



# 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, Southampton Radiant Star Lodge No. 806

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

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

September 2020

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

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

Meets Monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 07 No School of Instruction – Labor Day
- 14 Zoom Virtual - District School of Instruction
- 09 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting
- 09 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
- 11 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
- 16 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
- 21 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Meeting
- 26 Autumn Days-CANCELED DUE TO COVID 19
- 26 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
- 27 5<sup>th</sup> Annual District Cigar-B-Que-TBD

### LODGES INSTITUTE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN FOR THE RE-OPENING OF BUILDINGS

On the direction of the Grand Lodge, each blue lodge had to have a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in effect prior to opening the building for Masonic and non-Masonic meetings and activities.

One of the criteria in this initiative is that the members are to receive a copy of the plan so they are aware of the steps being taken to make the lodge a safe environment its members and guests. If you have not received a copy of the preparation plan for your lodge, please contact your Lodge Secretary.

We look forward to the time when we can meet again in a familiar setting and enjoy a meal, each other's company and the overall fellowship in the lodge. Until then, please practice patience and the principles of Freemasonry.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"They who are content to remain in the valley will never get the grander view from the mountaintop."

Unknown

### FREEMASONRY IN PENNSYLVANIA RESUMES

During the past six months there have been numerous meetings and communications to discuss addressing the needs of brethren, the suspension of events and ultimately, the preparation of the lodges for their presumptive re-opening when it was safe to do so. I would like to thank the officers of our lodges for their cooperation in trying to make these processes as welcoming as possible under the circumstances.

On July 10th, the District lodges were permitted to conduct Stated Meetings and other events if they so chose as long as the proper safety protocols were followed. However, Degree conferrals were suspended until at least September 1, 2020.

RW Grand Master, Thomas Gamon, IV, issued a decision on August 13<sup>th</sup> that effective September 1, 2020, Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Degrees were permitted to be conferred, utilizing specific guidelines and governmental guidelines while making efforts to maintain the proper ritual. The conferring of Master Mason Degrees have been suspended until further notice. In order for a lodge to confer the EA or FC degree it must be confirmed that the lodge officers, members and candidates are comfortable with proceeding.

Therefore, the September Stated Meetings of the lodges in the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District are permitted to be held. Brethren need to realize that currently there is an occupancy limit in Pennsylvania of a maximum of 25 people at an inside event while face masks and social distancing regulations are followed. That results in a drastic decrease of available seating at these meetings. In some lodges, there would only be 13 or 14 brothers permitted on the sidelines. Each lodge is dealing with how they are going to handle this and they should be in communication with you on their decision.

Please remember that ALL members, visitors and guests attending ANY AND ALL Masonic meetings and/or events MUST complete the Lodge Member Release. If you do not complete the form, you will not be permitted to enter. Also, a brother cannot attend a Masonic activity if he is, or thinks he may be, experiencing any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. We understand there may be some brethren who do not agree with the preventative steps being taken, but we believe they are necessary for the protection of your members and guests as well as for the lodge itself.

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy.

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

### September 7, 1777

The largest engagement of the American Revolutionary War took place between the Continental Army led by Bro. George Washington and British troops led by General William Howe. Howe was marching to take Philadelphia when Bro. Washington chose to try and stop Howe's advance at the Brandywine River near Chadds Ford, PA. The American forces were defeated and the British went on to take Philadelphia on September 26. The British spent the winter in Philadelphia while Bro. Washington's troops suffered the winter through at their encampment at Valley Forge, PA.

### September 27, 1915

Brother Rudyard Kipling's only son, John, was killed at the Battle of Loos in Belgium. He was 18. It is a tragedy from which Bro. Rudyard never recovered.

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### 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CIGAR-B-QUE IS NOW PENDING

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District Cigar-B-Que scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2020 from 4:00 pm-8:00 pm is pending at this time while a new venue is being secured and other logistics are attempted to be worked out.

The Executive Board of the Fraternal Order of Police recently decided to suspend all rentals of their lodge picnic grounds until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has required us to locate a new host location. Notification of the event status and the final price of tickets will be announced through the district social media sites and a call-em-all as soon as it is determined.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Alfred P. Murrah

We are all aware of the terrible tragedy that occurred at the Murrah building in 1995, but did you know the man for whom the building was named – Alfred P. Murrah – a federal judge on the US Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit was an Oklahoma Mason? Judge Murrah was a member of Capital City Lodge #518, Oklahoma City, OK. The building in which the lodge met, at the time, was later sold and is now the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum.

*Emessay Notes, September 2010*

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### CONCORDANT ORDERS

#### Mystic Order of the Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm – “The Grotto”

The Grotto was founded in 1889 in Hamilton, New York, by LeRoy Fairchild. “Its purpose mainly was to add in greater measure to the Masonic fraternal spirit the charm of radiant cheerfulness and to maintain within the fraternity an impetus of royal good fellowship, wherein joyous companionship and helpful sympathy shall mingle graciously and become the distinguishing characteristics of the Order.

Delco Grotto, Broomall, PA is the closest one to the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District. It meets at Community Masonic Lodge, 2274 West Chester Pike, Broomall. For information, contact the Secretary, Russell Combs at [delcogrotto2@comcast.net](mailto:delcogrotto2@comcast.net) or 610-365-7893.

## GLOSSARY

**SKULL.** The skull as a symbol is not used in Masonry except in Masonic Templarism where it is a symbol of mortality. Among the articles of accusation sent by the Pope to the bishops and papal commissaries upon which to examine the Knights Templar, those from the forty-second to the fifty-seventh refer to the human skull, “cranium hominum,” which the Templars were accused of using in their reception, and worshipping as an idol. It is possible that the Old Templars made use of the skull in their ceremony of reception; but Modern Templars will readily acquit their predecessors of the crime of idolatry, and find in their use of a skull a symbolic design.

**SKULL AND CROSSBONES.** They are a symbol of mortality and death and are so used by heralds in funeral achievements. As the means of inciting the mind to the contemplation of the most solemn subjects, the skull and cross-bones are used in the Chamber of Reflection in the French and Scottish Rites, and in all those degrees where that Chamber constitutes a part of the preliminary ceremonies of initiation.

*An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences,*  
Albert G. Mackey

(Though referenced in some jurisdictions, the skull, skull and crossbones and the Chamber of Reflection are not part of the ritualistic works in the Blue Lodges of the Grand Lodge of PA.)

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### MASONIC HUMOR

A boy needed a dollar so he propositioned his father. “If you give me a dollar, I’ll tell you who slips with mother when you are attending all those Masonic meetings.” The father gave the boy a dollar. And the boy said, “It’s me.”

*Trestleboard Tidbits, Alphonse Cerza/MSA*

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### PLEASE JUDGE US KINDLY

Don’t expect perfection in a man because he is a Mason.

Masonry makes a man better, but no human agency can make him perfect.

If he is a Mason, you have the right to presume he is a fairly good man, but do not condemn Masonry even if a few Masons turn out disappointing. Even the great Teacher himself has a Judas.

The aim and purpose of Freemasonry is to receive none but good men, keep them good, and make them better.

Judge the institution not by a few failures, but by the average of its success. That average is high and it consequently gives standing to its members, but it cannot be an infallible guide.

*The Small Town Texas Masons E-magazine, May 2012*

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### WHY DOES THE MASTER WEAR A HAT?

A contemporary relic of the ancient custom whereby the King remained covered under all circumstances, while his subjects were obliged to uncover in his presence. Apparently the custom which began in English lodges is not common there now; but in American lodges a Master wears a hat as a sign and symbol of his authority.

*One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSA*