



# 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pa8thmasonic.com); Facebook: PA 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District

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

December 2023

### 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

#### Lower Bucks Masonic Hall

Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

#### Stated Monthly Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:30 pm

Extra Meeting – If Needed, called with due and timely notice.  
(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 7 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 8 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 13 Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 13 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 14 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 18 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**  
**Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge)**
- 20 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers*
- 23 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting  
*Program: Elections and Installations of Officers/If It Isn't Broken; Don't Fix It*
- 27 **Annual Communication-Installation of Grand Lodge Officers, Lancaster, PA**

### 2023 ANNUAL GRAND COMMUNICATION DECEMBER 27, 2023

Join us in Lancaster, PA at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square on December 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for the Open Installation of the Grand Lodge Officers and the incoming R.W. Grand Master, Larry A. Derr. Hear firsthand what the new Grand Master has envisioned for his term.

At 1:00 pm, there will be a Meet and Greet with the Grand Lodge Officers followed by a Special Meeting of Ashara Casiphia Lodge, No. 551, the incoming R.W.G.M.'s Lodge at 2:00 pm.

A Banquet will begin at 5:30 pm for those who had purchased tickets prior.

### THE INCOMING GRAND MASTER AND HIS WIFE INVITE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO ENJOY A PERFORMANCE BY ARTRAGEOUS

The R.W. Grand Master, Larry A. Derr and his wife Shelley invite you to join them on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am for a free event at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. No RSVP is required.

Masonic Families are invited to a special performance of ARTRAGEOUS. Artrageous is a troupe of multi-talented live performance artists, world-class singers and recording artists, highly trained dancers and audience motivators, and veteran musicians fleeing from the high desert of New Mexico. Their high energy performance is a combination of ALL ARTS on ONE STAGE, combined with humor and interaction in a frenzy of movement and color. Please plan to attend this unique entertainment offering!

### 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL MASONIC BREAKFAST HONORING BRO. LARRY A. DERR, R.W.G.M.

LuLu Shriners will be hosting their Annual Masonic Breakfast on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10:00 am at the LuLu Shrine Auditorium, Plymouth Meeting, PA. The breakfast is held to honor the Right Worshipful Grand Master. This is another opportunity to hear the new R.W.G.M.'s vision for the Fraternity.

I will be reserving a table of 10 for members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Masonic District again this year. If you would like a seat at this table, please contact DDGM Bradbury. The cost will be \$15.00 per person on a first come/first served basis. Lodges can reserve their own table for this event, if they desire. Reservation forms will be sent to the Lodge Secretaries.

This is always a great opportunity for fellowship! I hope to see you there.

### PA MASONIC YOUTH FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The PMYF has released their 2024 Scholarship Resource Guide and Application on their website, [pmfy.org](http://pmfy.org) and to Lodge Secretaries. If you have a child, grandchild or great-grandchild seeking higher education, these scholarships can help. They are not only for those attending college, but there are some that provide tools for those going to trade schools. Check them out!

## THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

**December 1, 1941**

The Director of Civilian Defense, New York City Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia signed a formal order creating the Civil Air Patrol, a US Air force Auxiliary. The CAP had a three-part mission; to provide an aerospace education program, a CAP cadet program, and an emergency services program. Bro. LaGuardia was initiated in Garibaldi Lodge 542 in New York City in 1913.

---

### DID YOU KNOW?

The highest lodge in the United States is Corinthian Lodge No. 42 at Kokomo, Colorado.

The name of the stonemasons who worked on King Solomon's Temple were called, "Sons of Light".

Originally the ritual was not called "the ritual"; it was called "the work" because it was the preservation of the activities, practices and customs of the Operative Masons.

The cornerstone of the Statue of Liberty in New York was laid by William A. Brodie, a Scots-American businessman and Grand Master of Masons of New York on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, 1884.

MasonicFinds.com

---

### "OOPS'-HEADLINE FROM A GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

Numerous Grand Masters around the country are communicating with their members with periodic email messages.

Franklin J. Struble, Grand Master of Wisconsin, in one of his weekly issues of "Masonic Update for the Badger State," turns a bad experience into a good Masonic message.

Last night, Wendy and I decided to have some bratwurst for dinner. Well, I cut up the Vidalia onions, put them and the brats in my special brat pan, 2 cans of beer, seasonings and Worcestershire sauce. Put them on the hot grill in the pan. Came out after 15 minutes, put the brats on the grill for finish went in the house, got sidetracked and ruined the meal. Talk about a burnt offering! Wow, I felt like I should apologize to the butcher.

I've seen similar things happen with lodge meetings. Everything is in place for a dynamite meeting then someone gets distracted and Brothers don't get notified. Or maybe, the Brother scheduled to make tonight's presentation lost track of what day it is...a senior moment. Perhaps the lodge is coming out of darkness and we didn't practice an opening before that night and we are all rusty and stumble through things we would normally handle.

Please, give some thought to staying on task better than I did with the brats. I was able to start over and cook some more and we just ate a little later. A poorly executed lodge meeting can turn your Brothers off on coming to meetings. We cannot afford that. We need every Brother in the Lodge we can get.

*Emessay Notes, Masonic Service Assoc., December 2015*

## GLOSSARY: GORMOGON

Gormogon was a short lived 18th century society, believed to have been formed by an expelled Freemason.

The beginnings of Gormogon, in a sense, started at a session of the newly formed Grand Lodge of England. Phillip Wharton who became the Grand Master in 1722 is believed to have founded it. In 1723, at a Masonic session, he tried to make it so the Grand Master could not appoint his Deputy Grand Master, establishing it as an elected position. When the membership refused, the minutes of the session "The late Grand Master went away from the Hall without Ceremony." Which has two interpretations, either Wharton declared the meeting closed and resigned his position without being properly relieved by the new Grand Master or Wharton was relieved of his position as Grand Master.

Regardless of which method, he left the fraternity in 1723. The following year the first mention of Gormogon appeared in the London Daily Post. In the announcement, they claimed it was a society started in China "thousands of years before Adam." It claimed the society was started by Chin-Qua Ky-Po, first emperor of China. The known first emperor of China was Qin Shi Huang and lived between 260 B.C. and 210 B.C. The article also declared Freemasons were not welcome unless they were willing to leave the Masonic fraternity and be "degraded." Later indications helped define "degraded" as burning your apron and white gloves. The same year a letter appeared announcing a prominent Freemason left the fraternity and joined it by being "degraded." It is presumed Wharton was the prominent Freemason mentioned.

Little was heard from the organization until 1728, when an article appeared announcing a meeting. This was a year after Wharton had been charged with High Treason for supporting the King of Spain during the 1727 siege of Gibraltar. Wharton never return to England for fear of being put on trial.

Wharton passed away on May 31st, 1731. After his passing there were no further announcements or articles. Although a poem written by Tim Bobbin which first appeared in 1757 has a dedication to Gormogon and seems to imply Bobbin was a member of the order, although no records remain. There is a medal which still exists in the British Museum.

Gormogon found new life in pop culture. In 2007 the Fox drama Bones did a season long story arch involving it. The first episode of the season titled "The Widow's Son in the Windshield" established a serial killer, they called Gormogon. The killer took an apprentice to teach them the craft of killing individuals involved in fraternal organizations like the Freemasons and Knights of Columbus (the apprentice's first victim was a member of Knights of Columbus). The storyline on Bones had no relation to the actual organization, with the exception both the fictional and the real targeted Freemasonry.

According to Cassell's Dictionary of Slang, Gormogon is a contraction of the words gorgon and dragon. The Oxford English Dictionary describes the etymology as "meaningless: pseudo Chinese."

In the end the objective of Gormogon was meant to hold Freemasonry up for ridicule.

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