at 912 Kylemore Drive, Ballwin, MO 63021.