ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

MAY 2020 ISSUE

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

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DEADLINE FOR JUNE ASHLAR:

May 15, 2020

COVID-19 Update

Brethren, as I write this article, the following information is accurate as of May 1st. We are under a directive from our Grand Master, MWB Keith W. Newton that is set to expire on Sunday, May 10th, 2020.

Cancelled events:

- VA Hospital Visitation, Sunday May 3rd.
- Grand Masters One-Day Class, Saturday May 9th.
- 14th Masonic District Annual Awards presentations, Thursday, May 28th.
- Ohio Masonic Home Day, Sunday, June 7th.
- Ohio Special Olympics opening ceremonies, Friday, June 26th.
- Ohio Special Olympics State Summer Games, June 26th – 28th.

Per our District Deputies Grand Master, MWB Keith W. Newton has no plans to extend the prohibition against meeting past May 10th. ***This is all dependent on recommendations/restrictions from the CDC, the Governor of Ohio, or the Department of Public Health.*** With that said, we will be meeting and complying with social distancing. The plan is that stated meetings will consist of no more than 10 members and no handshakes/grips will be given.

The lodge inspections that had been postponed are now officially canceled. Additional information relative to lodge meetings and inspections not completed has been shared with the Worshipful Masters of the Lodges in the 14th Masonic District through their assigned DDGM.

MWB Keith W. Newton also has asked that when we do see the day where we can resume our normal meetings with no attendance restrictions, that each lodge have some sort of "Celebration" to recognize our Essential Masons who have served their communities in their livelihood through this pandemic.

<u>Appendant Bodies</u>

We have heard that several of our appendant bodies have canceled or are considering cancelling their annual meetings typically held during the summer months. It is suggested that you contact the organizations you hold membership in to confirm this for yourself. We are happy to list the organizations by name; however, we will only do so if the presiding officer, secretary, or adult leadership head confirms this in an email to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org.

Contacts

14th District Officers
President
WB Tim Robinett
1st Vice President
WB John Hicks
2nd Vice President
WB Craig Shumaker
Treasurer
RWB Jeff Rannebarger
Secretary
RWB Brian Bolyard
Sergeant-At-Arms
WB Keith Fields
Chaplain
WB Eric Longstreth

Communication Committee
RWB Ken Cohen
WB Adam Michael
WB Craig Shumaker
WB Michael Emery
WB Eric Longstreth

Editor
WB Craig Shumaker

District Advisor
RWB Brian Bolyard

14thMasonicDistrict.org

From the President

WB Tim Robinett, 14th District President

Greetings Brethren! Our Fraternity, as well as our nation, is going through some trying times. While this has been a rough couple of months for everyone, I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. Please continue to take the recommended precautions to stay safe!

I would like to begin by congratulating all the lodges of the Fabulous 14th Masonic District on an enjoyable inspection season. The fellowship with our Brothers and meals we enjoyed were all outstanding. Although a few lodges had their inspections canceled, I feel confident that the fellowship and meals would have been equally as good. I want to thank all the lodges for the hospitality they have shown me and the officers of the 14th District Masonic Officers Association.

Please Note: Due to the continued mass gathering restrictions, our annual district awards presentations scheduled for May 28th has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 2nd. We will present the awards at our summer family picnic.
We will hold a "Virtual" District Quarterly Meeting on May 28th at 7:00pm. Two weeks prior to the meeting, an email containing a link to the District Quarterly Meeting will be sent out to the Worshipful Master and Secretary of the lodges in the 14th Masonic District, through Grandview. We ask they share this email with their membership. It is strongly recommended that all members log into Grandview to check/update their personal information prior to receiving this email. The process of logging in and checking your information takes no longer than 5 minutes. Please use the link below to check/update your information:

https://oh.grandview.systems

I hope to see a great turn out for our very first Virtual District Quarterly Meeting. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact any of the District Officers. With summer quickly approaching and the uncertainties of our nation's current situation, please continue to keep an eye out for notifications regarding the status of the district's upcoming events.

Finally, my Brethren, if your lodge has an event that they would like to advertise throughout the district, or if you have an article that you would like to have published, please remember to submit your advertisement or article to the communications committee for publication in the upcoming newsletters. All articles are to be submitted via email to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org.

Again, thanks to all for your support in the district. Until we meet again, stay safe.

Reynoldsburg Lodge Virtual Meetings

The Grand Master of Masons in Ohio has allowed lodges to meet online during the current situation. Reynoldsburg is one lodge that has been taking advantage of this. On April 7th, WB Zack Short was our featured speaker and on April 21st, Bro John Cook gave his observations about the similarities between Freemasonry and his field of study, Paleontology.

Virtual meetings have allowed brothers from Florida, Texas and South Carolina to join us and we hope to keep meeting online as we are allowed. Although we do not do ritual, there is some normality to giving an opening and closing prayer while seeing the faces and hearing the voices of our brethren. The Grand Lodge has provided some guidelines for meeting online safely and any of the lodges who are doing this are glad to help you out. If you'd like to attend the online meeting(s) of Reynoldsburg, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:30pm. Contact WM Ken Cohen (ken.cohen@mason340.com) if you'd like to join us.

Dates

5/10 – Lodge activity resumes

5/28 – District Quarterly Meeting

6/26 – Deadline for Golf Outing registration

6/30 – Deadline to complete District Challenge

6/30 – Deadline for Blue Pages advertisements

7/11 – 14th District Golf Outing – Bent Tree

8/2 – District Family Picnic

Ancient Charges – Of the Management of the Craft in Working

WB Michael Clevenger, Past District Education Officer - Masons Lead Better

"A younger Brother shall be instructed in working, to prevent spoiling the materials for want of judgement."

Imagine this ancient scene.

Thousands of operative masons are busily engaged in the construction of King Solomon's temple. A hurried master stone mason has failed in his duty to properly plan his work. He finds himself under pressure to complete a section of the temple which is crucial to complete the temple's foundation.

Rather than admit he has erred in his planning; he hastily calls one of his apprentices and orders him to grab a gavel and begin to shape a rough ashlar for use in the foundation. The master then rushes off and leaves the apprentice to complete a task for which the master has not given careful instruction – another error. The master returns a while later and finds the ashlar partially worked on in such a manner that the ashlar is now unusable.

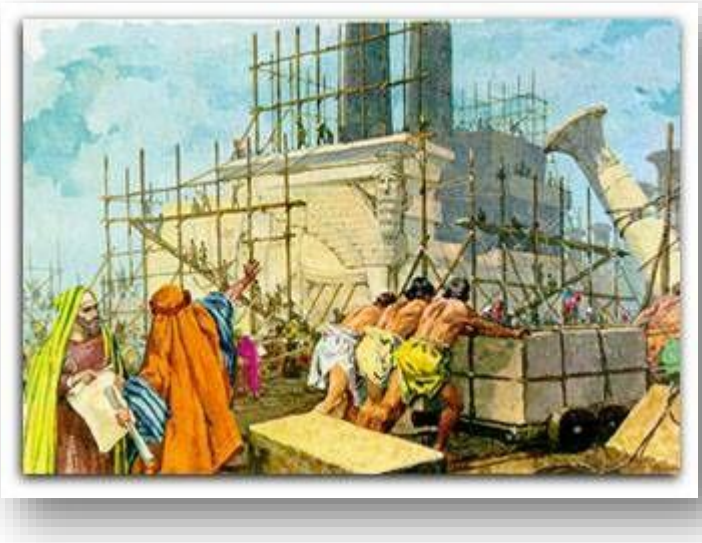
Imagine this modern scene.

Tom Hayden stood across the street and watched the cloud of dust rise as the Central City Lodge building was reduced to a pile of bricks, mortar and broken beams. It once was the meeting place of his Masonic lodge and long served as a reminder to the Central City community of the principled and respected men who had contributed so much to the community.

As Tom watched, he began to reflect upon the decline of the lodge and desperately wanted to understand what had happened. He knew that the decline had begun long before he was a member, so he focused on what he had observed that were contributing factors.

He observed over a period of years, the concern for the lodge's dwindling membership numbers caused the lodge to involve itself in various schemes in an attempt to attract men to join. A number of these of methods had been successful and at times seem to be the answer. However, a huge influx of members one year, always resulted in those joining that year, later losing interest and many not seen again. Tom saw this as a failure to understand and provide these men with that for which they were seeking.

The lodge officers, once strictly held to a process of continued education and improvement, were in the past few years, left to lead in any manner their abilities produced. So, there was strong leadership one year, followed in some cases with several years of ineffective leaders. The main failure of all seemed to be a lack of a unified direction for the lodge and an understanding of what makes a strong leadership team.



The aging lodge building, for a great number of years, caused a drain on the finances and seemed to be the dominant focus of lodge meetings. It consumed the energy of the brothers who were constantly asked to work fund-raising projects for the benefit of the lodge building expenses.

These three factors alone, thought Tom, caused the lodge to lose sight of the education of each individual brother in Masonry. The lodge declined because it was focused on creating members and not Masons. It declined by failing to expect a higher level of leadership, which resulted in poor planning. Without effective planning, a sense of teamwork or a unified lodge vision never happened. Finally, the brothers viewed their physical building as their identity and endeavored to preserve it, thus ignoring their true identity; a Master Mason with valuable materials at his disposal.

The Lessons Learned:
The old stone Master, erring in his planning duties, caused the apprentice to spoil the building materials by not providing for the apprentice's proper education. Without proper education the judgement the apprentice exercised was flawed.

Maybe this master craftsman thought, "it's just one stone and one irregular stone won't cause the temple to fall." Also, he may have thought, "I was careful to select a good intelligent man, he should be smart enough to figure this out on his own." The apprentice, left to his own designs, used what he knew and did the best he could. However, without the correct knowledge of how the ashlar fit into the entire building, it became unusable and the materials were spoiled.

Tom Hayden's lodge may have attracted good, intelligent men, but they were not properly "instructed in working" and these men, a part of the lodge's foundation, were spoiled "for want of judgement."

Tom believes the lodge brothers, the "lodge materials" when properly instructed, create a solid foundation for the lodge. Proper Masonic instruction leads each man to feel a sense of belonging to a brotherhood. It creates an atmosphere and culture that encourages connection, individual improvement, and excellence in Masonic education and leadership. Proper education produces strong leaders and strong leaders exercise sound judgement.

The Questions to Ask:
Is my lodge struggling because its foundation is faulty?
Is it because the materials have been spoiled for want of judgement?

14th District Masonic Blue Pages



Looking for a place to advertise your business to our Brothers? Look No More!!! The BLUE PAGES are Back!!

Cost of Advertising:

FULL PAGE—$125

1/2 PAGE—$75

1/3 PAGE (Business Card) -$60

Front Inside Cover—$350

Back Inside Cover—$300

To Advertise, please send Logo Ready Art-work to Keith Fields

614-404-2334

keith.oberers@gmail.com

Artwork needs to be submitted by June 30, 2020

Mail payments to:

14th Masonic District Officers Assoc.

3285 Grasmere Avenue

Columbus, OH 43224

The Blue Pages will be distributed to each Lodge, the Facebook Page and listed on the 14th District Website as well, giving you plenty of exposure for you advertising dollars.

14th Masonic District

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio



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