

Masonic Library & Museum Association

**An International Organization of
Librarians, Archivists, Curators, & Directors**

Annual Meeting – October 11-13, 2018

DeMoulin Museum, 205 S. Prairie, Greenville, IL

In Attendance:

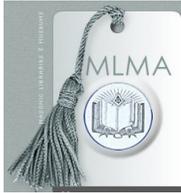
Brian Rountree	Grand Lodge of Manitoba
Val Korznsniak	Mount Holly, New Jersey
Mark Tabbert	George Washington Masonic National Memorial
Cathy Giaimo	The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania
Maureen Harper	Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, NMJ, Lexington, MA
Kenneth Moder	J.H. Rathbone Museum and Resource Center
Jill Moder	J.H. Rathbone Museum and Resource Center
Heather Calloway	Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Regrets:

Bill Kreuger	Iowa Masonic Library and Museums
Cristiano Franceschini	Italy
Marie Barnett	Grand Lodge of Virginia
Helge Horrisland	Norway
Jeff Maynor	Louisiana
Eric Trosdahl	Minnesota
Neil Wynes Morse	Australia

President Brian Rountree opened the meeting with greetings and we introduced ourselves.

A motion was made and seconded by Mark Tabbert and Maureen Harper to approve the 2017 Minutes as circulated. Motion carried.



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OFFICERS' REPORTS :

- Secretary's report:

As of Oct. 6, 2018	2018	2017
Institutional members	94	94
Personal members including Past Presidents	63 9	60 9
Affiliate members	28	28
Removal (death, request)	-3	0
TOTAL	191	191

MLMA gained three *Personal Members* during 2018.

Renewal notices were sent out and as of Oct. 6, 2016, 50 members have paid their 2018 dues. At the 2017 teleconference it was requested to locate the missing motion for the MLMA by-laws revision from the 2016 MLMA minutes: The revisions of the MLMA bylaws were discussed at length and the changes were made. **2017 update: Qualifications for holding an office, especially the President was updated, the membership category for Affiliated Membership was deleted and the by-laws were brought into line with similar small non-profit organizations.** A motion was made and seconded by Hugh Young and Helge Horrisland and approved.

A motion was made and seconded by Cathy Giaimo and Mark Tabbert to approve the report. Motion carried.

- Treasurer's report:

Eric Trosdahl was not able to attend the meeting and will submit his report at a later date.

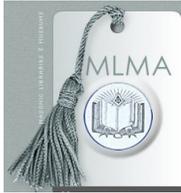
- Vice President's report:

Jeff's report covers material that would appear below under Member News.

- President's report:

To be found after the Minutes.

A motion was made and seconded by Mark Tabbert and Cathy Giaimo and approved.



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- **Overseas report:**

To be found after the Minutes is a report from Helge Horrisland. A motion was made and seconded by Brian Rountree and Mark Tabbert to accept the report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

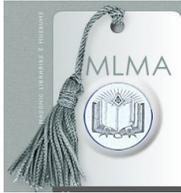
Val Korznsniak updated the group on the location of the MLMA display and the meeting it was displayed. The display was used at the AQC meeting in Sept. 2018 at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Val also plans on taking it to the next Academy of Masonic Knowledge in Elizabethtown, Pa. at the Masonic Villages. Mark Tabbert volunteered to store the display at GWMNM and to send it to any MLMA member wishing to borrow it for display purposes at Masonic functions.

The updating of the MSA booklet of Masonic Libraries will begin again. Mark Tabbert will contact Rich Lynch of Rhode Island who was working with others. Brian has Past President Aimee Newell's files from an earlier update. Brian will work with Richard Lynch and other MLMA members to get the information gathered. Simon LaPlace at MSA will be contacted about arranging for publication.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member news:

- Mark Tabbert: GWMNM has begun AAM accreditation, the Memorial is using Past Perfect to catalog its collection, the digitizing of U.S. and Canadian Grand Lodge, Chapter and Commandery proceedings continues on, his book on George Washington is nearing completion, he just completed a 5 week fellowship at Mount Vernon.
- Val Korznsniak: The Mount Holly Lodge library continues to expand, also PA Lodge No. 25, where he is also a member, is building up its library.
- Maureen Harper: gave a brief presentation on the webbing clothes moth that had infected some of the textiles in The Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and the proper treatments if found. Ymelda Laxton, curator, is working remotely from China for the next two years.
- Heather Calloway, formerly at House of the Temple, now Director of Collections for the University of Indiana, travels to the different UI campuses to oversee their many diverse collections. She is still available to any lodge in need of help with their library.
- Ken Moder: briefly discussed his museum collection and how it was started. The collection includes all manner of Masonic, non-Masonic and fraternal organizations paraphernalia and publications.
- Cathy Giaimo: Glenys Waldman, Librarian at The Masonic Library and Museum of PA, retired at the end of December 2017 after 30 years here. The Grand Lodge membership records, dating from 1789-1956, have been scanned and the digitization will begin sometime next year. The fund raising for this project has been ongoing.



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- Brian: will be writing the history of the Grand Lodge of Manitoba in honor of their 150th anniversary. He also briefly spoke of his research on the Masonic hospital founded in Morden, Manitoba in 1893 and closed as a hospital in 1951.

How shall we proceed? A discussion on the future direction of MLMA

- There was discussion on the future of MLMA. In looking to expand our membership it was suggested to open our membership to other fraternal organizations.
- Another suggestion was made that once a month have a member post some pictures from their institution or Masonic activity to the MLMA Facebook page and/or the website once it is functioning again
- We discussed the value of presentations, and papers, and work days. All are valuable and we would like to have some of each at future gatherings.
- Our web master, Ed King, is no longer maintaining the MLMA website. Heather Calloway, with the assistance of Seth Anthony, volunteered to help update the website. Brian made a motion to allocate up to \$500.00 towards updating the website, Mark seconded and was passed.
- Mark Tabbert is looking for any MLMA archival material, especially from the early formation, that members may have and will be housed in GWMNM.
- No date for the next MLMA meeting in Detroit has been settled: October will not work, so perhaps late September will do. Brian will be in contact with them.

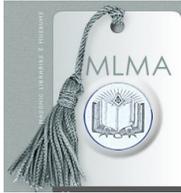
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded by Val and Brian and was carried.

APPROVED AT THE 2019 MEETING

SIGNED:

BRIAN ROUNTREE, President

CATHY GIAIMO, Secretary



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

8 October 2018

Greetings,

A strength of our organization is its ability to visit various member institutions and learn about them and their communities. Our recent practice of having a workday at the host institution provides them with willing hands, expertise, and opportunities for networking among our members. This year we thank John Goldsmith of the DeMoulin Museum for being our host and giving us a look into the world of lodge paraphernalia and regalia produced by DeMoulin Bros. & Co. since 1892.

Next year we venture north to Detroit, Michigan and the Detroit Masonic Temple Library, Archives and Research Center where the association last met in 2004.

I want to express my thanks for the work of our Secretary, Cathy Giaimo, and our treasurer, Eric Trosdahl, for their continued support of the association.

I was recently re-reading our Mission statement as found on our webpage:

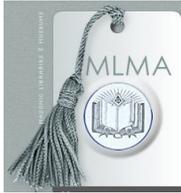
The mission of the Masonic Library & Museum Association is to assist and support, through education, facilitation of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage.

I wondered how we are doing at accomplishing our mission:

- ✓ Our Yahoo Group questions and answers are a strength as we assist, support, communicate, and educate each other
- ✓ Our Facebook page has steady traffic
- ✓ Our Table Top display was lost and has been found and is available to use

It also prompted me to consider future endeavours:

- ✓ Our Web site needs a new webmaster. Who can take it over?
- ✓ While she was President, Aimee Newell had been working on updating the MSA booklet *Masonic Libraries* published in 1998. She had collected material from a number of libraries with the assistance of Richard Lynch and Glenn Visscher. Do we want to continue?



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- ✓ Are there things we used to do that we should take up again?
- ✓ What can we do to attract more members?
- ✓ What can we do to be more active and visible in the broader Masonic world?
- ✓ Should we meet alongside another Masonic event? [as we did with the Quarry Project]

I have scheduled time during our meeting to start discussions on these and other ideas so that we may make concrete plans for our future. Let our collective planning help us become a better Association.

Yours truly,
Brian Rountree, President

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

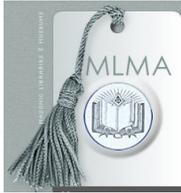
3 October 2018

To the members of MLMA:

I had originally thought that this year at my real job was going to slow down a lot after April 1st, well it did.... for about a week. Then I picked up some work that had been dropped by people who unexpectedly left the company and I've been running like crazy ever since. I'm actually in Kansas City right now, and I found out Monday that I'll be going to Japan from Oct 13-19 (I've known I was going sometime in October for about a month, but they finally pinned the days down on Monday), so I have not been able to be nearly as active as I would like to have been either.

On the Louisiana Masonic Library Museum front, we've done a couple of interesting items:

- Presented some new fundraising ideas to the Museum Board for consideration, mainly around improving donor recognition. It's been demonstrated by multiple studies that donor recognition increases donations (everyone likes to have their name on stuff), so we're exploring some options to do that.
- Continued the slow process of creating a digital catalog of all of the non-book items in the library collection (ie: aprons, plaques, jewels, etc.)
- Revised the collection definition to more accurately reflect what items are to be included in the museum's collection as opposed to just taking anything that walked in the door. (as a side note I believe this is a key foundational aspect for any Masonic Library/Museum or you can fill a building with bric-a-brac).
- We've been working on a cooperative project with a professor at LSU on a book about one of the key early architects of New Orleans, who was a member of a New Orleans Lodge, some of whose papers are held in the Library. One of the interesting outcomes from this was the discovery that it was likely through the Masonic Lodge that several



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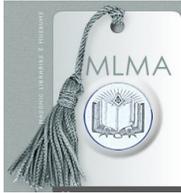
important early architects actually had contact with each other that was not previously known. We're now looking into more ways to connect with the academic communities at Universities in Louisiana to make them more aware of the historical records available.

I hope you are doing well and that the annual meeting is a great success, I'm definitely sorry that I'm going to miss it!

Jeff Maynor, Vice-President, MLMA

TREASURER'S REPORT

To be sent out separately



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OTHER REPORTS 2018

HELGE HARRISLAND–EUROPE

7 October 2018

To the members of MLMA:

The work for European museums, libraries and archives in 2017/2018 has for many of them been concentrated on the 300-year jubilee of the founding of the first grand lodge in London. Several grand lodges have held bigger exhibitions. The grandest was at the National Library in Paris which in cooperation with the French Masonic grand lodges, under supervision of Pierre Mollier, managed to put together the biggest and quality-wise best masonic exhibition ever produced(!). We will never see anything like it in our time. They had even managed to get cooperation from the British Museum, something UGLE never has managed. UGLE's own exhibition was also very nice and comprehensive, but not on the same scale as the French.

By the way, Pierre Mollier has been appointed Member of the Advisory Board of Museum for France, a high position in cultural France which will strengthen masonic museum's position in France and EU.

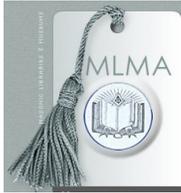
Many other European grand lodges have held national exhibitions on the 1717-subject and related the start of English freemasonry with their own national masonic history.

At the AMMLA Congress in Corfu/Greece in July 2018 the German curator of Deutsches Freimaurer Museum/Bayreuth, Thad Peterson, was elected the new president. His predecessor, Francois Rognon, died only a month after the congress. The Belgian Frank Langenhaken is continuing as secretary.

Diane Clements has retired as director of the UGLE Museum in London (December 2017) and has been replaced by Mrs. Vicky Carroll. I have met her twice in London and it seems that she will continue along the same line as Diane advocated.

The biggest masonic issue has been the research being done by Prescott/Sommers on the birth of the first grand lodge in London. Their research shows undoubtedly that 1721 is the year of birth and not 1717. UGLE disputes this but have not produced any relevant arguments.

There are new repatriation cases in Szczecin/Poland and Minsk/Belarus.



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The German Security Police's (SD) Freimaurer-Karthotek has been rediscovered by me in Poland. It contains more than 37.000 masonic names from the 1930's and is being digitalized now for research use. My research on the subject will be presented next year.

I am so sorry that I am unable to attend the conference in Illinois this year. My autumn trip to US has been a tradition that I hate to break. However, please inform me as soon as you know place and date for the 2020 congress – I'll be there.

Greetings to you all from an autumn-coloured Europe!

Fraternally,

Helge Bjorn Horrisland

ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN MASONIC MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES (AMMLA)

Helge Bjørn Horrisland

International Repatriation Coordinator

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