



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

April 2024

8th Masonic District School of Instruction

Lower Bucks Masonic Hall (Newtown Lodge)

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)

APRIL CALENDAR

- 4 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Race Cars
- 5 **Lodge 9 Stated Meeting-DDGM Visitation**
Program: Fencing Demonstration
- 10 Hermann-Humboldt Lodge Stated Meeting TBD
- 10 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Examination of a Visitor/Funeral Service
- 11 **Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting-DDGM Visit**
Program: Presentation of Wm. K. Bellows Service Award for 20 Yr. of Service
- 12 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Appendant Bodies
- 13 **Sectional School of Instruction/Competition**
- 15 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 17 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg
Program: Five I Wills and Will Nots Presentation
- 20 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Masonic Blood & Organ Donor Program

MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO SPEAK AT THE SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION

As we travel around the District it is obvious that attendance is down in most of our Lodges. Whether this is a residual consequence from the COVID years, other Lodge related reasons, or family commitments, Brethren are not coming to Lodge meetings and events which affects the Lodge as a whole. At the April School of Instruction, we will have a presentation by the Membership Engagement Committee which is tasked to develop strategies to attract, introduce and retain members by helping them fully engage within their lodge. This will be particularly helpful to the current and presumptive Lodge Officers. A Lodge with members who are engaged helps to motivate the officers and the other members resulting in a vibrant Lodge. Come and hear how this program could help your Lodge. Even if it you think it is healthy now, it can aid in strengthening it. Come out and be part of the solution!

8TH MASONIC DISTRICT FUNERAL TEAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As a result of the article in the March Newsletter, positive feedback has been received on having Brethren willing to attend Masonic Funerals. There has been an understanding of the need to have this group formed...we just need your support by volunteering.

When a Lodge requests assistance and/or announces a Masonic Funeral, an email will go out to the volunteers with the details. Though encouraged to attend, there is no obligation or commitment that you will attend every one. A good response by the deceased's Brethren at his funeral shows the public our support of the Brother and his family.

If you are usually available during the day, please consider registering to be part of this fraternal service. To volunteer, email DDGM Rich Bradbury, ddgm08@pagrandlodge.org.

DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES?

In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, some things get set aside, only to forget about them. Are your Lodge Dues one of them? If so, you have until the April Stated Meeting of your Lodge to remain a Brother in Good Standing.

In the past months, Brothers have been contacting their Brothers who still have their 2024 Dues outstanding. You have likely received a letter, emails, a phone call or text which you did not respond to. Now is the time to take action...and it couldn't be easier. Dues can be paid by credit card online by logging onto the Grand Lodge website. If you have not yet registered online, you will need your membership number found on the mailing label of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* or by contacting your Lodge Secretary. Of course you can still pay by check but you will need to leave time for the U.S. Mail.

Please take your membership in this great Fraternity seriously and with pride...be sure your dues are paid.

THREE MORE TRAVELING PINS PRESENTED

Brothers Michael Drobac, John P. Sellani, P.M. and Brian E. Fetterolf, all of Newtown Lodge No. 427 completed the Passport to Fellowship program and were recognized at the March District School of Instruction with a certificate of completion and the Traveling pin. Will you be next?

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

April 25, 1792

Highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier became the first person under French law to be executed by the guillotine named after Bro. Joseph Ignace Guillotin. Although named after Bro. Guillotin, rumors that he invented the death machine and was the first to die by it are untrue. As a member of the French Assembly he did argue for a more humane method of meting out capital punishment, and for a machine that would make this possible. Bro. Guillotin was one of the founders of the Grand Orient of France. He was also a member of the famous Parisian Lodge of the Nine Sisters. He died in Paris on March 26. 1814.

THE MASONRY OF SPRING

Men say, 'How wonderful is Spring!'
I say, 'How marvelous is man!'
For Spring no more can gladness bring
To earth than men to mortals can.
The Springtime sun is very good,
But, oh, the smile of brotherhood!
And green the grass upon the slope,
But lovelier some word of hope.

There is a Masonry of earth,
Of sun and blossom, seed and rain;
The only Masonry of worth
Is one that brings the Spring again,
Brings strength to brothers sore beset,
And faith to brothers who forget;
Like sun to blossom, rain to seed,
Are men who come to men in need.

A great fraternity is ours
Who really see and understand,
A brotherhood of hearts and flow'rs
And smiling sun and stretching hand.
We, too, may bloom in our own way,
Make glad some other mortal's day,
As much as any birds that sing
In God's great Masonry of Spring!

Douglas Malloch

PICTURES OF BASEBALL PLAYER (AND MASON) PROVE TO BE VERY VALUABLE DISCOVERY

Ty Cobb was an extraordinary baseball player. He compiled 4,189 hits, 897 steals and a .367 batting average in his 24 year career, and was one of the first to be elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame. He was also a Masonic Brother, Tyrus R. Cobb was a member of Royston Lodge No. 426 (now No. 52) in Royston, GA, joining in 1907 at the age of 21. He joined the Scottish Rite in Detroit in 1912, was elected honorary member of City of Straights Lodge in Detroit, and was a Shriner in Moslem Shrine Temple, Detroit.

The problem for baseball fans is that he played from 1905 until 1928 and any photos or baseball cards of Ty Cobb, known as the Georgia Peach were difficult to find. That is, until a family recently found 7 rare Ty Cobb cards in an old crumpled paper bag in the house of their deceased great-grandfather. The cards likely came from the printing period of 1909-1911 and estimated at \$1 million dollars. *Emessay Notes, 4/16*

THE VALUE OF MASONIC EDUCATION REVEALED IN A 'PARABLE'

R.W. Brother Samuel H. Bennett, a District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida, wrote the following:

Somewhere at sometime an Investigation Committee was examining a candidate for the three degrees of Freemasonry. One of the questions asked was, "What part of Freemasonry interests you the best?" To which the candidate replied, "I like the concept of the moral compass best." The inquiry continued, "What part of the moral compass?" "Well, I guess the parables." The committeemen raised their eyebrows, but persisted, "Would you relate one to us?"

The candidate didn't know what to say, so he ran a bluff.

"Once upon a time a Mason was traveling and fell among thieves, and his cable tow slid up and was choking him during the struggle. He broke free and jumped into his convertible car and drove away furiously. As he was driving his hair got caught in a low branch of a sycamore tree and pulled him from the car and left him hanging there. He hung there many days and nights, and ravens brought him food to eat and water to drink. Then one night, while he was hanging there, his wife came along and cut off his hair, and he fell to the ground. Then hit began to rain 40 days and 40 nights, so they hid in the let of a nearby cave for protection. The next morning they met a wayfaring man who said, 'Come in and take supper with me.' The Mason answered, 'I can't at this time for a man is chasing me.'"

The candidate eventually concluded his long drawn-out story. The members of the committee looked at one another with definite bewilderment. No one felt qualified to question the candidate further, for each member had a deep suspicion about his own knowledge of Freemasonry. So the candidate's petition was approved without further discussion.

We have always been known as "Men of Honor and Distinction." And yet I feel that sometimes we spend more time talking about Freemasonry than we do studying Freemasonry. Even the education of a 50-year member of the Craft does not preclude the need for an on-going program of Masonic Education. I encourage each of you to stretch your cable-tow and attend whenever you're able the "Schools of Instruction", "Masonic Leadership Training," "Open Books," other educational opportunities, and, of course, you're Blue Lodge.

Emessay Notes, .Masonic Service Assoc. of North America

FOR THOSE WHO COME AFTER ME

A newly raised brother attending his first meeting of Blue Lodge saw a rather aged Mason sitting in the Senior Deacon chair. When the lodge was called from labor to refreshment, he approached the chair, and said, "Why are you sitting in that chair? Surely you don't expect to live long enough to 'reach the East'?" Upon which the "old master" replied, "The word is 'sit', brother, and I will tell you a little story.

"My ancestors planted acorns, I doubt if they ever expected to see the oak trees, but they planted them for their children to sit in the shade and enjoy the fruits of their labor. I do likewise in the lodge for those who will come after me. I believe it is time to get back to labor."

A.P. Bernhardt, *Tied to Masonic Apron Strings*, Stewart M.L. Pollard