

March 2023



## Temple Lodge No. 9 A.F. & A.M.

### Stated Communications

*Second and Fourth  
Thursday of Each Month*

*7:30 PM*

*Fellowship with Dinner*

*6:30 PM*

*Meetings are not held in  
July and August or on  
Thanksgiving or Christmas  
(when those holidays fall  
on a Thursday)*

### Lodge Officers 2022-2023

*Worshipful Master  
Chris Fitzgerald  
(302) 242-4916*

*Senior Warden  
Stephen Walter, PM, PGSB  
(302) 270-2697*

*Junior Warden  
Keith Geise  
(717) 994-6114*

*Secretary  
Jeff Hague, PM, PGMAR.  
(302) 422-0233*

*Deputy Secretary and  
Webmaster  
Chad Robinson, PM, PGMAR.  
(302) 270-4391*

*Treasurer  
Jim Bennett, PM, PJGS  
(302) 228-1228*

*Curtis Perry – Senior Deacon  
Rob Watts – Junior Deacon  
Ronnie Joseph – Senior Steward  
Jesse Weick – Junior Steward  
Roland Cohee, Jr., PGC - Chaplain  
Robert S. Young – Tiler  
Pete “Ringo” Ringenary - Marshal  
Tom McMurray – Lodge Instructor*

Chartered January 16, 1815  
2022-2023

208<sup>th</sup> Year of Fellowship

## From the East – Christopher W. Fitzgerald, WM

As usual, March is roaring in like a lion, and not just with some blowy weather. Masonry, my brothers, is coming at us too at full speed.

First to recap February, Our Grand Visit by Most Worshipful Grand Master Stephen M. Tucker, his staff and ladies, went off without a hitch and was wonderfully well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you Brother Marshal Peter “Ringo” Ringenary for your efforts as the event chairman, job well done! WB Jim Bennett shook things up again as he headed up the Dan Trader Charity Bowling Event. Congratulations WB Bennett on another fun and largely successful event. Congratulations are also in order for Brother Scott Spencer on being passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, keep up the good work Brother Spencer. A very special thank you to WB John Cannon, for filling in as the Junior Deacon and for stepping in from that station to polish and adorn our minds with an amazing delivery of the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences piece during Brother Spencer’s Degree conferral.

Our first weekend of March rushes in with our annual sporting clay shoot lead by WB Stephen Walter which is to be held Sunday March 5th at Owens Station. Our scheduled work for first Stated Communication on March 9th will be the conferral of the Entered Apprentice degree on three candidates by Junior Warden Keith Geise. Brotherhood Night is back, the event date is March 17th, contact WB Jim Bennett or myself for tickets. Last but not least, I am excited to announce that at our second Stated Communication, to be held March 23rd, we will have a presentation of the point within the circle, while open on the 3rd degree of masonry. Brothers, we will close out the month for Delaware Freemasonry with the Semi-annual Communication which is March 25th. so, Grand Lodge Members, be advised.

There is a lot going on in Masonry in Delaware, so if you want to get more involved, please let me know.

Keep up the good work & remember your obligation.

TDNAGYA





## **Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education**

A brief history on the Grand Lodge of Ireland

The Grand Lodge of Ireland is the second oldest Grand Lodge in the world (after the Grand Lodge of England). The first evidence for its existence occurs in the 'Dublin Weekly Journal' of 26 June 1725, wherein the newspaper describes an event that had taken place on June 24th - a meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ireland to install the new Grand Master, Richard Parsons, 1st Earl of Rosse. Unfortunately the exact date of the foundation of the Grand Lodge is not known, but the installation of a new Grand Master would suggest it was already in existence for at least two years, but unless we discover to the contrary, 1725 is the foundation year celebrated in Grand Lodge anniversaries.

### Freemasons' Hall

There is considerable evidence that there were Masonic Lodges meeting in Ireland prior to the eighteenth century, for example the manuscript known as "the Trinity Tripos" dating to the 1680s, and the Baal's Bridge Square, discovered in Limerick in the mid nineteenth century, and purportedly dates to 1507. The story of the "Lady Freemason", Elizabeth St. Leger, also predates the existence of the Grand Lodge.

During the eighteenth century hundreds of Lodges were founded in every part of Ireland, and most of these would have met at inns, taverns and coffee houses. In Dublin, Lodges were known to have met in The Yellow Lion on Werburgh Street, the Centaur Tavern on Fishamble Street, and the Eagle Tavern on Cork Hill, amongst others, and in Belfast meetings were held in The Sailor on Mill Street and the Donegall Anna. The meetings of the Grand Lodge however, generally took place in civic and guild buildings such as Tailors' Hall in Back Lane, the Cutlers' Hall in Capel Street, and the Assembly Rooms on South William Street.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century the number of new Lodges being founded increased dramatically at the same time as the popularity of the Volunteer Movement expanded. Several Lodges were associated with Volunteer Regiments, and in Dublin, the First Volunteer Lodge of Ireland No. 620 was founded by the Officers of the Independent Dublin Volunteers in 1783. The Ballymascanlon Rangers were associated with Lodge No. 222, Dundalk, and in Fermanagh there was a regiment known as the Lowtherstown Masonick Volunteers.

The political influence of the Volunteers combined with the success of the American War of Independence and the French Revolution created new ideals of democracy in Ireland. Following the founding of the Society of United Irishmen several Lodges, particularly in the north of Ireland, made public proclamations in the press about the need for reform of the Constitution. Whilst the vast majority of Lodges that did this disavowed violence as the means to an end, some were quite rebellious in their proclamations. Other Lodges, it must be said, publicly dissociated themselves from their more revolutionary Brethren.

### Installation of the 44th Grand Master Grand Lodge Room

Government pressure was brought to bear on Grand Lodge and notices were sent out reminding Lodges of the Grand Lodge Law forbidding quarrels of a religious or political nature to



## **Some Wise & Serious Truths – Masonic Education (cont.)**

be brought within the doors of the Lodge. However, several well-known United Irishmen including Henry Joy McCracken, Henry Monroe, and Archibald Hamilton Rowan were also Freemasons. In 1826, the Papal Bull of Pope Leo XII against secret societies was widely promulgated in Ireland unlike the previous bulls issued against Freemasonry in the eighteenth century. Catholic members of the Order were threatened with excommunication if they failed to resign from their Lodges. One of the most prominent figures in Irish history to have been a Freemason, Daniel O'Connell, resigned after pressure was put on him by Archbishop Troy of Dublin.

The 1800's saw the expansion of Irish Freemasonry to all four corners of the globe with Lodges established in New Zealand, Australia, the West Indies, India and the Far East. (Ara Lodge No. 348 in Auckland was founded in 1842 and first met on the 9th February 1843. As such, Ara is the oldest Masonic Lodge in New Zealand.) Irish Freemasonry's most prominent figure during this period was Augustus FitzGerald, 3rd Duke of Leinster, who presided over the Order as Grand Master for an impressive 61 years. The 19th century also saw the expansion of the Masonic Female Orphan School, founded in 1792 to educate the daughters of deceased Freemasons. In 1881 a brand new school building was opened on the Merrion Road in Dublin while, 15 years prior, in 1867, the Masonic Orphan Boys' School had been founded.

### **Knight Templar Preceptory**

By the 1820's the Grand Lodge of Ireland had arranged to lease 19 Dawson Street, Dublin, for use as the headquarters of Irish Freemasonry. From there, following a brief sojourn in the Freemasons' Coffee House in D'Olier Street, the Order moved to other rented premises, the Commercial Buildings on Dame Street, and this became the Masonic Hall until 1869 when the present Freemasons' Hall opened for meetings. The new building was designed and purpose built as a Masonic Hall and it remains the headquarters of Irish Freemasonry, housing dramatically decorated Lodge rooms, a library, a museum, offices and dining areas.

## **From the West – Stephen Walter, PGSB**

### **Smart Goals**

As Masons we are taught to never enter into any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of deity. To me, this is very sound advice. After that, What's Next?? The next step should be setting goals for whatever you are endeavoring to accomplish. The best method I have found for my goals is using the SMART Goals technique. SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely. If you apply metrics to each of these letters, your goals and successes will come to you much easier than venturing out into the great wide open with nary a clue as to where to go or what to do. SMART Goals can be applied to any situation and are used by many successful corporations in running their businesses. I am currently using the Smart Goal technique to accomplish a NEW Year's eve resolution; I wanted to accomplish reading 24 books this year. I set this goal for myself on January 1st and have been staying ahead of the goal by reading everyday, finding/ purchasing new books to have ready to read when I finish one and discussing what I have read with brothers. If your goal is more detailed

## Dates to Remember:

**March 9, 2023**

Stated Communication  
EA Degree  
Dinner 6:00 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

**March 17, 2023**

Brotherhood Night  
Nur Shrine  
7:30 PM

**March 18, 2023**

Statewide Ritual Workshop  
Union Lodge No. 7  
8:00 AM

**March 23, 2023**

Stated Communication  
Dinner 6:00 PM/Lodge 7:30 PM

**March 25, 2023**

Semi-Annual Communication of  
Grand Lodge  
Nur Shrine  
8:00 AM

**April 4, 2023**

Lower Delaware Masonic Groups  
Grand Dinner  
Felton Fire Hall  
6:00 PM  
See WB Chad for Tickets

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.temple9.org](http://www.temple9.org)

## From the West (cont.)

than reading 24 books in a year, I suggest writing down the specifics of your goal and revisiting them regularly to ensure you are meeting the time restraints you have set for yourself. You can always adjust one or two of the metrics as you progress through your goal by adding or subtracting details that may become more or less important to your success.

## On the Square – Author Unknown

My Brother, in the Courtyard  
Each one of us have stood  
Outside the tyled Temple door  
Awaiting as we should.

Take heed, thou young Apprentices  
The Word emblazoned there:  
To meet upon the level  
And part upon the square.

My Brother, at the Altar  
Each one of us has knelt  
With solemn Oath and Brotherhood  
The Mystic Tie we've felt.

Take heed, my Brother Fellowcraft  
The Word emblazoned there:  
To act upon the plumb  
And part upon the Square.

My Brother, in the Temple  
Each one of us were Raised  
And on receiving further light  
Into the Light we gazed.

Take heed, my Brothers, Masters all  
The Word emblazoned there:  
To Live within the compass  
And part upon the Square.

## Living Past Masters of Temple Lodge No. 9

John L. Watkins – 1973  
Franklin S. Wilkins – 1974  
Louis S. O'Day – 1978  
Frank H. Beebe – 1981  
Ronald Jester - 1982  
Gilbert H. Emory – 1983  
Steven L. Rogers – 1984  
J.D. Dennis, Jr. – 1988  
Jeff Hague, PGMar. – 1989/2007  
William A. Dudley, Jr. – 1990  
William T. Wadkins, PGM – 1992  
Bruce K. Ney – 1993  
Marlin A. Gillespie, PSGD – 1994  
David F. Coady – 1997  
Clarence R. Jackson – 1998  
Joshua J. Willey – 2000  
George Andraea, PSGD – 2002  
George G. Jester, Jr. – 2005  
Michael B. Saba – 2008/2009  
Martin F. Hogan, III, PJGD – 2010  
Chad Robinson, PGMar. – 2011  
A. Daniel Doran, PGMar. - 2012  
Will Currey, PGSB – 2013  
Roland Cohee, Sr. PGT – 2014  
Stephen Walter, PGSB – 2015  
Jim Bennett, PJGS – 2016  
Brandon Smith – 2017  
Steve Kerr – 2018  
Matt Thompson, PSGD – 2019  
John Cannon – 2020  
Michael Nichols - 2021

## Affiliated Past Masters

James Cooke – 2008  
John Marinucci, PGM – 2011  
Matthew D. Hovatter – 2007/08  
James G. Sutton – 1994  
Jeffrey D. Haass, Sr., PGM – 2015  
William C. Thompson, PJGD – 2018  
Charles Randy Wood - 2000

## TEMPLE LODGE NO. 9 A.F. & A.M

127 Causey Avenue  
Unit 301  
Milford, DE 19963

## Address Correction Requested



**TO THE FAMILY OF THE BROTHER NAMED ON THIS DOCUMENT:** Should he become ill or in need of assistance, please notify the Secretary or Worshipful Master. Their names and contact information are contained within.