

Masonic Library & Museum Association

**An International Organization of
Librarians, Archivists, Curators, & Directors**

ANNUAL MEETING – 2015 Indiana Masonic Museum & Library Indianapolis, Indiana

MINUTES 2015

IN ATTENDANCE:

Eric Trosdahl	Minnesota
Brian Rountree	Manitoba, Canada
Adam Kendall [remotely!]	California
Cathy Giaimo	Pennsylvania
Aimee Newell	Massachusetts
Mark Tabbert	Virginia
Glenn Visscher	New Jersey
Todd Johnstone	Washington [state]
Helge Bjorn Horrisland	Norway
Richard Lynch	Rhode Island
Val Korzsniak	New Jersey
Ymelda Rivera Laxton	Massachusetts
Ken Gibson	Washington [State]

REGRETS:

Glenys Waldman	Pennsylvania
Hugh Young	Alberta
Jay Hochberg	New Jersey
Albert McClelland	Indiana
Tim Daley	Ohio
Craig Davis ; Bill Kreuger ; John Klaus	Iowa
Catherine Walter	New York
Marie Barnett	Virginia
Casey Stanislaw ; Barabara Mechell	Texas

A] OPENING OF BUSINESS MEETING

The Vice-President, Aimee Newell, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

President Adam Kendall phoned in and spoke for just a few minutes. He apologized that he had to remain in San Francisco because of a heavy work schedule. His presence and involvement was required for the California Masonic Symposium happening this same weekend.

We introduced ourselves.

B] REPORTS

B-1] Minutes and secretary's report – Brian Rountree

Moved/Seconded: Brian Rountree, Glenn Visscher:

That the Minutes for 2015 be adopted as circulated. Carried.

Again this year, as Secretary I sent out renewal forms this year and asked for payments to be sent to me: I then forwarded payments to the Treasurer. This helped to update the membership records that we both have.

As of 30 August 2015	2015	2014
Institutional members	83	81
Personal members	48	45
<i>Including Past Presidents</i>	7	6
Affiliate members	28	29
Removal*	0	-3
TOTAL	165	158

* includes mail returned; by request; death

These numbers include new members during 2014-2015 hailing from

- Fort Collins, CO
- Philadelphia, PA
- Hamilton, NJ
- G. L. of Nebraska
- West Palm Beach, FL
- Louisiana

In addition, there are several memberships pending payment; we could be close to 170 by the end of 2015. Unfortunately, despite reminders, many members do not pay nor indicate that they do not wish to remain part of the Association. It may be time to “weed” the lists.

During the past year year I fielded questions from a number of places, but the most interesting one came in July from the Newcastle Masonic Study Circle,

of New South Wales, Aus. The writer explained who the Study Circle members were and said

I think your general objective statement seemed a great idea and I would propose that other Masonic organisations in our broad geographical area attempt to share a common approach. I'm aware the UGL NSW & ACT; USGC NSW & ACT, ANZMRC; etc., are all facing similar problems to NSMC and every new 'grand librarian' approaches with their personal cataloguing system. Can you expand your common ground argument beyond Northern Americas and would it help your survival?

I did respond to his inquiry but have not heard any more from him.

Efforts have been made to bring the Yahoo membership up to date: if anyone is still not on the list, or not sure, please contact the Secretary.

This report is presented for Information Only.

Brian Rountree, Secretary

Moved/Seconded: Richard Lynch, Val Korzśniak:

That the Secretary's report be adopted as circulated. Carried.

B-2) Treasurer's report – Eric Troisdahl -- see Appendix 1

Eric presented his report up to 10 September 2015

Moved/Seconded: Val Korzśniak, Glenn Visscher:

That the Treasurer's report be received and accepted. Carried.

B-3) Vice-President's report—Aimee Newell

Aimee indicated that she felt that communication is very important for this group and she wants to improve it all around.

She felt that last year's Work Day was a positive thing and hopes that we can continue it in our future meetings.

She wondered how we could get new members and encouraged us all to think of ways to attract librarians and museum / archives people to our association.

A discussion was held at this time on our future meetings.

- 1- We have received an invitation from Casey Stanislaw to meet in Waco, Texas in 2016. He says that the visiting portion of our time could include the Dr. Pepper Museum, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, the Red Men Museum as well as the Armstrong-Browning Library at Baylor University.
- 2- Richard Lynch indicated that the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island would be pleased to host MLMA for 2017 or any year we wish to visit.

- 3- Ken Gibson and Todd Johnstone, on behalf of the Washington State Masonic Library and Museum indicated that they would be happy to welcome us in Tacoma in 2018 or afterwards.

It was decided that Aimee would correspond further with Casey: we can plan to visit Waco in the fall of 2016, in October.

B-4) President's report – Adam Kendall

No report.

B-5) Webmaster's report

No report.

B-6) Overseas reports – see Appendix 2

- a) Library and Museum of Freemasonry – Diane Clements / Martin Cherry
- b) AMMLA [*Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives in Europe*] – Adam Kendall
The conference was also attended by Aimee Newell.
- c) Norway -- Helge Bjorn Horrisland spoke about current and future projects.
He indicated that ---
The Nordic Grand Lodges (Denmark, Norway and Sweden) have invested in a joint data system which makes it possible to communicate directly with their respective National Archives. Part of the masonic collections will be transferred to these archives for scanning and the originals will remain there according to an agreement where the grand lodges remain owners of the collections.
Hopefully this will result in greater interest from the academic world for documents from the masonic archives.

C] OLD BUSINESS

C-1] Val Korzsniak said he had hoped to get our display unit ready after last year's meeting but it had not been possible to organize the graphics and text. After some discussion—

Moved/Seconded: Eric trosdahl, Glenn Visscher: that Val arrange for the production of graphics not to exceed \$1500. Carried.

Mark Tabbert indicated that the display unit could be kept at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial and that we should remember to request it when going to Masonic meetings. We would pay for just the return shipping costs.

C-2] Aimee Newell said that the Masonic Service Association was interested in updating their 1998 publication, *Masonic Libraries*, with our input. We agreed that this new edition should also include Masonic museums.

Volunteers to be on such an update committee were Richard Lynch and Glenn Visscher to assist Aimee Newell.

We agreed that an article written recently by Jeff Croteau on Masonic libraries should be included and also suggest that the MLMA history from their 2011 Short Talk Bulletin be included.

C-3] A question was asked about our newsletter *The Beehive* and it was explained that this was discontinued as we started using such outlets as our website, our Facebook page, and the Yahoo member list.

C-4] Brian Rountree wondered about providing some cataloguing modules on the website, available for a cost that would be payable to MLMA. It was suggested that he prepare a proposal to bring to next year's meeting.

Ken Gibson suggested that there should be more Museum information and items on our website.

Eric Troisdahl indicated that he will look into setting up a PayPal account. That way members could pay their fees without hassle because a number of overseas members found that more convenient than trying to get a bank draft and mailing it.

D] NEW BUSINESS

D-1) Member news

Around the room with news and views. Highlights include—

- ✓ Cathy Giaimo reported that a painting of a sculpture, Friend to Friend, is to go into their Reading Room.
- ✓ Richard Lynch told the story of his Rhode Island library
- ✓ Ken Gibson mentioned his focus on the Washington Charities Foundation
- ✓ Todd Johnstone talked about his online photograph collection and that his catalog is now on LibraryWorld
- ✓ Eric Troisdahl explained about the renovations to the building where St. Paul's Lodge meets
- ✓ Ymelda Rivera Laxton explained her work on digitizing the collection, seen at www.monh.org
- ✓ Glenn Visscher spoke on the continued work on the N.J. library and museum
- ✓ Helge Horrisland gave more information on the work of the freemasons in Scandinavia
- ✓ Aimee Newell spoke about the work she has been doing and the changes taking place at the Scottish Rite Library and Museum. She included

information from Jeff Croteau about the work of the library section that included cataloguing new items, digitizing their autograph collection, and presenting workshops

D-3] Elections

Mark Tabbert spoke about the process. The President, with the assistance and advice of the Past Presidents, prepares a list of nominees. It is desirable (but not necessary) that the nominee for President has hosted one of our conferences.

The nominees are:

FOR POSITION OF	NOMINEE
<i>President</i>	Aimee Newell
<i>Vice-President</i>	Brian Rountree
<i>Secretary</i>	Cathy Giaimo
<i>Treasurer</i>	Eric Troisdahl

Moved/Seconded: Val Korzśniak, Glenn Visscher, that one ballot be cast in favour of this slate of officers. Carried.

F] ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Glenn Visscher, Richard Lynch: to adjourn.
Carried.

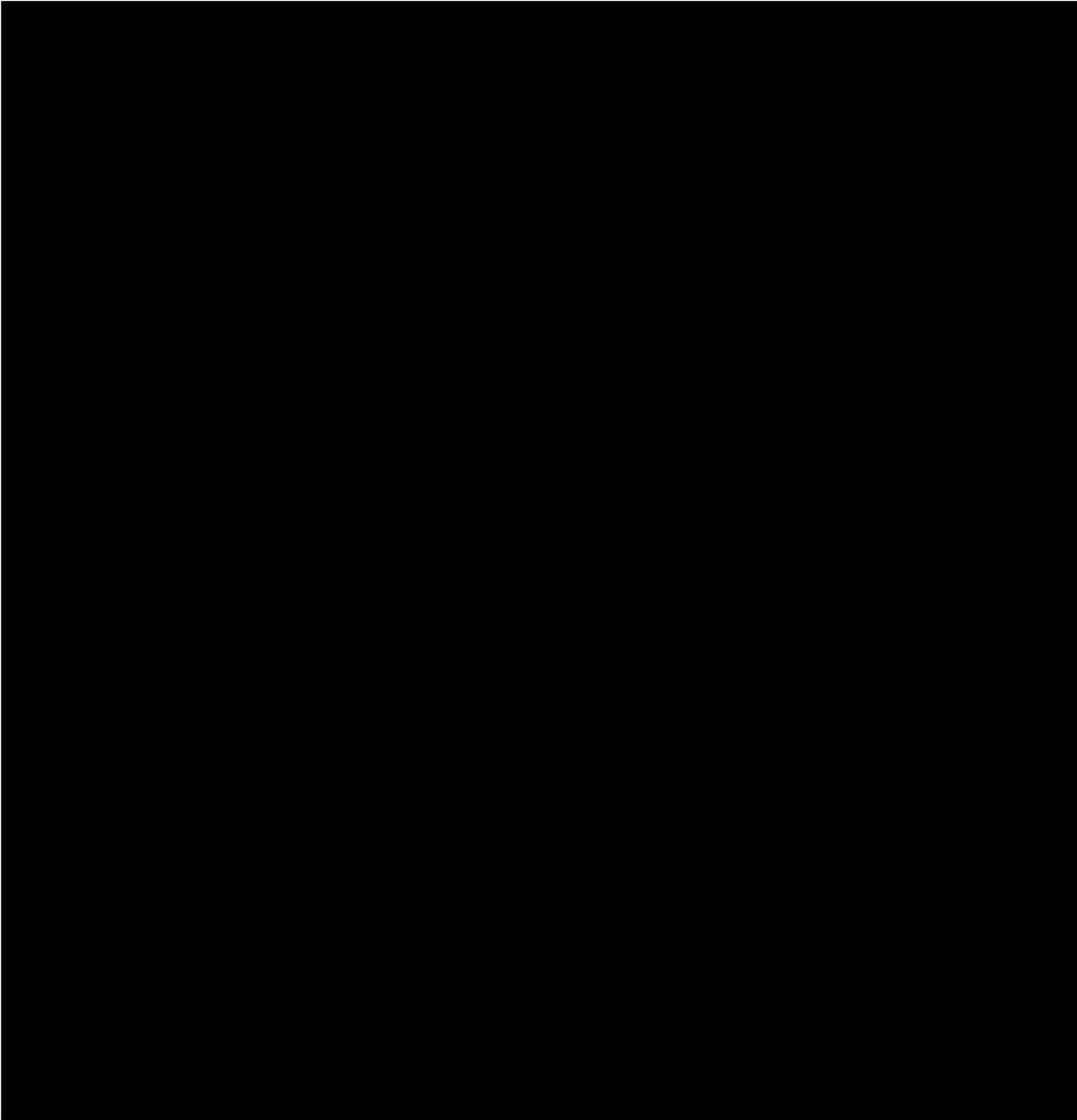
APPROVED AT THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

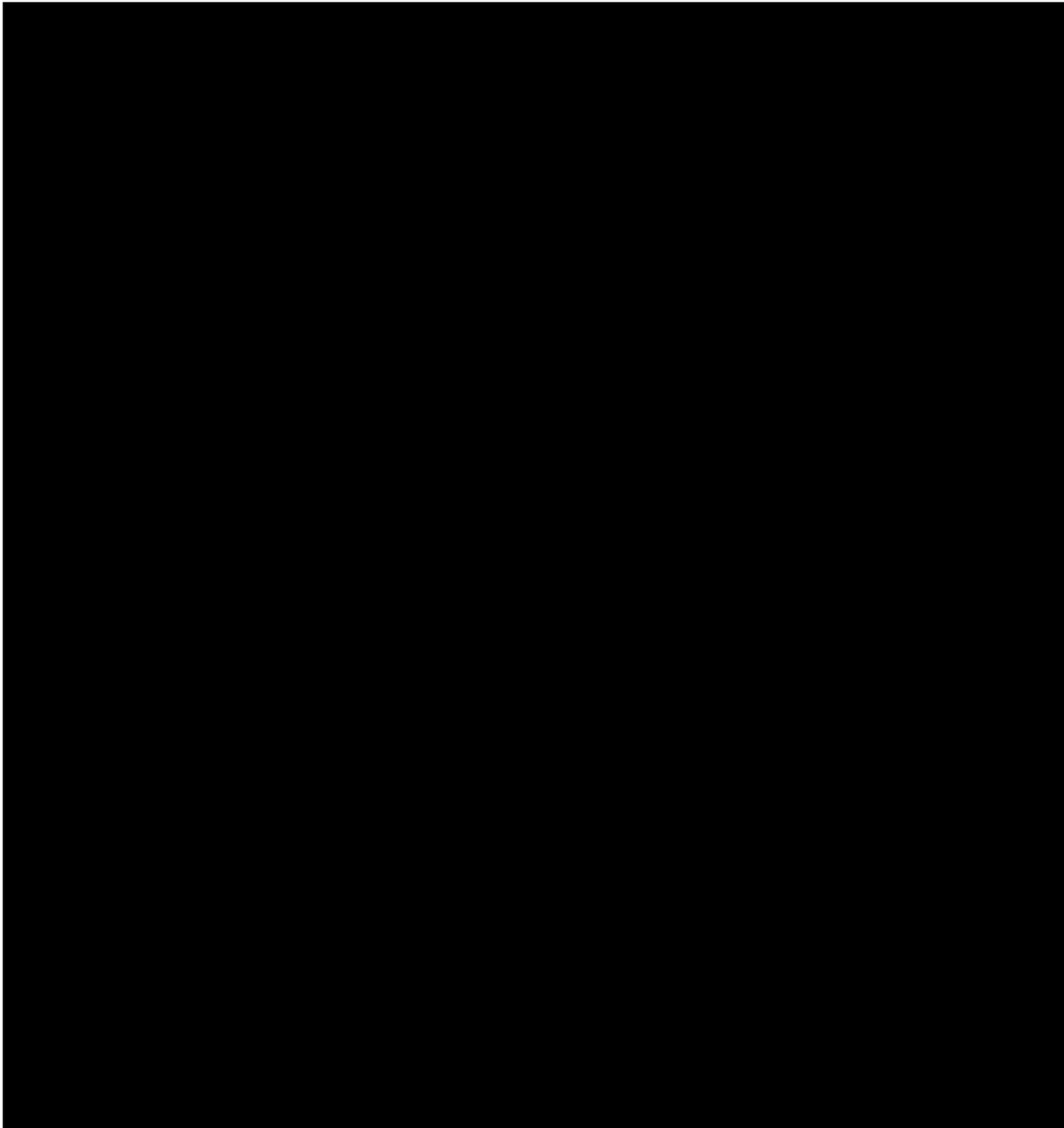
Signed:

AIMEE E. NEWELL, President

CATHY GIAIMO, Secretary

**APPENDIX 1
TREASURER'S REPORTS**





APPENDIX 2 OVERSEAS MEMBER REPORTS

ENGLAND

THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY, LONDON

REPORT TO MLMA 2015

This report is sent with our usual best wishes for a successful and productive annual meeting.

Our exhibition marking the centenary of the start of the First World War was very popular and also prompted several invitations for Library and Museum staff to speak to lodges all over the country which is always a good opportunity to publicise our activities more widely. Copies of the book to accompany the exhibition *English Freemasonry and the First World War* are still available and can be bought on line from our shop!

Our latest exhibition is called *Spotlight: Freemasons and Entertainment*. It looks at the English lodges associated with theatre, music and entertainment and some of the famous theatrical and musical members from the 18th to the 21st centuries.

In November 2014 the Library and Museum was pleased to host a reading by David Harsent of his poems inspired by masonic archives as part of Through the Door, a collaborative project between Poet in the City and Archives for London. The Library and Museum was one of seven London based archives chosen for this project. All poems written for Through the Door have since been published in a dedicated volume. David has since been awarded one of the UK's major poetry prizes although this is not due to us!

Last year we mentioned the agreement with Ancestry.com to digitise and publish (via their websites) the memberships registers of Grand Lodge from 1751-1921. We estimate that there will be more than one million names. We now anticipate that the launch of this will be in November 2015- more details to follow when we have them as we will be working with Ancestry on a press launch.

We have continued to work on the design and content for new additional exhibition space here in Freemasons' Hall which will be an up to date chronological exhibition about English freemasonry. This is now scheduled to be open in the first quarter of 2016 and will therefore be available for the tercentenary of Grand Lodge in 2017.

Where we can we try to keep adding material to the online catalogue. This year we have continued to add images (photos, engravings etc) of individuals and the catalogue entry often includes a detailed biography. We are also working to enhance catalogue information re provenance, inscriptions etc for books already held.

Diane Clements/ Martin Cherry

AMMLA

Report of the Association of Masonic Museums, Libraries and Archives (AMMLA)

First, I must apologize for not being able to attend this meeting. Due to several personnel changes, my job duties increased—thus making an already busy year a fantastically hectic one. As you hear this report, I will be project managing our California Masonic Symposium featuring Bob Davis and Art de Hoyos. After that, I will be moving into the final phase of installing two separate exhibits at the Grand Lodge temple in San Francisco and the Masonic Homes in Union City, followed by final preparations for the World Conference of Regular Grand Lodges and a colloquium sponsored by my grand lodge and Dr. Paul Rich's *Policy Studies Organization*. I'll admit that I do not need a reason to visit Germany—especially Bavaria and Franconia, since I once lived in that region in the late '90s. However, attending the AMMLA conference in Bayreuth was the reason I went and it was a thoroughly delightful and educational experience. The conference is best summed up by describing AMMLA as our European counterpart, although our organizational structures are a bit different in that their members do not necessarily need to be attached to a grand body, or even a regular one. Nevertheless, I found that their issues were the same as ours—how to best maintain collections with budgetary woes, or lack of staff. Conversations, such as how to create liaisons with their state museums and educate about how Masonic culture is in fact a part of the history of their respective countries, echoed our own MLMA meetings.

The dominant museums (UGLE, United Grand Lodges of Germany, the Supreme Council of A. & A.S.R. of France, and the Grand Orients of both France and Belgium) provided a sort of standard for the smaller institutions. This was most apparent in the presentations—a sort of round table show-and-tell where the participants spoke about their current projects. Aimee and I were the representatives of MLMA, and also of our own institutions. While I did not apply for membership, Aimee did and was accepted.

I personally found the opportunity to network and expand my horizons to be most enlightening. I know that Glenys has been a faithful attendee in the past, and a few of AMMLA's members also belong to MLMA, but I felt it was a positive move to show to them that the new generation of MLMA leadership is interested in keeping up the dialog and interest.

The Deutsche Freimaurer Museum, which is funded by the UGLofG, is wonderfully designed and filled with beautiful Masonic artifacts one may otherwise only see in books. It is managed and curated by the expert hands of Thad Peterson, who has a galaxy-sized sense of humor that delighted the group when he booked a puppet performance of *The Magic Flute* performed by one woman using only her hands and feet.

The weather was extremely hot (40°C) for the duration of the conference, which made the excellent beer go down that much easier. Bayreuth is a phenomenally beautiful city, and is best known for its opera house where Wagner produced his operas. The combination of Franconian culture, Freemasonry and our international junto made for an unforgettable time. It was nice to see known colleagues, and to make new international friendships and connections. Our MLMA and individual institutions can only benefit from maintaining these relationships.

Submitted,
Adam Kendall, President MLMA