



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Doylestown Lodge No 245, W.K. Bray Lodge No. 410,
Newtown Lodge No. 427, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

Website: www.pa8thmasonic.com; Facebook: PA 8th Masonic District

Richard H. Bradbury, Sr. – District Deputy Grand Master

June 2020

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center at Masonic Village-Warminster
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly on the 1st Monday at 7:30 pm
Extra Meeting on the 3rd Friday – If Needed/Called with due
and timely notice.
(No Meetings in July and August)

JUNE CALENDAR

Due to the ongoing concerns about the Coronavirus, the RW Grand Master has canceled/suspended ALL Masonic activities until further notice. Please check the calendar on the District webpage for upcoming virtual events.

June 1 – Virtual School of Instruction. If you are not notified by your lodge, please contact your lodge secretary or the DDGM for the link to attend.

During this time of isolation and concern, please reach out to our Brothers and widows. It is our Masonic responsibility to help them any way we can.

You are urged to follow all precautions that are put out by the Center for Disease Control to safeguard you and your loved ones during this time.

SUSPENSION OF MASONIC ACTIVITIES EXTENDED BY GRAND MASTER

On May 1, 2020, R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon IV extended the suspension of all Masonic activities until July 1, 2020. A copy of the letter can be found on the District website. By March 31, 2020, the R.W. Grand Master will provide guidance as to the possibility of safely re-starting some events in the summer.

At this time, it has been decided that all Masonic Villages will be closed to outside activities until January 2021 for the health and safety of the residents. Lodges that meet on one of the Masonic Village campuses will have to re-locate to nearby lodge temporarily.

Autumn Days at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown that was scheduled for September 26, 2020 has been canceled.

FIRST VIRTUAL SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION HELD

On May 4, 2020, the 8th Masonic District held its first virtual School of Instruction on the ZOOM platform and was attended by 43 brethren.

During the meeting, possible changes in the way we meet, once we re-open, were presented. The theme of the program was that the lodges need to think about the hurdles we may have to navigate so we are prepared when the opportunity to call back onto labor arises.

At our meetings, face masks and hand sanitizers may be lodge staples when we get back together. While meals and fellowship before and/or after meetings may take on a different look while we keep our distances in the lodge room and dining areas.

Other changes may include how we present our degree ritual; having video presentations rather than a physical speaker during our programs; how the Committee of Inquiry may have to perform their duties during this time of social distancing as they investigate a petitioner and how we will fulfill the requirements of the new Membership Awareness Program for new Masons. Mentoring options were also discussed given the proficiency changes for candidates as they receive their degrees.

There is no doubt that the meetings and activities, at least in the foreseeable future, will likely take on a different look than those prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, we need to prepare ourselves in order to continue and enjoy this great Fraternity. Planning will help that to occur.

5TH ANNUAL CIGAR-B-QUE IS SCHEDULED

The 5th Annual 8th Masonic District Cigar-B-Que is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2020 from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm. The event will take place, providing the State and Grand Lodge regulations permit such a gathering. The event will be held at the Bucks County FOP Picnic Grounds at the lodge property in Wycombe.

After this time of isolation, it will be a perfect time for fellowship. Details to follow. We hope to see you there.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

June 5, 1947

Bro. and US Secretary of State George C. Marshall, speaking at Harvard University, outlined an aid program for Europe that came to be known as the famed Marshall Plan. Bro. Marshall had received many decorations and high honors including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1953. General of the Army and Brother George C. Marshall was the recipient of the New York Grand Lodge Distinguished Achievement Award in 1945, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a Mason by that Grand Lodge. The same year this high honor was also presented to Admiral of the Fleet and Brother Ernest Joseph King. Bro. Marshall was made a Mason "at sight" on December 16, 1941 by Ara M. Daniels, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia, in the Scottish Rite Cathedral of the District. Distinguished leaders from many states were present. Bro. Marshall's father had been an active Freemason at Allentown, PA, being High Priest of Union Chapter No. 165, (Royal Arch Masonry) in 1889 and Commander of Uniontown Commandery No. 49, (Knights Templar) in 1883.

DID YOU KNOW?

What is meant by "Passing"?

What is the meaning of the word "Passing" as we use it in the second degree? Has it something to do with the passing up the Winding Stair?"

After much searching through early lodge Minutes, the first lodge record so far found which uses the words 'passing' and 'raising' in our modern sense, is in the Minutes of the Lodge Greenock Kilwinning (now No. 12 (SC). It was founded in 1728, eight years before the Grand Lodge of Scotland. Immediately after the election of the Master and appointment of Officers at its first meeting, 27 December 1728, the Lodge made a rule as to the fees that would be payable for each degree:

'That each who shall be received Members of this Lodge shall pay into the Box when entered as Apprentices One pound ten shillings Scots, twelve shillings when passed Fellow-Craft, and twenty shillings Scots when raised Master Mason, besides paying the expenses of the night's entertainment...'

It is doubtful that the word 'passing' in its original Masonic usage had anything to do with passing up a winding stair. At its first appearance in England it was certainly used more often in connection with the MM degree than with the FC, and it does not seem to have come into general use for the second degree until after the third, the 'raising', had become general practice in all the English lodges, around the 1750's.

(The above abstracts are taken from Harry Carr's *The Freemason at Work*, Lewis Masonic, 1996); Source: *ARS Quatuor Coronatorum*, Vol. 118, 2005)

Stay Safe...Stay Healthy!

SOME PRESIDENTIAL/VICE PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA

Franklin D. Roosevelt unexpectedly died April 12, 1945, and his Vice President, Harry S. Truman, succeeded him to the presidency. When Harry Truman took the Oath of Office three years later, on June 20, 1949, as the 33rd President of the United States, there was additional historical significance.

At that inauguration, four of the members of the 81st Congress in attendance would later become President – John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard M. Nixon, and Gerald R. Ford. Three of them (Johnson, Nixon, and Ford) would, like Truman, first serve as Vice President.

Of those names mentioned, Roosevelt, Truman, Johnson (EA only), and Ford were Masons.

This information was compiled by Albert R. Anness, a resident of the Indiana Masonic Home.

Indiana Freemason, Winter, 2013; Emessay Notes, June 2013

A VICTORIAN VERSE

Hail to the Bond, which thus unites
Mankind of each degree
And bids a Mason's love extend
O'er every land and sea.

Where'er a suffering brother's found
We're taught to bear relief
His sorrows soothe, and pain assuage
And stay his tears of grief.

As long as wisdom's light we seek
And truth adorns the mystic band
Thus Masonry securely built
In beauty's strength shall firmly stand.

Theodore Grand Cressy

LIMITED KNOWLEDGE

At a gathering of women the conversation turned to a discussion of Masons. Some of the women seemed to be rather well informed on the subject, and discussed it at some length, but one woman was bored and finally remarked, "Well, I don't know much about Masons, but I think their fruit jars are very nice."

Tied to Masonic Apron Strings, Stewart M.L. Pollard

RAISING AND LOWERING OF COLUMNS

The raising and lowering of the columns resting on the Wardens' pedestals has an historical reason. In the period of the transition much of the work of the lodge was conducted at the dinner table. In order that the members present could easily determine if the lodge was at labor or refreshment the columns were raised or lowered.

Trestleboard Tidbits, Compiled by Alphonse Cerza

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else."

Brother Melvin Jones