



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

November 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 Stated Meetings in July and August)

REMINDER-SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION NOW OPEN TO EAs and FCs

Beginning September 13, 2021, the 8th Masonic District School of Instruction is welcoming Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Masons. Please invite them to go with you to the School.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 01 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
*Program: Installation Process, Exemplification of
a Master Mason Degree*
- 10 **District Visitation-Hermann-Humboldt Lodge**
Program: Veterans Night
- 10 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Recognition of Veterans/Sojourners
- 12 **District Visitation-Doylestown Lodge**
Program: Masonic Fobs and Orbs
- 13 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Past Master Night/Military Lodges
- 15 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.
Program: Veterans' Night
- 17 **District Visitation-W.K. Bray Lodge**
Program: Things That Aren't There Anymore
- 19 8th Masonic District-Extra Mtg. (if needed)

DELAY IN ONLINE DUES PAYING

The program that was available for you to pay last year's dues is no longer active due to a change in programs. As of this writing, the Grand View Database, which will be the new Grand Lodge Membership Program, is still not set up for online payments of dues. The IT department is working diligently to get that financial module operational in the next month.

Your lodge will notify you as soon as that function is available. Your dues are to be paid by the beginning of the year and your Lodge Secretary will gladly accept a check for your 2022 dues. Don't wait until the last minute.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC BIBLE WAS AT BRANDYWINE BATTLEFIELD DEGREE

The 5th Masonic District Lodges hosted the Brandywine Battlefield Degree when they conferred a Master Mason Degree on a candidate from Kennett Lodge No. 475. The conferring officers were in colonial garb while the "lodge" was held under a tent on battlefield. The George Washington Masonic Bible, on which he took his oath and obligations was present thanks to the escorting brethren from Fredericksburg Masonic Lodge No. 4, Virginia.

The Lodge's earliest Minute book records George Washington's entrance into Freemasonry at the Lodge at Fredericksburg. He was Initiated an Entered Apprentice on November 4, 1752. He was Passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on March 3, 1753; and he was Raised to the degree of Master Mason on August 4, 1753.

While it appears that he was only 20 yrs and 9 months of age when he was initiated, Geo. Washington was actually a full 21 yrs of age, due to the British Empire's decision to shift from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar in 1752.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION BY-LAWS PROGRESS TOWARD APPROVAL

At the October 4, 2021 Stated Meeting of the 8th Masonic District School of Instruction, the submitted Full Code of By-Laws of the School of Instruction was acted upon and approved. It is now being sent to the Grand Lodge By-Law Committee for its recommendation for approval. It will then be placed on the agenda for the Annual Communication for final approval.

6th MASONIC DISTRICT CIGAR-B-QUE MAKES DONATION TO MASONIC CHARITIES

Due to the great attendance figures and the generosity of the attendees, a check in the amount of \$1,628.00 was sent to the Grand Lodge in support of Masonic Charities.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

November 11, 1975

Justice and Bro. William O. Douglas retires from the Supreme Court. Appointed in 1939 to the US Supreme Court by President and Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Justice and Bro. William O. Douglas was the longest-serving justice in Supreme Court history when he retired on November 12, 1975. In his more than 36 years of service, he was known for his commitment to the rights of the individual and his distrust of unrestrained government power. A conservationist and nature-lover, he was a powerful advocate for environmental protection.

THE GOLDEN FLEECE AND ROMAN EAGLE

When an Entered Apprentice is presented his apron in Lodge, he is told, among other things, that is "a badge...more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle..."

What is the significance of these references?

The Golden Fleece was an order of knighthood. It was founded by Phillip, Duke of Burgundy and ruler of Austria, on the occasion of his marriage to Isabella of Portugal in 1429.

This order used the winged golden ram for its badge, and the motto, "wealth, not servile labor."

This order was considered "ancient" even in 1717 when the Grand Lodge of England was founded.

The Romans used the golden figure of an eagle to stand for strength, skill and bravery. They placed it on the tip of a spear and carried it as a standard at the head of a legion.

The Romans used figures of other animals too. But in 104 B.C., the golden eagle became Rome's distinctive design of imperial power.

The Roman eagle is used in Masonic ritual, probably because it represents strength, skill and bravery.

The Philalethes Magazine, article by E. Milton Skelton

REMEMBERED QUOTE FROM HISTORY

"Think of all the years passed by in which you said to yourself, 'I'll do it tomorrow,' and how the gods have again and again granted you periods of grace of which you have not availed yourself. It is time to realize that you are a member of the Universe, that you are born of Nature itself, and to know that a limit has been set to your time. Use every moment wisely to perceive your inner refulgence, or twill be gone and nevermore within your reach."

Marcus Aurelius (*Meditations*, 2.4)

THE FELLOWCRAFT DEGREE

But I am given strength and skill
To do the work assigned to me;
Whate'er my task, it is God's will
That I perform it worthily,
A living stone make fit to grace
The Temple's walls, and help them rise –
Although it fill but humble place –
A little nearer to the skies.

George H. Free

THE CORNUCOPIA

The Cornucopia is a symbol of plenty and abundance.

The Cornucopia as a symbol of abundance and of nourishment that stretches back to Classical Antiquity (a period of time in the Mediterranean that generally encompasses the Greco-Roman period). It is most commonly associated with Zeus, King of the Greek gods. When Zeus was born he was hidden away by his mother to prevent Kronos, his father, from eating him, as he did Zeus' siblings. Kronos in doing this was trying to prevent the fulfillment of a prophecy that one of his children would destroy him. While Zeus was in hiding from his father, he was fed and cared for by various divine attendants including Amalthea (the Nourishing Goddess) who appeared in the form of a goat. The legend states that Zeus accidentally broke off one her horns. Later he gave the horn to the world of man as it would provide whatever was desired.

In other myths of the period, Heracles (the Roman equivalent of Hercules) broke off the horn of a river god, with similar results as Amalthea's horn. The Cornucopia is associated with a variety of gods and goddesses around the Mediterranean.

The one Greek God that the Cornucopia is associated that is probably most fascinating to Freemasons, is its association with Pluto, god of the underworld. This version of the God of the Underworld, formerly Hades, was taught in the Mystery Religions, sometimes called the sacred mysteries or mysteries. The Mystery Religions of the Greco-Roman world were religious schools that were only for the initiates. At least one source about the Mystery Religions states that "The main characterization of this religion is the secrecy associated with the particulars of the initiation and the ritual practice, which may not be revealed to outsiders." Pluto, probably to show the difference between him and Hades, is often depicted holding a Cornucopia in contrast to Hades who is depicted holding a drinking horn. Pluto was the giver of agriculture, mineral and spiritual wealth.

In modern times the Cornucopia has been adopted the world over as a symbol of prosperity and abundance. This is especially true in North America. In Canada an annual festival called Cornucopia is held. In several Central and South American countries the Cornucopia is depicted on their coat of arms. In the United States several states have the Cornucopia on their state flags and on state seals. It is most closely tied in the United States with the Thanksgiving Holiday.

For Freemasons the Cornucopia is most commonly known as the symbol for the stewards who are stationed in the Masonic South. The Masonic South is tied with nourishment of the brothers. Often one of the duties of the stewards is to help with meal preparation and other times when nourishment is provided to the members of the lodge.

Today in Masonic History, masonrytoday.com

*Wishing you and your family a
Happy Thanksgiving*