



March– April 2026

# The Trestle Board

A Publication of the Chillicothe Masonic Bodies

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**Special Announcement!**  
**Hear ye, Hear ye, .....**  
 Anyone in arrears in dues had to be suspended this year as per our Grand Lodge directive. Please contact the office of the Secretary to be reinstated if this has happened to you in error. Our apologies if it is our mistake!

**Freemasonry, Presidents Day, and Black History Month**

As we celebrate Presidents Day, observe Black History Month, and approach the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, we find ourselves reflecting on a powerful truth:

Freemasonry has long stood quietly alongside the American story — helping shape its leadership, its ideals, and its ongoing pursuit of liberty and equality.

**Freemasonry and America’s Founding Leadership**

From the earliest days of our republic, Freemasonry influenced men who shaped the nation’s direction. Our first President, George Washington, was not only a national leader but a devoted Mason. He believed deeply in virtue, self-improvement, and moral responsibility — principles taught within the lodge.

Another Founding Father and Mason, Benjamin Franklin, helped spread Enlightenment ideas that shaped American democracy — reason, tolerance, and the dignity of every human being. In total, 14 U.S. Presidents were Master Masons, and even Lyndon B. Johnson was initiated as an Entered Apprentice. This reflects something profound — the fraternity has long been a place where leadership and moral character are cultivated together.

As we approach America’s 250th anniversary, we are reminded that the ideals guiding those early leaders — liberty, equality, and brotherhood — are not just political ideas. They are Masonic ones.

**Freemasonry and Black History in America**

This month especially calls us to remember another vital chapter of Masonic history — one that reflects perseverance in the face of injustice. In 1775, a man named Prince Hall and fourteen other free Black men were initiated into Freemasonry through a British military lodge in Boston.

When they were later denied the ability to meet fully as a lodge under American authority, Prince Hall did not abandon the Craft. Instead, he persisted — advocating for recognition, dignity, and equality.

His efforts led to the formation of what would become the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, giving rise to Prince Hall Freemasonry, a movement that has profoundly shaped African American leadership, education, and civil rights for nearly 250 years. Prince Hall’s message was simple but powerful: Masonic principles must apply to all humanity — not just some. His work stands as a living expression of the Masonic teaching that all men meet on the level.

**The Meaning for Us Today**

So what does this mean for us — in 2026, as we near America’s 250th birthday? It means Freemasonry has never been just a private fraternity. It has been a moral force shaping leaders, communities, and the national character.

It reminds us that:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Leadership must be grounded in virtue.      | From Washington’s integrity ...   |
| Liberty must be paired with justice.        | To Franklin’s enlightenment ...   |
| Brotherhood must extend beyond differences. | To Prince Hall’s perseverance ... |

(Continued on Page #4)

# MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	4	5 Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Commandery Practice OoT 6:00 pm	6	7 Chillicothe Council #4 Inspection 6:00 pm
8 Daylight Saving Time Starts 2:00 a.m. 	9 Commandery FFO Practice 6:00 pm	10 Chillicothe Chapter # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm  Chillicothe Council # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	11 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	12	13	14
15	16 Chillicothe Chapter #4 Insp. 6:00 pm in Portsmouth	17	18	19 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	20	21 Lancaster Commandery Insp. 12 noon Banquet
22	23	24	25 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	26	27	28 Chillicothe Commandery Insp. 12 Noon Banquet All Ladies Welcome
29	30	31 Chillicothe Commandery #8 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm				

# APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	3	4
5 Happy Easter! 	6	7 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	8 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12	13	14 Chillicothe Chapter # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm  Chillicothe Council # 4 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	15 "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's" Matthew 22:21 	16 Scioto Lodge #6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm  Ionic Lodge # 6 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	17	18 Jackson Commandery Insp. 12 noon Banquet  IONIC District Meeting (CMT)
19	20	21	22 Eastern Star Chapter #419 Stated Mtg. 7:30 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28 Chillicothe Commandery #8 Stated Meeting 7:30 pm	29	30 Red Cross of Constantine Lafayette Conclave		

## Scioto Lodge #6 Annual Inspection

Scioto Lodge #6 held their annual Inspection on Saturday January 3rd at 3:00 pm in the Entered Apprentice degree. As you can see by the pictures we had a very special day with a lot of visitors. The Worshipful Master, Nicholas White would like to Thank all the members of Scioto Lodge who played a part in making this event come off so seamless. From the kitchen and clean up crew to the officers and lecturers alike, it was an impressive day for all.



Officers and Candidate of Scioto #6.



Lodge Room Photo



RWB Joe Shilling, Inspecting Officer  
RWB Sam Johnson and WB John Ashton.



Dining Room w/ guests



Kitchen Crew



Senior and Junior Stewards



Congratulations to David Spriggs who is a relatively new Master Mason and has already accomplished the necessary tasks to receive the Zerubbabel Engagement Award for new Master Mason by the Grand Lodge of Ohio. To achieve this award one must complete a total of 5 out of 10 elective items, and then fill out a document to be sent on to the District for review and approval. Some items include: Attend Masonic Funeral; Serve on Investigation Committee; Sponsor a Candidate; Assist Lodge Event; Assist setting up Lodge Room; Help prepare a Candidate; Perform a part in the MM Degree. Pictured to the left are David Spriggs receiving award from WM Nicholas White.

### (Continued from Page #1) **Freemasonry, Presidents Day, and Black History Month**

The story of Freemasonry in America is ultimately the story of striving toward a more perfect union — morally, socially, and spiritually.

#### **Closing Reflection**

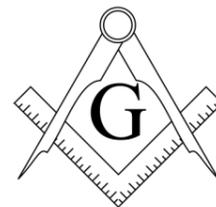
Brethren, as we celebrate Presidents Day...As we honor Black History Month... and as our nation approaches its 250th year...

Let us remember:

The work of building a better society did not end with our forefathers.

It continues — in every lodge, in every act of charity, and in every effort to live by the principles we profess.

May we prove worthy of the legacy entrusted to us.



Answer to Picture This? - The original of this clock was placed in the Blue Room at the completion of the Lodge in 1903. It was first reconstructed by WB Harley Thomas and most recently by WB Stephen Steele, both were Building Managers. It can still be seen hanging on the West Wall of Blue Room and very closely watched most Lodge nights.

## Nativity Scene on display on sidewalk of Scioto Lodge #6

Typically, the Nativity Scene in the picture is placed in Yoctangee Park during the Holidays for all to enjoy. However, this year, with the road closures at the east entrance to the park, we decided to display it on the sidewalk on Main Street in front of the Temple. Thanks to Class Act who was very receptive to this being located directly in front of their business.



We would also like to say a special thank you to all the Brothers who show up each year to help put this in place in our community. I actually got a text message from a Chillicothe resident who had seen it and wanted to thank the Masons for having it on display. I would also be remised if I did not thank Globe Furniture who allows us to store this during the year in their warehouse.

## Scioto Lodge #6 Chicken Noodle Dinner

Scioto Lodge No. 6, F&AM invites the public to attend our annual chicken noodle dinner.

Dine in, carry out and delivery available. Dinners will be \$12 and include chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans and a roll. Desserts will also be available for an additional donation.

It'll be hosted at the Ross County Shrine Club, 500 Belleview Ave, Chillicothe, Ohio.

**Thursday April 2nd 11:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**For deliveries call 740.772.4119**



**Special  
Olympics**

## Masonic Temple Association

The **Chillicothe Bike Company** is now open for business on the first floor of the Chillicothe Masonic Temple located at 51 East Main Street and just West of our entrance doors.

Much needed improvements have been made to this space with our permission and appreciation of the owner, Al Jordan pictured here with a sample of the bikes he offers to sell and service. He also sells Disc Golf equipment along with Skate Board products if you're more apt to stay on something with 4 wheels.

Stop by to see these improvements, introduce yourself, say hello and welcome him to our building by buying something.

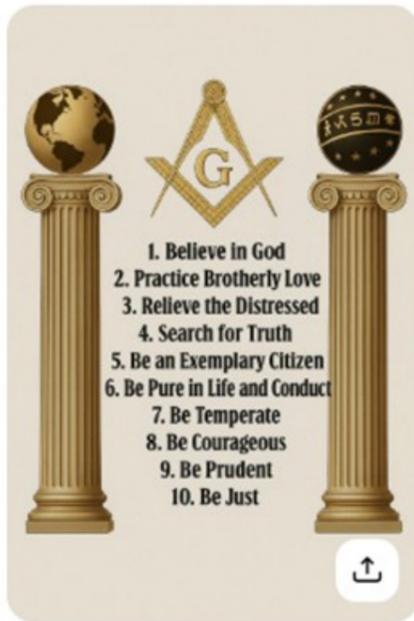


**A Publication of the Chillicothe Masonic Bodies**

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*Return Service Requested*



**The Trestle Board Electronic Delivery**

We would like to research if there are individuals who receive a copy of the printed Trestle Board that would be interested in receiving it in color via way of an electronic email instead of the current hard copy in the US mail.

You could print off the calendars to hang in your home if you wished or simply read its contents on your electronic device or home computer at your leisure. This would also enable you to access it multiple times wherever you may be for reminders, etc.

This would accomplish several things. First, it would cut Lodge costs of printing and mailing the Trestle Board directly to everyone's home via US mail. Second, you would receive a better publication with it being sent in color format. And Third, you would receive it in a more timely fashion as we would control how quickly you would receive it thus not missing any first of the month events.

If interested, please send your Full Name and Email Address to:  
**sciotolodge6@outlook.com**

Please write Trestle Board in the subject line. Thanks!

**Picture This?**

