

The mission of the Masonic Library & Museum Association is to assist and support, through education, facilitation of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage.



President-- Brian Rountree
c/o Grand Lodge of Manitoba
420 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3L 0R4
rountree@mts.net

Secretary -- Cathy Giaimo
c/o Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
One Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520
clgiaimo@pagrandlodge.org

1 September 2020

To the members of MLMA:

Greetings,

I think I am expressing the opinion of many of you when I say how disappointed I am that we are not gathered during the weekend of Sept. 10-13 in Grand Rapids, Michigan for our annual meeting. We get so much out of visiting our member's libraries and museums and local institutions. We enjoy the opportunity to help with a project while we are there and this not only helps the host's library / museum but gives us an opportunity to visit and share information and ideas on a personal level.

We do that already, of course, by use of the Yahoo Group with our questions and answers. It is so fascinating to see what people ask about. Along the same lines, our Facebook page gets steady visits. These are just two ways that we continue to assist, support, communicate, and educate each other and the public.

We are, however, fortunate to have the technology that will let us meet "face-to-face" and hold our meeting. And what would that meeting be like without a bit of education and sharing? So, I am very pleased that Marshall Kern, of the Sarnia District Library in Ontario, will present a talk to us on The Master's Emblem.

With a look to the future, and an improved health situation all around, I hope that we might be able to have offers to hold our 2021 and 2022 meetings in person. Please consult your own managing boards and consider being a host for our gatherings.

Last year we set up a marketing committee and I think everyone participated in their survey last fall. That small group of Tom Hauder, Marshal Kern and Glenn Visscher has been very busy by devised our new logo and arranging for promotional advertising in several Masonic publications. Please refer to their report for more information and ideas. Thanks to Tyler Vanice for his recent article about MLMA in The Philalethes.

On behalf of MLMA, I arranged for a Zoom account. This will be available for a variety of purposes and you only need to contact me so that we can arrange the meeting. Examples include quarterly officer meetings, committee meetings, educational events.

In addition to hearing from Helge, we usually receive updates from Martin Cherry of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry [of the U.G.L.E.] and hear about the annual meeting of AMMLA* in Europe. Unfortunately, as is the case across North America and around the world, the libraries and museums have been closed due to the pandemic. Some are re-opening on a limited basis, and some are still closed.

I want to express my thanks for the work of our secretary, Cathy Giaimo, and our treasurer, Eric Trosdahl, and their continued support of the association. Thanks go to our vice-president, Tyler Vanice, for his continued work on our website.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your president and I look forward to opportunities to support MLMA and our officers in the coming years.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Rountree". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "B".

Brian Rountree, President

* **AMMLA** is the Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives in Europe. Its website does not appear to be functioning at this time.



Tyler Vanice
Vice President's Report
September 1, 2020

I am honored to have served the organization as its Vice President. Since the previous annual meeting in Detroit, a lot has changed in the world from the Coronavirus pandemic including how lodges and Masonic organizations operate. Museums and libraries closed for months and lodges were unable to meet. It was certainly a dark time for us all.

Like many organizations, this had greatly affected the programs and events one could do. Thankfully, humanity learns to adapt to and overcome issues and Freemasonry is no different. Many freemasons had started meeting online by electric meetings like Zoom and formed lecture series, allowing brethren to meet from all corners of the world. It is wonderful to see the Craft adapt new technology so quickly.

Like them, we choose to meet this year using Zoom for the safety of our members. We hope this change will also allow more members, and potential members, to participate with the organization. We hope by this time next year that we will be able to meet in person once again.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Thomas Hauder, Past Grand Master of Nebraska, along with a dedicated team including Marshal Kern and Glenn Visscher to help update and implement changes to various marketing strategies.

Over the year, we updated the website and we can now process memberships online now. We encourage all organizations who join the organization to send us their logo so we can proudly display it on the main page. We are always looking for new blogs to post so if you have an interesting story to share, or had problems with a collection you handled, we would like to hear from you!

With a new website, it was a great time to start promoting the organization. We each did our part in this plan. I wrote a large article in Volume 73, No. 2 of *Philaethes: The Journal of Masonic Research & Letters* on the history of the organization in which we are proudly shown as the first article.

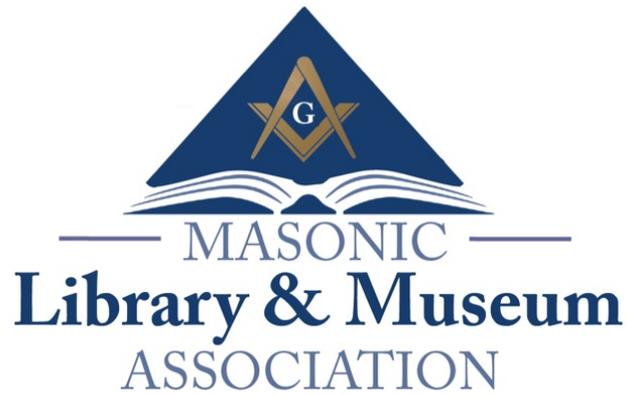
We expect the next year to be a slow year as the economy recovers from the pandemic but we will continue working tireless for MLMA. The pandemic will not stop us from promoting and preserving the history of Freemasonry and I hope it won't stop you from doing the same. A project many lodges need is to clean and organize the lodge belongings and storage spaces. Please notice I didn't say discard. I have heard too many stories of lodges discarding important documents or one-of-a-kind items. Now is a great time to get into the lodge facility to clean and see what items or certificates are collecting

dust and to organize them. Preserving the history of your lodge is important and will help the brethren long term.

To end, I would like to encourage everyone to help promote the organization. Even with COVID-19, we should all participate in the current trends of electric meeting while they're happening. This allows us to meet, discuss, and to "travel" around the world and participate in meetings and fellowship that we may otherwise be unable to attend in person. This is history in the making for Freemasonry so I encourage everyone to participate.

Fraternally Yours,

Tyler Vanice
Vice President



2020 MLMA Secretary's Report

Sept. 1, 2020

MLMA membership, Sept. 20, 2020	2020	2019
Institutional	95	94
Personal members including Past Presidents	65 9	65 9
Affiliate members	28	28
Removal (death, request)	-3	0
TOTAL	194	196

MLMA gained one new Institutional member and three were removed. Sadly the death of long time member Ed Ralph was among them.

56 members have paid their 2020 dues as of this date.

Cathy Giaimo
MLMA Secretary