



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

December 2022

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)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 03 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Election of Officers/Paul Revere, P.M. of Mass.
- 05 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
Frey Masonic Center, Warminster
- 07 **Grand Lodge Annual Communication**
Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, PA
- 07 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation/Blazing Star
- 07 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 09 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Elections and Installation
- 14 W.K. Bray Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Masonic Children's Home
- 19 Southampton Radiant Star Lodge Stated Mtg.
Program: TBD
- 27 **St. John the Evangelist Day**
- 31 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Installation of Officers

NEWTOWN LODGE HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE DURING THIS TIME OF SHORTAGE

Newtown Lodge is hosting a blood drive on December 19, 2022, 2 pm-7 pm at the Lower Bucks Masonic Hall, Heacock and Edgewood Roads, Woodside, PA 19067.

Please donate if you are healthy and able. If you cannot attend this event, please go to the Red Cross website: www.redcrossblood.org for available locations, dates & times.

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

THE 8TH MASONIC DISTRICT IS CHANGING

In an effort to balance the number of lodges in each district and with the retirements of some District Deputy Grand Masters, R.W. Grand Master Jeffrey M. Wonderling has deemed it appropriate to realign some Lodges and Districts.

Effective December 27, 2022, the 8th Masonic District will consist of the following eight lodges:

Lodge No. 9, meeting at the Frey Masonic Center, 850 Norristown Road, Warminster. Stated Meetings are the 1st Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. (from District D)

Bristol Lodge No. 25, meeting at 219-221 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA Stated Meetings on the Saturday of or before the full moon at 6:00 pm Sept. 25th – Mar. 25th and 7:00 pm March 25th – Sept. 25th.

Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125, meeting at the Frey Masonic Center, 850 Norristown Road, Warminster. Stated Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm

Houseman Lodge No. 211, meeting at 219-221 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA. Stated Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:45 pm. (from District D)

Doylestown Lodge No. 245, meeting at 55 East State Street, Doylestown, PA. Stated Meetings are the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:00 pm.

W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410, meeting at 1 South Penn Street, Hatboro, PA. Stated Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. (Pending the approval of the merger of these Lodges at the Quarterly Communication)

Newtown Lodge No. 427, Edgewood and Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA. Stated Meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Pilgrim Lodge No. 712, meeting at 219-221 Cedar Street, Bristol, PA. Stated Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. (from District B)

Another decision was made to eliminate Districts A and 36 designations in Region 1. With Bro. Marvin Mandel, DDGM-B, retiring, the DDGM of District A, Bro. Joseph Jensen, will become the DDGM of District B.

We welcome the officers and brothers of the lodges newly assigned to our District. Welcome Brethren.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December 29, 1808

Bro. Andrew Johnson, at Raleigh, NC, the 17th President of the U.S. was born. Bro. Johnson was proprietor of a Larens, SC tailor shop before entering politics and becoming Vice President under Abraham Lincoln. On Lincoln's assassination he became President and the first US President to be impeached. He was acquitted March 26, 1868 by the Senate. After his term of office as President he made several unsuccessful attempts to win public office, finally to be elected US Senator from Tennessee. He served from March 4, 1875, until his death at Carter's Station, TN, July 31, 1875. Bro. Johnson was initiated, passed and raised at Greenville Lodge 19 at Greenvale, TN, in 1851.

LOOKING FOR THAT MASONIC GIFT?

If you or your family members are looking for that special holiday gift, these websites offer a variety of traditional and unique Masonic items. Check them out the Pa Grand Lodge Museum Gift Shop: www.Masonicmuseumgifts.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The Winding Stairs

(Note: Not referenced in Pennsylvania ritual)

The winding stairs contain profound symbolism. They are in sets of 3 (symbolic of Deity), 5 (symbolic of man), and 7 (symbolic of time/timelessness). The first three steps represent the officers of the Lodge and therefore the three stages of human life-youth, manhood and old age or, possibly, manhood, old age and transfiguration. They also represent the ways in which we should approach knowledge or information – with a willingness to hear and learn, a willingness to share what we have learned, and the ability to keep confidential those things which should be confidential.

The five steps represent the five human senses and also the five orders of classical architecture. The five senses represent the physical ways in which knowledge and information come into our minds – we hear it, see it, smell it, taste it, or touch it. The five orders of architecture not only review the Greek tradition that architecture is a reflection of man, but we are told that the 3 Greek and not the 2 Roman orders are significant to Masons. This may be a suggestion that, when it comes to knowledge and learning, we are to follow the Greek and not the Roman model. The Greeks believe that knowledge was a goal and good in and of itself. Knowledge was important to have, just because it was knowledge. The Romans only wanted to know something if it had an immediate, practical application.

The seven steps represent the seven “liberal arts”. “Liberal” is not a political term. It comes from the Latin word meaning “free”. The liberal arts were those it was considered important for a free man (as opposed to a slave) to know. Thus, the 3 steps tell us the mental attitudes or equipment necessary for knowledge, the 5 steps show us the means by which knowledge reaches the mind and the 7 steps tell how we should evaluate knowledge, for they are “tools” of thinking.

Further Light...Helpful Information for New Master Masons, Jim Tresner

THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The Feast of St. John the Evangelist is celebrated annually on December 27th and marks the mid-winter.

St. John the Evangelist, along with St. John the Baptist are the two St. John's referred to in Masonic ritual.

John the Evangelist, also referred to as John the Theologian and the Apostle John, lived from approximately 15 A.D. to 100 A.D.

In the Bible, the Gospel of John refers to an unnamed "disciple whom Jesus loved." It is believed the Apostle John wrote the gospel because, in part, the author refers to James and Peter and is not claiming to be either of these two disciples. The writer of this gospel also is writing the Gospel in the light of the Synoptic Gospels which are the gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. This leads to the conclusion it must be the Apostle John. The term Evangelist comes from a Greek word which means "writer of the gospel", it is also in reference to the Latin word evangelium. In most Christian traditions, the Apostle John is John the Evangelist.

John the Evangelist as a historical figure was one of the "pillars" of the Jerusalem Church after Jesus' death. He is believed to be the only one of the Apostles to survive until old age. The other apostles all having been put to death for their faith.

Some believe John, around 95 A.D. was exiled to the island of Patmos. There it is believed he wrote Revelations. This is a matter for debate. Many scholars believe John of Patmos was not John the Evangelist. Beyond the Gospel of John, there are many works attributed to John the Evangelist, most, including the Gospel of John are still debated whether John the Evangelist actually wrote them. Some scholars believe the Gospel of John was not written by anyone named John. This debate has raged since 200 A.D.

For Freemasonry, the Feast of St. John the Evangelist was utilized by many of the early Grand Lodges in England and Scotland as well as individual lodges. The Lodge of Edinburgh was associated with the aisle of St. John the Evangelist in St. Giles Cathedral as far back as the 15th century. The Grand Lodge of All England, which was a masonic body located primarily in the city of York, as well as its predecessor the Ancient Society of Freemasons in the City of York, elected its President and, starting in 1725, it's Grand Master on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. The Antient Grand Lodge of England also elected its Grand Master on the same day. When the Antients and the Moderns merged in 1813 to become the United Grand Lodge of England it occurred on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist.

This article provided by Today in Masonic History at <http://www.masonrytoday.com>.

LULU SHRINE ANNUAL MASONIC BREAKFAST

The 31st Annual breakfast honoring the R.W. Grand Master, Bro. Jeffrey M. Wonderling will be held on January 21, 2023 at 10:00 am. The 8th Masonic District will have a table of 10 for the event. Seats will be on a first come, first reserved basis. If you are interested, the cost is \$15.00/pp. Contact DDGM Bradbury to reserve your seat at the table.