ASHLAR

THE MONTHLY NEWS PUBLICATION FOR MASONS

OCTOBER 2025

Grand Lodge 2025

Friday, October 24, the Grand Master of Masons will convene the 216th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio. Delegates will include Grand Lodge officers, past and present District Deputy Grand Masters, District Education Officers in addition to Worshipful Masters and Wardens (or their proxies) from each of the 420 constituent lodges. Representatives of other Grand Lodges will also be present.

Other meetings will be held during the event, including the Royal Scofield Society and numerous Grand Lodge Committees. Thursday evening will be a reception for the Grand Master, and Friday evening will be a reception for the new Grand Master. The district hospitality room (and other hospitality rooms) will be open after the receptions.

While reservations for the receptions have closed, there are still opportunities to visit the Grand Lodge meeting. Any Master Mason may attend. Grand Lodge is an opportunity to meet with masons from all over the state. I hope many of you will spend some time at Grand Lodge in Sandusky.

14TH MASONIC DISTRICT

www.14thmasonicdistrict.org

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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

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

Setting a Higher Bar

RWBro Chris Greise

I am not sure if it is because I am getting older or because of Masonry, but I find myself spending more time reflecting on my life, the choices I have made, and the goals I have set. Too often I regret not setting my sights higher. In the moment, we worry that we might not be able to reach greater heights - or perhaps we simply do not want to put in the effort it takes to rise above mediocrity. But looking back, I realize that the smaller goals I achieved easily pale in comparison to what might have been, had I dared to try for something greater.

As I travel around our district, I ask myself how I can encourage brothers to push themselves - and their lodges—toward something truly memorable. I hear stories from Past Masters about the standards of earlier days: before a brother could sit in the East, he had to deliver all three lectures and charges. Today, some Masters may not have given even one. I understand that for some, learning a lecture comes quickly, while for others, like me, it may take months. But difficulty should never deter us. Greatness is never found in what is easy. When we lower the bar year after year, the next man sees the new standard and perhaps lowers it further. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, we lose sight of the higher expectations that once defined us, and we barely recognize the landmarks of our Order.

We must remember why we labor. Yes, Masonry refines us individually, but ultimately, the work is not for ourselves alone. When we lose ourselves in service to others, we create ripples in the pond of life - ripples that may touch generations to come.

Today's world is filled with distractions our forefathers never faced. But that only means we must trim away more of the excess. With all the choices before us, only a few truly matter: family, friends, our homes, our vocations, ourselves, and of course, Masonry.

At a time when many lodges struggle with participation, we must rely more on one another. Traveling to other lodges not only strengthens our own Masonic journey, it builds bonds that strengthen the Craft as a whole. Imagine seven or ten brothers from your lodge visiting another lodge - attending an educational program, a fellowship event, or the conferral of a degree. The impact of that shared experience, both for the visitors and the hosts, would be immeasurable.



Like I have said before, life is about balance - but it should never be wasted by aiming low and hitting the mark. Even if we aim high and fall short, we still achieve far more than if we had settled for less. Masonry gives us that safe space to step beyond our comfort zones, to be bold, to be brave, and to strive for something truly legendary.

Committing to the Craft

The District Education Officers



In every generation of Masons, one truth remains constant: our Craft thrives when its members are committed to learning, growing, and living out the timeless lessons of Freemasonry. The working tools of our fraternity are more than symbols - they are guides to daily living, reminders that the journey of a Mason is never finished, and that education is the cornerstone of our growth.

Masonic education is not simply about learning facts or memorizing ritual. It is about deepening our understanding of the values we have pledged to uphold, strengthening the bonds that unite us as Brothers, and equipping ourselves to lead and serve in our lodges and communities. Through education, we do more than maintain tradition - we ensure the future of our Craft.

The 14th Masonic District Education Officers are committed to helping every brother strengthen his dedication to the Craft through meaningful and practical programs. This year, we are pleased to announce several opportunities to build knowledge and sharpen leadership skills:

- Worshipful Master and Lodge Education Officer Training
  Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00 PM
  Magnolia Lodge No. 20
- Deacons and Stewards Training
  Wednesday, December 17 at 7:00 PM
  Reynoldsburg Lodge No. 340

Feature Program: SYSK – Building Leaders for the Craft

The SYSK Program is more than training - it is about leadership. This class is open not only to current lodge officers, but to any brother who is interested in developing his leadership skills and preparing to serve the Craft in meaningful ways. Through thoughtful instruction, discussion, and fellowship, participants will discover what it means to lead with integrity, humility, and purpose.

SYSK Dates: All times are 8-3pm unless other stated

- Saturday, January 10,2026 (Location TBD)
- Saturday, February 7,2026 (Location TBD)
- Saturday, March 7,2026 at Sparrow Lodge No. 400
- Saturday, April 11,2026 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Make-Up Class at Hiram Lodge
- SYSK Symposium April 25th,2026

14th District Officers

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WBro Eric Kletrovetz

1st Vice President
WBro Patrick Mayer

2nd Vice President
WBro Jay Miller

Treasurer
WBro John Hicks

Secretary
RWBro Brian Bolyard

Sergeant-At-Arms
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WBro Jeff Robeano

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RWBro Ken Cohen
RWBro Adam Michael
WBro Craig Shumaker
RWBro Brian Bolyard
WBro Jeffrey Hall
WBro Adam Lappert

Interim Editor
RWBro Ken Cohen

If you are having an event and want to invite the district, please send an email to:

ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org

District Advisor
RWBro Adam Michael

These programs are designed not just for officers, but for all who desire to gain a deeper knowledge of our traditions and responsibilities. Whether you are preparing for leadership, seeking to support your lodge more effectively, or simply eager to explore the deeper meaning of Masonry, these sessions will provide valuable light.

Let us remember that Masonry asks us to commit to the Craft - to labor with purpose, to support one another, and to continue learning long after our degrees are conferred. Education is one of the most powerful ways we can fulfill that obligation.

We encourage every brother in the 14th Masonic District to take advantage of these opportunities. Bring your questions, your experiences, and your desire to grow. Together, let us ensure that the foundation of our Craft remains strong, and that our lodges continue to be places of wisdom, fellowship, and service for generations to come.

Sign up below for our wonderful educational opportunities.

- Registration Links WM & LEO Workshop: Worshipful Master and LEO Training
- Deacons & Stewards Training: Deacons and Stewards Training
- SYSK: SYSK Sign Up

Ending the Chapter

WBro Nick Bolyard

For the last three years, I have had the honor of serving you as a District Education Officer for this District. This is probably the toughest article that I could write, because it is the last one in this chapter of my service to you. This is a heartfelt reflection, so I apologize for what grammatical errors you may stumble upon in this article.

When I was asked to serve as a District Education Officer, I was only 29 years old, turning 30 the month before Grand Lodge. Being that young, I may not have handled this position the way I would like to. At that point in my life, I had a lot of growing up to do. Nonetheless, I sincerely appreciate the confidence that was bestowed in me by Most Worshipful Brother (MWB) Steven M. Grindle, who appointed me to serve in this role.

Through my first year, I heard some scuttlebutt about my appointment. Being a third-generation past master, and the son (and grandson) to past DDGMs, I knew that I had big shoulders to stand on but big shoes to fill. Having my dad also serving as the District Advisor, to be honest, added immense pressure, because I knew that some may have believed that I was merely appointed because of his role. So, to be honest, the first year was a learning curve. But I sincerely appreciate my dad, RWB Brian Bolyard, for having the courage to ask me to serve in this role.

In my second year serving, I faced something in my life that I do not want any of you to experience. For the sake of my privacy, I would rather not reopen those wounds. Needless to say, I found myself soul-searching much of that year. I am eternally grateful to RWB Chris Greise (who was a DEO at the time) and WB Brad Love for their continued guidance and help that year. They ensured that, when I was constantly distracted, the work was done. They also did what I encourage all brothers to do - Check in on your brothers. Not a day went by that my phone did not go off with a text or call from one of them, checking in on me and my mental health. Brethren, reach out to your brothers.

Through this adversity in my life, I found some important lessons. One lesson is that, in these roles, we are bound to remain humble. Some may believe that they are getting grand honors. I would argue that, in my first year, I felt that way. Now, however, with much more age and experience, I know that the grand honors are being given to the

office, I just so happen to occupy and serve in that role. What does that mean? It means that we must remember the words of the apron lecture. *"Even the purple of the fraternity may rest on your honored shoulders…"* Do you remember those words? Brethren, no matter what role you serve in, remember that **all** of our aprons are white, and that no title in the fraternity is greater than that of being a BROTHER.

One of the lessons that I have also learned that may benefit someone out there is that harmony truly is the strength of our institution. Through these last three years, I have sat through some incredibly difficult and challenging meetings. Being in a leadership role, we are often exposed to the ugliest parts of a beautiful fraternity. In our ritual, one of the most commonly used terms is "harmony". Harmony is defined to us as "a state of agreement, accord, or concord between people, ideas, or things." We are living in a troubled time in the world, where so many want to take to social media and argue about divided topics. Unfortunately, our beautiful fraternity has also seen some ugly things internally, causing divisions. Brethren, let us heed our ritual. Harmony truly is the strength of our institution. We are not always going to agree, nor are we always going to see things the same way. But, I encourage all brethren to consider a simple message - Leave your egos at the door. Often, our ego gets in our way of truly listening to understand others. While we are "listening", we are thinking of something to say back. Next time, consider truly listening with all your heart and taking in what that person has to say.

As each of us continues on our journey, think about the wise words from Tim McGraw:

"Don't take for granted the love this life gives you

When you get where you're goin', don't forget turn back around

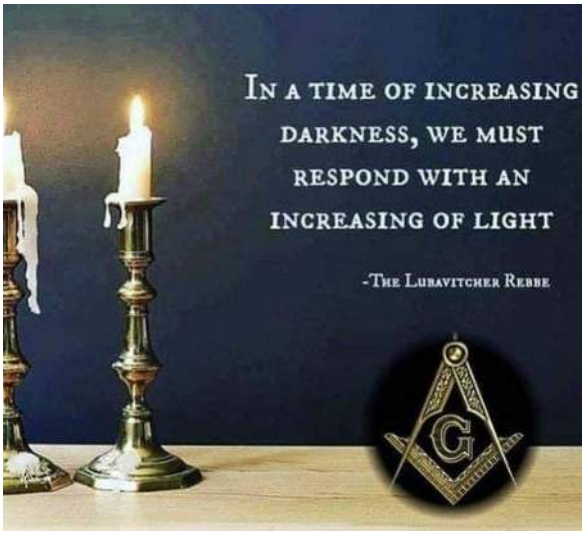
And help the next one in line

Always stay humble and kind"

I know that this has been an extremely long article, but I hope that you have taken the time to "listen" to it. Brethren, I truly thank each of you. If I tried to thank people in particular, I would probably miss someone. I do owe sincere thanks to MWB Grindle, MWB Weglage, and MWB Carter for appointing me to serve you. Thank you to Neoacacia Lodge for their continued love and support. Thank you to my grandfather for giving me words to consider and whispering wise counsel (not shouting it from the rooftops). Thank you to my dad for being my best friend, my confidant, and for believing in me. Thank you to my daughter and wife for all those nights I was away to serve in this role, and for always being happy to support. Finally, brethren, thank you to each of you. So many of you have made such an impact on my life, more than I can truly describe. While I am at the end of this chapter in my Masonic journey, this is not the end of the book. I am happy to assist you in way that I can. Thank you for being true brothers and for all your hard work together.

Jason Rudder to speak at Reynoldsburg

Join Reynoldsburg Lodge No. 340 on Tuesday, October 21 as we welcome special guest Bro. Jason Rudder. Bro. Rudder hails from Kentucky but is also a member of the Ohio Lodge of Research. He has three published books.
Bro. Rudder will explore the symbol of light in depth and guide us in a participatory experience to uplift all in attendance.
Dinner will be served at 6:00pm. The gavel will fall, opening the lodge in EA, at 7:00pm. Please RSVP for dinner to jd@mason340.com, so we can have as accurate a headcount as possible.



Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date	Time
Grand Lodge Annual Communication	Kalahari Resorts	Friday, October 24, 2025	
14th District Annual Meeting	Avery Lodge 3980 Main St Hilliard, Ohio	Wednesday, October 29, 2025	Dinner 6pm Meeting 7pm
Installation of DDGM/DEO	TBD	Sunday, November 2, 2025	5pm
Valley of Columbus Social Dinner	Villa Milano Banquet Center	Friday, November 7, 2025	6pm
Valley of Columbus Reunion	Villa Milano Banquet Center	Saturday, November 8, 2025	9am (Registration at 8am)

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

Ohio DeMolay

On August 16 members of Linden Chapter DeMolay traveled to Medina to participate in the Statewide Initiation and welcome three new brothers into the Chapter. On August 17 members and guests had a fun filled day of paintball at LvlUp Paintball. Members of Liden Chapter DeMolay assisted the members of Hiram Lodge #18 with their annual picnic by helping to set up and park cars.

Linden DeMolay will be hosting a Trunk Or Treat on October 19 at the Northwest Masonic Temple starting at 5pm. Linden Chapter meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm at the Northwest Masonic Temple.

Groveport Chapter held a fishing event with prospects along with several other events. Groveport Chaper held a kickball event with their Senior DeMolays. Due to what I'm sure was an error in score calculations, it appears that the active DeMolays scored more runs.

Groveport, which won Chapter of the Year last year is leading in the current standings for next year's chapter of the year.

Avery Lodge Cigar and Blind Bourbon Tasting

















Worthington Market Days











BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK

USBC CENTRAL OHIO ASSOCIATION

3rd Annual Charity Fundraiser

Saturday, Nov. 8th, 2025 - 1:00 PM

at HP Lanes

2012 Innis Rd, Columbus, OH 43224

- 3 games of 9-pin No-tap bowling
- Entry fee $25.00 per person (Singles event)
- Proceeds benefit Veterans in the Central Ohio area
- Purchase BVL apparel, 50/50 raffle, and silent auction
- Register online or by calling/emailing Joyce or Dean
  - On-line at www.bowlcentralohio.org or using QR code →
  - Joyce Latham, 614-806-7949 or jlatham1057@gmail.com
  - Dean Dabe, deandabe@aol.com
- Walk-ins will be permitted based on lane availability and will need to check-in by 12:15 pm.

Scan to Register

BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK

3rd Annual Charity Fundraiser

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

MAPLE PRODUCTS SALE

100% PURE **OHIO** MAPLE SYRUP

Our Product List

SHOP ONLINE AT • MAGNOLIA20.COM



Bourbon Barrel Aged Maple Syrup
100% Pure maple syrup aged 6 to 9 months in Kentucky bourbon barrels. Our bourbon barrels create a rich, maple flavor.
8 oz | $15
12.7 oz | $20



Milligan's Maple Syrup
100% Pure, Grade A maple syrup. Great on pancakes and waffles. Delicious used as a glaze in cooking, and tastes great on ice cream and in cocktails.
8 oz | $10

Milligan's Maple Syrup is crafted from the Milligan Family Sustainable Forest and other quality Ohio producers. We offer 100% pure maple syrup.

MILLIGAN'S 100% Pure MAPLE SYRUP



Milligan's Maple Caramel Corn with Peanuts
Milligan's Maple syrup is cooked to a delicious caramel and tossed with fresh popcorn and Spanish peanuts. A delicious, sweet and savory treat. (Milligan's Maple syrup, popcorn, peanuts, butter, salt.)
4 oz | $6; or, 2 for $10



Milligan's Sweet & Savory Trail Mix
A sweet, savory, spicy, protein-packed, one-of-a-kind treat with an explosive blend of dried chile, garlic, soy and spices. (Milligan's Maple syrup, cashews, pepitas, peanuts, pecans, almonds, cranberries, raisins, butter and spicy seasoning.)
4 oz | $8



Milligan's Maple Nuts
Sweet and salty peanuts, cashews, pecans and hazelnuts glazed with 100% Milligan's Maple caramel and a touch of salt. (Milligan's Maple syrup, cashews, hazelnuts, peanuts, pecans, butter, salt.)
4 oz | $8
8 oz | $15



Milligan's Maple Puffs
Crunchy, buttery and sweet. Huskless, baked corn puffs tossed with 100% Milligan's Maple caramel. (Milligan's Maple syrup, corn puffs, butter, salt.)
4 oz | $8

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