



# 8<sup>th</sup> 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, Fairless Hills Lodge No. 776, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

Webpage: [www.pa8thmasonic.com](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com); Facebook: PA 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

December 2016

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Frey Masonic Center  
850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA

Meets Monthly at 7:30 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (Except July and August)

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 05 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 07 Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication**  
Philadelphia, PA
- 09 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 10 Bristol Lodge December Stated Meeting  
*Program: Election and Installation*
- 14 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting  
Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Election and Installation*
- 16 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 19 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Elections and Installation*
- 20 Fairless Hills Lodge Stated Meeting
- 21 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installation*

### HELP FOR OUR HEROES UPDATE

To date, we have provided more than \$1 million toward calling cards; military baby showers; holiday events for families at military bases; programming for children with special needs; telemedicine; amusement park family outings; adaptive bicycles for veterans with injuries; support of veterans' courts; improvements to veterans' homes and renovations needed by families of those who are serving overseas.

Two brothers from W.K. Bray Lodge accompanied me to Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst and took part in the military baby shower on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was great to speak with the expectant mothers and see their reactions to the gifts provided. As many are away from family and friends, this is likely the only baby shower they will have.

Please continue to give generously at your meetings when the baskets are presented.

### MERGER BEING EXPLORED

In July, a meeting was held with the Past Masters and Officers of Fairless Hills Lodge to discuss the future of the Lodge. After reviewing the options available to them, it was decided that the Lodge would approach Newtown Lodge and propose a merger of the two lodges.

At their October Stated Meetings, upon the recommendation of their respective Merger Committees, both lodges passed a motion to pursue a Lodge Merger between Fairless Hills Lodge and Newtown Lodge.

The Merger Committees will now continue to meet and discuss all aspects of creating a new lodge, including a new set of by-laws, financial considerations, officers, lodge regalia and furniture.

The process of Lodge Merger should be carried on in the spirit of compromise and brotherly concern. Please support them as they continue their deliberations toward their merger.

### DO YOU KNOW A BROTHER IN NEED?

As the winter months and holidays are upon us, it may be a time when our Brothers may need some help.

Whether the need for assistance is in getting food, heat or shelter or some other emergency situation, the Almoner of each lodge may be able to help. Funds have been set aside in each lodge to help their members and families when they need a helping hand.

If you know of a brother, widow or family member who find themselves in a situation where we can help, please contact your Lodge Almoner found in the meeting notice or contact your Worshipful Master and learn what opportunities may be available. Please know the names of recipients are not released to the members.

Let someone know if you or another brother would like some help. Please let us help our brethren.

### Holiday Shopping?

Shop online at <http://masonicmuseumgifts.com>

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Why President McKinley Became a Mason

When General Horatio King asked William McKinley how he happen to become a Mason he explained: "After the Battle of Opequum, I went with the surgeon of our Ohio regiment to the field where there were about 5,000 Confederate prisoners under guard. Almost as soon as we passed the guard, I noticed the doctor shook the hands with a number of Confederate prisoners. He also took from his pocket a roll of bills and distributed all he had among them. Boy-like, I looked on in wonderment; I didn't know what it all meant. On the way back from camp I asked him:

"Did you know these men or ever see them before?"

"No," replied the doctor, "I never saw them before."

"But," I persisted, "You gave them a lot of money, all you had about you. Do you ever expect to get it back?"

"Well," said the doctor, "If they are able to pay me back, they will. But it makes no difference to me; they are brother Masons in trouble and I am only doing my duty."

"I said to myself, If that is Freemasonry I will take some of it for myself."

Webmaster's Note: "Did You Know" ... President McKinley, the Lodge in which he received his degrees was Hiram Lodge #21, Winchester, Virginia.

By the way Hiram Lodge still meets on the second Tuesday of each month and claims to be the "Oldest Masonic Lodge West of the Blue Ridge Mountains".

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## FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand  
my faltering step and palsied hand.  
Blessed are they who know that my ears today  
must strain to catch the things they say.  
Blessed are they who seem to know  
that my eyes are dim and my wits are slow  
Blessed are they who looked away  
when coffee spilled at table today.  
Blessed are they with a cheery smile  
who stop to chat for a little while.  
Blessed are they who never say  
"You've told that story twice today."  
Blessed are they who make it known  
that I'm loved, respected and not alone.  
Blessed are they who know the ways  
to bring back memories of yesterday.  
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss  
to find the strength to carry the Cross.  
Blessed are they who ease the days  
on my journey Home in loving ways.

(Arle H. Cook-Superintendent Masonic Homes Grand Lodge  
of Alabama)

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*May you and yours enjoy a happy, safe and  
healthy Holiday Season!*

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### December 12, 1851

In Statesburg, S.C., Bro. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the Mason who introduced the South American plant named for him into the U.S., died. Dr. Poinsett, a career diplomat (first US Ambassador to Mexico), member of Congress and Secretary of War, was born in Charleston, S.C. March 2, 1799. Bro. Poinsett, an amateur botanist, developed the Poinsettia which has since become a favorite Christmas season plant.

### December 14, 1799

Brother, General George Washington passed away at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. Two days earlier he had made a tour on horseback of his farm in cold, snowy weather wherein he caught a severe cold. On his return his wife Martha found him to suffering a chill and high temperature. She sent for his doctor who arrived accompanied by two others. Bro. Washington in high fever could hardly speak, his throat being blocked. The doctors - all but one - administered the traditional cure at the time - leeches to "bleed" the general free of his throat congestion; They continued to remove considerable blood in hopes of relieving his distress and reducing the fever. The congestion remained. One doctor - the youngest - recommended a tracheotomy but was overruled. Bro. Washington, historians, agree might have been saved by a tracheotomy, instead of literally being bled to death; and so he (prematurely) died. Bro. Washington, most honored American, father of his country, and Freemason who was 20 years, eight months and 12 days old, when he was initiated on November 4. 1752 in Fredericksburg Lodge.

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## Why are discussions of politics and religion forbidden in lodge?

The prohibition goes back to the early history of the Fraternity. It is written in the second paragraph of the sixth "Old Charge" (Behavior after the Lodge is over and the Brethren are gone); "No private Piques or Quarrels must be brought within the Door of the Lodge, far less any Quarrels about Religion, or Nations, or State policy, we being only, as Masons, of the Catholick Religion above mentioned; we are also of all Nations, Tongues, Kindreds, and Languages, and are resolved against all Politicks as what never get conduc'd to the Welfare of the Lodge, nor ever will. This Charge has been always strictly enjoin'd and observ'd, but especially since the Reformation in Britain, or the Dissent and Secession of these Nations from the Communion of Rome."

Freemasons today hold that the Old Charge prohibits lodge discussion of politics in the sense of partisan politics and religion in the sense of sectarian religion.

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, The  
Masonic Service Assn. 2013

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The true Mason never hesitates to use the working tools to correct personal flaws."

William Howard Taft