

Trestleboard

Algabil-Freedom Lodge No. 636



1996-2022
26th Anniversary Year

April, 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

As you may know the Masonic Ritual, all of it, is done from memory. All of the words are scripted and all of the movements are planned out. In a real sense it is a performance. As such the performers of the ritual are subject to stage fright which gets in the way of a ritual performance.

As a musician I am used to dealing with stage fright in terms of music, but in the position of WM as a thespian, I am frequently caught off guard and my mind just goes blank. During the ritual I see some of my fellow officers also experience momentary memory loss.

In order to understand stage fright you have to understand how the human brain works and how it evolved. Scientists have done numerous studies and the theory that has become widely accepted is that our brain is a triune brain which means there are three separate brains. The oldest brain is the Reptilian brain, on top of that is the Limbic brain and finally the most modern is the Neocortex. Each brain has its own functions. For example the Reptilian brain controls our breathing, the respiratory system and basic body functions so that we do not have to actively think about controlling. The Limbic system is about seeking pleasure and avoiding pain. The Neocortex is where the rational mind resides. As I write this article I am using my Neocortex. So far so good. Now scientists speculate that the “fight flight or freeze” response is in the Reptilian brain. They also state that when we are in this state we cannot access the Neocortex part of the brain which houses our linguistic abilities, which is why our mind goes blank. Stage fright causes the brain to downshift quickly into the Reptilian brain. It happens in a split second, but to get out of that stage takes a lot longer.

So, in performing Ritual as WM I have to take the lead. The Ritual consists of a series of questions and answers followed by statements. There is also a series of gavel raps that have different meanings depending on which degree the Lodge is at labor. These raps also function as marking the beginnings and endings of sections and they are also precisely scripted. To give an example of how things can go wrong, in the First Degree, after the sign is given, the WM announces that the opening ode be sung and then asks the Chaplain to lead in prayer. For some reason I have consistently missed that. Finally last week I remembered to actually sing the ode and then do the prayer. I was pleased and then a brother pointed out that I forgot to wait for the rap first. Give me a break! Anyway when the Lodge opens on all three degrees it takes about a half hour which means there is a lot of opportunities for mistakes. Right now I have all of the words memorized, but I still struggle to get the correct sequence. I did try and hedge my bets by assigning a Brother who knows the Ritual backwards and forwards to be Chaplain. That way I could get some help when I get lost, but I know the members have caught on to my crutch. They are not pleased. When in exasperation I made a joke it fell flat. It turns out Ritualist have no sense of humor. "As I have heard the difference between a Ritualist and a Terrorist . . . You can negotiate with a Terrorist." So in closing I am still working on learning the Ritual despite my occasional forays into my Reptilian brain. Please bear with me.

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

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Please open the Website noted on front page of this Trestleboard. 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 at make this something we can be proud of. I thank you in advance for your assistance with this project. ---secretary, Mike Apple

27 have not paid their dues, **so PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!!!!!** Or you will be suspended **on April 2, 2022**. Those who have paid, 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.**

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.

IF YOU HAVE ANY CHANGES IN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, PLEASE PASS IT ON TO THE secretary.

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. If any of you are interested, please let the Brothers know. Please do not state your intentions in an open Lodge as that is a Masonic Offense in regard to electioneering.

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 reinstated the Round Robin Competition for the Candidates lectures. If interested in participating, please contact RWB Mike Apple and he will help.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
4/5/22	Meeting	7:30 p.m.		We have 4 petitions for degrees in the works.
4/12/22	2 – 1st Degree?	7:00 p.m.		
4/19/22	Meeting	7:30 p.m.		
4/26/22	Degrees?	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.

Note: the Grand Lodge for 2022 will be held on October 3 and 4, 2022 at St. Charles, MO.

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. Earl – 4-5-25, Joseph M. Walker – 6-10-25, Joseph R. Rivituso – 6-24-25.

BIRTHDAYS – April, 2021: Joseph M. Walker, Mirl L. Williams, Dwight E. Wyatt, Frank A. Scarpino, Rodney J. Bruner, Vincent C. Lindwedel, Eric T. Wassung, Robert A. Bruckner, Mark C. Balance, Robbie, J. Heischmid, Sr., George M. Lukens, Jr., Frederick J. Rickert, Basil B. Baker, Erie A. Gonzalez-Rubio, William L. Woods.

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.

There was a consideration made at the last meeting to hold the Homecoming Event which has not been held since 2018. There is not enough time to put it together. We will look into the Summer Picnic. We will keep you posted.

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.

At a meeting in the near future, we will request all Members deserving Service Awards to be presented their certificates

Please check future Trestleboards for the date !!!

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. Our next Temple Board meeting will be the second Tuesday in May, 2022.

Thanks, Steve Dodson, president FMTA

ALGABIL-FREEDOM LODGE No. 636 A.F. & A.M. 2022

IF YOU HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED, you can still pay your dues and be reinstated.

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.