



# Broad Ripple Lodge #643 Trestle Board

2012 Winter/Spring Edition

## 2012 Broad Ripple Lodge Officers

Worshipful Master  
Michael DeWitt, PM

Senior Warden  
Bro. Benjamin Fuhr

Junior Warden  
Bro. Jacob Mann

Treasurer  
WBro. Lee Hargitt, PM

Secretary  
WBro. Darren Klem, PM

Senior Deacon  
Bro. Matthew Griffen

Junior Deacon  
Bro. Matt Scherer

Senior Steward  
Bro. Doug Eckhart

Junior Steward  
Bro. Arlie Hartman

Chaplin  
Bro. Jerry Lande

Marshall  
Bro. Derek Osgood

Tyler  
WBro. Matthew Davis, PM

Assistant Secretary  
Bro. Rob Mountain

Broad Ripple Lodge #643 is located at 1716 Broad Ripple Ave in Indianapolis, IN. You may contact the Lodge by calling (317) 255-1664 or by e-mail at

BR.Lodge@BR.Lodge.org. Stated meetings are held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. with dinner preceding.

## 2012 Officer Installation



Families and friends joined the brethren at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 7th to witness the installation of the 2012 officers of Broad Ripple Lodge. WBro. Michael Walkup, PM served as the Installing Master and was assisted by: Installing Marshall WBro. Todd Ebbert, PM; Installing Chaplain, WBro. Don Seeley; and Installing Secretary, Bro. Robert Mountain.

WBro. Michael Walkup, PM addressed all of those in attendance with warm opening remarks and quickly

began the installation with assistance from the WBro. Todd Ebbert, PM. After the installation ceremony, WBro. Michael Dewitt gave a heartfelt welcome to those in the room and asked all of the new officers to stand and introduce themselves. After the officer introductions, the new Worshipful Master introduced WBro. James Lindsey as the Education officer and WBro. Will Sailor as Mentor.

Once the remarks were finished WBro. Michael Dewitt, PM presented Bro.

Rob Mountain with a pen in recognition of his accepting the position of Assistant Secretary of the Lodge. Bro. Ben Fuhr received the Roy A. Bates Memorial Award from WBro. Michael Walkup, PM for his devotion and hard work in 2011.

The brethren, families, and friends took refreshment afterwards at the Monon Food Company in Broad Ripple. An excellent meal was enjoyed and even better company was had.



**Worshipful Master  
Michael Dewitt**

***“Tell me and I  
forget. Teach  
me and I  
remember.  
Involve me and  
I learn.”***

**Bro. Benjamin  
Franklin**



## From the East—The Worshipful Master’s Installation Speech

I’d like to thank the brethren of Broad Ripple Lodge, for having entrusted in me your confidence in my ability to lead you.

In turn, you have my word that I will try with my utmost ability, to promote the good interest of our craft, administer the affairs of the Lodge, extend our reaches of universal benevolence, work towards the enlargement and education of the craft, and see that the world at large is convinced of our good efforts.

However, the weighty ties of this fraternity are not to be held alone by one man.

It takes not only the blessings of the Grand Architect and the influence of Masonry’s principles and tenants, but also your cooperation, continued support, and enthusiasm for the craft and to the fraternity as a whole. We should then, each of us continue to work towards spreading the cement of brotherly love, remembering that we must meet and work on the level as one Lodge under Gods leadership.

A wise Mason once said:  
“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.”

These words were spoken by a truly humble and great man, our fellow brother, Benjamin Franklin.

Brother Franklin’s word ring true to the heart; and is a lesson, in which I hope to pass to you.

Through the years, I have been afforded the honor to participate in many ritualistic settings and other Lodge

events. I gave my opinions in stated meetings, helped at events where I could, and provided guidance when needed. It is through these opportunities and encouragement of the brethren that a man learns his character and proves his Masonic tools useful. Masonry has many meanings and different purposes for us all.

Certain brothers will find work in the beautiful ritual and its esoteric meaning, while others spread the benevolence of this great order. Yet some find purpose in the chairs of the officer line and participation in events. And others, the simple involvement of a Thursday night and the shared camaraderie is what they seek.

In this coming year, I charge the Officers and the Members of this Lodge to give opportunity and encourage Masonic purpose. Give guidance and council to your fellow brethren and ensure their hands be ever moving with work. Let us impart, to those willing to learn, the knowledge of our craft, allowing them to do the same. It is by the opportunity granted to you by your successors that Masonry exists today.

I am truly honored and humbled for the opportunity that the brothers of Broad Ripple Lodge and the fraternity of Masonry has bestowed upon me. It is by the tenants of our institution that we should offer opportunity and encouragement to our future brothers so that this great institution may remain firmly established.

I thank you and look forward to serving from the East in

2012.

Now that the formalities are checked off the list and the guest have left the building I can speak frank. Frankly, Brothers....We need your support. Membership dues are certainly satisfying, and national exposure on television is also great, but your attendance is what matters most.

It is often asked of the new Master what his focus will be. I am a man of balance and would like to see just that; a balance of activity, membership, motivation, and character improvement. All those things we think about that make a good Lodge GREAT.

This year’s Officers and Craft have been charged with providing opportunity to their fellow Masons and the community that we are a part of. Masonry is meant to make us grow, teach us meaning, provide character development, and provided opportunity for all the later. It is then by the fellowship and assistance of the brethren that we accomplish these goals.

Return to Lodge this year, support your officers, and discover the new faces of Broad Ripple Lodge. The opportunity you give to your fellow brothers through your attendance and support at Lodge events and degrees is what makes this fraternity grow.

-Worshipful Brother Michael B. DeWitt

“How square are you?”

## Senior Deacon Matthew Griffin

Hello, I'm Matt Griffin. I am serving as the Senior Deacon of Broad Ripple Lodge for the year of 2012. I'm looking forward to meeting existing brethren and welcoming all newcomers.

If you've never played paintball get ready for a thrill! Whether sniping in the woods, running full speed to capture a flag or storming a house in a hostage rescue scenario you're guaranteed a good time. With 5 unique fields all with their own style of play Indy Acres

paintball on the East side of Indianapolis is sure to please everyone. Anyone age 10 or older is welcome to join in the fun. Expect to spend approximately \$60 per person for an entire day of play. This includes protective gear, paint, and equipment rental.

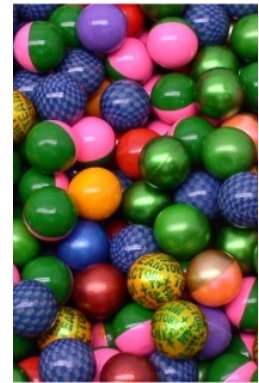
Remember to dress in layered clothing that you won't mind throwing away if it were ruined and to wear appropriate athletic footwear. Also remember to bring a change of clothes or a towel for the car

ride home.

The Lodge will provide coolers full of ice and bottled water.

The field is located at 7225 East Raymond and we will be meeting there at the field on May 12th at 1 p.m.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Bro. Matt Griffin at [matthewgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:matthewgriffin@gmail.com).



**Come join the Brothers for some fun and games!**

## Annual Broad Ripple Lodge July 4th Picnic

Definitely one of the most attended events of the year, Broad Ripple Lodge hosts an annual cookout/picnic in the Broad Ripple Park. This is usually a great way for the Brothers and their families to enjoy the summer sun and to celebrate our nation's history.

As always we plan to have our superior grillers on hand making a variety of different grilled meats.

Bring your family and favorite yard game and come on down for the fun.

We are asking for a simple contribution of a side dish and blood. Yes I said it, BLOOD.

We will continue with the tradition of having the Blood Mobile on hand for any one courageous enough to donate.

Look for more information as we close on the date along

with an online signup sheet for blood donations.

We look forward to seeing you on June 30th at 11:00AM.

***“Freemasonry is an institution calculated to benefit mankind”***  
**WBro. Andrew Jackson, PGM of Tennessee and former President of the United States**

## Class is in session!

Brethren,

It is my pleasure to coordinate the Lodge's Masonic education program for the fraternal year.

We will focus on topics relating to the basics of Masonry such as Masonic etiquette, and essential jurisprudence.

We will explore such topics as “what does it mean to be a Mason?” and “what is the purpose for the Lodge in our

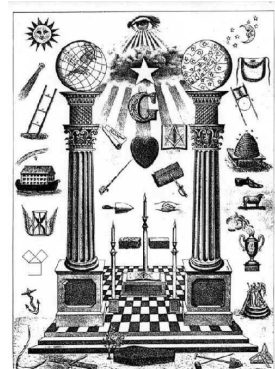
world”, as well as take an in-depth look at the Entered Apprentice Degree.

The first presentation will be on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served, with the education program, and discussion to follow. Please see the calendar of events for more information.

Would you please consider attending?

WBro. James Lindsey, PM





**Worshipful Master  
Michael DeWitt, PM**

***“The grand object  
of Masonry is to  
promote the  
happiness of the  
human race.”  
WBro. George  
Washington and  
former President  
of the United  
States***

## **Membership—All Hands on Deck!** By WBro. DeWitt

I won't sugar coat this one, Brother's.

Membership is down and we are working hard to regain current members as well as increasing our numbers by opening our doors to demographically.

This year, I have created the new Membership Committee that I have tasked with generating new ideas on letting those worthy candidates out there know of our honorable fraternity.

The committee members are working hard at putting together a revised and updated membership strategy.

There are many new ideas on the table this year for refreshed events, open houses, and strategic advertising.

Realizing the unique demographic differences of the Broad Ripple area in which we meet, the Brothers are getting creative in finding new ways to reach their target market.

In reaching out to the community and developing new and exciting events, the Lodge would love for you to participate in any way that you can.

If you know a worthy candidate for the degrees please help them find a petition on our website.

## **Lodge Beautification**

As the seasons begin to change, the Brothers are getting excited about Lodge beautification, both inside and out.

Last year, the brothers met over the course of several days and completely landscaped the front yard, complete with irrigation system.

Let's also not forget the brand new coat of paint that the Lodge room received.

This year, there are several ideas to continue the improvements to the Lodge room.

Discussions will be had in March with beautification to begin in April.

Come by and see the new improvements to the Lodge!

Landscaping Project 2011



## **Senior Steward Doug Eckhart**



This year, as Senior Steward, I will be an active part of the Knife & Fork Committee preparing meals for Degree, Stated Meetings, and some of our other events.

I'm especially interested in issues around membership.

For those who many not know me, I've actually was initiated

the same night as our Senior Warden, Bro. Ben Fuhr.

I believe in the values of Masonry and take our obligations to Family, Work, and Community to heart, as well as to our Lodge.

I want to encourage any and all of our Brothers who we haven't seen for a while to

come out and be re-acquainted with what we do.

This year, I'll be working with several of our Brethren with their projects, but particularly with Bro. Mann and the Lodge retreat.

## Junior Deacon Matthew Scherer

“Faith, Hope and Charity”

These weighty words grace the heading of the Broad Ripple Lodge Masonic charter.

On March 10th 2012 we will be exercising one of the noblest tenets of our fraternity, that of charity. The Ronald McDonald House of Indiana is a charitable organization whose mission is “to provide a supportive home-away-from-home for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving medical care at Riley Hospital for Children and other Indianapolis hospitals.”

This is a wondrous place where families of seriously ill or injured children can find a brief respite in stressful times without regard to income. It is a place where these families can gather over a meal and through sharing their experience find solace, even if it is short and fleeting.

I know of this through personal experience.

I can remember in my youth seeing the collection boxes at almost every McDonald's and

wondering what it was all about. Throughout the years I have on numerous occasions deposited my spare change in these collection boxes knowing only that it was for a good cause and not much more.

Last year I found myself in need of the services that all those coins help to provide.

It was then that I found out what the House is truly about.

The Ronald McDonald House is such a wonderful charity that reaches out to all families in their desperate hour of need and is certainly well worth our labors.

That is why the Brethren of Broad Ripple Lodge in their noble wisdom have decided to provide and serve an evening meal at the Ronald McDonald House, located at Riley Children's hospital.

Everyone is encouraged to come on down to the Lodge and help prepare this meal. Unfortunately, due to limited space at the House, the serving crew must be limited to 12

people. Those 12 people will be selected on a first come basis.

So Brethren, on March 10, grab your trowel, roll up your sleeves, and meet me at the Lodge. There we will surely experience some wonderful fellowship while serving our community through charity. If you would like to know more please feel free to contact me at  
jmschererBRLodge@gmail.com  
or at (317)-697-4998

With our charity, maybe we can provide faith and hope to those in times of distress.

Fraternally yours in service,

J. Matt Scherer  
Jr. Deacon



Ronald McDonald  
House of Indiana

*“The Masonic system exhibits a stupendous and beautiful fabric, founded on universal piety. To rule and direct our passions; to have faith and love in God, and charity toward man.”*  
Bro. Stephen Jones

## Assistant Secretary Rob Mountain

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Worshipful Brother Dewitt in asking me to serve as the Asst. Secretary for the 2012 year.

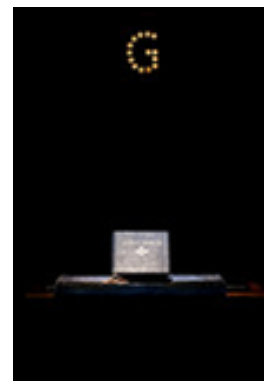
The dictionary has many definitions of “serving” but the one I like most is “to be worthy of reliance or trust”. One can ask of no higher honor than to be recognized as a person worthy of reliance and trust, and I am overjoyed to be able to serve my fellow

man but most especially our overworked Secretary, Worshipful Brother Klem.

The event I have chosen to plan this year is the Rusty Nail Degree. All too often many just and upright Masons have stopped attending Lodge in order to focus their attentions upon their families and/or vocations in times of stress (as it should rightfully be according to our Masonic obligations). However, some of these

Masons have indicated to me that they begin to feel a slight disconnect because of the many new faces. My intent is to let every single Brother of Broad Ripple Lodge know that they are welcome in their mother Lodge at any time and that every active Brother looks forward to meeting them.

I myself am looking forward to an exciting year of fun and fellowship with my brother Masons. Thank you!





Cornucopia—from Latin *cornu copiae* (“horn of plenty”)

**“Of all the things which wisdom provides to make life entirely happy, much the greatest is the possession of friendship.”  
Epicurius**



## Junior Steward Arlie Hartman

My name is Arlie Hartman and I am happily serving as your new Junior Steward.

I joined the fraternity in 2010 seeking fellowship and mentoring. Broad Ripple Lodge has been a second home to me since. I am very excited about getting back to basics and I have accepted the challenge doing craft in open Lodge and getting closer to earning my Ritualist pin.

My duties will consist of assisting the Junior Warden,

preparing candidates for their degrees, and trying not to poison the brethren with Thursday night dinners (no promises!).

Enabling people with technology to reach their potential and overcome challenges is one of my passions. This is why I am serving on the Information Technology committee and assisting with the Lodge website, Facebook fan page, email, Lodge infrastructure, and Google documents. We believe

the technology will make the tasks of running the Lodge easier so we can focus on why we get together on Thursdays.

I will be writing a series of blog posts on the BRLodge.org site about technology with my first article on how to add the Lodge Google calendar to an iPhone.

I hope that I can give back to the fraternity that has given me so much.

## Chaplin Jerry Lande (and part-time poet)

The Sublime Order of  
the Splashing Sword  
Or  
(Broad Ripple Lodge of Leisure)

Call it what you will  
This Pool Party is a thrill!

July 7, 2012 is the date  
Come at 12 noon to  
meet your fate.

You are destined to have a  
great time  
The food is guaranteed  
prime.

You are asked to bring a  
dessert or side  
The main dish and drinks  
will be furnished with  
pride.

Chaplin Lande and his  
wife will be hosting this at  
their hive  
10043 Summerlakes  
Drive

Carmel, Indiana 46032  
We hope all will come,  
especially you!

## Marshall Derek Osgood

It was certainly an honor when WBro. DeWitt asked if I would serve as Broad Ripple Lodge's Marshall for 2012. A Marshall's duties include forming processions, ensuring that ceremonies and rituals go as smooth as they can, and representing our Lodge as best as possible.

In addition to those duties, WBro. DeWitt also asked me to organize an event for our Brethren this year.

Laughter is a very important part of our lives, both inside and outside the Lodge. For this reasoning, I have decided to organize a social night with the Brothers and their families to catch a comedy act at a local venue.

Comedy Night for Broad Ripple Lodge will take place on September 20th. The event will take place at Crackers Comedy Club in Broad Ripple

and is open to anyone 18 years of age or older.

This will be a great opportunity for us to see how the pros do it. Please RSVP to [derekosgood@gmail.com](mailto:derekosgood@gmail.com) by September 1st so we can get a good headcount. Comedy Night is open to Brothers, family and friends of the Lodge.

Come one, come all, and let's laugh together.

## Senior Warden Ben Fuhr

Hello and fraternal greetings from the West! My name is Benjamin Fuhr and have been elected by the Brethren of Broad Ripple Lodge to serve as the Senior Warden for 2012. I am looking forward to a very exciting year.

Broad Ripple Lodge #643 held its annual Valentine's Dinner this past February 9th. We had a great turnout with over 15 couples in attendance - we even had a few brand new members and their ladies join us for the evening! The event was held at Big Hat Books (<http://www.bighatbooks.com/>) in Broad Ripple with a mouth-watering meal provided by the wonderful folks from Monon Food Co. (<http://www.mononfood.com/>) They were the same group who catered our Officer Installation and they once again did a great job - we're so glad we were able to have those delicious stuffed chicken breasts again so soon.

Our gratitude also goes out to

Big Hat Books who provided their entire loft venue space which we comfortably took over. With some help from red & pink paper chandelier decorations handmade by some



of the ladies, a romantic atmosphere was created for the brothers and ladies to mingle and dine.

Entertainment provided by the Lodge this year was in the form of a photo booth so that the couples could remember the night with a set of sweet and funny pictures. Photobooth Flash (<http://www.photoboothflash.com/>) out of Chicago set up shop in the gallery area of the bookstore loft so everyone had

a chance to pop in for a quick set. With a tub full of props and a choice of color or black/white photos, everyone was able to take as many photos as they wanted and just have

fun. Be sure to check out the album of duplicates on the coffee table in the Lodge living-room! We also heard a few great toasts from some of our brothers, including an original composition from our chaplain, Jerry Lande that brought down the house.

At the end of the evening, the ladies were invited to take home a potted succulent in lieu of the traditional rose. We know that our ladies will nurture those plants like they do our relationships and that all will grow and thrive together. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to make this Valentine's Dinner a wonderful success, and indeed, an evening to remember.

Benjamin Fuhr – Senior Warden



Senior Warden  
Ben Fuhr

**"But to see her  
was to love her,  
love but her,  
and love for  
ever."**

**Bro. Robert  
Burns**

## Junior Warden Jacob Mann

Greetings from the South!

I would like to take this brief opportunity to introduce myself as this year's Junior Warden, Jacob Mann

As a member of Broad Ripple Lodge since 2008, I am very excited to have been elected to this chair for this year. I hope to serve the Lodge well with delicious and enticing meals for every stated meeting, every degree, and as many

in-betweens that we find ourselves in.

You can also expect a Lodge outing for the brothers later in the year, as a time to relax and socialize with each other.

The south is also filled with IT this year, as the Stewards and the IT team continue to improve the Lodge website, our email newsletter, and Facebook presence. We continue to keep our calendar

up to date, as well as Grand Lodge calendars, Hiram's forum announcements, and a Twitter feed.

If you haven't found a way to keep in touch with us, please feel free to email or call me anytime to learn about these great ways to stay connected.

You can reach me at 317-456-2660, or [themann00@gmail.com](mailto:themann00@gmail.com)



Junior Warden  
Jacob Mann



**BROAD RIPPLE  
LODGE #643**

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Indianapolis, IN 46220-2338

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Web: <http://www.BRLodge.org/>  
E-mail: [BRLodge@BRLodge.org](mailto:BRLodge@BRLodge.org)

**Below is a list of upcoming dates that you might wish to mark on your calendar.**

**March 10th - Cooking for Ronald McDonald House**

**March 15th - Education Night**

**March 24th - Fellowcraft Degree**

**April 19th - Lodge Beautification Meeting**

**April 21st - Lodge Beautification Activity**

**April 28th - Master Mason Degree**

**May 12th - Paintball Madness Activity**

**May 15th and 16th - Grand Lodge Communications**

**June 7th - Mustard's Grave Visitation**

**June 28th - Rusty Nail Degree**

**June 30th - July 4th Picnic**

**July 5th - Indianapolis Indians Outing**

**July 7th - Pool Party at Bro. Lande's House**

**September 20th - Comedy Night at Cracker's in Broad Ripple**

## **Broad Ripple Lodge and the 21st Century**

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge has an internet page...that's updated?

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge also has a Facebook page and a Twitter account?

Did you know that Broad Ripple Lodge also has an online event registration system that allows you to pay securely by credit card?

(gasp!)

If you didn't, then you might want to check out the links at the end of this article.

If you have already noticed, then direct your praise towards our very own Information Technology committee.

These hard working Brothers continue to bring Broad Ripple Lodge into the future. Such improvements include: a



revamped web site and Facebook page, a new email system for up to date Lodge correspondence, a new online event registration system, online membership tracking

and web site analytics, online filing system and digitalization of Lodge documents, security cameras, and much, much more.

Please find us on the web to stay current and receive up to date information on all the many Lodge events.

Website:  
<http://www.BRLodge.org/>

E-Mail Sign-Up:  
<http://BRLodge.org/wp/contact/email-signup/>

Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/BRLodge643>

Twitter:  
<http://twitter.com/#!/BRLodge>

RSS Feed:  
<http://BRLodge.org/wp/category/featured/feed/>

