



MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION
74TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OFFICIAL PROGRAM

APRIL 28TH -30TH, 2023
CANTON MASONIC TEMPLE
CANTON OHIO



2023 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Canton Masonic Temple Information

Address: Canton Masonic Temple, 836 Market Avenue North, Canton Ohio

Parking: The back of the Temple.

Registration and check-in: 3PM-5PM Friday at the Canton Courtyard Marriot Hotel
7AM-9AM First floor mezzanine of Canton Masonic Temple

Conference Office: Masonic Club Room-1st Floor Mezzanine

Accessibility: The Canton Masonic Temple is a historic building spanning multiple floors. Stairs connect all the floors, elevators are available, as well.

Connectivity: Wi-Fi is available in the building. ID: light Password: ...morelight...

Conference Hotel Information

Address: Courtyard Canton, 4375 Metro Circle NW; North Canton, Ohio. [Tel: 330-494-6494](tel:330-494-6494)

Transportation: The conference hotel is about 15 minutes from the Canton Masonic Temple. We will encourage and facilitate ride-sharing, we will also have limited transportation services between the sites. We will have more specific information at check-in.

Conference Information

Theme: Intentional Masonry-How do we enlighten and empower Brethren to create a unified Masonic experience that reflects what is unique and valued in Masonry? By enlightening and empowering Brethren, we remove their ability to remain passive in their Masonic journey.

Experiment: Structured Unstructured Activities-We are testing a theory regarding educational experiences. The theory suggests creating an environment where education can happen, then guiding and facilitating the participants working together to create the educational experience that is of the most benefit, meaning, and use to them. You are a vital part of this experiment; your choices, your participation, and your feedback are vital to its success.

Goal: We will consider this a successful conference and experiment if you go home with the following:

1. At least two new meaningful Masonic connections that extend beyond the conference:
2. At least two new ideas to bring back to your Lodge, District, jurisdiction or personal practice

Conference Documents: These are available on our [Google Drive](#). Your nametag has a QR code that leads to this drive. Of special importance are the jurisdictional reports from our member and friendly jurisdictions. We use these to identify trends, points of interest, and questions that need further exploration. You are a vital part of this conference, please help us in this work.

The 2023 Midwest Conference on Masonic Education is possible because of the support from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, the Ohio Lodge of Research, the Royal Scofield Society, the Andrew Torok Foundation, our member jurisdictions and partners, and Masonic educators around the world.



SAVE THE DATE
2024 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION
75TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 3RD-5TH, 2024
MINNESOTA HERITAGE CENTER, BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA



MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION

Mission Statement: Since 1949 we have endeavored to:

- Provide a communications and support network for our member jurisdictions;
- Conduct an annual forum for Masons who have a vital interest in Masonic Education;
- Offer the opportunity to share Masonic experiences, knowledge, and insights;
- Publish occasional newsletters, communications, and the proceedings of its annual meetings.

2023 MCME Officers:

President: Chad Kopenski (Ohio)
Conference Coordinator: Ken Cohen (Ohio)
1st Vice President: Andrew Niemeyer (Minnesota)
2nd Vice President: James Buckhorn (Indiana)
3rd Vice President: Bob Lingerfelt (Nebraska)

Executive Secretary: Thomas Hauder, PGM (Nebraska)
Treasurer: Joshua Thompson (Missouri)
Corporate Agent: Craig Davis, PGM (Iowa)
Immediate Past President: Jacob Thompson (Missouri)
Ohio Past President: Charles Murphy, PGM

Member Jurisdictions:



Participating and Supportive Masonic Organizations



Conference Highlights

McKinley's Sword Room/Pin Exchange

Sponsors: The Traveling Man Masonic Podcast Location: 1st Floor across from McKinley Lodge Room
Operating under standard 'take-a-penny, leave-a-penny' rules and in the spirit of President McKinley's Front Porch Campaign, this space is dedicated to Brethren exchanging those tokens that we all love so much. If you have a pin, coin, or other items to spare, leave it in the room for others and take something for yourself that completes your collection or piques your interest.

Ohio Lodge of Research's Lyceum

Sponsors: The Ohio Lodge of Research Location: Ballroom Mezzanine Masonic Club Room
Colloquially called the 'Masonic Nerd-Out Room,' this is a resource room attended to by members of the Ohio Lodge of Research. They are there to offer assistance with Masonic Research, answer questions, and generally discuss topics of Masonic Research. Conference attendees are invited and encouraged to bring a paper, a presentation, a half-formed idea, a wish-list of information and connect with the OLR.

Masonic 'Lightning Talks' Workshop

Sponsors: The Ohio Lodge of Research Location: Ballroom Mezzanine Masonic Club Room
This is a further experiment in structured unstructured activities. Think of this as Masonic Open Mic. Brethren can pre-register for a 15-minute spot to present on a Masonic topic before a small audience for feedback. It can be a spoken presentation, poem, a paper, half-finished Powerpoint, or anything that you would like to give before an audience. If space and time are available, attendees can try their hand at Powerpoint Karaoke, where you speak on a topic of your choosing in front of unknown slides. You can sign up at Registration or in the Lyceum.

Ongoing Social Area

Sponsors: The Royal Scofield Society Location: Main Ballroom
This is a place for Brethren to talk, discuss, and gather in an informal manner. This room also serves as our home base for most full-group sessions. Around the ballroom, on the upper rim, are informational tables from different Masonic organizations.

Mentoring Area

Sponsor: 2023 MCME Location: ???
There is an area in the Canton Masonic Temple with a series of rooms where Lodges would have ongoing mentoring of candidates. You would walk in and you could see by the sign on the door which Lodge was hosting which degree in which rooms. This monument to education and mentorship would be an excellent place to take a photo, especially if you were completing a challenge of some sort. We hope that you would post that photo to social media and tag Midwest Conference on Masonic Education in your post.



2023 MCME Conference Schedule

Registration Table: Ballroom Mezzanine

Conference Office: Masonic Club Room-BallroomMezzanine

McKinley's Sword Pin/Coin Exchange: 1st Floor

Friday, April 28th

3:00-5:00 PM	Early Registration/Check-In at the Canton Courtyard Marriot Hotel
6:00PM	Social Hour - Soft Welcome, beverages and light refreshments
7:00PM	Search For Light at the Canton Masonic Temple – The debut of a new social and educational Masonic event. Tonight, join in a collaborative and competitive puzzle game where you and your team will vie to be the first to follow the clues, test your wits, and solve a centuries-old mystery.

Saturday, April 29th

7:00AM	Registration Opens at the Canton Masonic Temple					
8:00AM	Morning Joint Session with Welcome from Steven Grindle, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio and Grand Lodge Officers. Introductions and explanation of conference. Building Brotherhood Micropresentations. Main Ballroom					
	Ballroom	OLR Room Ballroom Mezzanine	McKinley Lodge Room 1st Floor	Canton York Rite Room 1st Floor	Auxiliary Lodge Room 1st Mezzanine	AASR Candidate Counseling Room 2nd Mezzanine
9-9:45	Social Area	Open Research Review	Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions	New Hampshire Guide to Ritual Excellence	Development and Use of Ohio's Roadmap For Improvement (streamed)	Applied Education-'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!' (streamed)
10-10:45		Masonic Lightning Talks (streamed)	The Chamber of Reflection		Taking Small-town Values Statewide (streamed)	The Three Books Every _____ Mason Should Read.
11-11:45	Keynote: Preserving a Lodge History, Culture and Identity by Dr. Heather Calloway - Center for Fraternal Research at Indiana University. Cathedral Room 2nd Floor (streamed)					
N-12:30	The Thrilla in Vanilla' (streamed)					
N-1:15	LUNCH in the Ballroom					
1:30-2:15	Social Area	Masonic Lightning Talks (streamed)	Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions	New Hampshire Guide to Ritual Excellence	The Principles Proficiency (streamed)	Applied Education-'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!'
2:30-3:15		Open Research Review	The Chamber of Reflection		Importance of Connections: The Thomas Fiveash Reddick Society	The Three Books Every _____ Mason Should Read. (streamed)
3:30-3:45	Doc Simpson's Household Panacea and Miracle Elixir-Ballroom					
4-4:45	Quo Vadimus Discussion and Conference Wrap-Up-Ballroom					
5-5:45	MCME Business Meeting-Ballroom (streamed)					
6:30-8:45	Festive Board including Installation of Officers (Hotel)					
9-11:00	Hospitality Area (Hotel)					

Sunday, April 30th

8:00AM	Breakfast at the Hotel. This is a casual, unstructured meeting in the hotel to generally talk, debrief, and offer well-wishes before departing. (OPTIONAL)
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Session Descriptions and Presenter Bios

Applied Education-'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!'

Presenter: Chris Greise

Location: AASR Candidate Counseling Room-2nd Mezzanine

This is a guided discussion/interactive activity. We all run into Lodges that say they can't focus on education because they have membership retention issues, not realizing that education is the key. Using a principled and case-study approach, we will discuss, share, and develop strategies to help refocus and coach these Lodges.



Worshipful Brother Chris Greise lives in Columbus, Ohio where he works as a software design specialist for the State of Ohio. He is a Past Master of Arts and Sciences #792 and currently serves as a District Education Officer for the 14th Masonic District and Chairman of the Continuity Committee for the Valley of Columbus, AASR. Brother Greise is an ardent fan of the Columbus Blue Jackets hockey team and a budding bowtie enthusiast.

Building Brotherhood Micropresentations

Presenters: David Daugherty, RSS; Brad Maxwell

Location: Main Ballroom

Shorter focused presentations on how different entities are building brotherhood by developing and emphasizing meaningful connections. Short presentations from Royal Scofield Society (internal and external) and Amesville #278 (community).

David Daugherty, RSS is a Past Master of Washington Lodge #17 and a Past DDGM of the 2nd Masonic District. He was in the inaugural class of the Royal Scofield Society and has served as Regent. A chemistry professor by trade, David's interests range from bicycling to old car restoration to photography. He believes that we are born scientists with a natural curiosity to understand the world around us; and in the importance of the mysteries and fascinations in our everyday lives.



Brad Maxwell is a believer in the power of community and Freemasonry. A Past Master of Amesville #278, where he currently serves as Trustee, Marshall, and Lodge Education Officer, Brad is also a Founding Advisor of Tri-Rivers Chapter of Demolay. One of his proudest days as a Mason was raising his son, Henry. Brad owns and operates Besam Enterprises, a full-service property management company and is the Assistant Chief of the Ames-Bern Volunteer Fire Department.

Chamber of Reflection in Blue Lodge

Presenters: Robert Painter

Location: McKinley Lodge Room-1st Floor

Exploration, explanation, guidelines, impact and importance of a Chamber of Reflection as a part of the candidate's Blue Lodge Experience. Ohio's Guidelines for a Chamber of Reflection document are available for [pre-read](#).

Brother Robert Painter doesn't have a typical Masonic story. Initiated and passed just as COVID-19 hit, it took two more years for him to be raised and, in that time, his home Lodge merged into another. Brother Painter is the current Junior Deacon of West Shore #804 in Avon Lake, Ohio. He is a high school English teacher and football coach by trade. He resides in North Ridgeville, OH, with his wife Kristy, and his four children, Alyssa, Morgan, Colin, and Marissa. Earlier this year, Brother Painter gave a version of this presentation to complete his Masterpiece requirement for the Royal Scofield Society and will be welcomed as Member #042 at the induction ceremony in October.



Doc Simpson's Household Panacea and Miracle Elixir

Presenters: Chad Simpson

Location: Main Ballroom

This is a holdover from Ohio's Traveling Masonic Roadshow, a grass-roots, crowdsourced day of themed education created by the 'Ohio Chads'-Chad Simpson and Chad Kopenski and facilitated by the Grand Lodge Education Committee. Before the last presenter of the day, we would take a quick break for hot cookies fresh from the oven and ice-cold milk.



Brother Chad Simpson was Director of Program Development for the Grand Lodge of Ohio for almost 20 years. He was one of the founding members of Arts & Sciences #792 and of the Masonic Restoration Federation. A Past Master of York Lodge #563 and elected Inaugural Immediate Past Master of Arts and Sciences #792 by unanimous resolution; Chad was a Past DEO of 14th District, was a Knight of the York Cross of Honor, and received his 33rd degree from the Valley of Columbus in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was an active supporter of the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education and was looking forward to being here today. Brother Simpson laid down his working tools unexpectedly on May 2, 2022.

Keynote Address

Presenters: Dr. Heather Calloway

Location: Scottish Rite Cathedral Room-2nd Floor



Dr. Heather K. Calloway is currently serving as the Executive Director of University Collections at Indiana University, home of the Center for Fraternal Collections and Research.

Heather's research is in preserving fraternal and religious memorabilia and collections and finding innovative ways to engage new audiences with primary sources and collections. She is a cofounder (with colleague Raven Bishop) of *The Augmented Archives Project*, an initiative designed to leverage emerging technologies to increase access to and engagement with primary source materials..

She spent 14 years at the headquarters of the Scottish Rite Freemasons in Washington, D.C., as the Museum Curator and Managing Director of Digital & Social Media. Under her direction, new approaches to museum tours, exhibits and collection access were instituted as a renewed public became interested in Freemasonry. Previously she also held the positions as the inaugural archivist for the Archives & Special Collections at Washington College, the University Archivist for the Perdue Museum and Archives at Salisbury University and as the Librarian/Archivist for the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C.

Heather has a doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds a master's degree in Library Science, from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she specialized in archives and a second master's degree in theological studies from the Iliff School of Theology (Denver, Colorado) where she specialized in fraternal and religious organizations. She earned her BA at the University of New Mexico in Religious Studies and Political Science. Heather's articles have appeared in various publications and she regularly presents lectures focused on preserving and caring for archival, museum and library collections.

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Heather is a native New Mexican, born and raised in Albuquerque. She serves on the national Board of the Archives for the Episcopal Church, is a co-founder and director for the Historical Society for American Fraternalism and a board member for the J.H. Rathbone Museum and Resource Center. Heather is an active volunteer with Alpha Chi Omega and was awarded Outstanding Organization Advisor in 2016 and 2018.

New Hampshire's Guide to Ritual Excellence

Presenters: Michael T. Brown II, Chris Busby

Location: Canton York Rite Room-1st Floor

Development, implementation, and examples of small group workshops developed to utilize concepts from theatre to help Brethren learn the fundamentals of presenting Ritual as well as reframe the idea of Ritual practice and performance. This is a longer session and space is limited to 15 people. An early version of this program is available in the conference documents [here](#):



Brother Michael T. Brown II, is a member of King Solomon's Lodge No. 14 where he serves as Junior Warden and in Anniversary Lodge of Research No. 175 where he serves as Senior Steward. He was Raised to the degree of Master Mason June 20th, 2018. Originally a Kansas City native, he now considers NH home, and has for 12 years. Acting, as well as singing, has been a passion of Brother Brown's for most of his life—having been doing both since the age of four. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Theatre in 2012 from Franklin Pierce University. Brother Brown works as an Area Coordinator for the housing department of Colby-Sawyer College, but continues to act with local community groups such as Sunapee-Kearsarge Intercommunity Theatre (SKIT) where he serves on the board, and most recently The Community Players of Concord.

Brother Christopher J. "Chris" Busby is the Right Worshipful Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, F&AM. Brother Chris was raised in 2009 in Ancient York Lodge No. 89 F&AM in Nashua, New Hampshire. He served as Master of that Lodge in 2015 and 2016 and is the sitting Secretary. He is currently sitting as High Priest of Meridian Sun Chapter No. 9 RAM and Illustrious Master of Israel Hunt No. 8, Cryptic Masons both of Nashua. He is past State Dad for the New Hampshire International Order of the Rainbow for Girls and is an active advisor in Nashua Assembly No. 9 IORG. Chris comes from a very active Masonic family. His wife Aimee is Past Matron of Pilgrim Chapter No. 55, OES of which Chris is also a member, and both of his children Cathryn (18) and Abigail (16) are members of Nashua Assembly. Abbie is the sitting Worthy Advisor of that Assembly. Chris is a manager of a web development team for cloud-based talent acquisition software provider Radancy.



Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions

Presenters: Alexander Herbert, RSS

Location: McKinley Lodge Room-1st Floor

Development, implementation, and discussion of Ohio's guide to help Brethren in making our Ritual appropriate for religious traditions that they may not be familiar with. The focus will be on how to have those conversations and make those accommodations.

[Ohio Ritualists Guide to World Religions Overview](#)

[Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions v1.6.1](#)



Brother Alexander Herbert, RSS was raised in Athens, Ohio in 2008. He has many past and former titles, but prefers to look to the future. He currently serves as the Worshipful Master of Castle Island Virtual Lodge № 190 under the Grand Lodge of Manitoba AF&AM. In the real world he has relocated from Ohio to Colorado, where he serves as a Nuclear System Safety Engineer for Lockheed Martin Space. Brother Herbert is the author of *Loge Liberté chérie: A Light in the Darkness*, a comprehensive telling of the events and people surrounding the secret Masonic Lodge formed at Esterwegen concentration camp, available on [Amazon](#).

Quo Vadimus Discussion

Presenters: Thomas Hauder, PGM

Location: Main Ballroom

Quo Vadimus means "Where are we going?" This is a free-form discussion about the next steps in Masonic Education. Looking at the jurisdiction reports and based on your own experience and perceptions, what is on the horizon, what are areas of concern, what should we be aware of, where are we going?

Thomas L. Hauder was initiated, passed, and raised in one month in 1995. He is a Past Master of East Lincoln Lodge #210 and the first Master of Tabula Rasa Lodge #332. Thomas was installed as the 147th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful, the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Nebraska, on February 2, 2013. Masonic education and research are favorite subjects and he is a member of the Masonic Society, Phililathes, Scottish Rite Research Society and is also a founding member of the Saints John Lodge No. 331 Lodge of Education. Brother Hauder also serves as Executive Secretary of the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education.



Taking Small-town Values Statewide

Presenters: Jess Raines, PGM

Location: Auxiliary Lodge Room-1st Floor Mezzanine

Taking Small-Town Values Statewide with MWB Jess N. Raines, RSS, Past Grand Master of Masons in Ohio-Masonry doesn't have a membership problem, it has a retention problem and education is the key. Thoughts, examples, and discussion of how investing in meaningful connections brings incredible dividends.



Most Worshipful Brother Jess Raines is 'just a boy from Southeast Ohio,' raised in Morgan County and living on the family farm with his wife and family. In his professional life, he is a Certified Public Accountant, and is the Vice President of Finance for Alliance Industries of Marietta, Ohio. Jess was honored to serve as [Grand Master of Masons in Ohio in 2018](#) and is incredibly grateful for the friendships, meaningful connections, honors, and opportunities that serving the Brethren has presented. His theme was 'Invest,' asking Brethren to invest in their Fraternity, their Community, their Lodge, and themselves. Brother Raines currently serves as Master of Valley Lodge #145 in Malta, Ohio and as a representative to the Masonic Renewal Committee of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America.

The Importance of Connections: The Thomas Fiveash Reddick Society

Presenters: Mark McCarthy, Jacob Thompson

Location: Auxiliary Lodge Room-1st Floor Mezzanine

The Importance of Connections: The Thomas Fiveash Reddick Society. On April 16, 2023, Missouri debuted its Thomas Fiveash Reddick Society, an educational honor society whose genesis is tied to the MCME. The genesis, development, and progress of this society will be discussed in this session.

Right Worshipful Brother Mark A. McCarthy is a Past Master and current Secretary of Webster Groves Lodge No. 84 and currently serves the Grand Lodge of Missouri A.F.&A.M. as Grand Chaplain. He is honored to serve the craft as a member of the Grand Lodge Committees on Education, Membership and Scholarship Selection. He is active in the York Rite Bodies, Moolah Shrine, Allied Masonic Degrees, Scottish Rite and the Missouri Lodge of Research. Outside of the Lodge he enjoys relaxing at home and watching St. Louis Cardinals Baseball and St. Louis City SC (MLS) games with his wife Cassie and son Conor. They love to travel, and in the summers they try to spend as much time as possible in Northern Wisconsin, fishing, just relaxing, or on the water. He is an average golfer at best, and a deeply below average turkey hunter but loves the peace and quiet found in the woods. He loves a good Manhattan, a habit passed down from his Chicago Irish side of the family and is always willing to try a good bourbon. RW Bro. McCarthy has spent the better part of his life in and around education. From growing up attending and working at a summer camp in Northern Wisconsin, to working for the State of Indiana in juvenile corrections, returning home to St. Louis to work with at risk students in a behavior school environment to his current job at Ladue Horton Watkins High School.



Right Worshipful Brother Jacob Thompson's Masonic career began when he petitioned Silex Lodge #75, looking to join the hometown Lodge where his Grandfather and Great Uncle had been members. Initiated, passed, and raised in subsequent months in 2014, he is a Past Master of Silex and Troy Lodges. He was honored to have been appointed Grand Orator twice, and to serve on various Grand Lodge committees including as Chairman of the Masonic Education Committee since 2019. He currently serves as the District Deputy Grand Master of the 25th Masonic District and as Grand Historian for the Grand Lodge of Missouri. He is also the Immediate Past President of the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education. Outside of the Craft, Bro. Thompson enjoys a good cigar and bourbon, playing golf, hunting quail, and checking out new breweries and distilleries wherever they may be while dragging his wife, Megan, along for the experience. He currently works as Assistant Vice President/ Loan Officer for a community bank in northeast Missouri.

The Principles Proficiency

Presenters: Steven Hessler

Location: Auxiliary Lodge Room-1st Floor Mezzanine

A discussion on the development and implementation of an alternative proficiency method currently in use that emphasizes discussion, personal connections, educational exploration instead of just Ritual memorization. Resources including an overview, instructions for the Mentor, and the Principles Proficiency exams can be found in the conference documents [here](#).

Steven Hessler has been a Master Mason for 14 years, raised in Bellevue Lodge #273 in Bellevue, Ohio, where he has also served as Worshipful Master for three terms. He is also a member of Zenobia Shrine and a 33rd degree Mason for the Scottish Rite, NMJ. Brother Hessler has served the Grand Lodge of Ohio as a District Education Officer, District Deputy Grand Master, and is the current Chairman for the Grand Lodge of Ohio Education and Information Committee. Brother Hessler was the principal author of the "Principles Proficiency," a new mentoring and proficiency framework for degree candidates to prove their Masonic knowledge without the requirement for memorized responses.



The Roadmap for Improvement

Presenters: Mark Allred, RSS

Location: Auxiliary Lodge Room-1st Floor Mezzanine

The Roadmap for Improvement is a Lodge self-assessment tool whereby Lodges can identify values, priorities, resources, strengths, and opportunities currently in use in Ohio. In this hands-on activity, participants will explore the application, implementation, and opportunities in the Lodge experience.



Brother Mark Allred, Jr., RSS was raised in Genoa #433 in 2011, where is a Past Master and current Secretary. He is a past District Deputy Grand Master of the 11th District. He teaches Sophomore English and Creative Writing at the Toledo School for the Arts, he also advises their National Honor Society. Brother Allred has a variety of interests from Hungarian pastries to clay shooting to pet snakes. He is a highly sought-after speaker on various Masonic topics such as Representations of Freemasonry in Popular Media. In 2020, Brother Allred was welcomed as member #017 of the Royal Scofield Society.

The Three Books Every () Mason Should Read

Presenters: Josh Beasley, RSS

Location: AASR Candidate Counseling Room-2nd Mezzanine

This is an active/hands-on session. The goal is to develop a list of the essential books for different types of Masons: Ritualist, Historical, Esoteric, Leadership, Beginning, Weekend-Only, etc. The lists will be collected, discussed, and shared after the conference.

Josh Beasley, Esq, RSS is a past master of Madison Lodge #221, in West Jefferson, Ohio. He is very active in the American York Rite of Freemasonry, having served as High Priest of Adoniram Chapter #73, RAM; Illustrious Master of London Council #41, R&S M; and Commander of Willis Commandery #82, KT, all in London, Ohio. Bro. Beasley has long held a passion for Masonic Education, serving as a charter Regent for the Royal Scofield Society, Ohio's Masonic Education flagship program, and being welcomed as member #004 of their inaugural class. Prior to initiation as a Mason, Bro. Beasley earned a B.A. in Philosophy from The Ohio State University, and a Juris Doctorate from Indiana University. He also currently serves as Grand Barrister for the Grand Lodge of Ohio. He enjoys spending as much time outdoors and with his family as is humanly possible.



The Thrilla in Vanilla

Presenters: Taggart's Ice Cream

Location: Main Ballroom:

Ohio's Kitchen Sink Degree is a tradition going back decades. A person earns this degree when they complete the Kitchen Sink Sundae from Taggart's Ice Cream with the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Kitchen Sink sundae consists of two scoops of vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice creams; hot fudge, marshmallow, strawberry, and caramel toppings; covered with pecans, whipped cream, ground nuts, and a cherry. Those who have earned this degree proudly wear a special lapel pin



Only a select few will be receiving this degree today. The purpose of today is to settle a dispute. On August 25, 2020, while serving as Junior Grand Warden, MWB Steven M. Grindle set a world record time of 3:40:76 for finishing the Kitchen Sink. (To be clear, that time is in minutes and seconds. Recently, amid controversy, disputation, and protestation, WB Jason Short, Past Master of Negley #565 and Past District Education Officer of the 24th District laid claim to having broken the record with a time of 3:26:38.

This afternoon, these two colossal; nay, **titanic** competitors will vie for the undisputed Taggart's Kitchen Sink Champion of the World. People may donate to have their name or organization engraved on the championship belt and all funds raised will be donated to charity.

The Greatest Event In All of Masonry!

Presented by the 21st Masonic District of Ohio.
In association with the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation.

THE THRILLA IN VANILLA

\$10,000 DOLLARS TO CHARITY!

WORLD'S UNDISPUTED
TAGGART'S KITCHEN SINK
CHAMPION



Past Master
**JASON
SHORT**

WORLD RECORD HOLDER

LIVE!

**SAT.
29th
APR.**

EVENT
BEGINS
AT
12 PM

Grand Master
**STEVEN
GRINDLE**
CHALLENGER

VS.

DONATIONS



RING SIDE IS WHERE ITS AT

CANTON MASONIC TEMPLE

THE 2023 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ON MASONIC EDUCATION IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS.



[The Masonic Renewal Committee of the Conference of Grand Masters'](#) mission is sharing best practices and successful programs which enhance the Masonic Experience, improve Lodge Development, Membership Development, and Membership Retention among the leadership of those Grand Lodges composing the Conference of Grand Masters. Currently, the Conference membership consists of the Grand Lodges of the Provinces of Canada; the States of the United States of America, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; the State of York, Mexico; and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of Germany. These Grand Masters represent some 2 million Freemasons in North America.



[The Ohio Masonic Communities Resource Center](#) aims to help members of our Masonic family, and other Ohioans, wherever they may be, find solutions for their financial, social and clinical needs. We provide a wide variety of resources and services, which contribute to sustaining the health, happiness and independence of individuals and their families. Our focus is on helping those we serve to receive the resources they need in the best location, whether that be their home, one of our campuses, or elsewhere.



[The Royal Scofield Society](#) is the premier Masonic Educational Society for the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Membership is earned by completing a robust and unique program intended to inspire and challenge those interested in Masonic Education. The curriculum is challenging but not impossible, focusing on connection and personal growth instead of research and isolation. It aims not to create sages in ivory towers, but rather servant leaders in Masonic Education. To honor those who have completed this rigorous curriculum, the Royal Scofield Society was established in the form of Resolution 19 by a vote of the delegates at the Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio in 2019 at Marietta.



[The Traveling Man](#) podcast is a masonic podcast out of the 24th District from WB Jim Hall. The podcast focuses on meaningful connections, personal histories, and is an exploration of what Masonry means to people and why. It can be found on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts from.



[The Andrew Torok Foundation](#) was established in memory of Brother Andrew Torok, a founder of the Illinois Lodge of Research and an ardent supporter of Masonic Education. The Foundation's purpose was two-fold. 1. to encourage and promote the study and research of the nature of Freemasonry, its history, and philosophy; and, 2. to disseminate the results of those studies among Masons and non-Masons by lectures, printed materials, scholarships, awards, and prizes, inside and outside the United States. The Andrew N. Torok Foundation has advanced funds for the operation of the library of the Illinois Lodge of Research located in Normal, Illinois, and has funded speakers for the Masonic Secretaries Association dinner during the annual communication of our Grand Lodge in October of each year. The Foundation is a generous sponsor and supporter of the Midwest Conference on Masonic Education.



[WCY Media](#) has become one of the more essential online Masonic resources. Since July of 2011 the "Whence Came You?" Podcast has been creating weekly Masonic Education for anyone interested in Freemasonry and its kindred sciences. Author and creator [Robert 'RJ' Johnson](#) is a prolific author, much sought-after speaker, and considered an important voice in modern Masonry. It can be found on Apple Podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts from.



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