



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

January 2021

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)

JANUARY CALENDAR

The RW Grand Master has canceled ALL Masonic activities until January 31, 2021. Please follow all precautions issued by the Center for Disease Control to safeguard you and your loved ones during this time.

Virtual School of Instruction Scheduled

January 4, 2021 - 8th Masonic District Summer School of Instruction

Contact your Worshipful Master, Lodge Secretary or DDGM Bradbury for the link to that meeting.

MASONIC ACTIVITIES CANCELLED

On December 9, 2020, R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon IV issued the following:

"Due to the unfortunate rapid and severe spike of the Coronavirus in Pennsylvania, effective immediately and until further notice, I am directing any and all lodge activities be cancelled, including, but not limited to; extra, special and/or stated lodge meetings; social functions; schools of instruction, etc., as well as youth groups and community meetings/events that may be scheduled in your lodge building. Lodge officers may continue to pay lodge bills in the ordinary course without lodge approval. This will be in effect through January 31, 2021.

While it is extremely disappointing to once again cancel events, these measures are being taken out of an abundance of caution to safeguard the well-being of our brethren, their loved ones and our communities"

The RWGM indicated that the Grand Lodge will re-evaluate the situation by January 15, 2021 and provide additional guidance.

DUE TO CANCELATIONS - NO ELECTIONS/INSTALLATIONS CONDUCTED

Prior to December 9th, the decision to hold meetings during the pandemic was left to the Worshipful Master of an individual lodge. Three lodges had already canceled their December stated meeting over concerns related to the increase of cases of COVID-19 and/or brothers having been exposed to persons who tested positive.

The R.W. Grand Master's directive that all Masonic activities are cancelled came before any of our lodges had their stated meeting. As a result, the lodges could not hold elections/installations of new officers and cannot until the ban is lifted. Therefore, the elected lodge officers who served during 2020 will continue to hold those positions into 2021 until such time as their successor is duly installed.

BRO. JOHN HORN, P.M., PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION RETIRES - BRO. KIRK W. BOROWSKI, P.M. APPOINTED

At the December virtual meeting of the 8th Masonic District School of Instruction, Brother John Horn, P.M. tendered his resignation as principal. Brother Horn stated he believed that after 12 years in the position it was time for a change to bring new life into the school. Brother Horn praised the brothers who had gone through the school during his tenure for the quality of the degree work performed by them and their lodges along with the instruction they provided to those coming after them.

Brother Horn was thanked for his commitment to the district and his willingness to put himself out to certify brethren on the proficiency requirements in order to progress through the officer line. A more formal recognition of his retirement will take place when the school can be held in-person again.

Effective December 27, 2020, R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon IV appointed Brother Kirk W. Borowski, P.M., of Doylestown Lodge, No. 245, to be the Principal of the 8th Masonic District School of Instruction. We congratulate and welcome Brother Borowski in his new position and look forward to his leadership in ritual instruction and education.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy new year!

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

January 22, 1875

David Wark Griffith, pioneer producer-director in the American motion-picture industry was born at LaGrange, KY. Bro. Griffith is best remembered for his films, "Birth of a Nation" (1915) and "Intolerance" (1916). He was a member of St. Cecile Lodge 568, New York City. He died at Hollywood, CA July 23, 1948.

January 27, 1850

Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor was born. He was a member of Dawson Lodge No. 16, Washington, D.C. and remained the organization's president until his death in San Antonio, TX, December 13, 1924. During his term in office he gained workers higher wages, shorter hours, and more privileges and headed the battle against the Knights of Labor.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort.

Brother Franklin D. Roosevelt

JUST A LITTLE LODGE ROOM

Just a quiet little lodge-room,
But a mighty force for good;
With its loyal band of members
Learning more of brotherhood;
Striving, stumbling, but progressing
Down a pathway toward the right;
Just a humble bunch of plain folks,
Reaching, seeking for the light.

Just a quiet little lodge-room,
How it stirs the heart and soul
With the thrill of great endeavor
Toward a high and common goal;
With each pledge of faith and courage
To maintain the forward fight,
On the road that leads them onward
Even onward to the light!

George B. Staff

FREE WILL AND ACCORD

One of the outstanding peculiarities of Freemasonry, and a quality almost unique among societies, is the rule of immemorial standing that men must come to the fraternity voluntarily and of their own volition. This becomes all the more remarkable when one witnesses the great growth of the fraternity and its expansion all over the world.

So usual is the custom of churches and secular societies to proselytize and, not only to invite, but to urge entrants or joiners, that a society of hundreds of thousands in the United States alone, all of whom have petitioned of their own free will and accord, would be regarded as a phenomenon if it had not existed so long and become so familiar.

The Exemplar, Grand Lodge F.& A.M. of Pennsylvania

MICHIGAN MASONS-PUTTING MICHIGAN ON THE MAP

Despite being home to many of America's intellectual and industrial greats, many of them Masons, the "mitten" state has had its share of economic ups and downs. But as copper mines and lumber mills have closed and mineral ores have dried up, other industries have always risen to revive and restore Michigan's economy. One industry in particular stands out among the others as one that reflects the ingenuity and perseverance that keeps our great state going. Not only has the automotive business been integral to the commercial well-being of Michigan, it's also one most closely linked to Michigan Masons.

Ransom E. Olds - Michigan's auto industry can be traced to 1887, when one of Lansing's most famous residents, Ransom Eli Olds, built a three-wheeled vehicle with a one-horsepower steam engine. Rumor has it that Olds tested his invention under cover, in predawn darkness, to "avoid the embarrassment of being laughed at."

Though Olds was only active during the automobile industry's formative years, his influence, through the numerous patents granted to him, marked him as one of the field's most important founders.

In addition to his industrial career, Ransom Olds had an active Masonic career as well. Olds became a Mason in Capital S.O. Lodge #66 in May of 1908 and was exalted in Capital Chapter #9, R.A.M. in April of 1909. Olds was Knighted in Commandery #25, K.T. in May of 1909, raised to 32° AASR (NJ) in DeWitt Consistory in Grand Rapids in May of 1913 and was crowned 33° on September 5, 1925. Olds was also an active Shriner.

Henry Ford - Another "father of the automobile" and Master Mason, Henry Ford, was born in what is now known as Dearborn, MI in 1863. In later life, Ford with his partners, created the Ford Motor Company where Ford would go on to revolutionize American industry through the conceptualization and introduction of the moving assembly line.

Ford became a Mason in Detroit's Palestine Lodge # 357 on November 28, 1895, was made a Life Member in 1935, and remained a member for nearly 53 years, until his death. In 1928 he was made an honorary member of Zion Lodge # 1. Ford received his 33° AASR (NJ) in September of 1940.

Walter P. Chrysler - Hard work paid off for Walter P. Chrysler, the son of a Kansas railroad engineer. Chrysler accepted a challenge put forth by vested bankers and worked to salvage the Willys-Overland Motor Company from bankruptcy before moving on to do the same as chairman of the Reorganizing Committee at the Maxwell Motor Company. After negotiating a significant interest in Maxwell, Chrysler soon retired the Maxwell brand which would become part of the Chrysler Corporation in 1925.

Chrysler was made a Master Mason in Apollo Lodge # 297 in Ellis, Kansas, in September of 1900, and later became a member of Fellowship Lodge # 490 in Flint, Michigan. Chrysler was also a 33° Scottish Rite member in Salina, Kansas (SJ).

Emessay Notes, January 2010, Masonic Service Association