ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

SEPTEMBER 2017 ISSUE

District Picnic Held on August 6th



The 14th District Masonic Officers Association welcomed the brethren and their families to the Annual District Picnic which was held on a most delightful Sunday afternoon on August 6th. This year's picnic was held at Blacklick Woods Metro Park located at 6975 E. Livingston Ave. in the Butternut shelter house. The picnic continues to be a great success as the attendance increased again this year. The radiant sunshine allowed for games of corn hole and football, but many took advantage of the beautiful grounds of the park. Everyone enjoyed a fine buffet of hamburgers, hot dogs and many exquisite dishes that were homemade, as well as delectable deserts. The most pleasant aspect of the afternoon was the fellowship that was had amongst the brethren of the 14th district and their families. Keep a look out for details on next year's cookout in the Ashlar and plan on bringing the whole family. You are guaranteed to have a great time.



14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE ASHLAR:

September 10, 2017

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WB Brad Love
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Editor
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14thMasonicDistrict.org

September 2nd Social Media Class Has Been Cancelled



In the last issue of the Ashlar, an ad was placed for an upcoming how-to class on social media and website building to be held at Grove City Lodge on Sept. 2nd, 2017. This class has been CANCELED for the time being. We plan to reschedule the class for a date later this year. If you are interested in learning about social media and how it can help your lodge membership, please express your interest to any of the DEOs. If you consider yourself tech savvy and are interested in teaching a short class on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, Instagram, or website construction, please send an email to william.mane@gmail.com letting me know. Please look for updates on when the new class date will be.

Worthington Market Day Fundraiser

The Officers of the 14th District will again be selling our now famous fried bologna sandwiches at the Old Worthington Market Day on Saturday, September 23rd from 9:00AM – 4:30PM. As in years past, our booth will be in front of the former New England Lodge No. 4 building on High St. in downtown Worthington. The Buckeyes will be hosting UNLV sometime that afternoon, however, the time for the kickoff has not been published at the time of this writing so you will want to plan to stock up on bologna sandwiches early. So come out and support your district and volunteer to man the booth or just stop by for a delicious sandwich. Assistance is especially needed during the early morning setup and later in the afternoon tearing down the booth. If you are interested and available to help, just show up and throw on an apron. Or give any of the district officers a call. We will also be offering what is left of our maple syrup, which is certain to sell out fast.



District Quarterly Meeting Planned

Thursday, September 28th, is the date for the next District Quarterly Meeting. This will be held at Hiram Lodge No. 18 located at 51 W. William St. in Delaware at 7:00PM. Refreshments will be served at 6:00PM preceding the meeting. As all the lodges in the district will be back in full swing by this time, come and get reacquainted with all the news and events happening within our district. We strongly encourage that each lodge is represented so all information can be returned to their respective home lodge. Please plan on attending and sharing any events that your lodge has planned. Business casual is appropriate for the dinner and meeting.

208th Annual Communication Scheduled

October 20th and 21st are the dates scheduled for this year's session for the Grand Lodge Annual Communication that will be held at the Dayton Masonic Center in Dayton. Hotel reservations can be made at a discount prior to September 15th at one of the following two hotels: The Marriott at the University of Dayton (Grand Lodge Headquarter hotel) and the Courtyard by Marriott Dayton – University of Dayton. There are no restaurants in close proximity to the Dayton Masonic Center so if you plan to make reservations at a Grand Lodge luncheon or dinner, please remember that reservations must be made by October 6th. Your lodge secretary has all the information that you will need for the event. Do not forget that Masters and Wardens are members of Grand Lodge and each lodge must be represented. DO NOT FORGET YOUR DUES CARD as it will be requested at check in and for entry into the proceedings.

Dates

9/23 Old Worthington Market Day 9:00AM to 4:30PM

9/28 14th District Quarterly Meeting at Hiram Lodge 7:00PM

10/1 14th District to Serve at Faith Mission at 6:30PM

10/20 – 10/21 Grand Lodge Communication in Dayton

11/4 Valley of Columbus AASR Fall Reunion

12/9 PM Convocation

12/9 14th District Annual Meeting – Reynoldsburg Lodge at 1:00PM

Grand Masters Challenge for One Day Class Graduates

Brother Douglas N. Kaylor, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio, has issued a challenge to all members of the 2017 Grand Master's 300th Anniversary Class to learn the short form Master Mason examination and return it from memory in open lodge by September 29th, 2017. Those Brethren who do so will earn a commemorative Grand Master's challenge coin. Like any proficiency examination, the successful examination must be recorded in the minutes of the lodge meeting by the secretary. Then, once the challenge coins have been ordered, these challenge coins will be presented to the individual brother by a District Deputy of District Education Officers sometime during the 2017-2018 masonic year. For those lodges that have brothers willing to take on this challenge, perhaps you could coordinate the delivery of the challenge coins at your Lodge Awards Night.



VA Hospital Visitations to resume in September

Visitations to the VA Hospital in Chillicothe will resume on Sunday, September 10th, 2017. On this date, the following lodges are assigned to participate with the first lodge listed as the designated organizer for the day: Triangle Lodge No. 748, Blendon Lodge No. 339, York Lodge No. 563 and New England Lodge No. 4.



Reaching Out to Your Brothers

WB Adam Michael – Secretary of York Lodge No. 563

Brethren, I write this article to you for your sincere consideration. There are many aspects to Freemasonry that captivate me, as I am sure there are many that intrigue you. In my opinion, one of the most rewarding and self-improving experiences for me is conversing with my fellow brethren. As secretary of my home lodge, I get to do this frequently with our current membership. A bond has been pre-established as brothers who have been similarly obligated at the altar. So our discussions include a multitude of topics including the lodge itself, Freemasonry in general and the history and future of the craft, as well as just speaking about our daily lives and routines. Keeping these bonds with my fellow brothers strong is very important to me and which assists me with the pursuit of perfecting my ashlar. The gratitude for the conversations had that is reciprocated helps me in this process. You too will become a better mason if you take the time to reach out to your fellow brothers and I would urge you to give this testimony your earnest contemplation.

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that exemplifies many virtues and morals through allegorical lessons. One of our mottos, one which I am certain you have heard before, is that we "make good men better." Now, I firmly believe that this maxim is not solely intended for those that have been made a Master Mason to be enabled to make others better through our lessons and practices, but that this statement also refers to improving ourselves, as well. We should remember to continue the use of our masonic education in our daily lives in order for our individuality to blossom and thrive.

While I regard the above statement to be true, I also believe that our lodges are full of great men and exemplary masons. After my tenure in the east, my lodge, so humbly, elected me into the position of secretary and I am currently serving my fourth year wearing the quilled apron. My experiences in this position are many; however I will not elaborate on them at this time. But I will share with you that, upon the completion of my year in the oriental chair, I wanted to stay active in my lodge. Were there other options afforded to me at that time? Sure. But I still possessed a need to "make myself better." And I have found this to be possible through the many members of my lodge.

Like your lodge, the entire membership of my lodge does not come to each meeting, but only a fraction. However, each year as secretary, I make a point to speak with as many members as I can throughout the term. There are conversations with men I would have never had the opportunity to speak with if I did not hold the position I do. These discussions can last from mere seconds to literally hours, which I am grateful for the dialogue on a variety of topics, but for the most part, Freemasonry.

Through my years as a mason, membership numbers have declined. There have been many programs developed to help promote our great fraternity and attract new members. I have heard spots on the radio and have seen billboards erected with enticing slogans. There have been opportunities for men to become a mason in one day.

While these endeavors are beneficial to our great fraternity, I would advocate for the pursuit of our currently enlisted members, as well. Not only for the newest members, but for those that have served as pillars of our lodge in the past and have either created or continued the traditions in our lodges. Those members that, perhaps, are unable to attend lodge due to health reasons or just cannot drive themselves to one of our meetings. My brethren, these members are out there! Your lodge has many brothers who cherish our fraternity and the fellowship that it provides as much as you. I would urge you to speak with your secretary and request of him a list of telephone numbers for members whom you have not seen or might not have even met before. Schedule an hour out of your afternoon to give these members a telephone call, *not an email*. Speak with each as a brother would and discuss lodge events. Speak with them on their well-being and their thoughts on Freemasonry and the history of your lodge. Offer them a ride to one of your meetings and explain to them how tremendous it would be to meet them in person. Or, just have a genuine conversation. You will find that some might not be as interested to talk with you as you are with them, but others will be extremely delighted to hear from you. Who knows, perhaps these men have sons or grandsons that need that initial push to walk through the door of our lodges. But, I do know that you will reinvigorate the essence of our fraternity.

We, as Freemasons, are to "make good men better." This message is clear and to the point. But good men, no, I would say great men are already in the ranks of our lodges. We should not let these brothers escape our memories. We must never forget our history and our past when making ourselves better men. This writing is not a challenge, but merely a request for your consideration.

14th District to Serve at the Faith Mission

On Sunday, October 1st, the 14th District Masonic Officers Association will be assisting the Faith Mission by serving meals for those in need of assistance. We will be meeting at 6:00PM at the Faith Mission located at 245 N. Grant Ave. in downtown Columbus. The Faith Mission is part of the Lutheran Social Services Network of Hope and generously serves meals indiscriminately, no matter what the individual's circumstances are. There services also include assistance with basic food and shelter needs while also providing resources and support to improve lives.



Space is limited, so we are only looking for 4 individuals to assist us this year with this most worthwhile effort. Please contact Adam Michael at adasm563@yahoo.com if you would like to help.

The Old Past Master
THE BETTER WAY

"SEE that young chap over there? Yes, with the red hair and the glasses! Had quite a time with him this evening! He is red-headed inside as well as out, and he loves Masonry so much he wants to fight for her all the time! "What was his trouble? Oh, he wanted to prefer charges against a brother and have a Masonic trial and purge the fraternity of a rascal and be a sort of combination Sir Galahad, Joan of Arc and Carrie Nation to this lodge.

"It seems he has inside information about some brother of this lodge who has done several things a Mason ought not to do. Sold some goods by misrepresentation, worked his women employees longer than the law allows and threatened to fire them if they told, kited a check or two and was warned by the bank … I really don't know all his high crimes and misdemeanors!

"But it's all fixed now. Red head is calmed down. There will be no preferring of charges just yet!

"Glad of it! I should say I am glad of it. Don't get the idea in your head that preferring charges and holding a Masonic trial are matters to be joyful about! At times … sad times they are … it is necessary to do it. But there are many more times when it could be done, but it is far, far wiser not to do it.

"I had to agree with him, of course, that our erring brother was no ornament to the lodge, if what was said of him is true. I admitted freely that a man like that should never have been permitted to be a Mason. But I couldn't see that throwing him out would do the fraternity any good and it would certainly not do him any good. And it would do us a great deal of harm, both as a lodge and individually.

"You don't see why? Well, let me tell you. Ever since Cain wanted to know whether he was his brother's keeper, men have felt that they were their brother's keepers. And so, indeed, we should be. But 'keeper' doesn't mean prosecutor. When you 'keep' your brother, you keep him from harm, you keep him from evil, you keep him from danger. You do not throw him under the wheels, push him out into the cold, do him an injury. When you 'keep' your brother, it is the man, not his conscience, you keep.

"The Jesuits showed the world what keeping a man's conscience for him might do; it resulted in the Inquisition. Masonry has no business following in such footsteps. We do not, and should not, try to keep our brother's conscience. We should, indeed, aid him, help him; we should try to show him the right if he is wrong, we should, indeed, 'in the most friendly manner, remind him of his faults.' But it is a far cry from this to holding a trial and kicking him out.

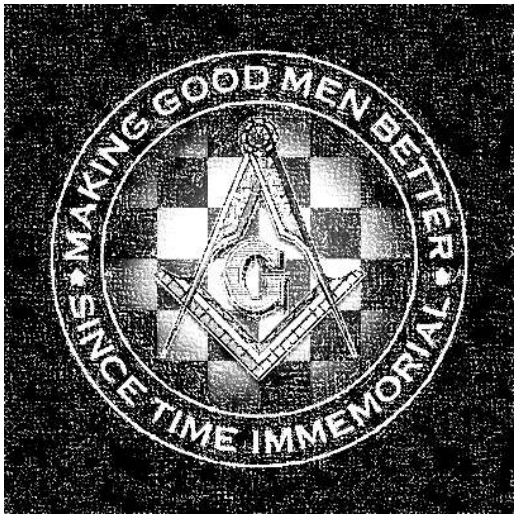
"When is a Masonic trial right? Well, to my mind, only when the man has done something which, unregarded and unpunished by his lodge, will hurt Masonry more than the scandal of getting rid of him will hurt it. Now this brother has not as yet been disgraced in society. He has not been arrested, tried or convicted. He may, or may not be guilty of those things with which the red head charges him. It is good American doctrine to believe a man innocent until he is proved otherwise, and Masons are good Americans. For the lodge to take the initiative in a trial for offense against a civil law would be both unMasonic and unwise.

"Leave him alone? Certainly not. He won't be left alone. This man has friends in this lodge. Red head is getting them together and laying his 'facts' if they are facts, before them. Those friends can be trusted to see that the man is told of the talk which is going on, and given a chance to explain, to deny, to affirm, to mend his ways if they need mending. Obviously, we don't want as a brother in the lodge a man who continually violates the common tenets of all humanity, but equally as obviously, we don't want to accuse and stigmatize a man as doing so, unless we know we are right.

"Every man knows that a man unjustly accused before the law and acquitted is never wholly cleared from the taint. There are always some who say 'yes he was accused and got off. But they took him to court,' as if it was a disgrace. The man who is tried by Masonry for an offense, and acquitted must always be, to his brethren, a man about whom scandal was whispered. There are always those who say 'no smoke without some fire.' So we don't want to prefer charges and have a trial unless we are pretty sure of what we know and equally sure of what we want to do. It is much better for any lodge to have one bad egg in its omelet, than to spoil the whole omelet. One bad egg in a ten egg omelet will spoil it, but in a five hundred egg omelet it isn't so noticeable. It is much better for us to go quietly after this brother and try to get him to do better, to appeal to his manliness, his Masonry, his friendship, than it is to insist on a Masonic trial.

"No, my brother, there are better ways; the charges preferred, the Masonic trial, the disgrace, the scandal, the hard feeling are very bad for a lodge, very hard on those who take part, very severe on the one who is either acquitted or held guilty. Never, until all other means have been tried and found unsuccessfu1, should they be used; never then, until several wise heads have been consulted. When the time comes, when there is no other course open, then may charges be preferred and a trial held, and the lodge purged of that evil element which is harming it. But we must be very sure that the remedy isn't worse than the disease, and that in scotching the snake we are not also fatally injuring the hand which scotches.

"Red head listened to reason; his friends and those of the brother who may be at fault will do the rest and the good old lodge will never be hurt. And under all, and over all, we will have the happy knowledge that we are practicing that toleration and charity of thought which makes us our brother's keeper in the best, not the worst sense of the word."



NEWS

AUGUST 30, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: SIMON R. LAPLACE, 301-376-7330

APPEAL FOR RELIEF – TEXAS

The entire Gulf Coast of Texas was deluged with high winds and rain from Hurricane Harvey, setting records for rainfall from any single storm anywhere in the continental United States. Extensive building and property damage, electrical outages, unhealthy conditions caused by flooding, and widespread disruption of normal living conditions has occurred.

The Grand Lodge of Texas has requested this Disaster Appeal, to assist their many brethren who have been injured or who have received extensive damage to their homes from Hurricane Harvey.

Donations can be made online at www.msana.com. When remitting by check, please mark clearly that you wish the funds to go to the Texas Disaster Appeal.

Please forward any donations you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brothers and their families in this stricken jurisdiction to MSA. Please make checks payable to MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to 3905 National Drive, STE 280, Burtonsville, MD 20866.

MSA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

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