



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 13, 2010

FROM: Masonic Information Center (MIC) of the
Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) <http://www.msana.com>
8120 Fenton Street, Suite 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785
Tel: (301) 588-4010 Fax: (301) 608-3457 Email: msana@ix.netcom.com
Contact: Richard Fletcher, PGM, VT, and Executive Secretary

TO: niki.doyle@htimes.com
shelly.haskins@htimes.com
yvonne.betowt@htimes.com

**Masonic Information Center (MIC) Recognizes Helion Masonic Lodge No. 1,
Huntsville, AL as a 2009 Winner of the Mark Twain Award For Excellence in
Masonic Awareness**

Helion Masonic Lodge No. 1., Huntsville, AL claims second Twain Award in national competition for demonstrating excellence in 2009 Masonic activities. MIC awards Lodges' superior efforts both to invigorate Freemasonry's identity throughout their communities and to enrich the quality of educational and fraternal experiences within Lodges.

Silver Spring, MD April 13, 2010 — The Masonic Information Center (MIC) of the Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA) announces 2009 winners of the Mark Twain Award for Excellence in Masonic Awareness. Completing its fourth year, the Twain Award Competition continues to draw increasing numbers of submissions while maintaining its high standards of evaluation. Winners must distinguish themselves by exhibiting energy focused on three stages of work: planning, executing, and reflecting on activities directly related to enhancing Lodges' Masonic identity. Historically, the Masonic fraternity emphasizes the importance of education, self-improvement, good works, and fellowship.

Steve McGlocklin, Helion Masonic Lodge's Master through June 2009 says, "Our focus has been on educating our officers and members on Ancient Landmarks, the Alabama Masonic Code, Lodge By-Laws, and creating events for Masons, our families and friends." Lodge leaders laid the foundation for the Award through planning and

improved communications. “We improved our website <http://www.helionlodge.org>,” says Mike Feld, Helion Lodge’s current Master. “Helion Lodge No. 1 is on the move, bringing excitement into Masonic education and letting our community know we support them through numerous programs, including hosting the Weeden House Spirit of Christmas Tour, a Robert Burns night, and charity events for Crisis Services of North Alabama HOPE Place.” McGlocklin adds, “Winning the Twain Award — two times in a row — gives us an added incentive to continue improving our Lodge members’ Masonic experiences and Masonry’s standing in the community.”

Richard E. Fletcher, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Information Center says, "The 2009 Twain Award competition attracted Lodge submissions from 35 states." Fletcher continues, "As the Twain Award’s reputation grows, Lodges see its benefit as an incentive to create new ideas and generate more energy among members." The Twain Award does not set Lodges against other Lodges, rather, the competition asks Lodges to demonstrate that they have done their best to produce excellence in and understanding of their Masonic identity. Winners receive a custom designed award and nationwide recognition through MSANA web and print publications. Fletcher says, "Grand Lodge meetings frequently provide opportunities to make public presentations to members, who participated in achieving Twain Award winner status."

"The Masonic fraternity is experiencing renewed public interest and increased exposure in popular movies, books, and media; the Twain Award helps us to communicate and to clarify the true identity of the Fraternity of Freemasonry with its roots in education and enlightenment," says Fletcher. He continues, "Our Fraternity’s Twain Award generates enthusiasm and builds relevance for Freemasonry in the 21st Century by providing ways for men from diverse backgrounds and across multiple generations to enjoy fellowship through Masonry."

Most historians believe Freemasonry arose from stonemasons' guilds in the Middle Ages and began to flourish in the 1700's in Europe, the American Colonies and Canada. Today, North America's Masonic Fraternity provides fellowship for over 1.4 million members. Masons are known for their commitment to making good men better and doing good works. Go to <http://www.msana.com>

[Masonic Service Association of North America (MSANA)] for more information on Freemasonry and the Mark Twain Award.

###