ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

APRIL 2025 ISSUE

A Paradigm To Masonic Leadership

WB Nicholas Bolyard

We all know the old ways of leadership. We lived in a "my way or the highway" approach. Many of us remember the days when coaches and teachers used a stick-and-carrot approach to leadership. But, we live in a new era. We live in a new society where the lessons of leadership have changed. We live in a new era where our methodology must change.

For many of us, we rely on a Volume of Sacred Law. Consider the leaders in your VoSL. One example would be Moses, who sought the path from God to serve those who followed him. Moses, to this day, is considered one of the best examples of leadership. For Christians, Christians might consider the leadership styles of Jesus, who washed the feet of others, and stated that "the greatest among you will be a servant."

In regards to Masonic leadership, we have long been told that the Masters rule and govern the lodge. But there is a peculiar difference in Masonic leadership. Masonic leaders lead with virtue. Yes, Masters are indeed the final say. And, no, there is no appeal to the Master. But it is written that: *"The jewel of the Master is a square; because, as the square is employed by operative Masons to fit and adjust the stones of a building so that all the parts shall properly agree, so the Master of the Lodge is admonished by the symbolic meaning of the square upon his breast, to preserve that moral deportment among the members, which should ever characterize good Masons, so that no ill-feeling or angry discuss may arise to impair the harmony of the meeting" (Lexicon of Freemasonry, Mackey).*

Through this, all Masonic leaders should consider the moral lessons of Masonic leadership. We hear every meeting that harmony is the strength and support of our institution, so too ought our leadership be. This is not to say that we always have to agree. Nor is it saying that we should not confront problems. But it is demanding that we confront with harmony, rather than to confront with conflict. In our lodges, and our daily lives, we should live in peace and harmony. Seek out conversations with our brethren. Seek out ways to collaborate. When you may not agree, seek out ways to see things from more than just your perspective. Together, we all have the unique opportunity to change the paradigm of leadership of ourselves and the world around us, so the world can see what Masonic leadership means.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

In this Issue

Living Your Dash 2
Altar Your Thoughts..... 4
Ladies at the Table..... 5
14th District Ritual Team.... 7
SYSK Symposium..... 8
VA Hospital Visits..... 9
Upcoming Events..... 10

SQUARE, PLUMB & LEVEL

Living Your Dash: Service, Brotherhood and Legacy

RWB Chris Greise

Today, as I sat listening to the sermon and staring down at the program, my eyes fell on the beginning and ending dates of my cousin's life. The dates were printed in large, bold text, stretching from one side of the page to the other, while the small dash between them seemed almost insignificant. It was a sobering reminder of how short our time on this planet truly is. It also brought back memories of a funeral I attended fourteen years ago—one that set me on a journey to improve how I was living my own life.

Far too often, we become distracted by the latest craze or fleeting trend, things that, when boiled down, hold little real value. In contrast, Masonic labor offers profound rewards—but only if we commit ourselves to working for the benefit of others. At the end of our lives, we all hope to hear those cherished words: *Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.*

But what are we doing to help those around us?

First, it's important simply to show up. I like to think of it as, *you can't win if you're not there.* Of course, life is busy, and we can't be everywhere all the time. Trying to do so might even lead us to neglect other vital aspects of our lives. But making the effort to attend your Blue Lodge stated meeting at least once a month can make a real difference. Shutting out the outside world for an evening and coming together with my brothers always leaves me feeling recharged and rejuvenated, ready to tackle life's challenges. But beyond that, your presence might be the encouragement another brother needs. A friendly smile, a brief conversation, or a helping hand could be just what someone needs to get through a tough time. Lose yourself in the service of others, and in return, your heart will be filled with Masonic wages.

Secondly, take the time to welcome and acknowledge everyone you see at lodge. I've spoken to brothers who stopped attending simply because they didn't feel welcome. I know this isn't intentional. As an officer, I often found myself so busy preparing for the evening that I wasn't as focused on being welcoming and brotherly. But a simple check-in, a warm handshake, or a sincere *How have you been?* can go a long way.

Many lodges have members on the books whom the current officers don't even know. We need to return to the practice of checking in on our brothers—not just when dues are overdue. My uncle, a Mason in Pennsylvania, lost his wife and can no longer drive. Every week, I call him to check in. We talk about lodge, his health, and what's going on in town. He looks forward to his lodge meetings, even though he often can't attend unless a brother offers him a ride. Some brothers hesitate to return because their friends are no longer attending, and they fear they won't know anyone. But every lodge I've visited has made me feel like a long-lost friend and brother. A simple invitation can make all the difference.

Finally, I've heard brothers say they'd come to lodge if they had something to do or felt needed. Others, however, avoid coming because they don't want to be asked to work. But we shouldn't be afraid to roll up our sleeves. What else is life about if not meaningful work in the service of others? If we each take responsibility for strengthening our lodge and supporting our brothers, we'll ensure that our Masonic labor continues to bring light—not just to our own lives, but to the world around us.

January 4 1808 - ???

Club 14

The 14th District Officers Association is proud to present our official online merchandise store as part of our Club 14 fundraiser. We have partnered with The Rock Syndicate in Reynoldsburg to create unique and in many cases, handmade, Club 14 and other Masonic items. There are many discounted items for Club 14 members. T-shirts and hoodies are available for pre-order, all other items are made to order and will typically be available within 2 business days. Thanks for your support.

Please visit **TheRockSyndicate.com/14thDistrict** for more information.



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

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

Job's Daughter Bethel 71 – Lunch with the Bunny

Dear members of 14th Masonic District,

On Saturday April 19 from 11:30-1:00 several central Ohio Job's Daughters Bethels will be hosting a "Lunch with the Bunny" event and fundraiser at Grove City Masonic Temple. It will be a family event with crafts, pictures, and pancakes.

Please see the flyer on page 12 of this edition of the Ashlar. Reach out to Jeff Loeser for further information or to RSVP.

Jeff Loeser
(614)623-0798
jeff.loeser@yahoo.com

Contacts

14th District Officers

President
WB Eric Kletrovetz

1st Vice President
WB Patrick Mayer

2nd Vice President
WB Jay Miller

Treasurer
WB John Hicks

Secretary
RWB Brian Bolyard

Sergeant-At-Arms
WB Kenneth Goble

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WB Jeff Robeano

Communication Committee

RWB Ken Cohen
RWB Adam Michael
WB Craig Shumaker
RWB Brian Bolyard
WB Jeffrey Hall
WB Adam Lappert

Editor

WB Adam Lappert

If you are having an event and want to invite the district, please send an email to: **ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org**

District Advisor

RWB Adam Michael

Altar Your Thoughts

WB Nick Bolyard

We live in a world filled with chaos. It is easy to give examples, and I am certain you can develop a few of your own. Think about a time when you had the opportunity to react impulsively. Maybe it was someone cutting you off on the freeway, or someone acting in a way that you disagree with. Whatever the situation may be, we have the unique opportunity to react with impulse or respond with intention.

You may have read the headline and thought "That is not spelled correctly." You would normally be correct. However, think deeper. The word "altar" is defined as *a structure with a flat top, often shaped like a table, that is used in some religious ceremonies, for example as a place to put important religious objects.* In each lodge, the altar is the center of the room. The altar is where we find the great lights and the Volumes of Sacred Law. We were taught that no important undertaking should ever take place without the blessing of God. However, what about any undertaking?

Before we react, we have the opportunity to respond. The first step to responding instead of reacting begins with a blessing. One Masonic leader is coined for saying "Through the power of prayer, my mind is now clear." We have the opportunity to take our thoughts to the altar. We have the opportunity to put all our thoughts on the altar and turn our thoughts over to the Supreme Architect of the Universe. When you are presented with an opportunity to react or respond, **Altar Your Thoughts**.



Ladies At the Table Page 1/2

WB Robert Burgman

I remember when I was installed as Master of Muskegon #140 for the first time in Muskegon, Michigan in 2006. Due to the Asia Crisis in 1998, I had moved my family to Muskegon from British Columbia, Canada to be closer to relatives living in the home province of Ontario, Canada. My father, a Past Master and District Deputy Grand Master, made the 7-hour drive from Toronto to participate in my installation.

During the installation, my older son, thirteen at the time, removed the chairs one by one as the officers were installed while my younger son, nine at the time and the shyer of the two, stayed with his mother, my wonderful wife Sandra. After the pomp & ceremony of the open installation, it was finally time for me, in a room full of new friends, family, and visiting brethren from other lodges, to say a few words.

Customary fashion is, respectfully of course, to thank all those who had attended, had prepared the event, and had supported my election. My very first action and words, as I rose in the East, was to ask all the ladies of the brethren of the lodge to stand up. Some were reluctant at first, but soon enough all were standing like beautiful columns scattered around the periphery of the lodge room. I then stated, “Behold the true pillars of our lodge. Without your support, ladies, our lodge would not exist. Our Masonic Ritual teaches us about columns and especially the those that are attributed to the three principal officers of the lodge, yet you are the true strength and foundation of our lodge. Thank you, ladies, for your continued support of our fraternity.”

The rest of the festivities went well. As I was enjoying dinner afterwards in the dining hall, I thought our lodge should do more to honor our ladies than the sincere, albeit brief, heartfelt thanks at an officers’ installation ceremony. I had my year planned out, but the following day I began contemplating what sort of event we could do and started scouring the Grand Lodge of Michigan web site and others. I came across a pseudo festive board / table lodge event, “Ladies At the Table” in the Michigan publication Old Past Masters’ Almanac. There is more than version of this event, and the one presented was derived from Vermont and based upon old French ritual. Here’s a description.

After everyone has been seated for dinner, a ceremony begins with an invocation. Next the master makes some opening remarks, and the wardens explain the history of the ceremony. Then, a long-stemmed red rose is given to each of the ladies followed by an officer giving a description of the meaning of the red rose. Then, the fun begins.





Ladies At the Table Page 2/2

WB Robert Burgman

A series of toasts are held, each one to an officers' lady. Charge glasses, not wine glasses, are used for the toasts. The wine stewards are asked to "fill the wine to the line" at the beginning of each toast. Next, the master raps everyone up and the lady being toasted is recognized by one of the officers – but not her significant other. Then, all in unison, we go through a series of movements grasping the charge glass, lifting it and holding it straight out level with your shoulder, then rotate left, rotate right, center, bring the glass to your lips, three sips to empty it, and the all thrust the charge glasses with their thick bases down onto the table. After doing this for each lady, there is a closing to recognize absent and dearly departed ladies followed by a closing invocation.

Buoyant, I brought this up to the lodge and the brethren were all in favor. We decided to hold this event in the Temple dining hall using the same caterer who had prepared dinner for our installation. We selected a Saturday evening near Valentine's Day. The idea was to honor our ladies in the spirit of the Valentine's season, but to not hold it on the actual day so that couples could have that day to themselves.

A twist was added to the ceremonies. Each lady was given a 3 x 5 card. They were asked to briefly fill in items on the card – home town, college, occupation, favorite hobbies/activities, … - you get the idea. When we all rose to toast a lady, the assigned officer not only recognized her but read her cue card. This helped everyone get a better understanding of each lady. More often than not, ladies found out that others had similar hobbies or pastimes, grew up in a similar part of the state, or other shared interests. Not every lady is outgoing, so the more introspective types had an incentive to engage with others based upon a newly found common interest. I've seen friendships develop because of this event. It can truly extend a lodge's Masonic family.

As Master of Community Lodge 684 last year, I initiated having this ceremony at our lodge. We met at a nice restaurant and conducted the festivities there instead of a temple dining hall. Everyone had a lot of fun so as this year is my second time in the East for Community Lodge, we held it again. One brother brought his daughter as his wife had other plans that night and she was honored in the same manner as the other ladies.

I encourage your lodges, if you don't already do so, to hold a similar event honoring the true pillars your lodge. You can find a version of Ladies At the Table on Grandview under Festive Boards. I'll gladly share my version to anyone who asks.



Join the New 14th Masonic District Ritual Team!

Are you passionate about Masonic ritual? Do you have experience delivering lectures, charges,or speaking parts for the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason degrees? If so, we need you!

The 14th Masonic District is excited to announce the formation of a district ritual team, and we're looking for skilled and dedicated members to join this important effort. Our goal is to assemble a team of brothers who can assist lodges throughout the district in exemplifying the ritual, offering guidance, and stepping in when needed to ensure our ceremonies are conducted with the highest level of proficiency and reverence.

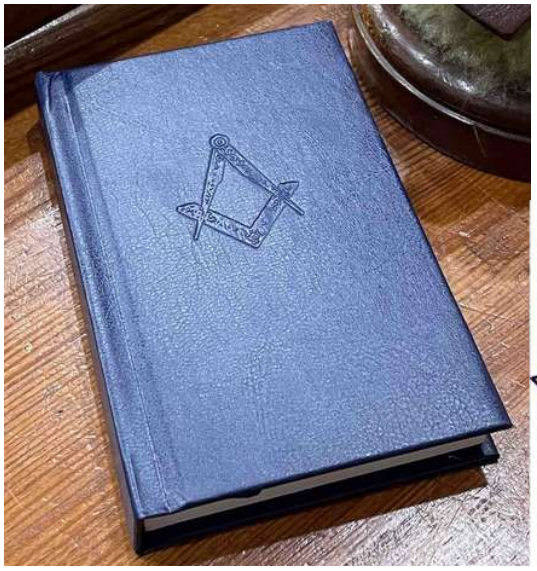
This team will serve several key purposes:

- **support lodges**: Help lodges perform their degrees when they may lack the resources or experience to fill all speaking parts.
- **mentorship**: Share your knowledge and expertise to help brothers across the district improve their ritual work and deepen their understanding of its meaning.
- **preserve excellence**: Ensure that the Ritual is conducted with dignity and precision, preserving its beauty and importance for future generations.

Whether you're a seasoned ritualist or someone who is eager to take their ritual work to the next level, this is a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact in our district. Your participation will not only strengthen our lodges but also enrich your own Masonic journey.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the 14th District Ritual Team, please reach out to Keith Fields at keith@oberers.com or 614-404-2334. Let us know which lectures, charges, or speaking parts you are familiar with or would like to work on. Together, we can build a team that exemplifies the very best of Masonic tradition.

Let's come together to inspire, educate, and uphold the timeless principles of our fraternity through exemplary ritual work.



14TH MASONIC DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM

PRESENTED BY THE 2025 SYSK CLASS



MAY 3, 2025 | 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

NORTHWEST MASONIC TEMPLE
2436 W GRANVILLE RD,
COLUMBUS, OH 43235

SCHEDULE

1:00 PM - KEYNOTE #1: LODGE ROOM
2:00 PM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1
3:00 PM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2
4:00 PM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS #3
5:00 PM - DINNER
6:00 PM - BREAKOUT SESSION #4
7:00 PM - BREAKOUT SESSIONS #5
8:00 PM - KEYNOTE #2: LODGE ROOM
9:00 PM - DISMISSED

NOTE: BREAKOUT SESSIONS WILL BE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS: LODGE ROOM, LIBRARY, PRACTICE ROOM, DINING ROOM.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT
Masonic Leader
SYMPOSIUM

Join us for a training event to bring the brethren of the District together. This event is open to Entered Apprentices, Fellowcraft & Master Masons alike.

Please be sure to fill out the contact fields (name, phone number & email address) when registering.

If you have any dietary restrictions, please note those in the provided field when you register.

REGISTER VIA THE FOLLOWING QR CODES

SYMPOSIUM AND DINNER
$20 +$1.50 PROCESSING FEE

SYMPOSIUM ONLY
(NO DINNER)
$10 +$1.50 PROCESSING FEE

VA Hospital Visitations

Greetings Brethren! Our new Masonic year is in full swing, and the new calendar year has bought us the cold and dreary days of winter. Although our inspection season doesn't begin until February 3rd, we are excited to know that our visitation program to the VA Medical Center in Chillicothe will resume on Sunday February 2nd. See full details below.

Our committee needs a couple of additional members to assist WB Roscoe Smith and WB David Gubanc in overseeing the visitation program. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please contact one of these brothers, or a 14th District Deputy Grand Master.

The VA Hospital Visitation Program is under the direction of the 14th Masonic District Deputy Grand Masters. The involvement of every Lodge is essential if this program is to be a success. Plan your visitation for the hours of 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the dates listed. Refreshments are a most important part of our visitations, are very well received, and are served immediately following the program.

Apples, oranges, bananas, and store-bought cookies are the items to bring. Please do not bring any cakes, doughnuts, or homemade cookies. It is recommended that six dozen of each fruit and twelve to fifteen dozen of individually packaged, store-bought cookies be brought for each visit.

The first lodge listed for each visitation is designated as the organizational lodge for that month and will be contacted prior to the visit to outline the complete activity schedule. We trust that you will make the VA Hospital Visitation part of your lodge program.

Co-Chairmen
Roscoe R. Smith……...740.972.4033
2638 Carla Drive, Lewis Center, Ohio 43035

David Gubanc……614.496.5444
1352 Crestview St., Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

MARCH 2, 2025
Linden #637, Grove City #689, Groveport-Lockbourne #801

APRIL 6, 2025
Magnolia #20, Neoacacia #595, Goodale #372

MAY 4, 2025
Canal Winchester #670, Sunrise #783, Triangle #748

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
SYSK Make Up Class	Reynoldsburg Lodge, 7350 Broadwyn Dr, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068	Saturday, April 12, 2025	9am-12pm
14th District Masonic Symposium	North West Masonic Temple 2436 W. Granville Rd Columbus Oh, 43235	Saturday May 3, 2025	1pm-9pm
14th District Awards Meeting	Blendon Lodge 130 S State St Westerville, OH 43081	Thursday, May 22, 2025	6pm
14th District Prospect Day	Aladdin Shrine Center, 1801 Gateway Cir, Grove City, OH 43123	Wednesday June 4, 2025	6pm
14th District Summer Picnic	Highbanks Metro Park, 9466 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, OH 43035	Sunday, August 3, 2025	12pm Lunch 2pm
14th District Annual Meeting	TBD	Thursday, October 16, 2025	6pm

Please have all articles and advertisements into the Communication Committee by the 15th of each month to ensure your content is included in the next release:
ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org





CENTRAL OHIO JOB'S DAUGHTERS PRESENT

LUNCH WITH THE BUNNY

CRAFTS | PICTURES | PANCAKES

SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2025

11:30AM-1PM

$10 PER PERSON

REGISTER BY APRIL 7TH TO

BETHL71@OHIJDI.COM

GROVE CITY MASONIC TEMPLE

3558 PARK STREET, GROVE CITY, OHIO, 43123



UNIVERSITY LODGE NO. 631 IS HOSTING IT'S ANNUAL

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

Open to the Community

APRIL 26th 2025 - 8:00 am - 11:30 am

A concurrent Open House for the community will run 8:00am to 3:00 pm

2436 Dublin-Granville Road

Donations: $5.00 per Adult *(age 18 & older)*

$2.00 per child *(age 12 to 18)*

Children under 12 years of age are Free

100% of the proceeds will go to Nationwide Children's Hospital, here in Columbus, Ohio



2025 Royal Arch Degree Day

in honor of REC David Gizzo



Mark Master

Past Master

Most Excellent Master

Royal Arch

Presented by the Chapters of the 11th Capitular District

Saturday, May 3rd, 2025

Sunrise Masonic Lodge
211 West Johnstown Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

- Registration Opens at 8:00AM
- Mark Master Degree at 9:00AM
- Lunch following the Past Master Degree (Lunch Cost is $15.00)
- Most Excellent Master Degree and Royal Arch Degree After Lunch
- The event should conclude by 5:00PM

Chapters presenting the degrees:
Mark Master - Community #227
Past Master - Walnut #172
Most Excellent Master - York-Temple #155
Royal Arch - Horeb-Wright #3

DISCOVER FREEMASONRY

PROSPECT DAY | JUNE 4 2025

BE LEGENDARY



OPEN TO ALL LODGES – COME BE PART OF SOMETHING LEGENDARY!

Bring all prospects and anyone who may be interested in learning about Freemasonry! This is a great opportunity to introduce them to the Values, History, and Brotherhood of our Craft | Light hors d'oeuvres will be provided

Aladdin Shrine | 1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, OH 43123 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | June 4, 2025 | Casual Dress

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Keith Fields | Mobile: 614-404-2334 | E-mail: keith@oberers.com