



8th Masonic District

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Lodge No. 9, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125,
Houseman Lodge No. 211, Doylestown Lodge No. 245,
W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410, Newtown Lodge No. 427, Pilgrim Lodge No. 712

Website: www.pa8thmasonic.com; Facebook: PA 8th Masonic District

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

January 2023

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

- 5 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Go Over Programs & Degree Work
- 6 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
Program: How to Conduct a Committee of Inquiry
- 7 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: The New Mason: Who Teaches Him & Examination of a Visitor
- 9 **8th Masonic District Board of Governors Meeting**
- 11 Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting
Program: TBD
- 11 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Freemasonry & the Underground Railroad
- 12 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Appt. of Officers & Conferral of a Third Degree
- 13 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program:
- 18 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated
Program: Welcoming the members of the former Southampton Radiant Star Lodge

LULU SHRINE ANNUAL MASONIC BREAKFAST SEATS AVAILABLE

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.

*On behalf of the 8th Masonic District we
wish you and your family a Safe, Healthy
and Happy New Year!*

LODGE MERGER APPROVED

At the Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication held in Philadelphia on December 7, 2022, the merger of Southampton Radiant Star No. 806 into W.K. Bray Lodge No. 410 was approved. The new lodge will be W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410. Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INCOMING WORSHIPFUL MASTERS FOR 2023

Congratulations to the incoming Worshipful Masters and the other Lodge Officers who were elected and/or appointed into office to serve their lodge. We look forward to working together to further our great district.

Lodge No. 9 - Brother James Rodriguez, Jr.
Bristol Lodge No. 25 – Brother Joseph P. Tolen, P.M.
Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125 – Brother Michael A. Hodges, P.M.
Houseman Lodge No. 211 – Bro. Robert E. Starke, P.M.
Doylestown Lodge No. 245 – Brother Jordan T. Peterson
W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge No. 410 – Brother Timothy Schultz, P.M.
Newtown Lodge No. 427 – Brother John P. Sellani, P.M.
Pilgrim Lodge No. 712 – Brother William Cannon, P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023

February 12 – Special Communication of the Grand Lodge-
Constituting Elizabethtown Day Lodge No. 816

March 4 – Region 1 Officer Training Seminars, Norristown
- WM, SW, JW and SD (Poss. JD w/DDGM approval)

March 18 – Academy of Masonic Knowledge,
Elizabethtown

March 18 – Masonic Temple 150th Anniversary Gala

April 15 – Sectional School of Instruction, Philadelphia

June 10 – Quarterly Communication, Election of Grand
Lodge Officers & 100th Anniversary of DeMolay,
Elizabethtown

June 24 – Rededication of Masonic Temple Cornerstone,
Philadelphia

December 27 – Annual Communication and Installation of
Grand Lodge Officers, Lancaster

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

January 10, 2001

In 2001 US President Bill Clinton unveiled a statue of the late President and Bro. Franklin Delano Roosevelt seated in his wheelchair. The unveiling which took place at the FDR Memorial in Washington, DC ended an emotional six-year campaign led by disability advocacy groups to show the 32nd President as he lived, not as he portrayed himself to the public. The life-size bronze statue shows FDR's upturned face beaming the faith and optimism that inspired the nation during the Great Depression and World War II. It is at ground level. Its small scale, in stark contrast, to the larger than life-size Lincoln and Jefferson monuments nearby, is designed to show the humanity of the man and the personal difficulties he overcame. Robert Graham of California is the sculptor.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Masonic Lodge South of the equator was organized at Cape Town, South Africa, in 1772, then a part of a Dutch colony, and was chartered by the Grand East of the Netherlands. History records that its ceremonies were conducted in either Dutch, French or English, depending on the language of the candidate.

Tied to the Masonic Apron Strings, Stewart M. L. Pollard

“FREE” MASONS

There have been many explanations as to how the term “Free” came to be applied to Masons. Operative Masons frequently were free of local laws. In some cases they were free from taxes. Their actions were not restricted as were the actions of others. They were free to travel from country to country in following their trade or art. Masons who labored on Solomon's Temple, legend tell us, enjoyed special privileges and were free from laws others were required to obey.

In modern days, however, it seems some feel the term means free from attending Lodge, free from calling on the sick free from obligations voluntarily assumed, free from giving aid to the officers, free from taking any part in the work, free from any responsibility free with criticism.

Let us be the kind who *do not wait for free time* in which to attend lodge. Let us not be the kind who believe *Freemasonry is free*. We are free to do as we wish about these things, but *no one can be a Freemason* in the true and fullest sense of the word *unless he purchases that Freemasonry with his time*, with his energy and by use of the faculties wherewith God has blessed him.

3-5-7 Minute Talks on Freemasonry, Elbert Bede

GOOD NEWS...BAD NEWS

Two reports of interest came out at the recent Quarterly Communication. Good news...the Grand Lodge will constitute a new lodge in February; the Elizabethtown Day Lodge No. 816. Bad news...to date, there are 76,001 members in Pennsylvania.

HANDSHAKE

“So here's a hand my trusty friend” – Bro. Robert Burns (1759-1796)

During the latter part of January many lodges hold events celebrating the birthday of Bro. Robbie Burns (25 January 1759). The kilt will be worn, the haggis will be addressed, the pipes will play, and the Immortal Memory of Scotland's favourite son will be toasted with a dram. Invariably the festivities will end with the singing of his great hymn to brotherhood – Auld Lang Syne. It, like so much of his poetry, encapsulates the spirit of Freemasonry that he embraced.

Of all the mythology surrounding our Fraternity, the ‘secret handshake’ must rank in first place. Nothing fuels the fertile fantasies of the conspiracy obsessed public more than the simple handshake exchanged when two Brethren meet. It is usually the first question asked in any interview given to the media by a Mason.

Clasping right hands is an almost universal form of greeting when two people are introduced, or when they meet. It may have originated in ancient times to show that both parties had open and affable intentions and that there was no weapon in the hand. The right hand was favoured to carry a sword, axe or lance in battle.

Shaking hands is a symbol of agreement, often used to show goodwill and sincerity by statesmen, diplomats, and politicians. In simpler times, many deals were closed with a simple handshake.

The so-called ‘secret Masonic handshake’ is part of our inheritance from the stonemasons' guilds of the middle ages from which modern Masonic lodges emerged in the early eighteenth century, and from which we derive much of our terminology and symbolism. In the age of the building of the castles, cathedrals, and abbeys of Europe, when the skilled craftsmen – Freemasons – travelled from building site to building site, it was necessary to have some form of identification. In the medieval period there were no trade school certificates, no college diplomas, or union cards to validate the bearer's training, skill and ability. A system of handshakes, with subtle variations, together with passwords was devised to indicate the skill, experience or proficiency level of the craftsmen. These were kept as ‘trade secrets’ in each level of proven skill and ability. We have retained them as part of our traditional history to honour our ancient operative brethren. They are known as ‘modes of recognition’ and are considered confidential and private matters to be kept within the Fraternity. How anyone can derive a sinister meaning from such a gesture of mutual trust and fraternal affection is beyond reason.

The real significance of the ‘Masonic handshake’ is the sincere bond of friendship – the Mystic Tie – that it symbolizes. Every Freemason is an integral part of this Universal Brotherhood, bound by sincere affection to a Global Fraternity – Brothers without borders. When we form a circle, join hands, and sing Bro. Burns' Auld Lang Syne we celebrate the essence of our gentle Craft.

A Masonic Minute, M.W. Bro. Raymond S.J. Daniels
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Canada in the Province of
Ontario, January 2014