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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The mission of the Masonic Library & Museum Association is to assist and support, through education, facilitation of communication, coordination of effort, and other means, those individuals charged with the collection, management, and preservation of the Masonic heritage.

1 September 2021

It is my honour and pleasure to report on the activities of our association during the quiet year since our last meeting in September 2020.

The Yahoo mail group we used closed in November 2020 and I established a new one through Google. I sent notes to the members about registering for the new group—I think there are still some people missing. If you are reading this through our website, please let me know you'd like to join up. I have enjoyed seeing the requests and answers that sent to the members in the group. Each time, I think I learn something new about the fraternal world.

In October 2020, one of the requests to our group involved knowing what work a volunteer librarian undertakes. That prompted me to write a set of seven 'lessons' called Managing Your Library. They can be found as a selection on the heading of Membership. Thank you to those members who read my pieces and provided feedback. Thank you, also, to Dorian Cottier of Gatineau, Quebec who translated the pages into French. I shared them with Bro. Pierre Mollier in France for the use of the AMMLA member.

Also, in 2020, (i) the website was revised and I thank our vice president, Tyler Vanice, for his work on it, and (ii) the marketing group was busy. A separate report has been submitted by Tom Hauder and I thank the members of the committee for their work. It gave me a sense of pride when I saw our ad in the journals. Thanks to Tom for devising the new logo for MLMA.

When we do in person gatherings, we usually visit libraries and museums in the host's neighbourhood. We could not do that last year but this year our host Dirk Hughes has arranged for several brief online presentations for our edification.

- Tony Wright about the Grand Rapids city archives
- Rhiannon Cizon about a collaboration between her county historical association and Dirk Hughes's Masonic museum & library
- Dirk Hughes with a tour of his displays

Tyler Vanice
September 2, 2021
MLMA Vice President Report 2019-2021

It was an honor to serve the organization as it's Vice President over the last term. We, like most organizations, were affected by the Coronavirus and its variants, halting many plans and future goals. I regret to inform that not a lot of business was completed last year and that many libraries and museums had shut down temporarily, while some had to cut staff like at the Northeast Wisconsin Masonic Library and Museum.

Out of an abundance of caution in light of newly emerging and highly contagious strains of Covid, we felt the need to hold our annual meeting online once again this year. Since many members travel from across the continent, it was in everyone's best interest to make this change earlier so members could plan accordingly. We plan on holding the annual meeting in person again starting next year.

With help from MWB Tom Hauder and President Brian Rountree, we were able to create a new website for the Masonic Library and Museum Association as the previous one was not accessible any further. I am always looking for articles and news to add to the website, so if your organization has images, stories, or article pertaining to Masonic libraries and museums, I would be glad to have them. They can be minor snapshots your library and organization like recent donations, working on a collection or helpful tips.

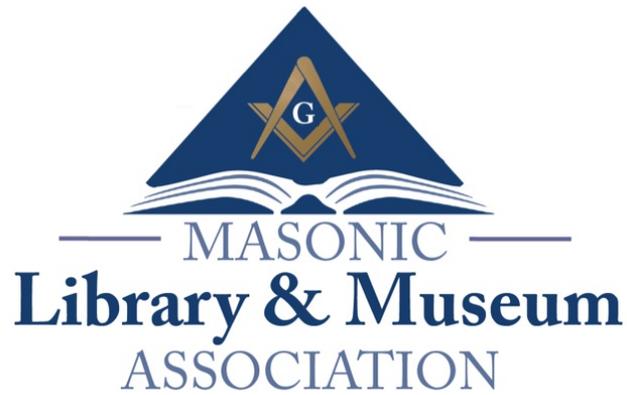
Working with the Marketing Committee, we decided to promote the organization more. We purchased advertisements in The Masonic Society Journal while I wrote an article in *Philaethes: The Journal of Masonic Research & Letters* to increase awareness of the organization. I believe this had a positive effect and we should continue this promotion.

I would like to end my report by thanking Brother Brian, Tom and the rest of the officers for their support and for all the assistance they gave supporting the organization. Without everyone's input and guidance, this year could have been worse for the organization.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tyler E. Vanice
MLMA Vice President



2021 MLMA Secretary's Report

Sept. 10, 2021

MLMA membership	2021	2020
Institutional	95	95
Personal members	101	93
Past Presidents	9	9
Removal (death, request)	-1	-3
TOTAL	204	194

MLMA gained eight new Personal members and one was removed.

51 members have paid their 2021 dues as of this date.

Past MLMA President, John H. Platt, passed away on June 19, 2021. He was one of the founding members of MLMA and its first president.

Cathy Giaimo
MLMA Secretary

Masonic Library and Museum Association 2020 – 2021 Marketing Group Report

Overview -- The 2020 – 2021 period was not as productive as anticipated at last year's Annual meeting. While we did get our major project completed (advertising in The Masonic Society Journal), some of the rest of the proposed projects are incomplete. This is due to primarily to the Chair of the committee losing focus on the projects due to ongoing health issues. It is hoped that the 2021 – 2022 period will be more productive.

Advertisement – The MLMA placed a quarter page ad in The Masonic Society Journal that ran for 5 issues (magazine is published quarterly). This has seemed to raised people's awareness of the organization.

Website – Tyler Vanice launched an updated website for the MLMA. As time permits for Tyler, he will be adding features and resources to the website.

Quarterly Meetings / Trainings – Due to the continued turmoil of schedules due to the COVID pandemic, this task was not accomplished. We will reexamine this task for the 2021 – 2022 year.

Emails -- We continue to work on creating and maintaining an accurate email list. This is an ongoing project as emails change often. Bulk emails have been used to announce the Annual meeting with a very high rate of views.

Articles – Article about the MLMA were written by Bro. Marshall Kern. Article was published in *The Journal of the Masonic Society*. An article regarding how the MLMA can help your library / museum was also written by Bro. Thomas Hauder and it ran in a Masonic Publication in the Australian jurisdiction. *

Communications – Yahoo obsoleted the group communications tool that we were using, however, President Rountree managed to get the Association changed over to a Google tool that allows us to have the same features. All new members receive a welcome email from Bro. Thomas Hauder with a link to the MLMA logos for use on their website and/or emails and the printable brochures.

Surveys -- A survey of both current and past MLMA members was accomplished. There were not enough answers from the past members to be of use, however, the current membership had a much better participation rate. This data is available on request.

* *Harashim 90* (March 2021) from the Australia New Zealand Masonic Research Council. See <https://www.anzmmc.org/harashim/>

[info from Brian Rountree]

5 September 2021

As you will understand there is not much to report on due to the epidemic. Most grand lodges have been closed and hardly any meeting activity has been held. Some of the national research lodges have organised web meetings as a surrogate for normal meetings.

All activity in AMMLA has been down and the president has had a serious case of Covid 19. The repatriation activity has also been postponed.

Most grand lodges have this autumn started on a slow awakening process and hopefully we will be back to normal some time in 2022.

I will attend the web meeting this coming Saturday.

Fraternally

Helge

ASSOCIATION OF MASONIC MUSEUM, LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES (AMMLA)

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I wrote to our Australian member, Neil Morse, to ask for a report on how things are going in Australian libraries and museums. It seemed to me that since Helge reports to us about the status in Europe, we might appreciate hearing about the state of things in Australia. Here is his report.

Brian Rountree, President 1921

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9 September 2021

G'day Brian

Responses from some colleagues have been very tardy in arriving. Otherwise, at least to me, your suggestion of a report from the antipodes has been a positive and educational exercise.

Basically, the eastern seaboard Grand Lodges have been locked down, on and off, for the last 18 months. The UGL of Queensland has used the time to significantly renovate their building in Brisbane, so the library is closed. Sydney and Melbourne have been closed due to state lockdowns, and Melbourne's collection is in boxes as the UGLV's new building didn't plan to incorporate the collection! It's currently homeless. The two Masonic libraries in Tasmania have used the 'down-time' to clean up and reorganise their collections. Hobart has been developing a digitised suite of lectures from their collection which will soon go 'live'. The Canberra Masonic Centre Library in the ACT is operated by the Linford Lodge of Research and VWBro Google will find the material that that LoR has been pumping out [and there's more where that came from]. The GL Libraries in South Australia and Western Australia seem to be more reactive than active, but I'm awaiting details of their operations. I'll let you know.

Two things before I go:

This report has prompted me to attempt to reactivate my old email list of the Australian Masonic libraries so that we can swap discards and share resources. Who knows, parochial barriers may be shattered for the greater good this time! AND I hope to attend the meeting on [your] Saturday, but it is 3am my time and I'm not as conversant with that time of day as I was. I'll try. [Our last meeting was at a reasonable time - Sat evening your time, I seem to remember - what happened?]

s&f and stay safe

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"Australia, far away from the chief centres of masonic life and learning" - C.W.L.
1926