



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

February 2024

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Lower Bucks Masonic Hall

Edgewood & Heacock Roads, Woodside, PA 19067

Stated Monthly Meeting - 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm

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

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 1 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: DeMolay Mother's Rose Ceremony
- 2 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting-
Program: History of Masonic Presidents
- 8 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
*Program: Masonic Memorial Service/J. Friend
Lodge Talk*
- 9 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
*Program: Understanding the Basics of a Company's
Financials*
- 14 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting TBD
- 14 Newtown Lodge Stated Mtg
*Program: Honoring Women of the Revolution who
Helped Save America*
- 19 8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 21 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge
Program: Masonic Funeral Service
- 24 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting-District Visitation**
*Program: The Journey Between the Rough and
Perfect Ashlar*

PASSPORT TO FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Brothers Joseph P. Tolen, P.M, Bristol Lodge No. 25 and Daniel A. O'Rourke, Pilgrim Lodge No. 712 who were recognized at the December meeting of the School of Instruction for completing the Passport to Fellowship program. Each was presented with the traveling pin and a certificate.

Do you still have an outstanding Passport to complete? There is still time. Passports now need to be completed within one year of receiving it rather than the original requirement of it being within the calendar year. Don't hesitate. Complete yours now if it was issued in the beginning of last year. This being the beginning of a new Masonic Year, it is a great time to pick one up and start your District journey, if you haven't already. The February School of Instruction is the perfect place to start.

DISTRICT OFFICER VISITATIONS SCHEDULED

Each year the District Deputy Grand Master will make District Visitations where all the Lodge officers are to travel with him. Last year we increased the number of District Lodges to eight. As a result, it was decided that instead of requiring attendance to all of them, the visitations were reduced to four.

In addition to those, the District Deputy Grand Master makes two official visitations to every Lodge in the District, some the same day as the District Officer Visitation. All Master Masons are welcome to join us at any or all of these visitations. It is a great way to experience what other Lodges do, travel with officers and other members of your Lodge and enjoy fellowship with other Brothers in the District. These are also opportunities to complete requirements for the Master Builder and other Grand Lodge Awards as well as our District Passport.

These visitations are listed (and highlighted in bold) in these newsletters as well as being reflected on the District Calendar which can be found on our website, www.pa8thmasonic.com.

...SPEAKING OF AWARDS

Did you know the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania offers three type of awards for members to attain? The awards geared to Masons who are in various stages of their Masonic Journey. They are:

Master Builder Award – to recognize newly made Masons who have worked diligently to engage in the activities of their lodge, their district and the fraternity as a whole.

Master Craftsman Award – for brothers who are are Master Masons for more than one year. The program consists of educational and volunteer requirements that will help both the Lodge and the Brother grow.

Master Pillar Award - the highest achievement recognition possible. In addition to the requirements of the Master Craftsman award the Brother must serve his Lodge as an elected officer and confer all three Masonic Degrees.

Continue your Masonic Journey by taking advantage of one these education and fellowship opportunities. Details and requirement can be found on the Grand Lodge website: <https://pagrandlodge.org/resources/honors-and-awards>.

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

February 12, 1733

Led by philanthropist Bro. James Edward Oglethorpe, the first English colonists arrived in Georgia, at the site of Savannah. Most of the founders had been debtors in London prisons who had been granted 10,000 pounds by Parliament - and considerably more by English Freemasons - to start life anew in the new world. Bro. Oglethorpe, then a Major General in the British Army, had energized the idea. The new colony was named Georgia in honor of the British monarch. In 1735, the Grand Lodge of England issued a warrant for the establishment of King Solomon's Lodge No. 1 at Savannah (now Solomon's No. 1). Bro. Oglethorpe was its first Master and served for nine years. This Lodge was organized by Bro. Oglethorpe under the spreading branches of an oak tree from which a chair was later made and presented to the Lodge on June 21, 1866

THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your group spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. Do you remember me? I'm the person you asked to join. I paid my dues and was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who came to every meeting but nobody paid any attention to me.

I tried to be friendly but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat with different people several times but they did not pay much attention to me.

I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or do something but no one did.

Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting. When I came again no one asked me where I had been.

I guess it did not matter much whether I came or not.

Next time I decided to stay home and watch a good TV show.

When I came back again no one asked where I was the month before.

You might say I'm a good person, fun loving and religious. You know what else I am?

I'm the member who never came back.

Author Unknown

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

The District Winter Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd, 8:00 am-2:00 pm at the Masonic Village at Warmisnter, 850 Norristown Road, Warminster, PA. Appointments are required.

To schedule an appointment go to www.GIVEaPINT.org and use Sponsor Code #7429. All donors must present Valid ID with: First and Last Name, Photo and/or Signature.



HOODWINKED

Steward M.L. Pollard, in his book published in 1983, "The Lighter Side of Masonry", used this story:

Moorehead Kennedy, one of the U.S. diplomats held in the American Embassy in Teheran, Iran, petitioned for the degrees of Freemasonry following his release.

On the day he was to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, he reports that the master of Holland Lodge #8 [sic] in New York City, in a concerned manner, explained that for part of the ceremony it would be necessary for him to be blindfolded. The master was concerned that this might have a psychological effect upon him. Brother Kennedy assured him that it wouldn't; that he had plenty of experience at being blindfolded.

Brother Pollard then provided this "Footnote" to the story: When it came time to be blindfolded, Kennedy said that as a hostage he had always put his own blindfold on, and asked for the privilege of doing it. It was only after receiving all three degrees that he confided that in his hostage experiences, and in his Masonic experiences, he always adjusted the blindfold in such a way the he could see his feet.

Emessay Notes, The Masonic Service Assoc. of North America,
February 2021

WASHINGTON AND LINCOLN

This month we observe the anniversaries of two great Americans. First, that of Lincoln, who probably would have become a Mason had he lived. Ten days later, that of one of the greatest of Masons, George Washington. If we ever are inclined to become discouraged, let us remind ourselves of the burdens these two carried for their country.

Let us think of how Washington, child of luxury, endured privations with his men that winter at Valley Forge; appealing to the Great Artificer of the Universe for strength and wisdom, and standing firm and unyielding while some of his own generals opposed him, and having little help from the loosely-formed government.

Let us think of Old Abe, born in a log cabin, failed in business in his early years, spent seventeen years paying the debts of a worthless partner, engaged to a beautiful woman who died, married a woman who was a burden, failed in his efforts to gain minor political office, sought the U.S. senate twice and was twice defeated, opposed and pilloried by his enemies; yet he lived to be greater than any of his detractors, greater than any who opposed him. He became the greatest American of the day, one of the greatest of all our history.

None of us may hope to reach the heights attained by Washington the Mason and Lincoln the Emancipator, but neither will we have the same trials and afflictions above which to rise. If they surmounted the great obstacles presented to them, surely we can surmount the minor ones presented to us.

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

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2024 DUES?

If you haven't paid your 2024 Dues yet...please do it NOW!