ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

M A Y 2025 ISSUE

Be Legendary: Prospect Day 2025

WB Jeffrey Hall

Brothers, it's time to rise.

Freemasonry isn't just something we belong to—it's who we are. It's where good men come to sharpen their character, build unbreakable brotherhood, serve with heart, and be legendary.

On Wednesday, June 4, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM, we gather at the Aladdin Shrine (1801 Gateway Circle, Grove City, OH 43123) for Prospect Day 2025—a night to light the fire for the next generation of Masons.

We are honored to welcome Most Worshipful Brother William M. Carter III, Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio, as our keynote speaker. He'll show how Freemasonry doesn't just make good men better—it makes good men unstoppable.

Why Bring a Prospect?

- Because legends aren't born. They're built. Freemasonry molds men through tradition, service, and honor.
- Because brotherhood is our superpower. We lift each other higher, and the bonds we forge are forever.
- Because strong character changes the world. Our teachings shape leaders who live with integrity and purpose.
- Because real impact matters. Freemasons are called to make a difference—and we answer that call every day.

If you know a man who's searching for more—who's ready to grow, to serve, and to stand for something greater—bring him. Show him what it means to join a brotherhood that dares to be legendary.

This is our time to inspire, to lead, and to build the future of Freemasonry.

Let's be the legends the world needs. See you there.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

In this Issue

Masonic Youth Update..... 2
A Call to Be Legendary 4
Refining Lodge Education ... 5
Quiet Citizenship 7
District Ritual Team 8
VA Hospital Visits..... 9
Upcoming Events..... 10

SQUARE, PLUMB & LEVEL

Masonic Youth Update

WB Nick Bolyard

DeMolay: ***From Jonathan Nelson, District President of the 4th DeMolay District***

The Fourth DeMolay District is doing well right now. We recently had our Devotional Day, where we went to Madison Christian Church, and afterwards the DeMolays hung out with the other Masonic youth organizations. We also just finished our raffle ticket sale and drew the winners on April 8th. The winners were Ken Kellogg and Ronnie Rutter. We also donated $1,000 towards our State Master Councilor's charity, Stockhands Horses for Healing. On the weekend of April 25th, the District is sending young men to Chicago to compete in the annual Heartland Ritual Tournament of Champions. One of our district's goals is to have more Masonic interaction, so we challenge the Masons of central Ohio to visit their local Masonic youth groups at a meeting, prospect event, recreational event, or anything else.

Update on Masonic Youth

Brethren,

We have a unique opportunity to build our Masonic Youth. Right now, there are over 20 DeMolay Chapters and 20 Rainbow Assemblies in the state. However, there are fewer than 10 Job's Daughters Bethels.

Our youth organizations need more support. Our young men and women work tirelessly in their respective organizations. How can you help? We encourage all lodges to set aside a time to reach out to your local Chapter, Assembly, or Bethel. Each organization loves to visit the lodges, but also loves to have lodges visit them. These are wonderful opportunities.

If you have a young man 12-21, DeMolay is perfect for them. If you have a young woman 10-20, consider Job's Daughters. For ages 11-20, consider Rainbow for Girls. For the young women, encourage them to be members and be involved in both. Both organizations are tremendous for the development of our young men and women.

Below, you will find contact information. Brethren have come to me with incorrect contact information, so having the right email is very important.

Brethren, our youth are our future. We can all encourage our men and women to join these fine organizations. We can all visit these organizations and take time to build relationships. Let's make Ohio the place to be for Masonry and the Masonic Youth.

Masonic Youth Contacts

DeMolay Contacts

Linden Chapter (Northwest Masonic Temple)

- Chapter DAD: Olaf Wiersma boabob2013@gmail.com
- Chairman: Michael Threloff mthreloff28@gmail.com

Groveport Chapter

- Chapter DAD: Tom Nelson tsnelsonjr@yahoo.com
- Chairman: Ken Cohen ken.cohen@mason340.com

Fourth District

- Governor: Brian A. Bolyard brianabolyard@aol.com
- District Council Advisor: Nick Bolyard n.bolyard87@gmail.com

Job's Daughters Contacts

Grand Guardian Council

- Grand Guardian: Kara Locke grandguardian@ohiojdi.com
- Associate Grand Guardian: Perry Billman associategrandguardian@ohiojdi.com
- Promotions Chair: Nikki Bolyard promotions@ohiojdi.com

Bethel 71: Groveport (Grove City as of Fall 2025)

- Bethel Guardian: Nikki Bolyard bethel71@ohiojdi.com
- Associate Bethel Guardian: Jeff Loeser

Bethel 45: Grove City

- Bethel Guardian: Jennifer Neider bethel45@ohiojdi.com

Bethel 22: Delaware

- Bethel Guardian: Dani Hill bethel22@ohiojdi.com

Rainbow for Girls Contacts

- Grand Deputy: Crissy Willeke cwilleke@northridgevikings.org

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

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

Chaplain
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

A Call To Be Legendary

WB Jeffrey Hall

In this Masonic year, under the banner of our Grand Lodge theme—Be Legendary—we are called to a higher standard of living, one shaped by purpose, character, and legacy. Central to that calling are the four cardinal virtues: temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice. These virtues are not mere ideals to admire, but essential tools for the Master Mason who seeks to craft a life worthy of remembrance. They refine our interactions, inform our decisions, and remind us that true greatness begins with self-mastery.

These virtues do not stand alone in the annals of wisdom. They find strong echoes in Stoic philosophy. The Stoics taught that temperance brings clarity through moderation, fortitude sustains us through adversity, prudence equips us with discernment, and justice demands our duty to others. These shared principles reveal a deep alignment between Masonry and Stoicism, each emphasizing that a life of virtue is the foundation of a life that endures. To be legendary is to live by these disciplines, every single day.

Masonry and Stoicism also converge in their reflections on time and mortality. The solemn truth of memento mori—remember you must die—is not a message of fear, but one of focus. It awakens us to the brevity of life and the urgency of meaning. Carpe diem—seize the day—then becomes a masonic charge: to use our time wisely, act justly, love fully, and labor with intention. These ideas are not opposites—they are companions. One reminds us of our end; the other of our opportunity.

To be legendary is to recognize that legacy is not built in a single moment, but across a lifetime of moments well-lived. It is forged in the quiet decisions to do right when no one is watching, in the strength shown during adversity, in the wisdom shared with a brother, and in the justice upheld in our communities. Each of us is laying stones for a temple unseen, one that exists in memory, in example, and in the lives we've touched. That is the essence of masonic immortality.

Brothers, the working tools are in your hands. The lessons are etched in the rituals, and the path is before you. Let us live the craft fully—with virtue, presence, and resolve—so that when our time here is done, our names will be spoken with reverence. We are not called to be ordinary. We are called to be legendary.



Refining Lodge Education

RWB Chris Greiese

Refining Lodge Operations

Freemasonry, through its working tools, teaches us to simplify life by focusing on core principles and values. These teachings guide not only how we treat others but also how we govern ourselves. When we apply this perspective to the workings of our lodge, it prompts us to ask: What are the essential aspects of our lodge's operations?

Financial Responsibility

A fundamentally sound lodge lives within its means. Each new administration should carefully review the previous year's budget to ensure it still aligns with the lodge's current needs. A decline in membership can significantly reduce income, potentially impacting the lodge's ability to maintain its ongoing commitments. Additionally, if a milestone event is approaching, it's important to allocate sufficient funds to make the occasion truly memorable and worthy of celebration. So, it is very important to always work your budget and plan for a successful future.

Adherence to Grand Lodge Standards

Lodge officers play a critical role in ensuring lodges remain compliant with the Grand Lodge's code, edicts, laws, rules, and regulations. Key areas of focus include conferring each degree at least twice during the Masonic year, holding a minimum of ten stated meetings annually, and filing IRS Form 990 on time to maintain tax compliance. Other vital responsibilities include confirming the Master's eligibility, timely submission of the Annual Report to the Grand Lodge, and prompt remittance of dues. Using the Grand Lodge code courses can assist your lodge officers in learning the details of the code and where to find the answers when you need them.

Administration: The Backbone of a Lodge

One of the most variable aspects of your lodge is administration. The Secretary and Treasurer play crucial behind-the-scenes roles, ensuring the lodge meets its obligations and passes annual inspections. Their work, while straightforward, requires attention to detail and adherence to deadlines. Tracking tasks throughout the year simplifies the pre-inspection process and strengthens lodge operations.

The Importance of Assistants

A well-functioning lodge should not be dependent on a single person. If a longtime Secretary or Treasurer were to pass away unexpectedly, the lodge should not be left scrambling. To prevent this, consider appointing assistants—one past officer with experience and another who is a potential successor. This approach ensures continuity and provides flexibility in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Education: A Collective Effort

Education is a fundamental pillar of a successful lodge. It encompasses candidate instruction, member enrichment, and officer training. To be effective, education should be intentional and well-structured.

Past Masters and sidelined brothers can play a valuable role in mentorship. By dividing responsibilities, your lodge can offer well-rounded instruction. Additionally, Grand Lodge resources and District Education Officers provide valuable training opportunities to prepare future officers.

Refining Lodge Education Cont.

Ritual: Mastering the Work
Progressing through the officer line naturally reinforces ritual proficiency. While a lodge does not require a strictly moving line, officers who experience each position gain a structured path to learning the work in stages. Regular officer meetings can serve as planning sessions, ensuring smooth transitions from one role to the next.
Pre-planning allows officers to:

- Collaborate with their predecessors to gain a deeper understanding of their future responsibilities.
- Mentor those following them, ensuring a stronger foundation for the lodge.
- Gain experience presiding over a lodge before assuming full responsibility.

One effective method is allowing officers to preside over different degrees before reaching the East:

- **Senior Deacon presides over an Entered Apprentice Lodge.**
- **Junior Warden presides over a Fellowcraft Lodge.**
- **Senior Warden presides over a Master Mason Lodge.**

By the time an officer reaches the East, they have already conducted all three degrees and can focus on leadership rather than learning on the job.

Utilizing the Typed Ritual
To improve ritual accuracy, your lodge can request the type-written ritual from District Deputies. Often, errors are passed down through generations simply because they were learned incorrectly. Using official resources ensures continuity and preserves the integrity of our work.

Community Involvement
Lodges that thrive are often those deeply engaged in their communities. When the public sees Freemasons making a meaningful difference, it inspires interest and attracts like-minded men. Hosting charitable events and being visible in your community not only fulfills our mission of service but also strengthens the lodge's presence and appeal.

Fellowship and Family
Strong relationships among Brothers are built not only through labor but also through fellowship. Providing opportunities for social interaction helps forge deeper bonds of friendship. It's equally important to include our ladies and families in lodge activities. As we age, life's challenges become more frequent, and having a close-knit Masonic family helps us remain true to our obligation—to care for our Brothers, their widows, and their orphans.

Traveling
Freemasonry extends far beyond the walls of your own lodge. This fraternity spans the globe, and staying in one place can limit your appreciation of the true beauty and diversity of Masonic experiences. Traveling opens both the eyes and the heart.
Encourage new members to accompany you when visiting lodges within our district or in neighboring ones. You'll find that Brothers welcome visitors with open arms—as if you've been lifelong friends. These journeys not only offer fellowship but also valuable opportunities to observe different lodge practices, inspiring ritual work, and educational presentations.
You may return with new ideas or fresh perspectives to help strengthen your own lodge. As the saying goes, *iron sharpens iron*—but only if you make the effort to engage and explore.

Conclusion
Refining lodge operations is not about complexity—it's about consistency, communication, and care. When we align our administrative practices with the timeless values of Freemasonry, we build a stronger, more resilient Craft for future generations.

Quiet Citizenship

WB Nick Bolyard

Cruising through my social media outlets has given me some deep thoughts. Society, as we know it, is troubled. Crime rates are higher over time, incarceration numbers are much different than before, and so on. But the intangible, the divisiveness of man, is higher than we have ever seen. Even brothers of the fraternity cannot seem to put aside their jealousies or ambitions and divide rather than unify. Social media seems to be flooded with the constant issues of posts on the political world. Everywhere we turn, it seems that everything is political. I distinctly remember a day when men were judged by character, and our political parties were not nearly as important. I remember not knowing how people voted because it was none of our business!

Yet the truth is, people post their political opinions heavily. Brethren, is this what we are called to do? Let us heed our ritual: "*In the State, you are to be a quiet and peaceful subject, true to your government, and just to your country; you are not to countenance disloyalty or rebellion, but patiently submit to legal authority, and conform with Cheerfulness to that government of the country in which you live.*" So, a QUIET citizen. Let us ponder that thought and consider what it means. We are asked to be quiet citizens, whisper wise counsel. My grandfather always says, "we whisper wise counsel, not shout it from the rooftops".

Brethren, consider your actions. While you may say "my social media is my business", you are a walking billboard for Freemasonry. What we post, as Freemasons, is not only seen by our fraternity but is seen by the world at large. Our opinions, our posts, are then connected to our organization.

The men of this fraternity are called to be different. We are called to be LEGENDARY. So, the next time the opportunity comes to post about our political affairs, consider the charge. We are charged to be peaceful and quiet, not shout from the rooftops. Be LEGENDARY brethren, and live Freemasonry!



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.

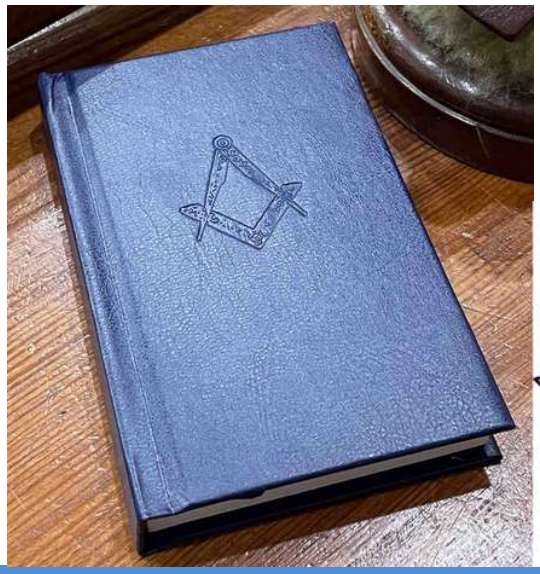
This team will serve several key purposes:

- **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.



Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
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 Golf Outing	York Golf Club, 7549 N High St, Columbus, OH 43235	Saturday July 12, 2025	11am
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

14th Masonic District
Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio


Reynoldsburg #340
Table Lodge
June 7th, 2025
$40 per person
- paid on lodge site
Doors open 6pm
Dinner at 6:30pm
Reservations open
- April 1st for 340 members
-April 13th for District
Register via email
- Paul.saltz@mason340.com
Guest Speaker : DEO
Michael Heath


MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF OHIO
Free and Accepted Masons
Scholarship Raffle
Grand Prize
2025 Mercedes-Benz GLA250 (valued at $42,000)
2nd Place: $2,000 3rd Place: $1,000 4th Place: $500
Ticket Donation: $5.00 per ticket
Drawing to be held on Saturday, June 7th, 2025
Contact Abdur Siddiq 614-354-7006
Proceeds to Prince Hall Scholarship Founaolion
No Substitutions of the offered prized will be made - All prizes must be claimed within 90 days of official notice of winning - Winner is responsible for tax and title


Aladdin Shriners' Annual
Family Picnic!
Saturday, June 21, 2025
12 PM – 4 PM
• Bounce houses
• Kid-friendly games & prizes
• Aladdin Clowns
• Adult Bingo & Prizes
• Touch-a-Truck
• Touch-a-Cruiser
• Live Music
• Carnival Food
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
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