

2023 MCME Conference Schedule-TENTATIVE

v4

Conference Theme: Intentional Masonry: how do we enlighten and empower Lodges to craft a unified Lodge experience that reflects what is unique and valued about Freemasonry?

Friday, April 28th

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

8:00AM	Morning Joint Session with Welcome from Steven Grindle, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio and Grand Lodge Officers. 'Building Brotherhood'			Social Area	Ohio Lodge of Research Resource Room	
9-9:45	Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions (Limit 20)	The Roadmap for Improvement	Applied Education: 'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!' Streamed			OLR Room: Masonic Lightning Talks. Streamed.
10-10:45	New Hampshire Guide to Ritual Excellence (Limit 15)	Taking Small-town Values Statewide	The Three Books Every _____ Mason Should Read. Streamed			
11-11:45	Keynote: Dr. Heather Calloway - Center for Fraternal Research at Indiana University.					
N-12:45	Lunch including 'The Thrilla in Vanilla'					
1-1:45	OPTIONAL Fundraiser for GL: Kitchen Sink Degree					
	Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions (Limit 20)	Chamber of Reflection in Blue Lodge	Applied Education: 'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!' Streamed			OLR Room: Masonic Lightning Talks. Streamed.
2-2:45	New Hampshire Guide to Ritual Excellence (Limit 15)	The Principles Proficiency	The Three Books Every _____ Mason Should Read. Streamed			
3-4:00	Conference Capstone: Discussing and developing recommendations addressing this year's theme and 'Coin Ceremony.'					
4:15-5:00	MCME Business Meeting and Installation of Officers					
6-6:45	Social Hour					
7:00	OPTIONAL: 21st District Grand Master's Reception					

## Session Descriptions

21st District Grand Master's Reception-In Ohio, it is customary for Districts to hold a Grand Master's Reception where the Worshipful Masters and their spouses gather with the Grand Lodge Officers to share a meal, present awards, and celebrate what the District has to offer. This is a social event where you will be seated with Brethren from around the District and around the Conference to connect and celebrate Masonry.

Applied Education-'But They Can't Keep The Lights On!!!'with WB Chris Greise-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.

Building Brotherhood: 'It is all about connections.' Examples of how three different entities are building brotherhood by developing and emphasizing connections. Presentations from Royal Scofield Society (internal and external), Amesville #278 (community), and Ohio Masonic Home Memory Care (past).

Chamber of Reflection in Blue Lodge with Brother Robert Painter, RSS - This is a presentation and interactive activity. Examples, guidelines, discussion, impact and importance of a Chamber of Reflection as a part of the candidate's Blue Lodge experience.

Conference Capstone: Our conference will be offering a paper of recommendations addressing this year's theme. In this session, we will gather to discuss and develop those recommendations. What are our recommendations for enlightening and empowering Lodges to craft a unified Lodge Experience that reflects what is valued and unique about Masonry?

Keynote Address by Dr. Heather Calloway - Center for Fraternal Research at Indiana University.

Masonic 'Lightning Talks' Workshop with Ohio Lodge of Research: This is an experiment in structured unstructured educational activities. Think of this as Masonic Open Mic. Brethren should bring a piece on any Masonic topic to give before a small audience for feedback. It can be a spoken presentation, poem, a paper, half-finished Powerpoint, anything that you would like to give before an audience. Slots are limited to 15-minutes and space is limited.

New Hampshire Guide to Ritual Excellence with RWB Chris Busby-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. (Space is limited to 15 people per session. This will be an active, hands-on session)

Ohio Lodge of Research Resource Room-Members of the Ohio Lodge of Research will have a room where Brethren can get assistance with Masonic Research and feedback on ideas, presentations, and papers. Brethren are invited and encouraged to bring a paper, a presentation, a half-formed idea, a wish-list of information and connect with the OLR.

Ohio Ritualist's Guide to World Religions with RWB Alexander Herbert, RSS: Development, implementation, and discussion of guide to help Brethren in making our Ritual appropriate for religious traditions that they may not be familiar with.

Social Area-This is an experiment in structured unstructured educational activities. This is a place for Brethren to talk, discuss and connect in an informal manner. Informational tables from different Masonic groups, vendors, and entities such as the Ohio Masonic Home, Masonic Renewal Committee and the Royal Scofield Society will be available. Masonic podcasts may be doing recordings in this room.

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.

The Principles Proficiency with RWB Steve Hessler, Chairman of the Grand Lodge of Ohio Committee on Education and Information- Development, discussion, implementation, and examples of an alternative proficiency method currently in use that emphasizes discussion, personal connections, educational exploration instead of just Ritual memorization.

The Roadmap for Improvement with RWB Mark Allred, RSS-This guided discussion/interactive activity will explore and apply the Roadmap for Improvement, a Lodge self-assessment, value identification, and priority-setting tool currently in use along with an exploration of the guidance, continuity, feedback, and resources that Leadership can provide.

The Three Books Every \_\_\_\_\_ Mason Should Read with WB Josh Beasley, RSS. This guided discussion/interactive activity is sponsored by The Royal Scofield Society. Participants will be divided into 'teams' by table and given a type of Mason (Ritualist, Historical, Esoteric, Leadership, Beginning, Weekend-Only) and asked to create a crucial three-book reading list for that specific type. The lists will be presented, discussed, collected, and shared with participants.

The Thrilla in Vanilla.' Grand Master Steven Grindle held the record for completing The Kitchen Sink (six scoops of ice cream with all the trimmings) for a long time and was recently dethroned by WB Jason Short. This will be a head-to-head competition between MWB Grindle and WB Short for the championship belt This is a fun and social event with the Grand Lodge Officers, attendees, and Brethren.