



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

May 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)

MAY CALENDAR

- 2 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: TBD
- 3 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
Program: Fork and Knife Meeting
- 8 Hermann-Humboldt
Program: TBD
- 8 **Newtown Lodge Stated Mtg-DDGM Visitation**
Program: Defenses of the Craft, Freemasonry, Illuminati and Psychology of Conspiracy Theories
- 9 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: High Twelve International
- 10 **Doylestown Lodge Stated Mtg.-District Visitation**
Program: Freemasonry and Music
- 15 **W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge-DDGM Visitation**
Program: Bring a Brother Out Night/Masonic Trivia
- 18 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
Program: Freemasonry and the American Civil War
- 20 **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 27 Memorial Day Observance

DOYLESTOWN LODGE ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

On Monday, May 27th, Doylestown Lodge will host their Annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast from 7:00 am-Noon. Enjoy an all you can eat pancake and sausage breakfast at the Doylestown Lodge, 55 E. State Street, Doylestown “across and down” from the County Theater). Adults - \$8, Children under 10 yrs.- \$4 and Children under 6 yrs.- Free.

After breakfast, bring your lawn chairs and stay to celebrate Memorial Day with an old fashioned small town parade starting at 10:00 am. Doylestown’s Memorial Day Parade is the oldest in the country. All Master Masons are welcome to march in Masonic dress with the Brothers of the Lodge.

Wishing You a Happy and Safe Memorial Day!

8TH MASONIC “DEGREE TEAM” COMPETED

Congratulations to the Brothers who volunteered to be on the 8th Masonic District Sectional School of Instruction Degree Team on their 3rd Place Finish! The Sectional School was held at Concord Lodge No. 625, Concordville.

The District Team was made up of Brothers from Lodge No. 9, Bristol Lodge No. 25, Hermann-Humboldt Lodge No. 125, Doylestown Lodge No. 245, Newtown Lodge No. 427 and Pilgrim Lodge No. 712.

The Degree Team competed at the Region 1 Sectional School of Instruction against the other six Districts in the region. The competition was based on the ritual of the new Entered Apprentice/Fellowcraft Degree. Each team was judged by the Ritualistic Instructors as they exemplified those portions of the Degrees that were modified this year by R.W. Grand Master Larry A. Derr. No corrections nor instruction was provided during the competition.

On behalf of the District, thank you to our team for taking time from your schedules to practice and compete; it definitely paid off. You did a great job. Thanks also to Bro. Kirk Borowski, P.M., Principal, for his work in preparing the team.

The team rankings were: First Place - District B/C and Second Place - District 40, Third Place – District 8, Fourth Place – District 5, Fifth Place – District 6, Sixth Place – District D.

ANOTHER TRAVELING PIN IS PRESENTED

Brother James Fickenscher, W.M. of Lodge 9 is the latest Brother to complete the Passport to Fellowship program and was recognized at the April District School of Instruction with a certificate of completion and the Traveling pin. Come on and join the Traveling Club!

WHY DOES THE MASTER WEAR A HAT?

A contemporary relic of the ancient custom whereby the King remained covered under all circumstances while his subjects were obliged to uncover in his presence. Apparently the custom which began in English lodges is not common there now; but in American lodges a Master wears a hat as a sign and symbol of his authority.

One Hundred One Questions About Freemasonry, MSA

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

May 7, 1789

The 1st Inaugural Ball for America's first President, Bro. George Washington, and his wife was held in New York City.

May 12, 1937

Bro. George VI (Bro. Albert Windsor) was crowned King of England, following the abdication of his brother Bro. Edward VIII. His coronation was the first ceremony of this magnitude to be televised. The actions of Bro. and King George VI and the royal family during World War II were perceived as courageous by their English subjects, George VI remained king until his death in 1952: He was initiated in Naval Lodge No. 2612 in December, 1919. In 1922 he was appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England, and in 1924, Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex. In 1936, he became Grand Master Mason of Scotland and affiliated with the lodge of Glamis, Scotland. He was a very active Mason in his life. Said he of Masonry: "The world today does require spiritual and moral regeneration. I have no doubt, after many years as a member of our Order, that Freemasonry can play a most important part in this vital need."

THE TWENTY-FOUR INCH GAUGE

In some Jurisdictions Freemasons are taught that the Twenty-four Inch Gauge is divided into three *equal* parts. While the gauge of the operative mason always has been and always will be divided into three equal parts, I believe our Symbolism is better when we merely divide our Symbolic Gauge into three parts, without an arbitrary measurement for each part. Masons should themselves be able to divide their time in a way that becomes Masons. Certainly they should not be limited in the time given to the service of God and a distressed worthy Brother.

A point that may have escaped many Freemasons is that our explanation of the Twenty-four Inch Gauge leaves no waste time. Even the time given to healthful refreshment and sleep is not wasted, for it better prepares the Mason for his service to God and to his Brethren, as well as for his usual vocations. Rather than idle time, there are not hours enough in the day for the Mason who seriously considers the Lessons and Symbols which have been presented to him and gives to them the time required to understand and exemplify them.

If the Twenty-four Inch Gauge teaches anything, it teaches that the Freemason's day should be a *full* one, with no time frittered away to no purpose. Most of us need to give the Symbolism of the Twenty-four Inch Gauge more serious consideration.

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

HARMONY PREVAILS

One of the regulations of Massachusetts' Bristol Lodge, which was established in 1797 was:

"No liquor shall be brought into the lodge, except by order of the Master. Fighting is forbidden during the opening, or within 30 minutes of the closing of the lodge."

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

WHAT DO WE DO IN JULY AND AUGUST?

At a recent Lodge Officer Training Workshop, a Brother questioned, the wording, "Calling off from Labor" in the summer. Often we also hear some Brethren refer to "Going Dark" during those months. So how should we reference this action in our jurisdiction?

Calling Off: A technical term in Freemasonry which signifies the temporary suspension of labor in a Lodge without passing through the formal ceremony of closing. The full form of the expression is to *call from labor to refreshment*, and it took its rise from the former custom of dividing the time spent in the Lodge between the work of Freemasonry and the moderate enjoyment of the banquet.

Encyclopedia of Freemasonry Part 1, Albert G. Mackey & H. L. Haywood

Go Dark: "While a few lodges in our jurisdiction may elect not to meet in, perhaps, January and February when travel may be more difficult, most lodges choose to take July and August off. Note that they do not "go dark" in the summer, as many brothers are fond of saying. A lodge goes dark when they surrender their charter and shutter their lodge. They also don't "go gray" as has recently become a popular expression. They just simply are not holding stated communications in July and August."

Connecticut Freemasons, June 2022

Research has shown the term "Go Dark" is always used when a Masonic Lodge that has ceased to exist as a Lodge by permanently closing its doors. However, "Go Dark" or "Calling Off from Labor" are often synonymous when it means that a Lodge closed or stopped holding meetings for a certified period with the approval of the members. An example being in some farming communities which has a lot of Masons as farmers, Lodges "go dark" to allow the farmers to tend to their crops. The Lodges go dark until the Fall when crops have been harvested.

To find out how we in Pennsylvania should refer to that time, we only need to look at our books of Masonic Law. The *Ahiman Rezon*, Article 17.12 states, "A Lodge must assemble for labor at least once in every month; but the Stated Meetings in the months of July and August *may be omitted* by vote of the Lodge." The *Digest of Decisions* Articles 55.8 and 55.9 also references not having meetings in July and August as "*agreed to omit*" and "*voted to omit*". The *Secretary's Manual* provides Form No. 281 to be used when recording the minutes, "It was, on motion, *RESOLVED*, That the Stated Meeting in July (or the Stated Meeting in August, or the Stated Meetings in July and August *be omitted*." Further, "The resolution to *omit* can be adopted only at the Stated Meeting immediately preceding the *omission*."

So as a Pennsylvania Freemason we can now *omit* the use of "go dark" and "call off from labor" from our Masonic vocabulary when we refer to not having Stated Meetings in the summer.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to Lodge No. 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the Members of it.

George Washington