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

John P. Sellani Sr. — District Deputy Grand Master

March 2026

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)

March Calendar

5 Pilgrim Lodge No. 712 Stated Meeting: *Program: USA Theme Bingo Night* ***(District Officer Visitation All WM, SW, JW to attend)***

6 Lodge No. 9 Stated Meeting: *Program: Masonic Youth Night*

7 Monte -Carlo Night-Allentown Scottish Rite Cathedral

11 Newtown Lodge No. 427 Stated Meeting: *Program: "Platos Allegory of the Cave and Masonic Initiation" Bro. Christian Stebbins-Bev-Riverside Lodge*

11 Hermann-Humboldt No.125 Stated Meeting: `
Program: Shadow Lodge with Lodge No. 9 ***(District Officer Visitation All WM, SW, JW to attend)***

12 Houseman Lodge No.211 Stated Meeting: *Program Junior Warden Night*

13 Doylestown Lodge No. 245 Stated Meeting: *Program: Brothers George Washington and Marquis de Lafayette*

16 ***8th Masonic District School of Instruction***

18 W.K. Bray Southampton Lodge No. 410 Stated Meeting: *Program: The MM Charge* and meaning ***District Visitation-all welcome to accompany me for MBA or Passport completion***

28 Bristol Lodge No.25 Stated Meeting: *Program Gun Safety-Chief and Bro. Robert Juno*

MASTER BUILDER AWARD

To attain the *Master Builders Award* a newly made Master Mason must satisfactorily complete some online learning programs provided through the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and fulfill mandatory and voluntary requirements within one year of being raised. These requirements help the new brother to better understand and appreciate what Freemasonry is all about. The majority of past recipients in this district have gone on to fill chairs and become the Worshipful Master of their respective lodge. All newly made Master Masons are strongly encouraged to pursue this award; it will be well worth their time and effort! If you are a Master Mason who has been in the Fraternity for a period of time longer than one year, you would be eligible to participate in the *Master Craftsman Award* and receive recognition from the R. W. Grand Master. This program mirrors the Master Builder online education module but in this, the brother must complete all of the other items that were electives for the Master Builder Award. If you are interested, contact the Lodge Secretary for the forms.

The 8th Masonic District School of Instruction

The 8th Masonic District School of Instruction (SOI) is scheduled to be held on the third Monday of each month (with exception to July and August) at 7:30 p.m. at Lower Bucks Masonic Hall

Our next SOI will be on March 16, 2026. Come and experience the work of the evening as we prepare for our Regional competition.
Kevin J. Matthews, Regional Instructor for Region 1 will be in attendance in March

All Masons are welcome to attend and learn more about our rituals and the Masonic craft. Remember to bring your Candidates so they may participate in District 8 Mentoring.

DID YOU KNOW?

Empress Josephine and Freemasonry

As the Freemasonry of the Premier Grand Lodge of England spread in France, the French fraternity stayed within the letter of Anderson's proscription of women, but saw no reason to ban them from their banquets or their religious services. During the 1740's, lodges of adoption began to appear. Attached to a regular (men only) lodge, wives and female relatives of the masons would be admitted to a parallel system of degrees, with a similar moral undertone to the authentic rite of the Lodge. The earliest had a nautical theme.

In 1747, the Chevalier Beauchaine began the Order of Woodcutters (Ordre des Fendeurs), with rites supposedly based on an early version of the Carbonari. In 1774, the lodges of adoption came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Orient de France, and the published regulations show a system of four degrees:

1. Apprentie, or Female Apprentice
2. Compagnonne, or Journeywoman
3. Maitresse, or Mistress
4. Parfaite Maconne, or Perfect Masoness

Further degrees came and went, with a ten-degree system evolving at the end of the Eighteenth century. The idea spread widely in Europe, but never appeared in England. After a brief eclipse during the Reign of Terror at the start of the French Revolution, lodges of adoption flourished, with the Empress Josephine presiding over one in Strasbourg in 1805. As for Lodges of Adoption (women's lodges attached to men's lodges by a ritual called adoption), most weakened under the Empire, except for those of the Empress Josephine, who was a Grand Mistress ("Free Knights" and "Sainte Caroline" Lodges of Adoption, in Paris). In 1898, Lodges of Adoption were banned by the male Masons as contrary to its constitution. The Masonic practice of adoption marginally survived into the nineteenth century.

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THE NATURE OF FREEMASONRY

We must ask ourselves what our young people are seeking and how we can provide it. We must also ask how attractive have we made our Freemasonry to the young men of DeMolay by our precept and example. Imagery is an important tool in teaching those who are observing us and our actions. Our young people represent a valuable addition to our Fraternity. While we may be the present, our youth are the future of Freemasonry and salvation of our country.

Trestleboard Tidbits, Compiled by Alphonse Cerza, MSA, 1962

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

March 30, 1732

The composer who became known as the "Father of the Symphony," Bro. Joseph Franz Haydn was born this date in Rahrau, Austria-Hungary.

During his career Bro. Haydn composed more than 120 symphonies, more than 100 works for chamber groups, a dozen operas, and hundreds of other musical works.

Bro. Amadeus Mozart sponsored his entry into Freemasonry. Bro. Haydn became a Freemason in lodge Zur Wahrn Entracht in Vienna on February 4, 1785. Bro. Mozart was there to "raise" him.

KIRKS KORNER

Role of the Lodge Steward

A Masonic Steward is an appointed officer in the Masonic Lodge, typically serving as the entry-level position for new members looking to progress through the "line" of officers. Their primary duties are divided between ceremonial work and hospitality.

Primary Responsibilities

Hospitality & Dining: Stewards are primarily responsible for the Festive Board (the meal before or following a meeting). This includes setting tables, serving refreshments, and ensuring the comfort of members and visitors.

Preparation of Candidates: In many jurisdictions, Stewards assist in preparing candidates for their initiation or degrees.

Assisting Deacons: They often serve as assistants to the Senior and Junior Deacons during ritual work and degree ceremonies.

Logistics: They may handle tasks such as selling raffle tickets for charity, collecting dinner fees, or tidying the Lodge after meetings.

Symbolism and Structure

Jewel of Office: The Steward's symbol is the Cornucopia (Horn of Plenty), representing abundance and the provision of nourishment.

Senior vs. Junior: Lodges typically have a Senior Steward and a Junior Steward, and they often carry rods during formal processions.

Supervision: Stewards usually work under the direction of the Junior Warden, who is traditionally in charge of the Lodge during "refreshment" (non-meeting time)