ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

FEBRUARY 2018 ISSUE

Grand Master's Reception



On Saturday, March 10th, 2018, MWB Eric R. Schau, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Ohio and the Grand Lodge officers will be in the Fabulous 14th District for this year's Grand Master's Reception. The location of the reception will again be at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center at 1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus 43229. Reservations for the buffet dinner are $40 per person if received before February 17th. Late reservations will be accepted in the amount of $50 per person until February 24th. No reservations will be accepted after this date, so please plan accordingly.

Social hour will begin at 5:30pm with introductions beginning precisely at 6:30pm. ***Please note that the doors will not be open until 5:30pm. No admission will be granted until that time.***

Dinner will be entrée choices of beef tenderloin, chicken marsala, lasagna or vegetarian lasagna. Also served will be Italian salad, rolls and butter, green beans, and red skin potatoes, along with strawberry shortcake for dessert. Coffee, tea, lemonade and water are included and a cash bar will be available for the evening.

Lodge reservations have been coming in and we thank you for your promptness. We look forward to having all the lodges of the district represented and to enjoy a fine evening honoring our Grand Master. If there are any questions, please reach out to WB Brad Love, 1st Vice President at blove5484@wowway.com.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

IN THIS ISSUE

From the President 2

Blendon Lodge Inspection Date Change 2

Masonic Night at the Aladdin Shrine 3

First VA Visit Scheduled 3

Luther B. Turner Pancake Breakfast 3

Sparrow Lodge Reconsecration 3

Installation of Franklin County Memorial Lodge 4

Master Craftsman Training Sessions 4

14th District Communication 5

Talk the Talk by MWB Cokonougher 6

SYSK 7

More Light Event - Reynoldsburg 8

Fish Fry - Blendon 9

14th District Golf Outing 10

The Old Past Master – Ancient Landmarks 11

DEADLINE FOR MARCH ASHLAR:

February 10, 2018

Contacts

14th District Officers
President
WB Adam B. Michael
1st Vice President
WB Brad Love
2nd Vice President
WB Tim Robinett
Treasurer
RWB Jeff Rannebarger
Secretary
RWB Brian Bolyard
Sergeant-At-Arms
WB John Hicks
Chaplain
WB Craig Shumaker

Communication Committee
WB Mike Saum
RWB Ken Cohen
WB Adam Michael
WB Craig Shumaker

Editor
WB Adam B. Michael

District Advisor
RWB Brian Bolyard

14thMasonicDistrict.org

From the President

WB Adam B. Michael, 14th District President

We have finally made it through another January in Ohio and now stand ready to take on February. This month brings the continuation of our inspection season, visits to the VA Hospital, More Light opportunities, the first District Quarterly meeting, and many various activities within the Fabulous 14th District. All the district directories have now been delivered so make sure to ask your secretary for a copy.

As mentioned above, I would like to invite you to our District Quarterly meeting that will be held on February 22nd at Blendon Lodge in Westerville. We will be going over the workings of the district and plans for the coming months, including the Grand Master's Reception that will be held on March 10th at the Villa Milano. The reception for our Grand Master is always an extremely fun and entertaining event so get your reservations in by February 17th at the reduced rate of $40. Also, our annual golf outing will be held on April 28th at York Golf Club this year so get your registrations in soon!

The district officers also rolled out a fundraiser in the form of a raffle. We are selling tickets for $20 and the lucky winner will receive an endowment to their respective lodge. Half of the proceeds will go to the Children's Dyslexia Center in Dublin, Ohio. The endowment is to be awarded to a lodge within the 14th district only. So your entry will help support the lodges within our district as well as the Dyslexia Center. If you have an endowment already, you could still purchase an entry and gift the endowment to a member of your lodge, or any other member within our district. Perhaps a particular lodge may like to contribute to this fundraiser by purchasing a few entries? Or, your place of business may like to support the effort by purchasing a hand full of entries? The raffle is meant to support our district and a worthy education center. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with your interest and any questions you may have.

Brethren, there are many activities happening within our district and I urge you to take advantage of them. Bring along one of your newly initiated brethren to the Grand Master's Reception. Or gather a foursome with a few of your newly raised brethren and sign up for the golf outing. Fellowship goes a long way with our new brethren so let them know that we have interest in them and get them involved.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting…

Blendon Lodge No. 339 Inspection Date Update

Due to weather conditions being unfavorable, Blendon Lodge No. 339 postponed their inspection to Monday, February 5th. Please mark your calendars and plan to support the officers and candidate.



Masonic Night at the Aladdin Shrine



The Past Masters Unit of the Aladdin Shrine will again be conferring the Master Mason degree on April 23rd, 2018 at the Aladdin Shrine Center located at 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, Ohio. This is a very unique experience and one that you will remember for a long time to come. Please make sure to bring your dues card and a white apron. You will most assuredly have a great time watching the Past Masters Unit show off their ritual skills.

VA Hospital Visitations Scheduled for February



Visitations to the VA Hospital in Chillicothe will begin on Sunday, February 4th, 2018. On this date, the following lodges are assigned to participate with the first lodge listed as the designated organizer for the day: Arts & Sciences No. 792, Avery No. 493, West Gate No. 623 and Luther B. Turner No. 732.

The next visit will be on Sunday, March 4th, with the following lodges assigned to participate: Sparrow No. 400, Reynoldsburg No. 340, Columbus No. 30 and Hiram No. 18.

Luther B. Turner Lodge to Host a Pancake Breakfast



On Saturday, February 10th, 2018, Luther B. Turner Lodge No. 732 will be hosting a pancake breakfast from 8:00am until 11:30am at the lodge located at 2933 Valleyview Dr., Columbus, Ohio. Not only will there be delicious pancakes which you can eat all you want, but the menu will also consist of sausage, coffee, milk and juice, all for only $8. Children under 14 years of age will be able to eat all they want for just $5. Make sure to bring your appetite with you and enjoy this opportunity with your brethren from Luther B. Turner.

Sparrow Lodge Reconsecration



The year 2018 will mark the 150th year of Sparrow Lodge No. 400. On Saturday, March 10th, at 1:00pm, a Reconsecration ceremony will be performed by the Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ohio celebrating this momentous occasion. Mark your calendars now for this date, as you will not want to miss this grand event.

Dates

2/5 Inspection – Blendon 339 in FC

2/6 Inspection – Hiram 18 FC

2/15 Inspection – Linden 637 in EA

2/16 Inspection – Capital City 656 in MM

2/17 SYSK at Magnolia

2/17 Valley of Dayton Mid-Winter Program, starts at 8am

2/20 Inspection – Avery 493 in FC

2/22 District Quarterly Meeting – Blendon Lodge 7pm

2/24 Inspection – Arts & Sciences 792 in FC, meeting starts at 1pm

2/26 Inspection – Ralph R. Rickly 670 in EA

2/27 Inspection – Whitehall 761 in FC

3/10 State Secretaries Association – 830am

3/10 Sparrow Lodge Reconsecration – 1pm

3/10 Grand Master's Reception – Villa Milano, doors open at 530pm

4/23 Masonic Night at the Aladdin Shrine – 630pm

4/28 14th District Annual Golf Outing at York Golf Club

Masonic Meals

Enjoy Some Great Fellowship

Come out for one of the many breakfasts or dinners around the District and enjoy some great food & fellowship

First Saturday at **Grove City Lodge: Breakfast**, 8 - 10a

First Saturday at **Hiram Lodge: Breakfast**, 8 - 10a January – November

Second Saturday at **West Gate Lodge: Breakfast**, 8 - 11a

Third Saturday at **Groveport Lodge: Breakfast**, 7:30 - 10a EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

Last Saturday at **Reynoldsburg Lodge: Breakfast**, 8 - 10a

If you are having a meal and want to invite the district, please send an email to:

14thdistashlar@gmail.com

District Quarterly Meeting to be Held

On February 22nd, 2018, at 7:00pm, the 14th District Masonic Officers Association will be holding there District Quarterly meeting at Blendon Lodge located at 130 S. State St., Westerville, Ohio. The association is planning many special activities which promote the welfare of the 14th masonic district. Each lodge is expected to be represented at this meeting and to assist with the dealings of the District Officers Association. We look forward to seeing you there.

Franklin County Memorial Lodge Officers Installed

The officers of the Franklin County Memorial Lodge were installed on the evening of January 10th, 2018. Congratulations go out to WB Greg Adams for completing his successful year as Worshipful Master. WB Roscoe Smith has assumed the east for the memorial lodge. Please congratulate these brothers as you see them in your travels.



Master Craftsman Training Sessions Held

WB Mike Saum and WB Chad Simpson, both District Education Officers of the 14th district, held Master Craftsman Training Sessions on January 3rd and January 17th. These sessions were full of insight and techniques used while crafting new candidates within our lodges. Keep reading future editions of the Ashlar for more of these opportunities to help hone your skills as a Master Craftsman.



14th District Communications Committee Improving Communication



The 14th District Communications Committee is responsible for social media, web site design and maintenance (including the linked calendar) and the Ashlar newsletter of the 14th district. Here's how you can use the district to help you and your lodge communicate:

1. The Ashlar is the monthly newsletter of the 14th district. It is sent electronically around the first of the month to a list of over 400 email addresses and forwarded by several lodge secretaries to their members. Articles of interest may be submitted by the 10th of the previous month for publication. Articles may include a recently held or upcoming event or any article of general interests to Masons within the district. Want to get the Ashlar? Sign up at http://14thmasonicdistrict.org/newsletter-top

2. The District website has a calendar that anyone can add to their phone or google calendar. You can view the calendar independently at https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=MTR0aGRpc3Rhc2hsYXJAZ21haWwuY29t or add your event by inviting 14thDistrictAshlar@gmail.com to your event. A moderator will check your event and add it to the calendar.

If you don't have google calendar, you can still request to add your event by sending an email to 14thDistrictAshlar@gmail.com. Please put **INVITATION** in the subject to make sure it gets acted upon promptly.



3. The district has a public and private facebook presence. The public PAGE will contain items of public interest to masons and their supporters. The private facebook GROUP will allow members to share pertinent information and will allow the district leaders to notify members of upcoming events and deadlines. Search Facebook for 14th District to find these pages.

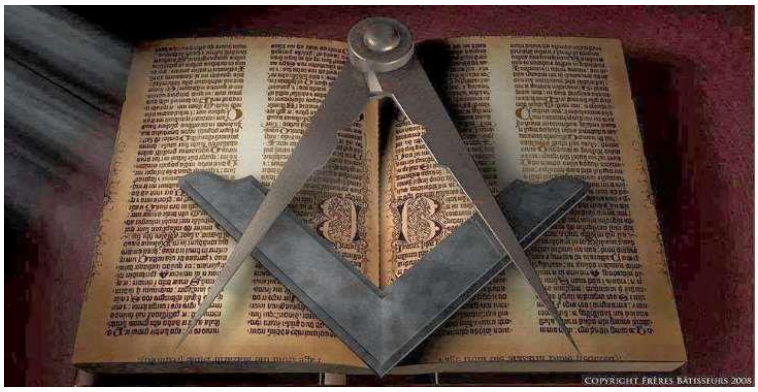
4. Would you like to reach everyone in the district via the Grand Lodge Communicator? Lodge members can only send communications and events in Communicator to their own lodge, DEOs, DDGMs and Grand Lodge Officers. But if you want to reach everyone in the district, ask your DEO or Deputy. They can send out District wide blasts.

If you have any questions or ideas for the Communications Committee, please don't hesitate to ask. The members are WB Adam Michael, WB Craig Shumaker, WB Mike Saum, RWB Ken Cohen and RWB Brian Bolyard.

Talk the Talk

MWB Steven E. Cokonougher, PGM of the Grand Lodge of Ohio

I am proud to be a Freemason, and I am sure you are too. The satisfaction one gets from knowing that you are a part of something great is very rewarding. Freemasonry should be an integral part of all you do. But what is masonry really about? Can you explain our fraternity to an uninitiated person? Or better yet, can you explain our fraternity to a fellow mason?



There are many "canned" sayings that attempt to describe masonry. "We make good men better", "A system of morality, veiled in allegory", and "A way of life" are some well know descriptions of masonry. Do these really describe you or your lodge? The answer is yes and no, or maybe. Freemasons know that we are all of these and none of them at the same time.

We try to take in only good men. We do that by welcoming them into our midst, and teaching them as much as we can and as much as they want to learn. It is important that we guard the West Gate and only offer our brotherhood to those who we would freely welcome into our homes and call brother. Then, treat them as you would want to be treated, you know what that is, by the Golden Rule. Teach them all you know about our principles, ethics, and morality. Teach them what brotherhood is about. Teach them that being a mason is special, and that we don't take our membership and our "code of conduct" lightly.

Masonry is a system of morality. And we do teach it by the use of allegory. While this sounds simple, it is not quite that easy. The allegories must be translated into thoughts of morality. Many of the words are strange to us. They are not what we use in our normal day to day conversations. This is where education comes to the forefront. Freemasonry is not intuitive to many of our new initiates. It is our responsibility to learn all we can about masonry and teach it to our new brothers. We should not leave the interpretation of our rites to those who are uninstructed. In simple terms, education is a critical step in indoctrinating and assimilating new members into our Lodges.

The phrase "Freemasonry, A Way of Life", was the theme of a Grand Master over two decades ago. It is still used by many of us when describing masonry. This phrase is correct if, and only if, we take our masonic obligations seriously. Do we really live our lives according to masonic teachings and principles? The issue is we don't all interpret the teachings the same. An example: Does masonry prohibit alcohol consumption? The answer is no. There are many other similar actions that some say are un-masonic. Masonic values teach us to avoid excess, they do not teach us to avoid "all" (my interpretation). We are told to be just and upright. A way of life also means that our actions are such that we are proud of them and do not try to hide them. If we live according to principles of the Great Light of masonry, we can easily say that "Freemasonry is a way of life."

It is important that all masons have an understanding of our Fraternity so that we can explain masonry to the uninitiated. We also need to be knowledgeable so we can help teach our new members about the reasons that freemasonry is important to our society. Are you ready and willing to do these? I dare to say that the future depends on our ability do that!

MORE LIGHT NIGHT

REYNOLDSBURG LODGE 340

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

DINNER BEGINNING AT 6PM

"The Ritual, Symbolism & Alchemy of the EA degree"

A presentation **exclusively for Master Masons** by

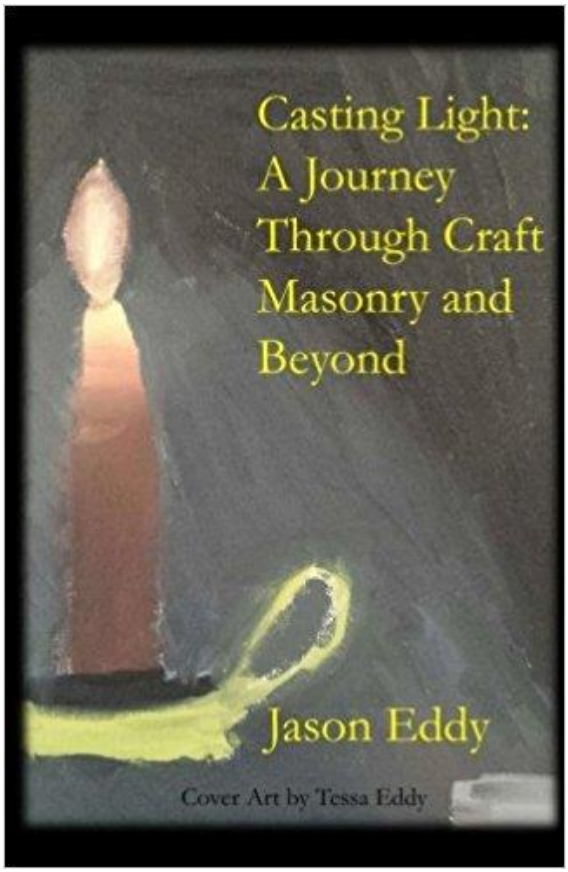
Worshipful Brother Jason Eddy, Past Master of High Point Lodge 737, Monroe, Ohio and Author of

"Casting Light: A Journey Through Craft Masonry & Beyond"

Please join the brethren of Reynoldsburg Lodge 340, 7350 Broadwyn Dr., Reynoldsburg, Ohio for a More Light Night, beginning with dinner at 6pm, followed by a presentation for Master Masons by WB Jason Eddy, Past Master, Masonic Author and poet from Monroe, Ohio on the topic: "The Ritual, Symbolism & Alchemy of the EA degree".

All Master Masons are invited to attend. A donation of $5 is requested from all attendees to defray the cost of dinner, to be collected at the door. Dinner will be served buffet style with plenty of choices. Recommended attire is jacket and tie.

Please RSVP your attendance as well as any questions to Dave Gubanc, PM at david_gubanc@att.net no later than Thursday, February 22, 2018.




All You Can Eat
FISH FRY
2nd Annual
Friday
March 23,
2018
5pm-7:30pm
All proceeds benefit
Westerville Special Olympics
Blendon Masonic Temple
130 S State St I Westerville I OH
$10.00 AYCE | Hand Breaded Alaskan
Pollock | Apple Sauce | Cole Slaw |
French Fries | Mac and Cheese
Carryout orders available!
www.blendon339.com
G
PosterMyWall.com

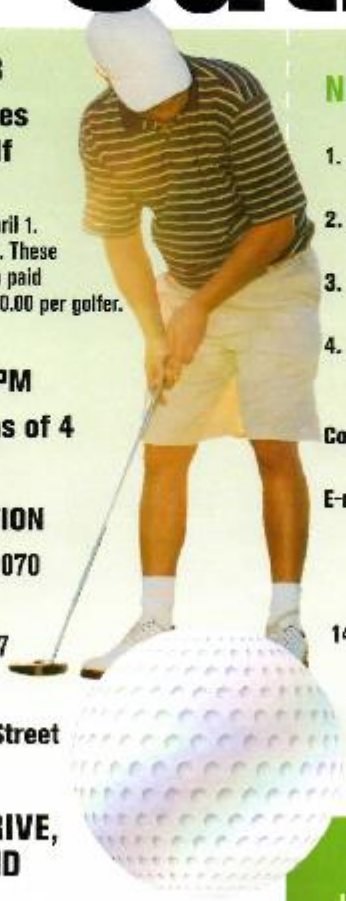
THE 14TH DISTRICT MASONIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

SEVENTH ANNUAL YORK GOLF CLUB

Saturday
April 28, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

Golf Outing



SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018

$90 PER PERSON* | Includes lunch, a round of golf, golf cart, and 3 drink tickets

*Cost is $90.00 per person, if paid by April 1. Cost is $100.00 per person after April 1. These rates apply to the first 100 golfers with paid reservations; after that, the rate is $150.00 per golfer.

LUNCH AT 1:00 PM
SHOTGUN START AT 2:00 PM

Open to All Golfers | Teams of 4
PRIZES | CASH BAR

CONTACTS FOR INFORMATION

- WB Tim Robinett | 614-668-1070
  t_robinett@hotmail.com
- WB Brad Love | 614-561-0357
  blove5484@wowway.com

York Golf Club | 7459 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43235

PRIZES FOR LONGEST DRIVE, CLOSEST TO THE PIN AND LONGEST PUTT!

Deadline for Reservations: April 21, 2018

NAMES OF GOLFERS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Contact _____

E-mail _____

Make checks payable to:
14th District Masonic Officers Association

Mail registration form to:
3285 Grasmere Avenue
Columbus, OH 43224

COSTS
$90 PER GOLFER* – Includes Lunch, Round of Golf, Golf Cart and 3 Drink Tickets
*Cost is $90.00 per person, if paid by April 1.

The Old Past Master
ANCIENT LANDMARKS

I BOUGHT me a Masonic Manual today," announced the Very New Master Mason to the Old Past Master. "Into what strange paths I am about to venture I don't know, but I am going to try …"rather shyly… to learn some of the work."

"That is very commendable" agreed the Old Past Master. "You will find it a fascinating study."

"But there are a lot of things in it I don't understand," went on the Very New Master Mason. "For instance, in the charge to a Master Mason the Master says "the ancient landmarks of the order, committed to your care, you are carefully to preserve and never suffer them to be infringed" and so on. But nowhere can I find any explanation of just what the ancient landmarks are!"

"Well, that is rather a problem, isn't it?" smiled the Old Past Master. "If you will get Mackey's Jurisprudence you will find a list of twenty-five, Roscoe Pound has a list of seven in his book of the same name, Brother Joseph Fort Newton considers five is the number and several Grand Lodges have lists of up to fifty or sixty!"

"Do you mean to say there is no universally known and understood list of ancient landmarks?" demanded the Very New Master Mason.

"I do. There is no such list." "But … but … but then how can we "carefully preserve them" and "never suffer them to be infringed?'"

"Well, it really isn't as difficult as it sounds!" smiled the Old Past Master. "There is none, or hardly any, disagreement among Masonic authorities on the fundamental Masonic law. The ancient usages and customs of the fraternity are the same the world over and generally recognized as such by all Grand Bodies. But a "landmark" is something which cannot be changed, according to our understanding of it. Therefore, different authorities have thought differently about our ancient usages and customs, some saying that such and thus, while ancient and honorable, is not a landmark, and therefore can be changed, while others hold that the same custom is a landmark and cannot be changed.

"The old manuscripts which give us so much light on our Masonic forbears; the Regius, the Harleian, the Antiquity, etc., have various charges, rules, regulations and laws. These are all very old, yet many of them could hardly be considered a landmark; for instance, one such old regulation forbids Masons to indulge in games of chance except at Christmas! That would hardly do for a Masonic landmark, would it? So just because a rule or custom is old does not make it, per se, a landmark.

"On the other hand, much that is beautiful in our fraternity is new; that is, it is less than three and often less than two hundred years old. There was no Grand Lodge before 1717, and Masonry was not divided in three degrees at that time, I believe. Yet many authorities consider the division of the work into three degrees as a landmark.

"So where doctors disagree, only the patient can decide?"

"There are a certain body of laws, usages and customs which are universally recognized and universally regarded. From these, different authorities select certain ones which in their judgment are

landmarks. Other authorities say "no, thus and such is a law, statute, rule, judgment, agreement or custom of the fraternity but isn't a landmark!" Brother Shepherd has just brought out a hook on the subject which gives the ideas of many authorities, writers and Grand Lodges. What strikes one on reading it, is not the difference in the lists of what are called landmarks, but the fact that all so well agree as to what is fundamental in Masonry!

"Now it is a fact that we agree that the "ancient landmarks" are fixed and unalterable. It is also a fact that Masons themselves have altered their own unalterable landmarks! The very fact that Grand Lodges were invented, or discovered, or created, is a change in an old, old custom, made necessary by change in times and people. The issuing of diplomas was a change; our ancient brethren had only the "Mason word" to prove themselves Masters. We do not prepare a man to he made a Mason as was done two centuries ago, nor is our ritual the same, nor our obligation the same; antiquarians have even discovered where parts of our obligations came from, and it was not from a Masonic source that all of them were derived!

"But let not your heart be troubled! Masonry herself says of herself that she is a progressive science. How can she progress and stand still? Brother A. S. McBride, than whom no more spiritually minded or common-sense writer ever spread Masonry before the Craft for their better understanding, asks the literal-minded Mason who says nothing can be changed in Masonry, why not work in Hebrew, since Solomon and his workmen used that tongue? And does Masonry suffer because the English of today is not the English of the 17th century?

"I personally believe that the ancient landmarks which cannot suffer change are few in number; a belief in Diety, a belief in a future life, a book of the Law on the altar, a secret mode of recognition, that only men, of good character, can be made Masons; these and one or two more seem to me to be real landmarks. Other landmarks so prescribed seem to me … and to many deeper Masonic students … to be common law, custom, usage, rather than landmarks.

"But I only think these things. I do not try to convince anyone I am right, for those who decide have authority and scholarship behind them. I follow where they lead. But Masonry teaches a man to think, and so I do her no injury if I do think. And if my Grand Lodge says forty-seven laws are landmarks, I keep them like Kipling "s Mason "to a hair." That I choose to disagree with my Grand Lodge in my heart doesn't make me a law-breaker; only a minority; and there is no harm in being a minority as long as one conforms!

"Therefore, read your manual, learn your ritual, consult your Grand Lodge records, and abide by the laws, resolutions and edicts you have sworn to uphold. And when you have done that, tolerant charitable Masonry says to you "my brother, having done as you pledged you would, you may now think whatever you want is right!'"