

American Canadian Grand Lodge COMMUNICATOR

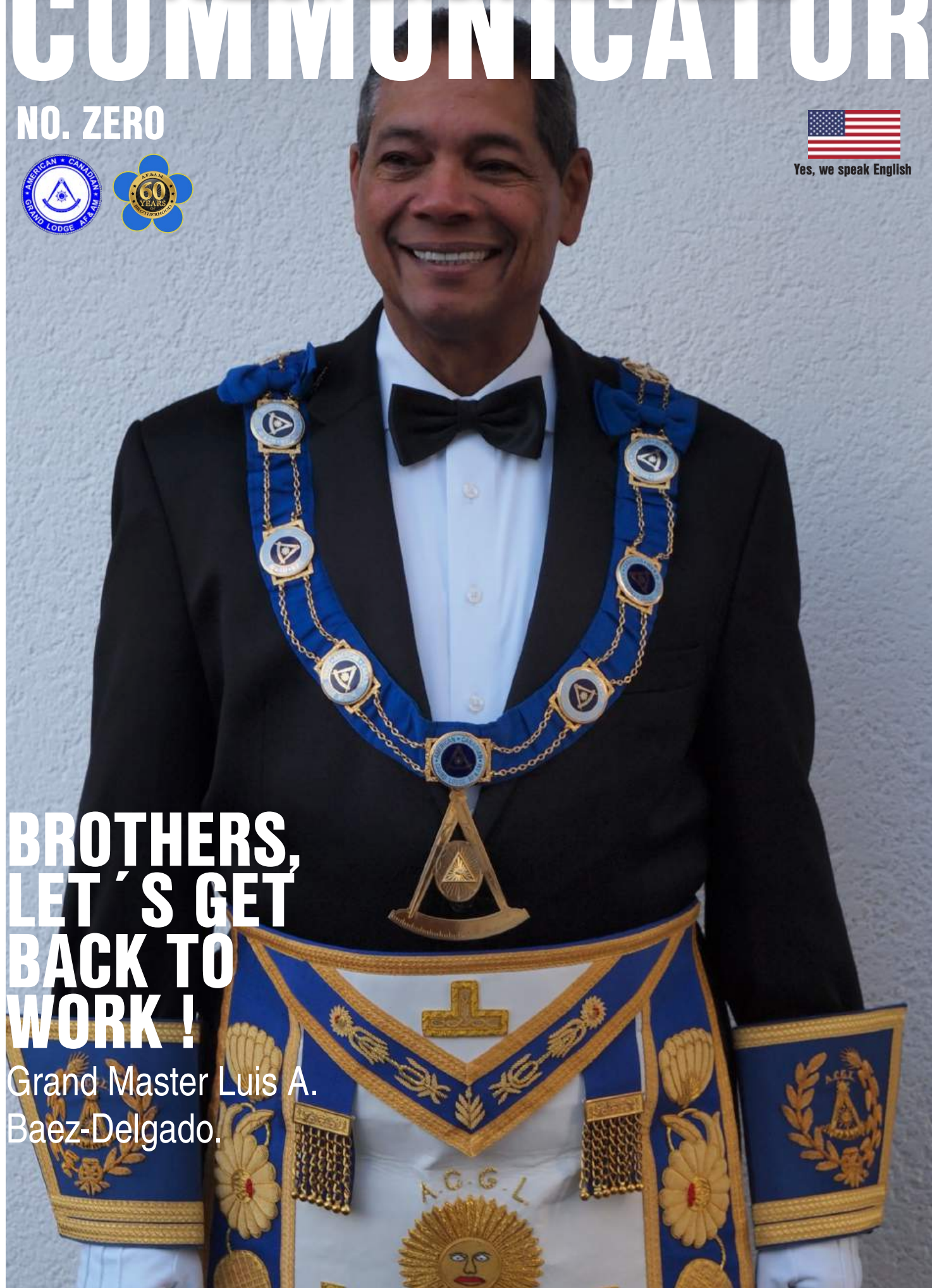
NO. ZERO



Yes, we speak English

**BROTHERS,
LET'S GET
BACK TO
WORK!**

Grand Master Luis A.
Baez-Delgado.



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„Time is an illusion, lunchtime doubly so”¹

I am sure (but I wasn ´t there) that when humanity discovered writing, sometime in our ancestral past, a fair amount of people that had previously based their whole life around the traditional way of passing on information, got really really annoyed...

We have been hearing so much in the last years about Metaverses, virtual reality and other sci-fi sounding concepts, that we might have not even realized... we are there already and there ´s nothing we can do about it!

The COVID crisis, as the Spanish fever, down to the 1348 plague and so on, just sped up an unavoidable process that had been in motion for centuries, maybe millennia. Freemasonry deals very often with the past: a past that it is sometime hidden inside a fog of allegories, but still it is a past that becomes a powerful tool to understand that we have always been a part of this planet, and as all things, we all go through birth, maturity, and eventually death.

If that is the last step of the ladder, I don ´t know. It is up to you to choose your answer.

Personally, I am a believer. I think that after every curtain there ´s always room for another bow to the audience, for an encore... maybe another one... who knows?

We all have been faced with difficult choices in the last two years, we have given our best and we learned each one what we had to.

Now, it is time for rebirth and, to quote the words of our newly installed Grand Master MWLuis A. Baez Delgado...

Let ´s get back to work!

Sir cello ALoT, Lodge Services and PR.

¹ Douglas Adams, the Hitch-hiker ´s guide to the galaxy

WE MEET ON THE LEVEL

“We meet on the level”

The somehow prophetic Motto of the now Past Grand Master, MW Daniel Jap Lim.

On the level.

our steps were heard In the rooms of the Pullman Hotel in Stuttgart. In the presence of many distinguished Brn, our families, some of our most adventurous friends a re-awakening took place.

On the level,

Masters and Past Masters, finally could be properly invested and assist, some for the first time, to the Grand Master’s Installation ceremony.

On the level,

after years of digital captivity, the **American Canadian Grand Lodge** was finally able to hold its first face-to-face communication since the first Corona Lock-down in 2020!



On the level,

we were able to share our lock-down stories, that trust and connection that for so long had to be filtered by the lights of our monitors.

On the level,

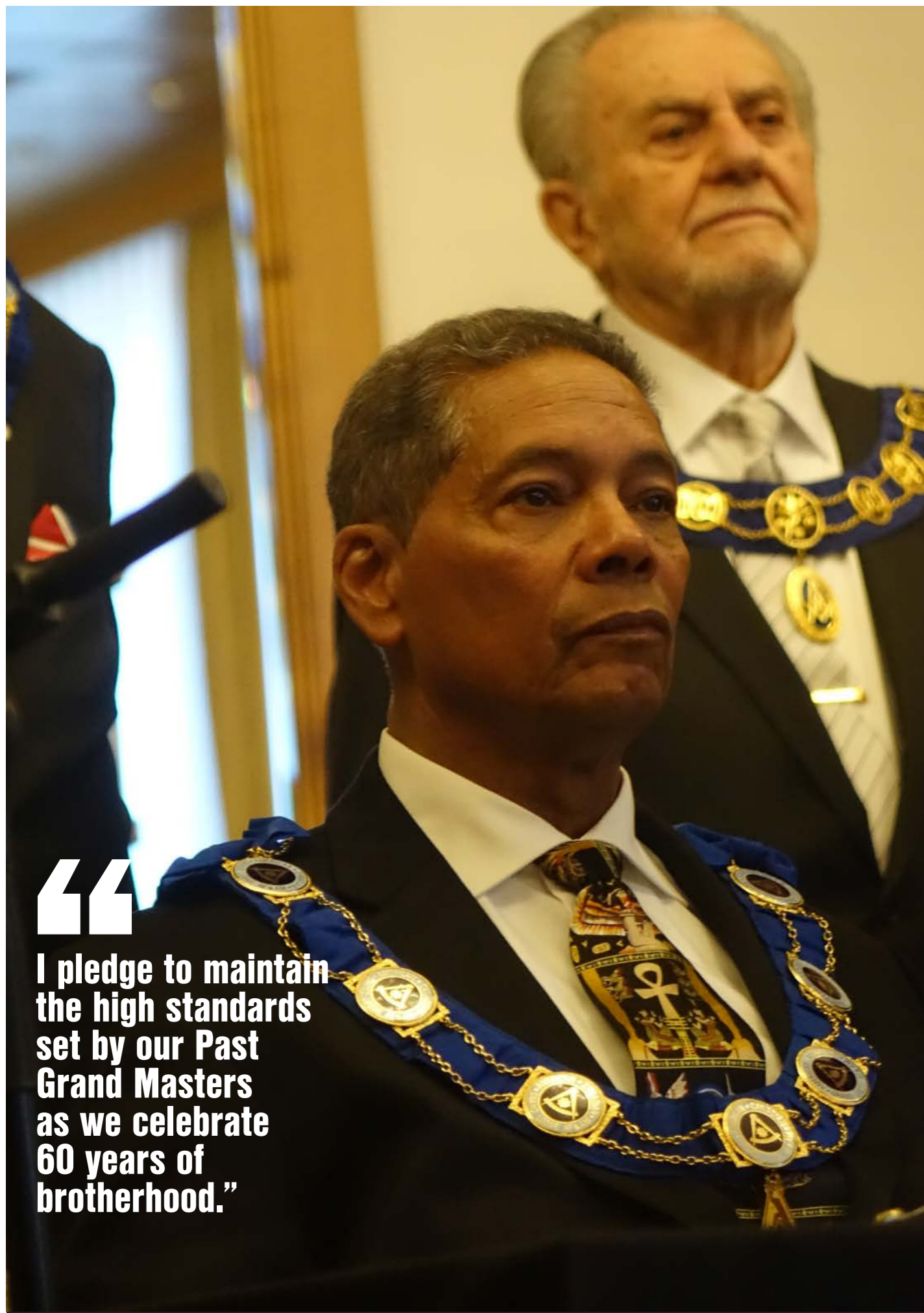
we had the honor of a visit from Lt. General Markus Laubenthal of the German Army; the first German flag officer to be assigned as Commander of U.S. Armed Forces Command Europe.

Although not a Mason himself, he delivered a powerful speech of indubitable Masonic sentiment.

He reminded us of our calling as builders and of three of the core values of Freemasonry:

Faith, hope and charity.

On the level we met, now it is time to...



“
I pledge to maintain the high standards set by our Past Grand Masters as we celebrate 60 years of brotherhood.”

PART UPON THE SQUARE



Grand Master Luis A. Baez-Delgado's pin

Thank you to the installation team for this inspiring ceremony. Distinguished East, Brothers, Ladies and Guests: It is my duty, but also my pleasure and privilege to welcome Most Worshipful Grand Master **Michael Volkwein**, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany, MW **J.D. Stevens**, Grand Master of the British Masons in Germany, MW **Rint Akyüz**, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Turkey, MW **Remzi Sanver**, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Turkey, RW **Ian Livermore**, Deputy Grand Master of the British Freemasonry in Germany.

“WELCOME”

Brethren, on your behalf and mine, as we celebrate today the 60th Anniversary of the ACGL, my thanks for their mentorship, support and presence go to the following individuals: MW **Gerhard Severin**, MW **Paul Curran**, MW **Paul Litteral**, MW **James Barrett**, MW **Tayfun Cilingir**, MW **Jan Savarino** and MW **Daniel Jap Lim**, “all” Past Grand Masters of the American Canadian Grand Lodge.” Please welcome them and thank you for a job well done. I welcome III **Sir James Barrett** 33, Representative of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasons, III **Sir Ward Williamson**, Executive Officer De Moley Germany, Officers, Brothers, Ladies and Families. Thank you all for traveling long distances to be here today.

It has been my honor to serve under MW Daniel Jap Lim, Past Grand Masters and other Grand Lodge Officers - “Thank you for your wisdom.” Thank you to my friend, girlfriend, wife and love of my life, Christine, for her constant support, understanding and encouragement. Also, thank you to “Mama” Helga Friedrich (Christine and my mother) for her love. I would like to thank RW Patrick Rodriguez and Lady Theresa: we are grateful for their presence and constant support. For many years they captured important moments during the annual communication and other events. “Thank you for what you do.”

I thank the Brothers of this Grand Lodge for choosing me to serve you. It is my great honor to accept the trust you all have placed in me. I pledge to maintain the high standards set by our Past Grand Masters as we celebrate 60 years of

brotherhood. I look forward to working with the elected and appointed officers as faithful servants of our Grand Lodge. This year we will continue our efforts to improve our architecture and design to see if it works as well in practice as it looks on paper. Leadership roles, functionality, Masonic programs and teamwork is my vision, “Part Upon the Square” my motto. The task requires a lot of work and dedication, but with your support there is no doubt we can do it. All decrees remain in effect. Previous Edits are rescinded. Worshipful Masters must abide by the restrictions imposed by local authorities. Lodges, let us return to normal work. In closing, I would like to thank my brothers, ladies and guests for taking the time to spend this special moment with us. May the Great Architect of the Universe watch over and bless our military, our families and this brotherhood. May we continue to brighten lives and shine love here on earth; and when we meet at the beginning of our communication on the Level, we “part upon the square.” Thank you!



THE GRAND LINE

RW Thomas Litz
Deputy Grand Master

Dear Brethren all,
I thank each of you for this wonderful weekend in Stuttgart at our ceremonial. Your time and effort made this event to a highly successful one. The new masonic year has just started and many projects have to be mastered - in Unity.

“Unity is a noun meaning the state of being joined together in agreement. Within the letters of UNITY, additional meanings can be found”

U

Understanding = We all embrace the same purpose which overrides our personal preferences

N

Neighbouring, we live in partnership with our communities offering brotherly support

I

Integrity: Rectitude, Virtue, Probity

T

Trust, To fulfil one's responsibility without being coerced or begged

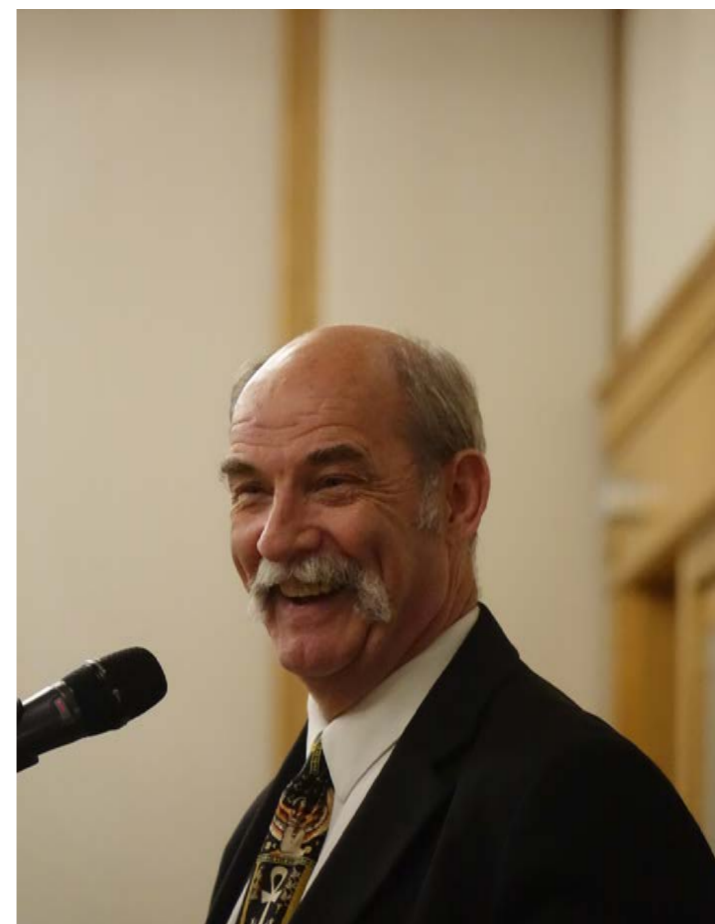
Y

Yielding, Putting away selfish desires to achieve a greater goal



We are constantly being met with an ever-changing world; and as Brothers, we must adapt while maintaining our protocol, ritual and constitutions. The proper maintenance of the aforementioned items encourages us to work in harmony, thereby helping us to demonstrate to the world and ourselves how masons love one another. So let us work together during our

journey - for the Brothers and their families, for the Craft and the whole Grand Lodge - never forget the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. So mote it be, that the only occasion when looking down to someone is, when helping them up. Fraternally,
Thomas



it, if you misplaced the email please contact me and I will let you know how to get your copy.
I am glad to report that all of the lodges in the ACGL, except for one, have taken the Grand Master's message to heart and have gone back to work in the lodges. Nothing says that you cannot still conduct Zoom meetings at a special meeting called by the Master, but I for one think it is great to be back in lodge meeting and greeting Brothers and having that personnel contact again.
Until the next Communicator, please stay safe and healthy. I look forward to meeting you during my travels.
Fraternally submitted,
MW Paul M. Curran, PGM
Grand Secretary

MW Paul Curran, PGM
Grand Secretary

Dear Brothers,
As we are a couple of weeks removed from our Annual Communication, I wanted to take a few minutes to express my gratitude for making it such a great event. As I said during the communication it was really great to meet Brothers face to face and enjoy each other's company. By now everyone should know who was elected or appointed to each position, so I will not rehash that.

Iwould like to write a little bit and expand upon the Grand Master's charity, The George Washington Memorial Charity. As you all know or should know the Grand Master wants to support and contribute to The George Washington Masonic National Memorial, Landmark Century Campaign, by donating enough money to have a tree planted in the ACGL's name and also a marble bench installed on the grounds in the ACGL's name. This is in support of the 100 year anniversary of the George Washington Memorial. This is an excellent opportunity for us, as Brothers of the ACGL, to support our

Grand Master and to have the ACGL's name at George Washington Memorial for all to see, for many years to come. Please contribute via the Grand Lodge website.

We are in the middle of having Web Tool classes for all the Secretaries of the lodges. This is a Grand Lodge sponsored event via Zoom and takes an hour or so of your time. I have received nothing but good comments so far about the classes that have been given, if you have not signed up yet please write me and let me know that you would like to attend.

It is that time of year again when the lodges are gearing up for elections and sending out the dues reminder notice. Please keep in mind the deadlines, for the summonses, and submissions to Grand Lodge as explained in The ACGL Code, that have to be met for both.

So far only about half of the lodges have purchased The List of Lodges Book. This is a required book for all lodges to have in the lodge, please do not get caught short on the DDGM's inspection of your lodge by not having it. I have put out emails on how to order

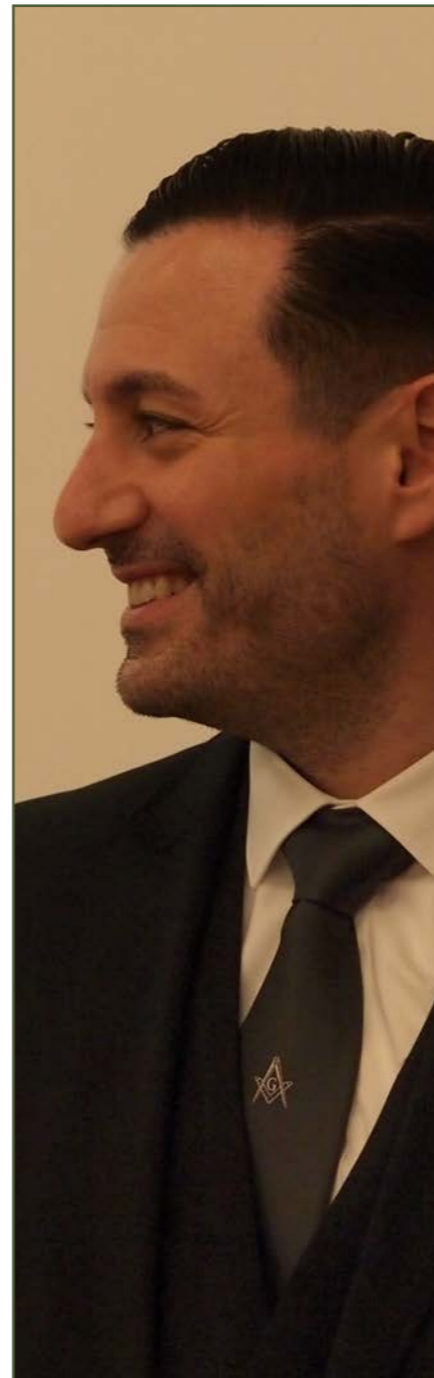


MW Brother Paul and Lady Marlene

RW Arda Çilingir Senior Grand Warden

Dear Brethren, I cannot express my gratitude to all you who put their trust in me and elected me as the Senior Grand Warden of the American Canadian Grand Lodge for the ensuing masonic year. It was great to see all the Brethren that attended the Annual Communication and I enjoyed brotherly conversations with all of you. Additionally at our Annual Communication we celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Grand Lodge. Our successful use of all the digital meeting platforms during these times have proved that we might continue to use these venues for future meetings as well, but of course they do not substitute in-person meetings. As mentioned in my previous Communicator articles, these platforms should serve mostly as an augmented tool to make things easier and allow our brotherhood to react quicker to changes in our environment. Thinking about the future of our brotherhood, I often find myself lost in thought about the future of our beloved craft. Where does our path lead to? It is a fact that freemasonry around the globe is suffering from diminishing numbers in membership. Therefore, one of the essential questions here is: Why? and: Will there be a turning point to this trend? I know there are many fraternal experts addressing this issue and have been

for years, maybe even decades. Their assessments, and the opinions of many others, have identified several important underlining arguments for our membership decline. Personally, I am very confident that freemasonry will return to the prestige stature of the 1800s and we will soon see a turning point of this negative trend. I believe one of the main reasons to this trend relates to the increasingly fast pace of our society and life in general. Many people simply cannot enjoy the little things in life anymore. It is as if we are caught in a movie where everything is passing by, and we are the supporting actors in our own life. Furthermore, digitalization is rapidly advancing with more and more information raining down on us from every direction. The advancement of the digital era drives the underlining importance of conscious living. Freemasonry might be, or even is already for many an escape from our daily routine. The craft, however, serves to slow down our lives, focus on ourselves, and focus on the moment while being among brethren in a secured environment. These are just a few advantages that will be more important than ever if the overload of information continues as it has in the last decades. All in all, Freemasonry is a place where brethren can enjoy the benefits of a protected environment while working on your



own perfect ashlar.

In closing, I want to extend my fraternal greetings to every ACGL freemason around the world. Thank you for representing your ACGL brethren. Brethren, the pandemic seems to be coming to an end - hopefully. Be safe and stay healthy. I am looking forward to meeting each one of you face-to-face once again and engaging in brotherly discussions. Fraternally,
Your Brother Arda
SGW ACGL



RW Tarik Eker Junior Grand Warden

My Brethren, On April 8, 2022, I was overwhelmed with gratitude, being elected to the office of Junior Grand Warden, and it fills me with humility, gratitude, and the pleasure to serve you, the brethren of the American Canadian Grand Lodge. I was nervous about what new responsibilities awaited me. Would I be up to the task? This feeling was not new. I had experienced it many times before. It was the same feeling I had before been installed as Master of my Blue Lodge. It was the same feeling I had when the Lodge Secretary called me and told me I had been elected 2B1. I am excited for the opportunity to serve our fraternity. Brethren, because of COVID, we have been unable to meet for the past two years. The joy at being able to meet again was palpable, though tinged with sadness because of the faces missing - whether through continuing infections, a still cautious approach to large gatherings, or because of a brother having passed to Grand Lodge above during the intervening years. Yet, there was a feeling of happiness that, at last, some semblance of normality was returning to our masonic activities.



Spring is in full flowers, clocks have moved forward, and Freemasonry is meeting once again with renewed confidence. In the coming months, we are facing exciting times and new challenges and we will be assisting our Grand Master and the craft in addressing them. Over the next months, we will be actively preparing ourselves for the implementation of the new IT challenges as mentioned by the Past Grand Master at the Annual Communication.

I am still excited for the future, and really pleased that once again we can meet and mingle with you all in your Lodges. It is a pleasure serving the Brethren of the Craft of this Masonic Fraternity. Thank you!
Your Brother,
Tarik Eker
Junior Grand Warden



Dear Brethren All,
Over the past two years, we have been in a difficult situation due to Covid-19. I have personally felt the impact of not being able to fellowship in the Lodge halls, as have many of you. Some of us handled it quite well, and others

not so much. One Positive thing that has come out of this situation was we could finally reach out and have meetings with the Brethren from the States and from all over the world. Due to the great feedback, some of the lodges

have now decided to keep the zoom accounts to ensure they can continue to meet with the Non-Resident Brethren. But without a doubt, the most positive thing from my perspective is that the pandemic has ended! Brethren can now meet in person after such a long time. As the restrictions have become more and more relaxed over the past months, I look forward to visiting the lodges and starting degree work once again. We have many Candidates and Brothers in waiting for the next steps in Freemasonry and I'm excited to see what we accomplish this year together. S&F

RW Anthony Ward
Grand Treasurer

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

- DISTRICT NO. 1 VWB GREGORY ANDERSON
- DISTRICT NO. 2 VWB MARK STANLEY
- DISTRICT NO. 3 VWB BENSON OKOYE
- DISTRICT NO. 4 VWB UDO RAAB
- DISTRICT NO. 5 VWB FABIEN ROGET
- DISTRICT NO. 6 VWB URS B. BECKMANN
- DISTRICT NO. 7 VWB TAMER KARAKUS
- DISTRICT NO. 8 VWB FRANK ULLMANN
- DISTRICT NO. 9E VWB DAMIAN LOGUE
- DISTRICT NO. 9W VWB WEST DARREN STEELE



GM CHARITY 2022

The Memorial Dedicatory Tree & Bench program

Grand Master MW Luis A Baez-Delgado selected "The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association" "Memorial Dedicatory Tree & Bench program" as the charity project for the ACGL 2022-2023. The goal of this project is to contribute to both the Tree & Bench in the name of the American Canadian Grand Lodge. As the Grand Master said let us push this charity to complete the sums needed for a Tree & Bench as soon as possible. That we can have them installed prior to the conference.

This great memorial to the Mason George Washington, was built with donations of the Grand Lodges within the United States of America and many other Masonic related organizations. The start of construction was 5 June 1922.

To commemorate the start of construction and celebrate the centennial of the laying of the cornerstone for this building, "The Conference Grand Masters of North America" will host their annual conference. There is a CORNERSTONE CEREMONY reenactment AND PARADE planned.

Save the date Monday, February 20, 2023

The American Canadian Grand Lodge as a member of this conference will be represented by our Grand Master and accompanied by members of his elected line. It would please the GM if his Charity program was a success and the dedicatory Granite Bench was in place when the Grand Master attends the conference and dedication ceremony in February 2023. Thanks for your help.

<https://www.grandmastersva23.com/>
<https://gwmemorial.org>



By Joe Ravi, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=16997995>

A WORD FROM THE PAST GRAND MASTER.



Dear Brethren, Ladies and Friends, it was a pleasure seeing you all at our 2022 ACGL Annual Communication and the 60th Anniversary of our Grand Lodge - what a wonderful event! First time for two years and with a new location, it was great team work and worth all efforts, making it possible. With the attendance of 100+ brothers, families and guests, it was a success. At our Friday Evening Banquet we had visitors from various Grand Lodges and a top-class speaker. DDGM VWB and LTC Marc Buervenich introduced LTG Markus Laubenthal. From 2012 to 2014 General Laubenthal commanded the 12th Armored Brigade in Amberg. In August 2013 he took over as Chief of Staff for ISAF Regional Command in North Afghanistan until February 2014. From August 2014 to January 2016 the General was Chief of Staff of the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) and the first non-American to hold that office. Since April 2020 LTG Laubenthal is the Vice Chief of Defence of the German Armed Forces.

General Laubenthal spoke about the long history of the German-American friendship, which also finds expression in partnership between the two countries in different international organizations. He also stressed the importance of strengthening and deepening the part-

nership again. With regard to the current Ukraine conflict, showing strength and unity is of central importance and every effort must be made to ensure that the war does not spread regionally. Germany's increasing responsibility can be seen, for example, in Germany's chairmanship of NATO Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, coming in 2023. His speech was followed by a Q&A session which was accepted with great interest and participation. The audience appreciated the openness with which General Laubenthal shared his experience, insights and thoughts. As this Annual Communication has also marked the end of my term as Grand Master of the American Canadian Grand Lodge, I would like to express my gratitude to you and my leadership team. Serving you as Grand Master in this challenging times was a privilege and honor to me.

As a Grand Lodge we have met the challenges, now being healthier and prepared for the future. With three very successful charity projects in two years, you and your families have had a positive impact on the lives of many people in need. Where necessary, we have resolutely implemented our values and, as an organization, are healthier as a result. With the new Grand Lodge Services and Digitalization Programs the ACGL is moving into the future. I am confident that the



new Grand Master, MW Brother Luis shares the spirit of his predecessors, inventing new ways in dealing with the challenges of freemasonry. And without doubt, the elected and appointed Grand Lodge Officers will lead us successfully.



Please stay safe and healthy,
 Yours
 Daniel Jap Lim

LOOKING BACK



The ACGL 60 years Pin

Throughout the years, Freemasonry has been instilling and cultivating many ideals, such as the ideals of liberty of conscience, of truth, equality, charity, freedom, justice, morality, and a fraternal bond, in the hearts and minds of Masons. Our beliefs, ideals, and the accomplishments of the greatest Fraternity the world has ever known should have its history recorded in order that its own members, as well as the profane, may know our commitment to diversity and inclusion, and highlight the accomplishments of our Brethren throughout the past 10 years. This narrative reflects just a small fraction of the great work that is being done, the parts which it has played, is playing, and should play in a world, which more than ever, needs our wholesome influence. Freemasonry in Germany has a long and proud heritage, tracing back to possibly 1733. The history of the American Canadian Grand Lodge, (ACGL) as it is written, could not be complete without a full accounting of the activities of those dedicated brethren. Those who have served as Grand Lodge Officers, Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, together with the Brethren of our lodges, who have contributed to the growth and development of the ACGL throughout the ensuing years. The history of the ACGL over the past 10 years didn't start with the drop of a Gavel. It began a few years prior with

“Freemasonry in Germany has a long and proud heritage, tracing back to possibly 1733.”



MW James Barrett, PGM
with Lady Doris.

the vision, goals, and leadership of our Past Grand Masters, setting our sights on progress instead of dwelling in stagnation caused by the major reduction of the U.S. Forces in Germany, from a high of 225,000 in the seventies down to 35,000 today. The last ten years 2012-2022 brought many changes to the ACGL, some of which were well received, and some changes, required personal “adjustments” and a bit of getting used to. A very important part of the ACGL begins with the Grand Line and their support of their predecessor’s plan for development and communication, together with the commitment of the Members in supporting their Grand Lodge Officers in developing those goals, and to continually move forward. The vision of the Grand Lodge with support of the Brethren during this period excelled in many areas. Beginning with a Grand Lodge review in 2011 to reduce the cost structure of the Grand Lodge and bring the expenses in line with current revenues, the closure of the Grand Lodge Secretary’s office in Frankfurt began in 2012 and was completed in 2013 to an office located in Fuerstenfeldbruck. Another review, to further modernize the Grand Secretaries capabilities was completed in 2016 and resulted in the closure of the office located in Fuerstenfeldbruck to the home of the Grand Secretary, resulting in significant savings.

“Over the past 10 years, whether it be within the bounds of the ACGL or beyond, the ACGL has given over 58,000 Euros to Charity

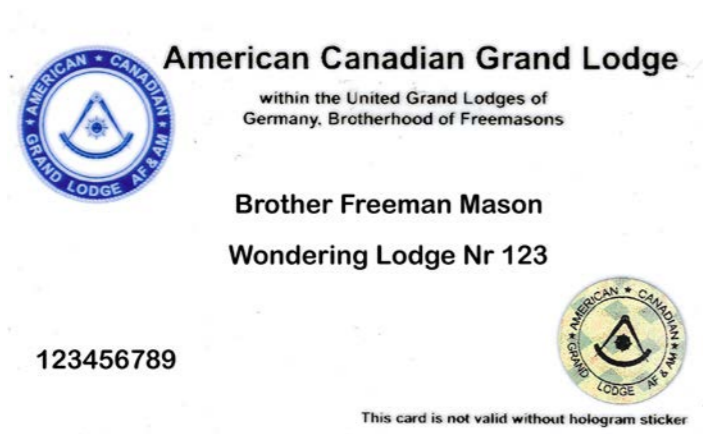
Charity for causes deemed worthy. Over the past 10 years, whether it be within the bounds of the ACGL or beyond, the ACGL has given over 58,000 Euros to Charity. Of these, the most notable being in 2020, large swathes of real estate in Beirut were either levelled or severely damaged by an accidental explosion of Ammonium nitrate. It didn't take much time before a well-planned campaign was launched under the leadership of the ACGL to help support the rebuilding of a previously funded Shriner's hospital for children in the city. The Grand Lodge leveraged different sources of support from within the Grand Lodge as well as from the British Grand Lodge of Free-masons (BFG), individual lodges and individual Brethren to end up with no less than Euros 33,000 being sent to the VGLvD's Freimaurerische Hilfswerk to be topped up with their own matching funds. This achievement should be included as one of the most noteworthy

charitable initiatives of the ACGL. A year later the ACGL once again rose to the occasion with lodges and individual Brothers donating no less than Euros 5000 to help rebuild stricken areas after flash flooding in western Germany in July of that year. The digitalization of Grand Lodge forms, publications, documents, and Members Library received some upgrades from the typewriter and hand printed paper forms still in use, to online forms. Books, brochures, and pamphlets are now available in the Members Section of the ACGL Web page. In addition, the Secretaries Handbook was updated, to include the many monthly and yearly re-orting forms. First impressions are everything - the ACGL Web-site; an important part of our credibility of how we reflect Masonry to the non-masonic viewer, as well as to ourselves, has been improved and modified to meet current technological platforms and infrastructure. Not only does the ACGL website

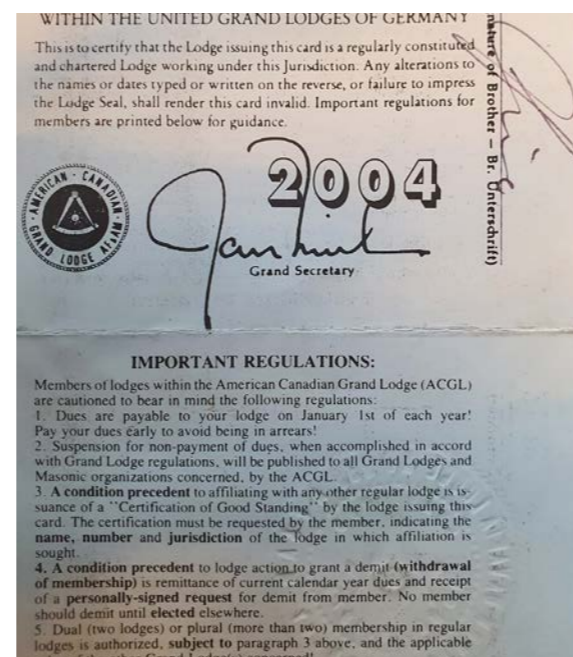
provide information of the Grand Lodge but also upon request, provides an individual homepage for our Lodges. The ACGL website is also an integral part of Web-tools, utilized as an online tool, Web-tools was improved, and redesigned to meet those current technological platforms and has been implemented for Lodge Secretaries, to maintain their Lodge finances, a paperless record of its members, their individual progression, and status changes.

Paper Dues Cards became a thing of the past, just this past year a plastic dues card was introduced into the ACGL. Effective 2022 all dues paying members of an ACGL Lodge will be in possession of one of these cards. High-lights of the card is a QR (quick response) code which reflects if the current's year's dues have been submitted. The reading can be done with a Smart Phone and reflects only the validity of the bearer. Even though the history of the past 10 years has been written, at the time of this writing, the history of the future is waiting for you, and to confidently, look forward into the centuries which are to come.

MW James Barrett, PGM



before and after, the old and new ACGL dues cards



Gala evening, every Lady gets a present

OF SOLDIERS AND MASONS

MW Jan E. Savarino, PGM

The American Canadian Grand Lodge evolved from military Lodges of the Allied Forces in Germany after WW II. Up until the late 80ies, many of our Lodges held their stated meetings within US military facilities. Thus, the link between the Lodge and the military in the ACGL has always been part of our heritage. Much different is the stance of the Grand Lodge with the largest number of members in Germany: The „AFuAMvD“ Grand Lodge was constituted in 1949 as a merger of 10 pre-war Grand Lodges. This unification necessitated the creation of a mindset and ritual that met all different varieties of Masonry. The common ground uniting these Lodges is the attitude of a peaceful, charitable institution dissociating itself from any form of militarism and self-labelled as „humanistic Masonry“. Some of these Lodges' by-laws even prohibit the wearing of uniform at their meetings. Looking at another German Grand Lodge, the „three World Globes“ (3WK) was founded in 1740 by King Frederick the Great, at a time when almost all Lodge members wore uniform during their meetings. Back in the 18th and 19th century, Masonry was very popular among senior servicemen throughout Prussia or the German Empire. Today, there are 3 so-called „Field and Military Lodges“ chartered under the 3WK, where soldiers, policemen, firemen et cetera are encouraged to wear their respective uniform during their meetings.

What unites both institutions is that Masonry and the Military share the necessity of a uniform, by which its members are distinguished as such. Be it the tunic or the apron: both items embody the solemn obligation that had to be sworn before receiving the privilege to wear those emblems. It is the oath that makes us act as a Mason or as a soldier in our daily lives, bearing the self-concept of the institution in our hearts and minds. **“I'll tell you what bravery really is. Bravery is just the determination to do a job that you know has to be done.”¹**

¹ Bro. MAJ Audie L. Murphy, known as the most decorated American combat soldier of World War II.



*“Masonry and the Military share the necessity of a uniform, by which its members are distinguished as such.”
Col. Jan Savarino and Lt Col. Mark Buervenich greet Lt Gen. Laubenthal a honored guest at the Gala.*

MILESTONES

Stories of lesser known Brn



“

we have plenty of tales to tell, lasting until late into the night, and not just from the well-known names, but also from those who worked in our individual Lodges, who selflessly made the Craft, without great personal publicity, what it is today.”

There are very few of us who can look back over the last sixty years with any degree of certainty, and certainly not the sixty years that our Grand Lodge has been in existence; we rely both on the memory of those who have gone before us, and on their collecting skills or obsessions. Much of what we know of those early days is consigned to paper, to a few remaining physical mementos, and the sometimes rambling tales

recounted after a successful Communication over a good cigar, and a tippie of the finest amber liquid. The memories are, however, still there and they need to be preserved so that, when we sit down collectively to celebrate the centenary - and I am assured you will all join me on that fine occasion - we have plenty of tales to tell, lasting until late into the night, and not just from the well-known names, but also from those who worked in our individual Lodges, who selflessly made the Craft, without great personal publicity, what it is today. One of those brethren was **Heinrich Brau.**

Brother Heinrich was born in a time when Germany was a completely different country to what we know today, to what we can imagine from our own experience. When he was born, on the 18th of December 1893, we might almost think that Germany, and by extension Europe, was a place of peace and tranquility, where all was right with the world, and all went about their lives in harmony with the great powers of the universe. It was the following century which changed the face of Europe, twice, and which we look back upon today as an example of how things - politics, society and so on - should not be allowed to run. By the time Heinrich Brau came to be Initiated into Freemasonry, on the 8th January 1918, the western world had changed for the worse, and it was only on 11th November of that year that a certain level of stability would return. World War I was still raging, but Freemasonry could continue on its way regardless, if somewhat depleted in manpower. Initiated into the Zu den drei Ankern Lodge #394 in Bremerhaven (now within the Große Landesloge der Freimaurer von Deutschland), Brother Heinrich was Passed to Fellow Craft in January 1922, and Raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason in March 1929. His early Masonic career covers many worldwide changes, following the War To End All Wars, and especially those of society in Germany, leading up to what we know as the Dark Period beginning in 1933.



“ We all have milestones in our lives, and our Brother Heinrich has lived through many more than most of us can imagine.”

As a Master Mason he was thrown back, as were all Masons of the time, into a period of darkness and uncertainty when faced with blanket bans, obstruction, destruction and vilification, but remained honest and true to his beliefs, as demonstrated in a talk given in later years in Bremerhaven, where he recounted being told to shut his mouth by a judge unwilling to discuss Masonry, but more than willing to condemn a man for following it. The Second World War came to an end in Europe on 8th May 1945 - and in Japan with their final surrender on 2nd September - and the work of rebuilding Europe, and European Freemasonry, began with

new landscapes. Germany destroyed and split into two entities, occupied by the Allies, and with ordinances and regulations forbidding much of what had been considered normal life before the conflict. In the West many of the German Lodges, with express permission, returned to their Masonic work, and Bremerhaven was no different. Heinrich returned to his Lodge, and to a life in a society considerably different to that of his youth, now with the American military forces stationed nearby. A meeting of Masonic minds was clearly on the agenda and, as more Masons came together across Germany, and the Square and Compasses Clubs began to be formed, the chances to reaffirm the mystic tie binding all regular Masons across

the world was reinforced. The North Sea Armed Forces Lodge #829 was constituted as a regular Lodge in December 1955, having worked for several years as a Masonic Club, and mutual visits, mutual opportunities to learn and advance, became more common. Brother Heinrich clearly felt very much at home in the new Lodge, first as a regular visitor, then as an Affiliated member. His Petition was read in the fledgling American Lodge in January 1956.

After an initial start in the sidelines of this young Lodge, Heinrich trusted himself enough to accept his first appointment. As important as any other position or station, he began his work as Tyler from 1958 to 1961, and advanced steadily through the ranks to become Master of the Lodge in 1969. Throughout this period, despite the set-back of having to demit from his Mother Lodge (to avoid being expelled as, at least then, accepting a position or station in another Jurisdiction was an offense against their rules), he worked ceaselessly to harbour good relations between the American and German communities, between German and American Freemasonry. Within the Lodge he assisted younger brethren as they began their journey, with his own knowledge of the Ritual, and a closeness to the brethren few have forgotten. He was appointed Grand Land Lecturer and, in April 1974, Honorary Grand Lecturer for Life. In November 1980 the Grand Lodge recognized his work further, with the Distinguished Service Award in Gold. We all have milestones in our lives, and our Brother Heinrich has lived through many more than most of us can imagine. He was a Mason from 1918 until his death in 1984, active, close to all, and always ready to assist where needed. Leaving aside the social and civilian, or familial milestones of his life, the Masonic milestones he must have looked back upon would undoubtedly have included his Initiation and advancement to the sublime Degree of Master Mason, his move to an American Lodge and continued

advancement through the East, and into the ranks of Honorary Grand Lodge officials. For those around him, the milestones experienced by his fellows and brethren, by those he mentored, would have been assisted by his constant help, by his advice, his open ear, trustworthiness, and readiness to be there wherever he was needed. In Freemasonry we tend to recall a Mason's life of work, and then say that he has laid down his Earthly tools, gone on to work on that spiritual house in the East, not made with hands. For our Brother Heinrich, and many other Masons who have gone this way before us, it is perhaps better to retain another image in our minds: they have not laid down their Earthly tools, but placed them into the hands of others, the hands of a new generation, so that the work they have begun may be continued. In the case of Brother Heinrich, that is most certainly so. Younger brethren, now also advanced in their years, recall his work in assisting them, in bringing the ideals of Freemasonry into their minds and lives, and have followed his teachings throughout their lives. Some to such an extent that, as the North Sea Armed Forces Lodge was recalled from its slumbers and brought back to work on its Masonic ideals, were prepared to travel hundreds of miles every month to ensure the Ritual, the Fraternity, the Community was revived and continued as, I am sure, our Broth-

er Heinrich Brau would have wished, and would have done. As we look back on sixty years of the American Canadian Grand Lodge, in its various forms and names, we should also remember: it is the brethren who have made the Grand Lodge, who have made the Lodges, and their ceaseless efforts, as with Brother Heinrich Brau, which we should remember and be grateful for.

Adam An-tAthair-Sioraí PDDGM
Grand Historian.



JOINING THE LEGACY



PETER M. RASMUSSEN
1962 - 1963



HORST VOLKHARDT
1965 - 1966



WINNICK K. RICHARDSON
1966 - 1967



JESS MINTON
1967 - 1968



James E. Clark
1968 - 1969



LEE S. LOOMIS
1969 - 1970



H. DALE WALKER
1970 - 1971



C. GORDON GREENWOOD
1971 - 1972



WILLIAM E. DENNY
1972 - 1973



LOUIE E. CONINE
1973 - 1974



BURTON L. CLYDE
1974 - 1975



GUNTHER GALL
1975 - 1976



Hugo Thomas
1976 - 1977



ARTHUR E. POWELL
1977 - 1978



ARTHUR L. KILE
1978 - 1979



GARY M. KOLLO
1979 - 1980



BILLY C. HAYES
1980 - 1981



WOLFGANG DURST
1981 - 1982



JOHN PROVAN
1982 - 1983



WILLIAM M. LANHAM
1983 - 1984



MARION E. WESTENBURG
1984 - 1985



ALISTER BOYD
1985 - 1986



GERHARD W. SEVERIN
1986 - 1987



DANIEL W. BRECKENRIDGE
1987 - 1988



NUEL "ED" WILSON
1988 - 1989



CHARLES L. HUNSUCKER
1989 - 1990



EDWARD A. STILES
1990 - 1991



HUGH E. BLACK
1991 - 1992



DONALD S. METSCHER
1992 - 1993



JOHN A. WILLIAMS
1993 - 1994



REGINALD L. BRITTAN
1994 - 1996



P. JAMES RICHIE
1996 - 1997



JIMMY R. AVERY
1997 - 1998



OWEN J. QUELL
1998 - 1999



DONALD L. MADDOX
1999 - 2000



ROLAND S. MEDER
2000 - 2001



DONALD L. SAINT
2001 - 2002



JOHN P. "BUCK" BUCHANAN
2002 - 2003



DONALD E. MARTIN
2003 - 2006



JOHN M. LONCZYNSKI
2006 - 2008



GRADY M. ADAMS
2008 - 2009



PAUL M. CURRAN
2009 - 2011



PAUL D. LITTERAL Jr.
2011 - 2013



JAMES BARRETT
2013 - 2015



Edward Guevara
2015 - 2016



Tayfun Cilindir
2016 - 2018



Juan Goytia
2018 - 2019



Jan Savarino
2019 - 2020



Daniel Jap Lim
2020 - 2022

pictured above MW Michael Volkwien, Grand Master VGLvD and
MW Luis A. Baez-Delgado, Grand Master



THE APRON RUNS IN THE BAEZ FAMILY...

A little less known fact, Freemasonry is not only about big speeches, tuxedos and funny looking hats. It is about sharing a bond with people that you call Brothers, sit down at a table, have a couple of beers (or wine) and if you are really really lucky to share a great meal made by a loving hand. We are really grateful to Lady Christine who has decided to share her recipe at the GM's house.

PARTY SOUP

(Recipe for approx. 6 people):

- 1 kg ground meat
- 2 liters of tomato juice or tomato vegetable juice
- 1 big onion
- 6 tbsp. oil
- 1 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp pepper
- Sugar to taste (1-2 tsp.)
- 1 tsp. sambal oelek (or another spicy sauce)
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1 tbsp dried oregano
- 100 ml liquid sweet cream (or more if you like)
- Optional you can add e.g. corn, kidney beans or noodles

PREPARATION:

Heat the oil in a large pot and sauté the very finely chopped onion. Add the ground meat and fry lightly over low heat so that it is crumbly but not over-fried.

Add tomato juice, let it simmer for about 15 min. Then press garlic into soup and stir in the spices. Let simmer again for a bit. Finally stir in the cream - and the soup is ready to be served - e.g. with fresh baguette.

The soup is uncomplicated and fast to cook - and can be very well prepared the day before the party. Perfect also as a midnight soup to keep your guests strong.

BON APPETIT!

... Question is, who washes the dishes?"



“AND THE BEST OF US KNOW NOT WHEN OR HOW...” THE CRAFT AND THE PLAGUE

The recent pandemic has taken an entire planet seemingly by surprise: surely in this day and age such a thing is unthinkable? This unfortunately shows how little we learn of our History as a species: mass illness has been a part of human existence ever since humans have started recording their existence. “The” plague of 1347 - 1356 that we all learned about in school is only one of the many epidemics that have plagued humankind. A brief survey of past events brings to mind the plague of 429 B.C. in and around Athens which cut short many lives, including that of the great strategist Pericles. The XVIth and XVIIth centuries were basically a continual period of mass infections peppered with short periods of an apparent return to normal. So far this listing only considers the greater European continent: the Asian continent was not exempt from its share of epidemics, neither was the Middle-East and no doubt Australian aborigines and pre colonization native Americans and the African continent had their bouts of incomprehensible mass deaths. Until the XIXth century a series of interchangeable terms - such as plague, pestilence, even scourge - were used to describe a wide variety of highly infectious diseases that the doctors of the past could not counter to any effective degree. Then in the XIXth century humanity had the good fortune of being granted the minds and efforts of people such as Ignaz Semmelweis, John Snow, Louis Pasteur and Robert

Koch (whose names have once again become widely known as they were given to two of the greatest European research institutions that have been instrumental in the current health crisis), and many more besides these illustrious beings. Slowly but surely these scientists discovered the sources of diseases (microbiology was born); now having the culprits in their sights they continued in developing the first effective vaccines and for the first time in History humanity could not only understand and acknowledge invisible dangers but more importantly could fight back. Yet despite our species continual improvements in understanding the physical world we evolve in, the last two years have demonstrated that knowledge has yet to surpass human fears and stupidity. In the XVIIth century “plague doctors” donned the beaked masks (the image which has become emblematic of mass infections); today everyone still has mask about their person. Again the medical profession was perceived as helpless in the face of a new disease. Recommendations, counter recommendations and conspiracy theories became our daily news reel. Blame attribution, and charlatans, all sprung up as they have done at every single opportunity. Worryingly a considerable portion of our fellow humans have shown more trust, even belief, in the claims of these charlatans, or have bought into conspiracy theories and scape-goating that would not have been out of place in XIVth century Europe. Over the course of the next instalment



of the Communicator, and possibly several if this turns out to be necessary, I will endeavour to explain as best I can how our predecessors, brethren of operative and then later on adoptive and speculative lodges, approached the health crisis that they faced. This to ascertain first of all if we may have inherited an ad hoc list of “good practices” for such situations; secondly I believe it would be interesting to clarify to what extent our predecessors followed the broader recommendations from society in their time and most importantly if and how they may have adopted very specific measures to either increase their survival chances or to better assist their dependants. We will be going as far back as our



sources permit and though we will consider pre-XVIth century elements, the first point in History that we will be able to study to any degree of detail will be the late XVIth century in Britain. The existence of the Shaw Statutes - possibly the oldest complete set of regulations for the Craft of Masonry - coincides with an episode of infectious death spreading through the Kingdoms of England and Scotland. Comparing any provisions in the statutes to the contemporary civic proclamations should provide us with a solid starting point to then consider the following periods and the lives of our past brethren in these circumstances.

This idea first sprang out of a discussion a brother, and at the time we thought of polling the whole Craft of the AGL for any thoughts, information and sources that they might have on this topic. So here let us take that step: brethren all if you wish to participate in this research or have anything that you believe would be of help to us then please write to tinypeoplestudio@gmail.com. I will leave you with a quote from Albert Camus work “The Plague”: “So all a man could win in the conflict between plague and life was knowledge and memories.”

WBr.: T. PARSONS, Eifel Lodge #855





ORIENT of the
DISTRICT of COLUMBIA

VALLEY of
WASHINGTON

SCOTTISH RITE of FREEMASONRY



INVITATION TO ALL RECOGNIZED MASTER MASONS WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS HOLDING AN AMERICAN PASSPORT IN EUROPE.

The Scottish Rite is an appendant body of Freemasonry which offers a Master Mason who has completed the first three degrees in a Blue Lodge the opportunity to advance to the 32nd Degree. Master Masons holding membership in good standing in a recognized Blue Lodge may petition for the degrees, and membership in the Scottish Rite Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, which confers the degrees annually at a Fall “Reunion” in Italy. Please submit a petition now, to be considered as a candidate for the next class.

PLEASE NOTE WE MUST/WILL COMPLY WITH THE ITALIAN/EUROPEAN SAFETY REQUIREMENTS - PLEASE BRING YOUR MASK AND HAND SANITIZER.

The Scottish Rite Class for 2022 will be held 7/8 October at the (TBD) Hotel in Naples, Italy. Designated Airport is Naples (NAP).

Information on the hotel, special needs, airport pick-up, drop off will be forthcoming.

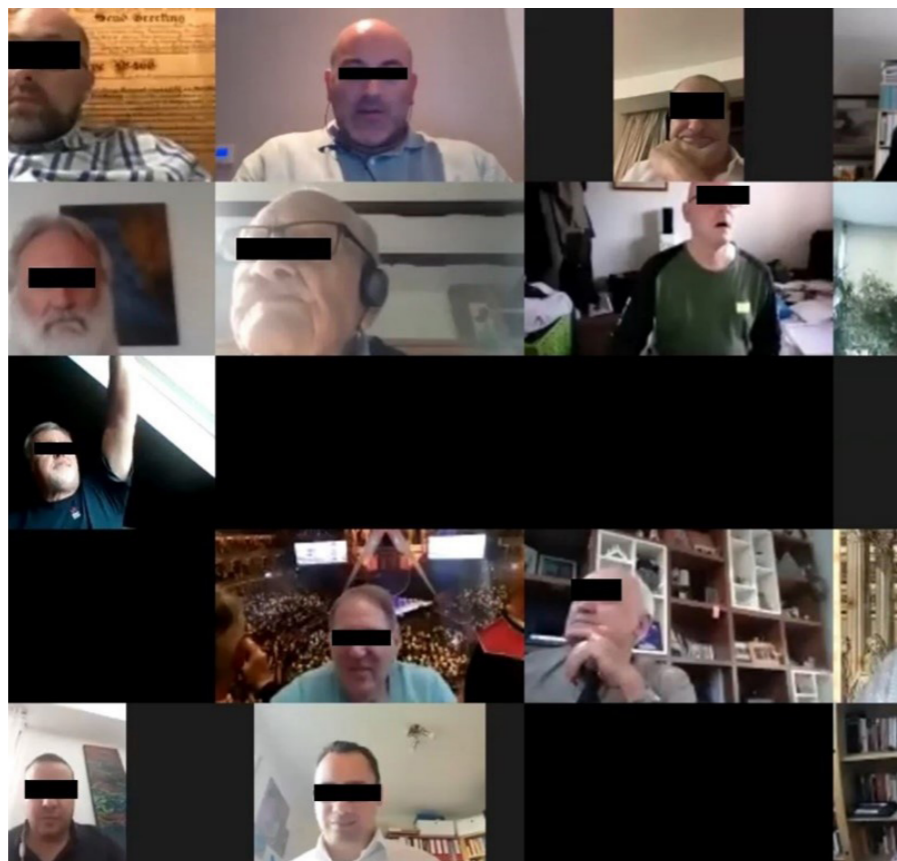
For a petition, or questions about Membership please contact Illustrious Brother James Barrett 33°, Personal Representative, Valley of Washington, D.C. for Germany, at amsrb-nato@outlook.com, or Illustrious Brother Ron Reynolds 33°, Personal Representative, Valley of Washington, D.C. for Italy, at ron.reynolds67@yahoo.com

<https://scottishrite.org/blog/valley/amsrb-nato-club/>

VIRTUAL BROTHERHOOD?

At the 17th World Conference of Regular Masonic Grand Lodges, held in November 2021 in Berlin (for the first time in Germany!), I had the pleasure of hosting a breakout session with the visiting Grand Masters from around the world on the thrilling topic of digitalization in Masonry. After a short historic display of the IT revolution from the PC era in the early 80ies to the present Web 4.0 developments, I stated that we, in modern Masonry, cannot neglect the rapidly ongoing changes of AI, AR and IoT (and for those of you who - like me - are not so much into this whole IT thing: that's Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality and Internet of Things). The thoughts of an approaching future with Web 5.0 (Hypernet, complete automation, nothing on earth will work without net connection anymore) and Web 6.0 (Technological Singularity, AI will develop without any human influence, the last human invention) indeed sound frightening to most of us, yet it is most likely and won't take more than another 30 years, experts say. The time to think about the consequences and how to deal with it is now. After this, I showed some examples on how we implemented digitalization in German Masonry, pointing out that the current pandemic was an accelerator of a digital revolution in the Masonic

world. COVID-19 gave birth to uncounted Masonic educational programs on video network platforms, which we hope will continue. These events also helped bring together Brothers that are geographically separated. I also brought up the example from our Bavaria Lodge No. 935, where an Installation of Officers in open form was conducted as a hybrid event, which gave Brothers from overseas the op-



Some are a little less conventional than others with the method but the question is always the same: What is the future going to bring us?



The XVII World Congress took place in various locations in Berlin. While the social events and break out sessions were held at the GLL Grand Lodge Building, the main Congress meeting took place at the Hotel Intercontinental. The welcoming ceremony and the Key Note Speeches were presented at the famous "Zoo Palast", a big sized movie theater built in 1915, destroyed during WW II and rebuilt after the war, whose main hall has over 1000 seats..

portunity to be part of the event. Several Masonic Museums in Europe have developed modern era web appearances, like the German Masonic Museum in Bayreuth (www.freimaurermuseum.de) and the Masonic Museum Switzerland in Bern (www.freimaurermuseum.ch/en/). Both are good examples of modern web page programming and also offer a new way of fundraising (by offering virtual guided tours for a fee or donation). When it came to discuss the feasibility of virtual degree work (not rocket science today with a virtual Lodge room and the use of VR-goggles and gloves) nearly everybody opposed that thought - which I think is very comprehensible: The mystic secret of our Craft unrolls by personal encounters - through the internet there will always be a part missing of the Masonic experience - my two cents worth. Meet you all soon IRL, Brothers! (In Real Life...)

Break out session at the XVII WCRMGL, 18 November, 2021

Digitalization in Freemasonry - Future of a virtual Freemasonry?

MW Dr. Jan E. Savarino, PGM ACGL, VGLvD Senate Member

WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?

“Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason.”



Brother Benjamin Franklin

Fellowship

On your long way of gaining light
You have to learn where it gets bright.
The further you go, the brighter it gets,
But only if the direction's correct.

In the case you learned that you went wrong,
You have to accept that even mistakes to your journey belong.
Do not surrender or resign,
Just ask a Brother for a helping sign.

Being a link of this worthy brotherhood,
Lets you know that you're in the right hood.
You can be sure that you will never be forsaken,
There's always a Brother who's helping hand is ready to be taken.

And in case another brother for assistance seeks,
It is up to you to help a Brother in need.
This lesson learned gives you the strength
To accept that searching for light will never end.

Bro Mark K.



TAMPA, FLORIDA.
Shrine Recorders Association International meeting.

“I'm proud of been a part of men who enjoy life, having fun connecting with Brothers, making a difference in the lives of children through the world, providing hope and healing for more than 100 years. As parents and grandparents, we have first-hand experience with our own, sometimes able to handle the needs of their medical care, more often with the help of charitable organizations in the world. “Shriners Hospitals for Children” provides treatment for orthopedic injuries and conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and birth defects such as cleft lip and palate, in children. Proud to serve”

MW Paul Curran PGM and Sir Wayne Kelly, present a donation check to Shriners International's First Lady Debby and Imperial Sir Bill Bailey raised by Bavaria Lodge No. 935. The check was given in support of First Lady Debby's Program — Transforming Lives.

“EACH BROTHER BRINGS JOY TO THE LODGE. ONE WHEN HE ENTERS IT - THE OTHER WHEN HE LEAVES IT.”

With this, I would like to touch on the wonderful world of Masonic travel. Even though it is good tradition for the Master Mason to travel and get to know other lodges, the tradition is usually somewhat lost. He feels comfortable, does not want to leave the familiar Lodge and shies away from the long journey to other Lodges. However, when we recall the words of our brother and Alexander von Humboldt, travelling suddenly takes on a different meaning.

“The worst view of the world is held by those who have not viewed the world.”
Travelling educates. It makes us rich in experience, it makes us see the world with a different eye, enjoy the faraway but also appreciate the well-tried at home. He who knows the practices of other lodges, can develop



his own lodge or learn to appreciate what he finds in his own building lodge. Freemasonry, despite its age, is an ever-evolving art. Those who do not absorb new impressions, and yet do not forget their roots will find it difficult to keep a lodge alive.

“In Freemasonry there are no strangers, only brethren whom we have not yet met.”
Visiting for the first time without a Master's escort, it is not only a great chance to get acquainted with different customs, it is a great way to make new friends far from home. It is the very moment when a young

Brother realises that the expression Brotherly chain is not just a hollow expression, but actually manifests itself in the Brethren and the newly formed friendships.

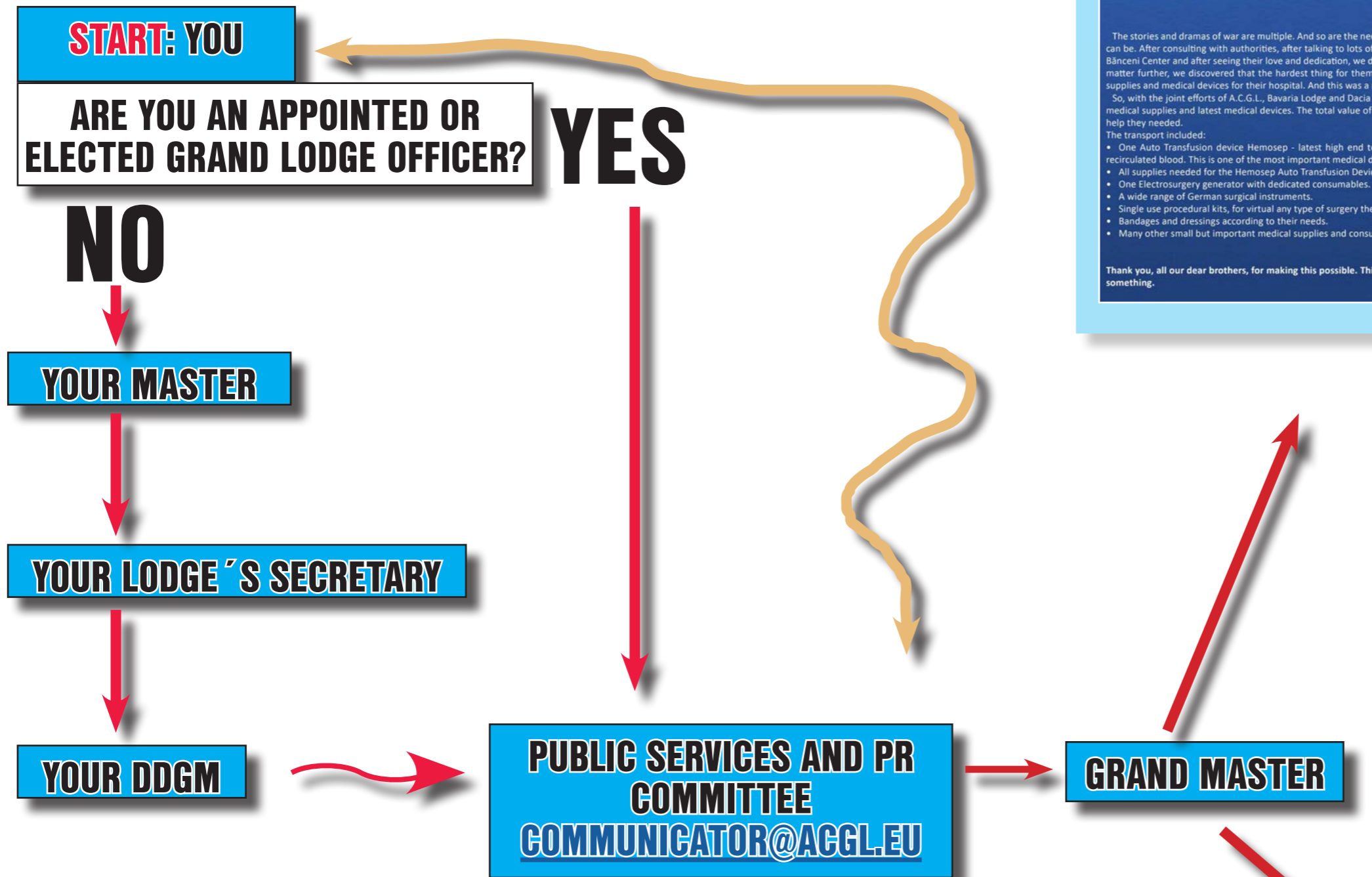
Even though you are visiting a Lodge for the first time, never having spoken to the Brethren before, from the first moment it feels as if you are coming home. This feeling and experience knows no national borders and no language barriers. Brotherly love unites above all else. And when we look around at how individual countries are drifting apart, discord is sown between nations, it is a glimmer of hope to consider that Freemasonry can be a link.

In the time-honored tradition of the Lodges, after the two-year break from travelling, I can only urge the Brethren to set out again and visit the Lodges near and far. To feel the brotherly love also in other lodges and to experience the almost magical bond of our brotherhood.

Fabian

NEXT!

...or how to have your article/event featured here.



YOUR CHARITY/ACTIVITY HERE


ACGL : BAVARIA : DACIA




The stories and dramas of war are multiple. And so are the needs of the Ukrainian people. We have thought a lot about what our best help can be. After consulting with authorities, after talking to lots of NGOs and involved people, but mostly after we talked to these people and Bănceni Center and after seeing their love and dedication, we decided that this is the best place to help and dedicate our efforts. Taking the matter further, we discovered that the hardest thing for them to procure in these hard moments were not food or clothes, but medical supplies and medical devices for their hospital. And this was a matter of life and death.

So, with the joint efforts of A.C.G.L., Bavaria Lodge and Dacia Lodge, last week two cars left from Bucharest to Bănceni Center. Filled with medical supplies and latest medical devices. The total value of these medical supplies is more than 30,000 euros. It was by far the biggest help they needed.

The transport included:

- One Auto Transfusion device Hemosep - latest high end technology in blood transfusion where the patient is treated with his own recirculated blood. This is one of the most important medical devices in war zones, because blood is so scarce and much needed.
- All supplies needed for the Hemosep Auto Transfusion Device.
- One Electrosurgery generator with dedicated consumables. It is helping them to have better surgical outcomes.
- A wide range of German surgical instruments.
- Single use procedural kits, for virtual any type of surgery they perform.
- Bandages and dressings according to their needs.
- Many other small but important medical supplies and consumables.

Thank you, all our dear brothers, for making this possible. This is a clear example that good things happen when good people are doing something.



YOUR EVENT HERE



The Master and the Brn of the Muenster Lodge 831, ACGL
are delighted to invite you to:

MUNSTER FIELD LODGE



TIME: Saturday, 24 September, 2022, BBQ 15.00 hrs, Tyled Lodge 19:00 hrs
PLACE: Camping Ground, Mangmühle, 87672 Rosshaupten
ATTIRE: Casual / Outdoor / Battle Dress
 Entered Apprentice Degree
 for more info contact
 MW Jan Savarino jansavarino@posteo.de

SEE YOU SOON



SEMI-ANNUAL COMMUNICATION 19 NOVEMBER 2022

More about it soon

*Thanks to all the members of the Lodge services and PR Committee and, since we all agreed not to use titles between us here are their names:
Herbert "Eagle Eye" Hall, Fabian "the quote machine" Geyer, Daniel "Chaplin" Jap Lim, Thomas "the new guy" Parson, Jan "mon Colonel" Savarino,
Harald "smiley" Thieme and (I just knighted myself) Sir CelloALot.*

Thanks to the translators:

RW Arda Çilingir, VW Brother Fabien Roget and Brother Sven Zimmermann

Thanks also to the Tech guys for their patience:

RW Patrick Rodrigues, VW Brother Mark Stanley and Br. Cameron "the not quite italian" Davis.

A special thanks also to RW Patrick and Lady Theresia for almost all the images, without your work and dedication this issue would have not been as good looking.