

**The Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, & Accepted Masons of the  
State of Missouri  
REPORT OF THE MASONIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Brethren,

The Grand Lodge of Missouri's Committee on Masonic Education has worked strenuously in the last year in an effort to seek new ways to meet the Jurisdiction and Grand Lodge's request and needs as well as provide positive resources for the craft.

Any report made regarding the Craft and the years 6020 & 6021 would be remiss if we did not address the COVID-19 Pandemic and the effect it has had on the dynamic and landscape of Masonic Education or note the efforts of several Brothers toward its perpetuation. In a time of uncertainty, as many Lodges went dark, Brothers of various Grand Jurisdictions the world over and within this Grand Lodge as well hit the "digital" pavement per say. Several Missouri Brothers have served as active catalysts in promoting educational presentations held in digital/virtual formats via the Zoom platform, WebEx, etc. These meetings have addressed what would be considered untiled topics and explored multiple facets of the Fraternity. Such presentations were attended by Brothers from across the jurisdiction of Missouri as well as many, many other Grand Lodges. These efforts seemed to have sparked exceptional conversation and show the flexibility for education in a digital presentation format. This proves a far-reaching form of spreading light on topics which can be discussed in untiled formats and the ability to keep brothers engaged. Several Lodges (here & abroad) also jumped at these opportunities of technology and utilized these platforms to hold meetings (educational or otherwise) bringing brothers together from across the world for discussion and presentations, overcoming the current social constraints of the pandemic.

**Masters & Wardens Leadership Conference**

The Committee is tentatively detailing and developing an effective and long-range effort to support and develop leaders in the Craft through a comprehensive Wardens & Masters Leadership Conference.

As a fraternity we realize that many leaders come into these roles of masonic leadership with solid basic skill sets but many knock with very little understanding of the metrics, requirements, procedures, and details that relate to the function of a Lodge & the Craft. That unawareness coupled with the occasional burden of well-meaning but misguided brothers who push and dictate their view upon lodge leadership presents a unique lenses for our task. Understanding these needs, and at the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Brown & now M.W. Bro. Cundiff the committee has worked aggressively framing a leadership development program and curriculum with a targeted debut of Fall 2021. Such efforts are being tailored to create a jurisdiction specific program built to allow for cohesive and open discussion in building knowledgeable leaders in the support of their brethren, the tenants of the craft, Grand Lodge activities, and a continued advocacy for the Fraternity's future and best interests. Committee

discussions have actively sought topics and considered how to allow active connections into the Lodge outside of the occasional input or interaction with Grand Lodge Officers and their District Deputy Grand Masters.

In the scope of this program we envisioned the following goal:

***“To create engaged, energized, active brothers for Missouri Lodges who grasp fundamental Lodge operations, leadership skills, masonic protocols, and making the most of the Masonic experience for Brothers within their Lodge and the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Missouri through engagement and the practice of the Craft.”***

The curriculum presented focused on the following content areas:

**1) Officer Roles**

- a) To include: Effective team management; Leadership & Communication; Crafting a term plan/calendar; Theme and goal setting; Finding the right fit for the job-officer appointments.

**2) Lodge Operational Management**

- a) To include: Committees- The who, what, & how?; The Budget & crafting a realistic document to serve the Lodge; The Audit- Why we need it and Who’s getting it done?; Jurisprudence- Your By-Laws & You; Lodge Communication- Trestle boards, Social Media, Outreach; Paperwork, Petitions, etc; The Grand Lodge, the DDGM, and You.

**3) Stated Communication Management**

- a) To include: Agendas; Committee Use; Meeting Time management; Balloting and Communication Conduct; Official Visits and the Lodge; Management Outside of the Lodge & Stated Communications; Investigating Committees & the West Gate; Membership Interaction; Fundraisers

**4) Engagement & Retention**

- a) To include: Social Media & Active Communication; Fellowship; Education; Meetings you don’t want to miss- How do we get there?

**5) Education**

- a) To include: Lodge Education Officers; Establishing an Education plan; Candidate Education- Mentoring Programs, etc; LAMP

**Bicentennial Virtual Lecture Series**

The impact of COVID-19 and the success of online presentations show the reach of virtual masonic education. While this format does not allow for every masonic topic, nor guarantee secured communication, it does allow for a wide range of speakers and knowledgeable Brothers to be at a much more reasonable reach than before.

At the request of Grand Lodge of Missouri’s Bicentennial Committee, the Education Committee has undertaken the development of a virtual lecture series for the Bicentennial celebrations commemorating 200 years for the Missouri Grand Lodge. The lecture topics focus not only on Missouri history & famous Missourians but several topics of a more Masonic nature as well. The lectured began in October 2021 and continue each month on the last Sunday of a given month. Each lecture is live-streamed and recorded, later being

made available on the Grand Lodge YouTube page and Facebook account for Lodges and Brothers viewing if they desire or missed the live presentation itself.

Topics presented to date include:

- Early Grand Lodge proceedings and Events in Missouri
- Missouri Freemasonry & the Civil War
- The Baltimore Convention: Missouri and our Ritual History
- Discussions on M.W.Bro. Harry S. Truman's early life by Bro. Clifton Truman Daniel
- Missouri's Masonic Governors
- The Masonic College of Missouri
- Freemasonry Crosses the Mississippi-Early years of the Craft in the Louisiana Territory

### **Grand Lodge Achievement Award**

Missouri has had in place a Masonic Achievement Award Program that is now in its 46<sup>th</sup> year of existence. It was instituted by the Grand Lodge of Missouri to encourage the lodges across the State to become more engaged as the work both within and without the lodge room. The Award covers a broad span of topics from general participation to fraternal outreach. Each lodge is provided a list of items for which they can earn points. These items include ritual, local lodge administration, sister lodge interaction and community interaction. These are intended to produce well-rounded programs at the local lodge level. The filing of these digital forms has resulted in ease of submission from subordinate Lodges and remarkably simplified the qualification and verification process with making the submissions uniform across the State.

### **LAMP**

A consistent project of the Committee with the support of several sub-committees is our LAMP program. LAMP (**L**earning **A**bout **M**asonry **P**rogram) offers a module based instruction program hosted through the Grandview software and has been live since 2019. The programs original curriculum follows materials for On the Threshold as an introduction to Masonry and then for the three degrees, each with a learning module and testing. The Committee is currently working toward arrangements to provide resources for group/classroom style instruction. This format has been requested since the initial relaunch of the program and we are hopeful to have some structure to this option in place this Masonic year.

We hereby submit this report and pray that all our efforts to assist the Craft in their search for Greater Light will be empowered by the Great Architect of the Universe and that His blessings continue upon Masonry and the Brethren in their constant endeavors for Light.

Fraternally Submitted,

Jacob W. Thompson, P.M., Chairman

Joshua Thompson, P.M.  
Matt D. Ruth, P.M.  
Steven A. Macley, P.M.  
Randall K. Sanders