ASHLAR

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JULY 2019 ISSUE

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

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DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ASHLAR:

July 20, 2019

Ohio Masons March at the Special Olympics Games



Friday, June 28th was a beautiful day, and Masons from all over Ohio gathered at the Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of the Ohio State University to kick off the 50th Annual Special Olympic Games.

The Grand Lodge Officers were in attendance where they presented this year's donation that is made possible by the generous support of the all the lodges in Ohio. Thousands of athletes participated and competed in this year's games. The members that make up our fraternity and the lodges that they belong to should be proud knowing that we support such a wonderful charity that touches so many lives and enriches their well-being. The gratitude of the athletes and their families emanated throughout the stadium. All the Masons in attendance were touched by the praise and acknowledgement. Hopefully, you and your lodges are making plans to show your support during the opening march for next year's games.



Contacts

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Children's Dysliexia Center Long-Time Director Retires; New Leadership Chosen

Jean Colner, Director of the Children's Dysliexia Center – In Honor of Richard J. Luckay, MSA, 33°, will be retiring effective August 31st.

Jean has served in this capacity tirelessly and with distinction for more than 19 years. During that time, she has led the center to develop a talented team of instructors and staff, a number of innovative efforts subsequently adopted by the Headquarters office for use in the 43 other Centers in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and has helped hundreds of children at the Center learn to effectively deal with Dyslexia, becoming successful readers and students. Additionally, through those who Jean has trained in the Orton-Gillingham method and have gone into private practice, thousands of additional students in Central Ohio have been led to reading success.



"Thanks to Jean's leadership, our Center leads the other 43 Centers in our organization in virtually every metric of measurement. Twice, including this year, our Center has been designated the exemplar center to stand for inspection and review by the International Multisensory Structured Language Education Council (IMSLEC), the organization which accredits dyslexia training programs, to accredit all of the other centers. On both occasions, our Center has passed that inspection with flying colors, thus enabling all our centers to claim this important professional recognition." said Illustrious Brother Tim Strawn, 33°, Chairman of the Center's Board of Governors.

Because Jean has also dedicated herself to assuring the Center has a strong staff and "deep bench" of leadership, Blythe Wood, the Associate Director for the past year and instructor and staff member for nine years, will become the new Director, effective September 1st. "During her years with the Center, Blythe has developed a strong passion for helping children with Dyslexia. She has learned well, progressing through and becoming certified in several levels of training to become not only very skilled in teaching the students, but also a very effective staff leader. I am confident she will maintain the high-quality of instruction for which the Center has become known and help lead it to the next level" said Ms. Colner. Additionally, on September 1st, Andrea Rawson, who has also been on the staff for nine years and been certified in all levels of instruction, will become the Associate Director.

The Board of Governors of the center and the headquarters leadership team is indebted to Jean and extends their most sincere thanks for her dedicated efforts which have made the Center the strong, innovative leader it is, dedicated to helping children learn to read and enjoy the world which reading opens up to them.

Masonic Railroading

Brother Jerod Burton – Blendon No. 339

On May 10th 1869, Brother Leland Stanford drove home the "Golden Spike" completing the first Transcontinental Railroad, linking a growing nation. In doing so, he ushered in the "Golden Era of Railroading". From the earliest railroad barons down to the craft workers, Freemasonry and railroading have shared great men in the midst of both fraternities. Each division of a railroad company had prominent masons in their ranks during this period.

Columbus lodges enjoyed many railroaders over their respective careers. Linden Lodge had a large number of Pennsylvania Railroad employees. Norfolk & Western, Conrail, and CSX all had Freemasons in various lodges and in various capacities. After a trip to Bellevue, I attended Bellevue Lodge No. 273, which has since become my home away from home lodge. I sat with a few retired railroaders, and they were happy to see that another brother had come off the rails to sit in lodge.

I asked their Secretary, WB Gail Reeder, for some help with this article. He sent me an email that showed, along with prominent local businessmen, there were quite a few of their members that worked for The Nickel Plate Road and subsequently Norfolk Southern. The NKP, the Pennsylvania, and the Wheeling and Lake Erie railroads all crossed each other in Bellevue. Bellevue Lodge No. 273 also had many railroad members in the various bodies of Freemasonry. From looking at the numbers, their membership swelled with the Nickel Plate locating a terminal nearby and being a major East\West hub. As a crew took trains to Bellevue\Sandusky, they spent time resting there, and enjoyed an evening of brotherhood to pass time and practice the craft. The railroad supervisors and the craft masons enjoyed a mutual understanding of our tenets. I have heard stories from current brothers, that when a supervisor who was part of the craft knew an employee to be, a different tone was used. Granted, if it was a major violation, the rules still applied. Currently in Columbus, there are seven Freemasons that I work with and eight on the Portsmouth to Bellevue Board. As we pass each other, we say "look good traveling man" or "look good Brother ___" .



I spent the evening of May 6th planning to go to work. I told myself that if I didn't go to my home lodge (Blendon Lodge) that evening, who knew when I would be able to get back there, so I went. After getting home, changed, and just crawling into bed, the phone rang…UGHHH. As I laced up my boots, packed my grip, fixed my food for the next two days, I wondered just how the railroading masons did it in the past. The Golden Age of Railroading roughly extended from the late 1800's up to the mid to late 1950's, when owning a car became the American dream. Gone were the days of the coach cars and people traveling by train. As home and personal car ownership grew, railroads slipped away from hauling passengers and into hauling more freight. As the number of railroad employees dropped, so did their interest in Freemasonry, but It is beginning to make a comeback. Time will tell if we will see the numbers that were present during the Golden Age.

Dates

7/6 – Pancakes for Pelotonia – Blendon

7/28 – Grove City Clay Shoot – Cardinal Shooting Center

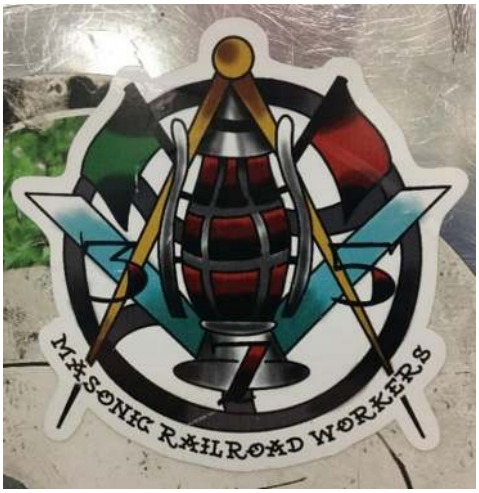
8/4 – District Family Picnic and Quarterly Meeting – Blacklick Woods Metropark

8/20 – DGM Rollout – Grove City

10/17- 10/18 – Grand Lodge Communication – Marietta

10/24 – District Quarterly Meeting and Officer Election - TBA

Railroading and Freemasonry today is constricted by time. I have talked to a couple railroaders who share the same sentiment as myself. After a particularly long stay in Bellevue, I came across two Facebook pages. "Masonic Railroad Workers" by WB Brian Marra of Chicago and "Masonic Railway" by Brother Dudley O'Toole in Great Britain. I talked to WB Marra as he was going to work, and we talked about the demands our job has on us, our family, and Freemasonry. He spoke of times he rushed out of work to sit in the East while wearing work clothes, and scrambling to or not getting to functions.



I've also talked with WB Swint of Goodale Lodge on a masonic railway group on Facebook. We messaged a couple times and he invited me up for lodge, when my schedule could allow. We mostly talked of our railroading stories, like railroaders do. WB Swint is on his fourth terminal with CSX since he hired out. He is not guaranteed that this will be his last terminal. Respectively, I have had to chase work from Columbus to Croxton, NJ, and West to Muncie/Frankfort IN. I finally ended up in Decatur, IL for a year and a half during the recession. During that time, I stayed with a brother mason and his family (before I joined the craft). His generosity is one of the many reasons I became a Freemason. As railroaders, we have sacrificed a lot: holidays, birthdays (sometimes celebrated days later), recitals, first walks, first words, etc. Honestly, if it wasn't for FaceTime, I doubt I could continue with this vocation.

I did find ways to give back while I am working. With consent from their mentors, we pour over the exams, talk of rituals, and practice speaking publicly. While waiting for our turn through single track a couple of trips ago, my conductor was studying his EA exam. We worked for about an hour on the obligation while waiting and then for a while at the dorm resting. Another way I give back is by traveling. While away from home, I keep track of when lodges are meeting. If I can catch a ride or snag a vehicle from a friend who has a car at the dorm, I do what I can to attend a meeting.

Railroading keeps us busy, but Freemasonry has added an additional layer of depth to the brotherhood of the railroaders. Though it make take us far from home, there is always a brother close by. We are truly "traveling men".

QUESTIONS ABOUT AGING?

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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
EXCEPT JULY AND AUGUST

Second Saturday at
West Gate Lodge:
Breakfast, 9a – 12p

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 an event and want to invite the district, please send an email to:

ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org

Pancakes for Pelotonia



Deputy Grand Master Rollout

Right Worshipful Brother Keith W. Newton, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, will roll out his plans and expectations for the 2019-2020 Masonic year in the month of August. The sessions are intended to provide Brethren and their ladies an update on Grand Lodge activity and future plans for the coming year.

The rollout for the 14th District is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20th 2019, at 7:00pm at Grove City No. 689 located at 3558 Park St., Grove City. Each roll out will be preceded with light refreshments and social time. The dress code is business casual (No coats, no ties, and no jeans).

2019 Deputy Grand Master Roll Out Schedule

Date	Time:	Host Lodge	Location
08/05/2019	7:00pm	Scioto #6	57 East Main Street, Chillicothe, OH 45601
08/07/2019	7:00pm	Huber Heights #777	7778 Wildcat Road, Huber Heights, OH 45424
08/08/2019	7:00pm	Mercer #121	111 S Front St, St Marys, OH 45885
08/11/2019	1:00pm	Wood County #112	159 N Main St, Bowling Green, OH 43402
08/11/2019	7:00pm	Western Reserve #507	216 W Main St, West Farmington, OH 44491
08/12/2019	7:00pm	Tuscarawas #59	735 N Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622
08/13/2019	7:00pm	Medina #58	5931 Nettleton Rd, Medina, OH 44256
08/14/2019	7:00pm	Bucyrus #39	1224 S Sandusky Ave, Bucyrus, OH 44820
08/15/2019	7:00pm	Aerospace #800	875 Irving Wick Dr W, Heath, OH 43056
08/19/2019	7:00pm	Milford #54	32 Water St, Milford, OH 45150
08/20/2019	7:00pm	Grove City #689	3558 Park St, Grove City, OH 43123

2020 Masonic Raffle

GRAND PRIZE
$30,000 VOUCHER FOR PURCHASE AT RICART AUTO or A.D. FARROW CO. or $25,000 CASH

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