



# 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*

March 2022

### 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)

### MARCH CALENDAR

- 05 Officer Training Seminar-Region 1**  
Norristown Lodge, Eagleville
- 07 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 09 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting**
- 09 Newtown Lodge DDGM Official Visitation**  
*Program: 9/11 Presentation-Bro. M. Gomez*
- 11 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: The History of Pistols*
- 12 Region 1 RWGM Open House (9-11 am)**  
Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
- Region 1 RWGM Town Hall Mtg. (2-4 pm)**  
Masonic Temple, Philadelphia
- 12 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: Northeast Chapter of DeMolay*
- 16 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting**  
*Program: Examination of a Visitor*
- 19 Academy of Masonic Knowledge**  
Elizabethtown, PA
- 21 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Meeting**

### NEWTOWN LODGE HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE DURING THIS TIME OF SHORTAGE

Newtown Lodge is hosting a blood drive on April 11, 2022, 12 pm-6 pm at the Lower Bucks Masonic Hall, Heacock and Edgewood Roads, Woodside, PA 19067.

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. Please donate if you are healthy and able. If you cannot attend this event, please go to the Red Cross website: [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) for alternative locations, dates and times.

Also, all Pennsylvania Masons are eligible for membership in the Masonic Blood+Organ Donor Program. Please visit their website: <https://masonicbloodandorgandonors.org> to learn more about the program and how to become a member.

### OPEN HOUSES/TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Right Worshipful Grand Master Jeffrey M. Wonderling is holding open houses and town hall meetings across the state for members of the Fraternity to share/provide Grand Lodge transparency and discuss blue lodge expectations.

**The Open House, Saturday, March 12-Philadelphia, 9-11 AM**, is for Masons, family, friends, co-workers and quality men that you know would make good Masons and strengthen our Fraternity. The RWGM will be presenting the meaning of our Fraternity, who we are, what we offer and why our country needs more of our Masonic values.

**The Town Hall Meeting, Saturday, March 12-Philadelphia, 2-4 PM** is for MASONS ONLY. Topics that the R.W. Grand Master will present include:

- The Roles of the Grand Lodge of PA
- District Deputy Grand Master Roles
- Finances of the Masonic Charities
- Finances of the Grand Lodge
- Solutions
- Lodge Responsibilities
- Enhancing Membership
- Benefits of Membership
- Improved Membership Process
- Why Freemasonry?
- Q & A (any and all questions are encouraged)

Come share your thoughts about issues affecting the Fraternity and get your questions answered!

Members are encouraged to wear a coat and tie; but they may be in “business casual”: a collared shirt or sweater with slacks/khakis (no jeans) and shoes (no sneakers). **In light of the regulations from the City of Philadelphia, admittance will require a vaccination card or a photo of the same for access to the building**, as of this writing. Between the two programs, a light lunch will be provided for those members who attended the Open House and are going to attend the Town Hall Meeting.

**Parking will be at the Arch Street Civic Center Parking Facility, 1324-42 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.** Vouchers will be available and the cost will be covered by the Grand Lodge. Donations of \$20.00 per ticket would be greatly appreciated and will be collected when the voucher is issued.

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 30, 1732

The composer who became known as the "Father of the Symphony," Bro. Joseph Franz Haydn was born this date in Rahrau, Austria-Hungary. During his career Bro.; Haydn composed more than 120 symphonies, more than 100 works for chamber groups, a dozen operas, and hundreds of other musical works. Bro. Amadeus Mozart sponsored his entry into Freemasonry. Bro. Haydn became a Freemason in lodge Zur Wahrn Entracht in Vienna on February 4, 1785. Bro. Mozart was there to "raise" him.

### MASONIC PRESIDENTS 'RACE' IN BASEBALL CONTEST

With Spring Training underway for our "nation's pastime," a few of our Masonic Presidents of days gone by are receiving a little extra attention.

Since July, 2006, at every home game of the Washington Nationals baseball team, a fourth-inning "Presidents Race" is held. It is a between-innings diversion a chance for a spectator chuckle, and it has become a tradition in District of Columbia baseball.

Until now the contestants were mascot caricatures of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. This year, the big news is that a fifth Past President, Brother Mason William Howard Taft, has been added to the racing contest. This baseball "news" has received much media coverage, from a feature article in the Washington Post to a story in Sports Illustrated.

Although the reporting pokes fun at the 340-pound Taft, the 27<sup>th</sup> President had already made his mark in baseball history. In 1910, he became the first president to throw out the opening pitch at a major league game. He also is credited with launching the "seventh inning stretch", when he stood during one game and all others in the stadium followed his lead.

Three of the five Past Presidents who race at baseball games in Washington were Masons. George Washington, of course, is a well-known Virginia Mason. Teddy Roosevelt received his Masonic degrees in New York and Brother Taft was made a Mason "at sight" in Ohio.

Taft, the only U.S. President who later became a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was also an enthusiastic supporter of the creation of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria.

Little did Taft know that in 2013 he would be "racing" against fellow Masons Washington and T. Roosevelt on many balmy nights in our Nation's Capital.

*Essay Notes, March 2013*

*[Editor's Note: In 2017, Taft was sent to the Spring Training Camp in West Palm Beach, FL to participate in races throughout spring training with non-Mason Racing Presidents Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover, who retired to Florida earlier that winter.]*

*Dues for 2022 were to be paid by December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you still have not paid them, please do so before April 1, 2022. If you want to request dues assistance or in lieu of dues, wish to resign from the lodge, contact your lodge secretary.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Empress Josephine and Freemasonry

As the Freemasonry of the Premier Grand Lodge of England spread in France, the French fraternity stayed within the letter of Anderson's proscription of women, but saw no reason to ban them from their banquets or their religious services. During the 1740's, lodges of adoption began to appear. Attached to a regular (men only) lodge, wives and female relatives of the masons would be admitted to a parallel system of degrees, with a similar moral undertone to the authentic rite of the Lodge. The earliest had a nautical theme.

In 1747, the Chevalier Beauchaine began the *Order of Woodcutters* (Ordre des Fendeurs), with rites supposedly based on an early version of the Carbonari. In 1774, the lodges of adoption came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient de France, and the published regulations show a system of four degrees:

1. Apprentie, or Female Apprentice
2. Compagnonne, or Journeywoman
3. Maitresse, or Mistress
4. Parfaite Maconne, or Perfect Masoness

Further degrees came and went, with a ten-degree system evolving at the end of the Eighteenth century. The idea spread widely in Europe, but never appeared in England. After a brief eclipse during the Reign of Terror at the start of the French Revolution, lodges of adoption flourished, with the Empress Josephine presiding over one in Strasbourg in 1805. As for Lodges of Adoption (women's lodges attached to men's lodges by a ritual called adoption), most weakened under the Empire, except for those of the Empress Josephine, who was a Grand Mistress ("Free Knights" and "Sainte Caroline" Lodges of Adoption, in Paris). In 1898, Lodges of Adoption were banned by the male Masons *as contrary to its constitution*. The Masonic practice of adoption marginally survived into the nineteenth century.

*MPC Magazine, Issue No. 175, January 2022*

### IS THERE A DISTINCTION BETWEEN MASONIC OATH AND MASONIC OBLIGATION?

The "oath" is the "So help me, God" at the end of any solemn promise made with hand upon the Book of the Law. The "obligation" is the substance of the preceding promises. "Oath" is thus symbolical of man's fear of God; "obligation" signifies the promises and agreements made preceding the oath.

*One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSA, 2013*

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Brother, I, too, own a television set, but that does not keep me at home on lodge night. I have never yet had one of the characters on television come off the screen to shake my hand. They have never offered me the warm friendship that my lodge brothers do. They have never handed me a cup of coffee or a doughnut. No! Never!

*Trestleboard Tidbits, MSA, 2008*