ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

MARCH 2018 ISSUE

Grand Master's Reception



The Fourteenth District Masonic Officers Association has been working hard on planning and putting the program together for this year's Grand Master's Reception honoring Most Worshipful Brother Eric R. Schau, Grand Master of Masons in Ohio. As a reminder, the event will take place on Saturday, March 10th, 2018 at the Villa Milano Banquet and Conference Center at 1630 Schrock Rd, Columbus 43229. We sincerely thank all of the lodges of the Fourteenth District for their support of this traditional event.

Social time will begin at 5:30pm. Please do not arrive any earlier than this time so the district officers can prepare for the evening and the Villa Milano staff can setup promptly. All will be asked to be seated at their assigned tables by 6:15pm, as the evening will begin shortly after that time and will be followed by introductions of all the grand lodge officers at 6:30pm. Tables will then begin being dismissed at 6:45pm for the buffet line. All other introductions, including the worshipful masters of their respective lodges, and all other presentations will be held after dinner. As the worshipful masters will be introduced from their tables, they will then make their way to the stage in front of the lectern where they will be greeted by our grand master. The ladies will be escorted back to the tables, and the worshipful masters will remain for a photo. After the program has concluded, there will be a cash bar open for more fellowship.

We are looking forward to a fantastic evening with all of you and in honoring our grand master. The evening is sure to be a memorable one.

If there are any questions, please contact WB Brad Love, 1st Vice President at blove5484@wowway.com.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

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DEADLINE FOR APRIL ASHLAR:

March 10, 2018

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14thMasonicDistrict.org

From the President

WB Adam B. Michael, 14th District President



Alright, I know that I am happy to see February in the rear view mirror. March brings the continuation of our inspection season, the State Secretaries Association meeting, the Reconsecration of Sparrow Lodge No. 400, the Grand Master's Reception, and vacations for those that are lucky enough to enjoy spring breaks with their families.

The first quarterly meeting of the 14th District Masonic Officers Association was held on February 22nd. All those in attendance were treated to a fantastic dinner which was prepared by our Chaplain, WB Craig Shumaker. A special thanks goes out to Blendon Lodge No. 339 and to WB Michael Emery for hosting the district meeting. There was plenty of conversation and fellowship before the meeting started. All the current workings of the district were covered and all details relayed to those in attendance. Of particular note, the by-laws change that was presented at the quarterly meeting in December, which changed the dates of the quarterly meetings to the fourth Thursday in February, May, and October, and moved the date for August to coincide with the District Family Picnic. The change was presented in order to align the election and installation of the Officers of the association with the annual meeting of the lodges within the district and the installation of the DEOs and DDGMs. So, this means that the remaining quarterly meetings of the district are now May 24th (to be held at Northwest Masonic Temple), August 5th (which is the date of the District Family Picnic) and October 25th (location is to be determined). I would especially like to thank each of those in attendance and for your support. Please mark May 24th on your calendars now and plan on attending our next quarterly meeting, which will also be the when the awards for the inspection season will be presented.

My brethren, in my travels during my tenure as a district officer, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all my brothers throughout the district and learning about each of the respective lodges. There are so many fantastic opportunities to continue one's search for light in freemasonry and to indulge in fellowship. And there are many brothers out there doing the work of several in the efforts to promote our wonderful craft. I encourage you to take advantage of an event and while you are at it, invite one of your brothers along with you. Offer to pick them up and to ride along with you. Or call a brother who you haven't seen in a while and take them to dinner before a lodge function. You will most assuredly enjoy the time spent with your fellow brother.

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

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 Visitation Scheduled for March



Visitations to the VA Hospital in Chillicothe continue on Sunday, March 4th, 2018. On this date, the following lodges are assigned to participate, with the first lodge listed as the designated organizer for the day: Sparrow No. 400, Reynoldsburg No. 340, Columbus No. 30 and Hiram No. 18.

The next visit will be on Sunday, April 8th, with the following lodges assigned to participate: Capital City No. 656, University No. 631, Linden No. 637 and Community No. 684.

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. Sparrow Lodge is located at 85 N. Morning Street, Sunbury, Ohio 43074. The reconsecration is open to master masons only. Join us as we celebrate this historic occasion for Sparrow Lodge. The gavel drops at 1:00pm so don't be late as you will not be permitted to enter the lodge room once the ceremony has begun. Mark your calendars now for this date, as you will not want to miss this grand event.

Dates

3/6 Inspection – Sparrow 400 in EA

3/7 Inspection – Neoacacia 595 in EA

3/10 State Secretaries Association – 8:30am

3/10 Sparrow Lodge Reconsecration – 1pm

3/10 Grand Master's Reception – Villa Milano, doors open at 5:30pm

3/12 Inspection – Grove City 689 in EA

3/13 Inspection – L. B. Turner 732 in MM

3/17 SYSK at Grove City

3/19 Inspection – West Gate 623 in FC

3/20 Inspection – Sunrise 783 in EA

4/14 AASR Valley of Columbus Spring Reunion - Newark

4/21 SYSK at Ralph R Rickly

4/23 Masonic Night at the Aladdin Shrine – 6:30pm

4/28 14th District Annual Golf Outing at York Golf Club – 1:00pm

5/24 14th District Quarterly Meeting and Awards Night at Northwest Masonic Temple – 7:00pm

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

Inspection Pictures from Around the District


University 631


Hiram 18


Linden 637


Avery 493


Arts & Sciences 792

EMT Volunteer Wanted April 7th

For the past several years MWB Ron Winnett, in conjunction with Capital City Lodge No. 656 and Grove City Lodge No. 689 has sponsored a Spring Prom at York Golf Club for Special Olympic kids. Approximately 180 kids have participated and enjoyed themselves at this event. While there have been no past issues requiring EMT services, after reflection, MWB Winnett is asking if a brother who is an EMT, and is available on April 7th, 2018 from 5:00pm until about 9:00pm would volunteer to be on site. The thought is, that should something happen that a squad is needed, we have someone on site until the squad arrives, most likely Worthington/Sharon Township. We'll feed you and share the glow of sponsoring these young folks to an activity most would never know otherwise.

If available contact either MWB Ron Winnett at rwinnett@att.net or RWB Ebby Brewer at ebrewer656@gmail.com.



14th District Golf Outing Reservations

The 7th annual 14th District Golf Outing will be held on Saturday, April 28th at York Golf Club. The cost of the outing is $90 per person, but only if reservations are made by April 1st. This covers greens fees for 18 holes, cart, lunch, and 3 drink tickets. Lunch is served at 1:00pm with a shotgun start at 2:00pm. Of course the outing is a bit earlier this year than normal, but it always promises to be a wonderful time for all of those in attendance. This is an excellent opportunity to socialize with brethren from around the district, while contributing to the fund of our 14th District Grand Lodge Officer, RWB Tim Wheeland. Whether a professional or amateur, casual or serious golfer, the 4-person, best ball format allows every team to have a fighting chance at the top prize. This is a wonderful opportunity to have some fun with brethren from around the district. You definitely do not want to miss this exciting event!

Reservations received after April 1st will be charged at $100 per person, so get your reservations in today. For more information and to submit your individual reservation, or reservation for your foursome, please contact WB Tim Robinett at t_robinett@hotmail.com or by phone at 614-668-1070.

Featured Inspection DEO Presentation

Presented by WB Bill Bell at Arts and Sciences Lodge No. 792 on 02/24/2018 -

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle is credited with saying, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." The way I interpret this is that in order for knowledge to blossom and bear fruit, it must be supported by a strong foundation. This foundation, the roots, don't always come easily. Education that is truly worthwhile, must come at the expense of bitter difficulty and hard-earned effort. Lodges like Arts and Sciences No. 792, go through extraordinary effort to prepare the mind and body before offering wisdom and education to those who would partake. Men gather for social interaction before a silent procession is led into the lodge room to allow the mind to quiet and open itself for instruction. The eyes perceive the importance of only what is illuminated in an otherwise darkened room. Pleasing notes and harmonies are played while entering the lodge room to engage the ears for attentive listening. Fragrant incense filling the lodge room is not only a masonic custom, but also in many cultures to provide a metaphysical cleansing of the mind, body, and spirit. Effective and engaging presentations are meticulously planned to convey deep meaning to the hearts of attendees. These roots of education prepared for our brethren, can be found in our Fellow Craft lecture; we know them as the seven liberal arts and sciences. It is therefore no surprise that education is so strongly pursued by our great fraternity; for it is through the hard work and dedication of educating ourselves, that Freemasonry's foundation can grow stronger and the resultant fruit may nourish the world in which we live.

Blendon Lodge 2nd Annual Fish Fry

Blendon Lodge No. 339 is holding their second annual Friday night Fish Fry on Friday, March 23rd, 2018 at Blendon Masonic Temple in Westerville. The cost of dinner is $10 and includes All You Can Eat hand-breaded Alaskan pollock, hand-cut french fries, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, and applesauce. All proceeds benefit Ohio and Westerville Special Olympics. Blendon Lodge raised over $1,100 for Special Olympics last year from this event alone. The lodge has doubled their cooking capacity this year and expects nearly double the crowd. It is recommended to come early and often to secure the best fish dinner in Westerville.



Also this year, in honor of the fallen Westerville Police officers, Blendon Lodge is offering free meals to any law enforcement officer that attends. Carryout boxes will be available if you need to eat and run. The Triangle Chapter of OES will be on-site holding a bake sale to support the cause and there will be donation buckets available with proceeds going to the families of the two Westerville police officers who tragically lost their lives earlier this year.

Masonic Community

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

I sometimes wonder what the future of Freemasonry will look like. Today we look similar to the way we looked 100 years ago, but there have been some significant changes. Will the future hold or change?

Until the middle of the 1900's (I am too lazy to look up the exact year), each lodge had a territory from where their membership was obtained. A lodge could not take in a member who did not live in the area that Grand Lodge had designated as their territory. It was changed because many complained that they couldn't bring in their relatives or co-workers who lived outside the lodge's area. When it was changed, membership flourished. The change was good for membership numbers, but there was also a downside.

When a lodge was limited to bringing in members from their local community, the lodge was a community within itself. The lodges were a central meeting place for its members. No one had to travel far to get to lodge. Lodges had dinners, dances, magic shows, pot lucks, holiday parties, and many other activities for the members and communities. There were card games, pool matches, and some had bowling leagues. The lodge was truly a community within itself. Of course, there were less distractions or demands on everyone's time. Television was not universally available. Children and grandchildren were not involved in every sport possible. Transportation was not as fast as it is now and not available to all. Every member looked forward to spending time in their lodge with their Masonic Community. Members were excited when a neighbor or friend from their community entered their lodge.

I was at the Gym the other day and had on a Masonic t-shirt. One of the men who is there regularly when I am stopped me and told me his grandfather had been a Mason. He talked about enjoying going to the lodge for dinners and holiday parties. He remembered going to a father-son dinner with his grandfather. He learned to play euchre with his grandfather at the lodge. He said all of the men in the lodge lived locally and spent a lot of time there. He had fond memories of the time he spent at the lodge. I asked him if he ever considered becoming a Mason. He said he didn't think he was Masonic material. He felt that Masonry was an exclusive organization and one had to be very successful or wealthy to join. I assured him that is not the case. We are going to discuss next week. Our discussion gave some insight on how others may envision our fraternity.

As I thought about how those outside the fraternity view Masonry, I wondered how our members view us. Is it enough to just be a Mason, or does a brother need to be active to get anything from their membership? We all have an opinion.

The other issue I see is the amount of time it takes to bring in a new member: Petition, investigation, voting, degree, exam, degree, exam, degree, exam. We all talk about needing new members. What would we do if we suddenly took in a large number of new members? Would we be willing to work candidates weekly or several times a week? That is what it would take to increase membership.

There is a lot to think about. This article started by asking "Will the future hold or change?" Our values are the reason we exist and should not change. But, are there things about our Fraternity that should change? What do we need to do to attract today's men? How can we appeal to good men with busy lives? Is quantity more important than quality (NO, in my opinion)? So do we need more members, or do we need to learn to exist with a smaller number? Do we need to hasten the process of becoming a Mason? There are a lot questions that need answered. They will get answered over time, but will we move quickly enough? Time will tell.

The Old Past Master

DO YOU STUDY GEOMETRY?

"I BOUGHT me a high school geometry the other day" confessed the Very New Mason to the Old Past Master, sitting on the benches waiting for the Worshipful Master to call the lodge to labor. "I was so much impressed with what I learned of its importance to Masons, during the Fellowcraft Degree, that I determined to go back to my school days and try again. But I am much discouraged.

"Why so?" asked the Old Past Master, interested. "I recall geometry as rather an interesting subject. I don't suppose I could do a single original now, it's been so many years … I don't know when I have looked in one!"

Why, you surprise me! I thought all good Masons must know geometry. We are taught. … how does it go? … something about a noble science …" his voice trailed off in silence.

"'Geometry, the first and noblest of the sciences'" quoted the Old Past Master, "'is the basis on which the superstructure of Masonry is erected. By geometry, we may curiously trace Nature through her various windings, to her most concealed recesses. By it we may discover the wisdom and the goodness of the Grand Artificer of the universe and view with delight the proportions which connect this vast machine.'"

"Yes, that's it!" agreed the Very New Mason. "And there is a lot more, isn't there?"

"A whole lot!" smiled the Old Past Master, in agreement.

"Well, then, why doesn't a well-informed Mason have to be a geometrician?"

"There is certainly no reason why a good geometrician shouldn't be a good Mason," answered the Old Past Master, "but no reason why a man who doesn't know geometry shouldn't be a good Mason.

"You see, my son, we hark back a great many years in much of our lectures, to a time when knowledge was neither so great nor so diversified as now. William Preston, the eminent Masonic student, scholar, writer, who lived and wrote in the latter part of the eighteenth century, conceived the idea of making the degrees in general, and the Fellowcraft degree in particular, a liberal education! A "liberal education" in those days was comprised within what we still call, after Preston, the "seven liberal arts and sciences." In those days any mathematics beyond geometry was only for the very, very few; indeed, mathematics were looked upon rather askance by the common men, as being of small use in the world, save for engineers and designers and measurers of land.

"But Preston, if his lectures are no longer the real "liberal education" which he planned, and which, in the form of his lectures modified by Webb (and somewhat tinkered with by various authorities and near authorities who at times have kept the husk and let the kernel escape!) builded better than he knew. For we may now justly and honorably take "geometry" to mean not only the science of measurement of surface and area and the calculation of angles and distances, but to mean all measurement. And to study measurement, my son, means to study science, for all science is but measurement, and

by that measurement, the deduction of laws and so the unravelling of the secrets of nature.

"I do not understand geometry any more; it is long since I studied it. But I do study, and do try to keep my mind awake and always filling, if never full. It is true that to many a Mason the study of geometry itself would be a grand mental discipline and thus greatly improve his mind. But I do not think we are to take this admonition literally, any more than we are to accept literal interpretations for other wordings in our ritual. We meet upon the level, in Masonry, and we act upon the square. But that does not mean that we put our feet upon a carpenter's level, or sit upon stone masons" squares while we "act." The words are symbols of thoughts. I take the admonition to study geometry as a symbol of a thought, meaning that a Mason is to educate himself, to keep his mind open, to keep it active, to learn, to think, to develop his reason and his logic, that he may the better aid him-" self to know himself and his work to aid his fellowmen.

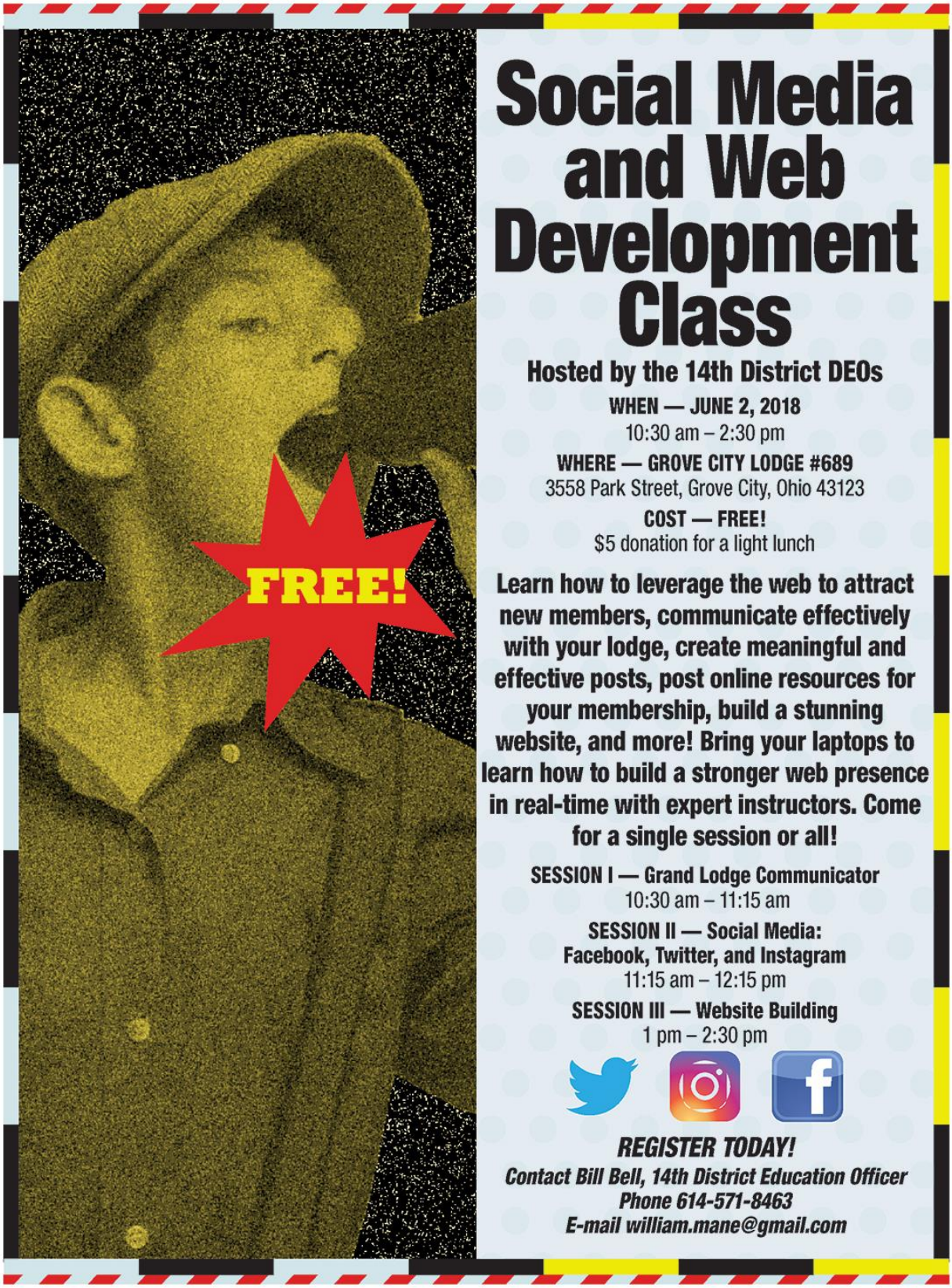
"Even Preston, literal-minded as he was, and focusing all his attention as he did, upon ritual and teaching by it and a formalism which is not yet outworn in our ranks, had a vision of what geometry might mean beside the mathematical science of angles. For … how does it go? In our charge to a Fellowcraft, we say "Geometry, or Masonry, originally synonymous terms, being of a divine and moral nature, is enriched with the most useful knowledge, while it proves the wonderful properties of nature, it demonstrates the more important truths of morality."

"It should be obvious that a study of mathematics of any kind cannot demonstrate morality unless it is considered as a symbol as well as a science. As we are thus told in so many words to use geometry as a symbol, we may well agree with Pike, who wrote learnedly to prove a Mason's inherent right to interpret the symbols of Freemasonry for himself. To me, geometry is a symbol of science, and one which I should use to impress upon myself the need of something else. To a Mason who had had few educational advantages, the word might mean its literal sense, and he be greatly benefitted by a close study of the book which discourages you.

"I do not attempt, my brother, to force upon you my understanding, or to quarrel at all with those Masons who find a different interpretation of the geometry which is Masonry as we understand it. I do but give you my ideas for whatever use they may be to you, and so you will not be discouraged in what is a praise-worthy attempt to profit by the Masonic lectures. Do you recall the end of the charge you received as a Fellowcraft?"

"I … I … I am afraid I don't, just exactly …"

"It runs this way," smiled the Old Past Master "… 'in your new character it is expected that you will conform to the principles of the Order by steadily persevering in the practice of every commendable virtue.' If you study the "principles of the Order" you will, indeed, be learning Masonic geometry."


FREE!
Social Media and Web Development Class
Hosted by the 14th District DEOs
WHEN — JUNE 2, 2018
10:30 am – 2:30 pm
WHERE — GROVE CITY LODGE #689
3558 Park Street, Grove City, Ohio 43123
COST — FREE!
$5 donation for a light lunch
Learn how to leverage the web to attract new members, communicate effectively with your lodge, create meaningful and effective posts, post online resources for your membership, build a stunning website, and more! Bring your laptops to learn how to build a stronger web presence in real-time with expert instructors. Come for a single session or all!
SESSION I — Grand Lodge Communicator
10:30 am – 11:15 am
SESSION II — Social Media: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
11:15 am – 12:15 pm
SESSION III — Website Building
1 pm – 2:30 pm
REGISTER TODAY!
Contact Bill Bell, 14th District Education Officer
Phone 614-571-8463
E-mail william.mane@gmail.com


All You Can Eat
FISH FRY
2nd Annual
Friday
March 23,
2018
5pm-7:30pm
Law
Enforcement
Eats Free
All proceeds benefit
Westerville Special Olympics
Blendon Masonic Temple
130 S State St | Westerville | OH
$10.00 AYCE | Hand Breaded Alaskan
Pollock | Apple Sauce | Cole Slaw |
French Fries | Mac and Cheese
Carryout orders avaiable!
www.blendon339.com
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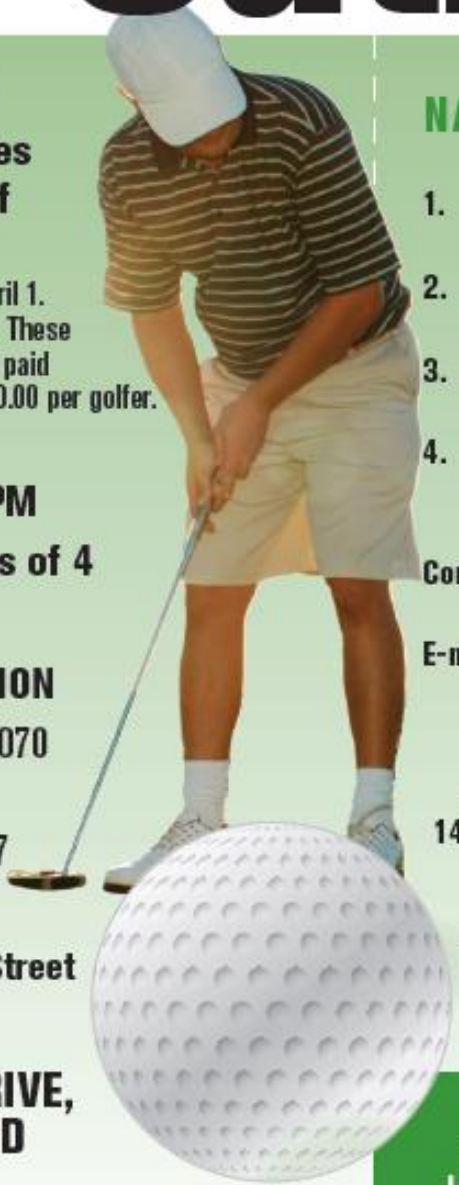
THE 14TH DISTRICT MASONIC OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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.