



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

December 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

(No Stated Meetings in July and August)

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 4** **Quarterly Communication, Philadelphia, PA**
- 5 Pilgrim Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Installations of Officers
- 6 Lodge 9 Stated Meeting
 Program: Election & Installations of Officers
- 11 Hermann-Humboldt Stated Meeting
- 11 Newtown Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Installations of Officers
- 12 Houseman Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Installations of Officers
- 13 Doylestown Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Installations of Officers
- 14 Bristol Lodge Stated Meeting
 Program: Installations of Officers
- 16** **8th Masonic District School of Instruction**
- 18 W.K. Bray-Southampton Lodge Stated Mtg.
 Program: Installations of Officers

A LETTER TO MY BROTHERS

On December 27th my term as District Deputy Grand Master for the 8th Masonic District will conclude, ending this leg of my Masonic journey. At a time like this I am reminded of the story of a man who asked his friend, "What is more important...the journey or the destination?" The other man stated, "It's the company". My destination is in sight, namely reaching the ten year maximum DDGM term. Other destinations included: supporting our Lodges; strengthening Lodges; supporting the Grand Masters' initiatives and Masonic Charities; and making the District one of the best in the jurisdiction. The journey took the form of enforcing Masonic Law, education, ritual instruction and proficiency, empowering the Officers to lead their Lodges, attending events, traveling to other Lodges and Jurisdictions, fund raising, counseling and fellowship. From my perspective I agree with the second man in believing both are important and provided positive experiences and successes, however; it is indeed the "company" that is most important.

The people we meet during a journey can make the difference between it being successful and a positive experience or hinder you from reaching your destination. I had the opportunity to meet and work with many good and dedicated Freemasons, both in our District and out, in my journey. They assisted me in implementing the Grand Master's initiatives and working with me as we dealt with various Lodge issues, discussed the state of the Fraternity and while enjoying Masonic fellowship. Many have become friends and I appreciated the support, kind words and in some cases criticism that I received; all of which helped me do my job and accomplish my goals. I would be remiss if I did not include my wife in the important 'company' during my journey. Her support, understanding and attendance at various functions was greatly appreciated.

During my tenure I tried to serve the Grand Lodge, District, Lodges and Members to the best of my ability in a collegial and responsive way as we did the work needed. I know I have learned from many of you during my term and I can only hope that I have made a positive impact on your Masonic journey. I would ask that those Brothers who are called to be part of the line advancing to the East remember that just like the adage, "you get out of the Fraternity what you put into it"; your Lodge will only benefit from the level of commitment you provide. Do not just take the position for the jewel and apron, rather, do it for the love of your Lodge and Freemasonry.

I know that the District will be in excellent hands with Brother John P. Sellani, District Deputy Grand Master-Select becoming the twenty-seventh District Deputy Grand Master of the 8th Masonic District on St. John's Day. Brother Sellani is well qualified for his new position and I know that he will serve the District well. I know you, the Members of the District, will provide him the level of support you have shown me. Best wishes Brother John.

I thank you all, again, for all you do for Freemasonry. I wish you all well as you continue on your own Masonic journey.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Rich Bradbury

*Wishing you all a Happy and Safe
Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year!*

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

December 1, 1945

Bro. Burl Ives made his concert singing debut at Town Hall in New York City. Bro. Ives would go on to become a beloved cultural icon, well known as the voice of Frosty the Snowman in the animated TV production of "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer." The inscription on the Burl Ives monument in Mound Cemetery, Jasper County, Illinois, best summarizes the life and accomplishments of this great man and Mason. It reads: "One of America's legendary entertainers whose career spanned more than a half century crossing all international borders". Equally at home before the royalty of Europe and the farm folk of Midwestern U.S.A. He was a performer whose unique style adapted to all media Literary, Radio, Movies, Recordings, Night Clubs Broadway and Concert Stage. The passing of Bro. Ives was marked by a memorial service held, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of California on May 4, 1995, at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Los Angeles. Also, following graveside services, the officers of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Masons of the State of Illinois assembled on May 15, 1995, at Mound Cemetery to conduct a memorial service of the Craft for Brother Ives as a courtesy to his home Lodge, Magnolia-La Cumbre No. 242, of Santa Barbara, California. The remains of Bro. Ives were then placed in the grave.

THE LODGE WHERE I BELONG

Though my Lodge may lack the splendor
Of a temple or a shrine,
Or possess the gaudy fixtures
That are classed as superfine –
Yet the fellowship it offers
Is in price beyond compare
and I wouldn't trade it ever
For life's treasures-rich or rare!

The hand-clasp firm, the word of cheer,
Oh, such meanings they impart;
The mystic ties of brotherhood
That links us, heart to heart!
You'd really have to travel far,
For the friendships quite so strong
As those one always find right here
In the lodge where I belong.

When all my earthly travels end,
And at last I'm borne to rest
Where mortal hands no longer toil
And I cease life's endless quest
Why there's nothing I'd like better –
Should I join the heavenly throng –
Than to meet with all the brothers
Of the Lodge where I belong!

Arthur R. Herrman

ARE PEOPLE ASKING WHAT IS ON YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST?

Find a large selection of Masonic clothing, books and gifts on the Library and Museum Gift Shop website at <https://masonicmuseumgifts.com> that you can suggest to your gift givers.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Tun Tavern

The tavern was erected in 1686 at the intersection of King (later called Water) Street and Tun Alley by settler Joshua Carpenter, brother of Samuel Carpenter, a Quaker merchant who made a fortune trading in Barbados. Joshua Carpenter built the Tun on the carriageway that led to Carpenter's Wharf. Tun Tavern was named for the Old English word "tun", meaning a barrel or keg of beer. In the 1740s, a restaurant appellation, "Peggy Mullan's Red Hot Beef Steak Club" was added to the name of the tavern.

Tun Tavern hosted the first meetings of a number of organizations. In 1720, the first meetings of the St. George's Society (a charitable organization founded to assist needy Englishmen arriving in the new colony) were held there. In 1732, the tavern hosted the first meetings of St. John's Lodge No. 1 and the birthplace of the PA Grand Lodge. In 1747 the Tun Tavern became the founding place of the St. Andrew's Society, which like the St. George's Society, helped newly arrived Scots.

Tun Tavern was a significant meeting place for other groups and individuals. In 1756, Benjamin Franklin used the inn as a recruitment gathering point for the Pennsylvania militia as it prepared to fight Indian uprisings. In October 1775 a seven man Naval Committee including John Adams appointed by Congress met at the tavern and crafted articles of war to build America's first naval fleet. It called for two battalions of Marines able to fight for independence at sea and on shore. The resolution was approved on November 10, 1775, officially forming the Continental Marines.

As the first order of business, Congress appointed Samuel Nicholas as Commandant of the newly formed Marines. Tun Tavern's owner and popular patriot, Robert Mullan, became his first captain and recruiter. They began signing up volunteers and were ready for action by early 1776. These first Marine recruiters were Freemasons, as was Nicholas's grandfather.

Today, The Tun Legacy Foundation is working to rebuild and reestablish The Tun as it was, a functioning mariner's gathering place reminiscent of colonial Philadelphia, serving period-influenced refreshments, food, and entertainment and offering an educational experience through exhibits, historical documents, and special events. The new site is approx. 250 yards from the original location. For more information visit thetun.org.

LOST AND FOUND

The friend of a Brother in the District reports finding a Masonic pendant on Hertzog Blvd. in King of Prussia this past spring. If any Brother is aware of someone who lost a pendant in that area, contact ddgm08@pagrandlodge.org with a description.

WERE THERE THE SAME THREE DEGREES IN THE LODGES OF 1717 AS AT PRESENT?

No. At first there seems to have been a single degree and a Master's part. Within about ten years there emerged three degrees or ceremonies of advancement and, finally, a fourth part which became the Royal Arch Degree.

Facts for Freemasons, Compiled by Harold V.B. Voorhis