2026 ISSUE #4

ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT

April 2026



Inspection season is coming to a close

We're in the home stretch for must-dos for the masonic year, but that doesn't mean the year is fully over.

Many lodges host events, dinners, and outings during the summer months, even when they're "dark" for the year. Keep an eye out in the Ashlar for advertising for these events so you don't miss any!

If you've never been to a lodge event, be it inside your lodge or through another, try it out! It's a fantastic way to meet new brothers, to try new things, and to make new memories.

If you'd like to see pictures from an event in the pages of the Ashlar, email them to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org and we'll take care of the rest!

In this issue:

Great is Truth **Page 2**

Find your Five **Page 5**

One day classes **Page 8**

Goodale Lodge unbirthday party **Page 10**

April Inspections **Page 12**

Around the district **Page 13**



GREAT IS TRUTH, AND MIGHTY ABOVE ALL THINGS

WB Michael Emery

Truth seems such a simple concept. An unassailable, rigid thing, unmoving and steadfast in the chaos of the world. As Masons, we are taught to regard truth as one of the great tenets of our profession. We are taught to venerate it above nearly all of our other lessons. It is a thing of divinity that we may touch through contemplation and virtue.

It is no wonder, then, why we can grow frustrated on its behalf. Frustrated with the world outside the lodge. Frustrated with our brethren. Frustrated with ourselves. How can one not see the truth, we ask, when it is so plain?

I would suggest that there is a marked and significant difference between *fact* and *truth*. We understandably conflate the two, but particularly in a Masonic context, I believe them to be separate and distinct things.

What I mean here is that *fact* is an observable and demonstrable thing--"there are three degrees in American blue lodge Masonry," for example. *Truth* is something derived from facts, and reflects the character of the person observing the same--"blue lodge Masonry improves its members as people," for example.

The tricky thing about this interpretation is that this now means that truth is personal, and therefore not universal. Consider my grandmother, who lives in Deltona, Florida, and will tell me that it's cold in her area when it's 70 degrees out. Is she lying to me? Obviously she is not, but in my (and likely your) view, 70 degrees is not cold. Her truth is not my truth.

Even the act of giving you additional facts can change the truth of something. By simply telling you a little bit more about a thing, someone can irrevocably alter your perception of it. Permit me to provide an excerpt from John Berger's 1972 Ways of Seeing:



GREAT IS TRUTH, AND MIGHTY ABOVE ALL THINGS, CONT'D
WB Michael Emery

This is a landscape of a cornfield with birds flying out of it. Look at if for a moment. Then [look at the next image].





The addition of one sentence has forever changed the way you see that painting. It has changed your truth of it, simply through the revelation of one more fact. Thus, there is power in truth, and there is power in change.

This is a dangerous line of thought, to some, as it may seem as if I am suggesting that truth is nonexistent, or that we can believe whatever we like without consequence. I am not. People have adhered to personal truths that have been evil and caused great harm. What I am suggesting, however, is that the concept of truth may not be what we picture on first glance.

What I am suggesting is that, perhaps, there is a reason that Truth is listed as one of the great tenets of our profession, right alongside Brotherly Love and Relief, two things that are defined by interacting with others. Perhaps Truth is defined in a similar way, despite it not seeming so on first glance. Perhaps we are to consider the evolution of truth in our interactions with our brothers, with the world at large, and even with ourselves. Not necessarily to seek agreement, nor to allow our own convictions to be subsumed by others, but simply to see. Simply to acknowledge.



GREAT IS TRUTH, AND MIGHTY ABOVE ALL THINGS, CONT'D
WB Michael Emery

In one of the most treasured stories in Masonry, featured in multiple degrees, the governor Zerubbabel, challenged by Darius to identify the mightiest force on Earth, argues for Truth. Truth, he says, endures, and lives forever. His words lead him to reward and celebration. As Masons, we cherish this story for obvious reasons.

It is then fitting, in my view, that this story is found in an apocryphal book of the Bible. Whether it is a canonical book is debated by scholars and clergy, while the *truth* of its words have resonated with men for centuries.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US. WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL.

ALBERT PIKE



FOCUS ON YOUR FIVE
RWB Chris Greise

As I sit here in the airport returning home from a short trip for some much-needed “me time,” I begin to reflect on the busy week ahead. Sometimes I wonder if making a short trip just to relax was really worth it.

Darn right it was.

Life will not wait for us to take advantage of it. It simply flies by, and years later we may find ourselves wondering why we didn’t do more.

Lately, with life moving so quickly and the realization that our time on this earth is limited, I’ve tried to step back and focus my energy on five important areas. These may be different for each person, but here are my five.

One: Family and Friends

I have been truly blessed with a great family and many friends throughout my life. I’m fortunate that my parents had me at a very young age, which has allowed me many years with them as part of my life—always there for guidance, love, and support.

Even now, I’m blessed to still have one of my grandmothers with us. I make it a point to travel and see my family twice a year. Would I like it to be more? Absolutely. But the reality is that we must live our lives as well.

Friends are much the same. Some I haven’t seen in years because life has taken us in different directions, but taking the time occasionally to reconnect and check in on them matters.

Two: Work

Work is vital to sustaining yourself and your family. There is pride in doing your job with integrity and hard work. While work can be challenging, it also provides opportunities for growth.

But don’t lose sight of the fact that your vocation simply enables the other parts of your life. My mentor once reminded me that most people will forget what you accomplished at work, but they will remember how you made them feel. Focus on the things you can control.



FOCUS ON YOUR FIVE, CONT'D
RWB Chris Greise

Three: Your Home

Life often becomes so busy that we overlook the things right in front of us. It's important to pause and look around our homes to see what needs attention. Many times, small maintenance tasks are pushed aside because we're busy, but delaying them often leads to much bigger problems down the road.

Four: Masonry

Brothers, we have been given a gift through the opportunity to work as Masons. We should never lose sight of that gift.

Through our lodges and our relationships with one another, we have the chance to positively impact the lives of many people. What better way to live a life that we can look back on and know it was well spent?

Five: Yourself

Most of you have probably heard the saying that you cannot pour from an empty pitcher. Yet many of us become so focused on the other four areas that we forget the most important one of all—ourselves.]

Brothers, I say this knowing full well that I struggle with this too. We often put off our physical and mental health to focus on the other responsibilities in our lives because, sometimes, it's simply easier.

But we cannot avoid the difficult things just because they are hard. Living a balanced life is not easy, and it requires constant reevaluation. It's very easy to look up six months later and realize you are completely burned out.

So my brothers, find your five. Yours may be slightly different than mine, but one of them must always be you.



FOCUS ON YOUR FIVE, CONT'D
RWB Chris Greise

Take time to pause, reevaluate your balance, and adjust your priorities. One of the reasons Masonry appealed to me was that I didn't want to reach the end of my life and realize I had wasted so much time or failed to do something meaningful.

Your life should be full—but not completely filled by just one thing while everything else is neglected. Spread your time across your five so that nothing important is left behind.

...HAPPINESS DEPENDS MORE UPON THE INTERNAL FRAME OF A PERSONS OWN MIND—THAN ON THE EXTERNALS IN THE WORLD .

GEORGE WASHINGTON



ONE DAY CLASSES SCHEDULED
RWB Adam Michael

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has expanded the 2026 Grand Master Class program to include eight locations across multiple dates, and is placing additional emphasis on supporting degree completion for our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts, in addition to initiating new candidates.

These Grand Master Class events are intended to offer meaningful opportunities for Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts to complete their degree work and advance to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

Any Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may attend any of the scheduled events to complete their degree work. To participate, please contact your Lodge Secretary.

These events are also open to new candidates who wish to begin their Masonic journey this spring or summer. If you know of a man interested in petitioning, please direct him to your local Lodge to begin the process.

To participate in a Grand Master Class, candidates **must be degree ready by the registration deadline.** This includes:

1. Submission of a petition
2. Completion and reporting of the investigation
3. Election and acceptance by the Lodge

Candidates, along with their Mentors and accompanying Brethren, may attend any Grand Master Class event regardless of district. Lodges may also send different candidates to different events as needed.

Lodges are responsible for coordinating attendance and providing Mentors. Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts must contact their Lodge Secretary to request participation and obtain Lodge approval. Master Masons in good standing may attend as observers and must also register through their Lodge Secretary.



ONE DAY CLASSES SCHEDULED, CONT'D
RWB Adam Michael

All outstanding degree fees (if applicable) and registration fees must be paid to the Lodge. All attendees are expected to pay the registration fee, which covers meal and facility expenses.

Schedule of Grand Master's Classes

May 2, 2026 – District 7 (Chillicothe, Scioto Lodge No. 6)
Registration Opens: 8:00 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: April 25, 2026

May 30, 2026 – District 16 (Tiffin, Tiffin Lodge No. 77)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: May 23, 2026

June 13, 2026 – District 12 (Gallipolis, Morning Dawn Lodge No. 7)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: May 30, 2026

June 13, 2026 – District 23 (Cambridge, Scottish Rite Auditorium)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: May 30, 2026

June 27, 2026 – District 2 (Dayton, Dayton Masonic Center)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: June 13, 2026

June 27, 2026 – District 14 (Columbus, Aladdin Shrine)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: June 13, 2026

July 25, 2026 – District 21 (Canton, Canton Masonic Temple)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $20 | Deadline: July 11, 2026

July 25, 2026 – District 22 (Cleveland, Berea Masonic Temple)
Registration Opens: 7:30 a.m. | Degrees Begin: 9:00 a.m.
Fee: $30 | Deadline: July 11, 2026

If you have questions or require assistance, please contact your lodge Secretary, your assigned District Deputy Grand Master, or you may contact the Grand Lodge office at MemberServices@Freemason.com or 18002926092.



GOODALE LODGE UNBIRTHDAY PARTY
Freeman Eagleson

Come celebrate birthday with Goodale Lodge!

Please join Goodale Lodge #372 on Sunday, April 26th for a fun filled Unbirthday Party.
Just like in Alice in Wonderland, we will have a birthday celebration for everyone even though it is not your calendar birthday. After all, birthday parties are much too fun to have only once a year.

Join us on Sunday, April 26th at 2:30pm for food fun, games, and of course, birthday cake. The address is 2933 Valleyview Dr, Columbus, OH 43204.

You are welcome to bring a side dish, seasert, or appetizer, but that is certainly not required. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Trip Eagleson WM's lady, Michelle at 614-564-3899 or via email at **brownsbacker64@gmail.com**.

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

WB Patrick Mayer
President

WB Jay Miller 1st Vice President	**WB Kenneth Goble** 2nd Vice President
WB John Hicks Treasurer	**RWB Brian Bolyard** Secretary
WB Jeff Robeano Sergeant-At-Arms	**WB Jack G. Weber III** Chaplain

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

EDITOR

WB Michael Emery

DISTRICT ADVISOR

RWB Adam Michael

WANT TO BE FEATURED?

We'd love to hear your thoughts or help you advertise your event in the Ashlar. It just takes two easy steps:

1. Gather your information
   a. What's happening?
   b. Who is invited?
   c. Where is it?
   d. When is it?
   e. How much does it cost?
2. Send to ashlar@14thmasonicdistrict.org

Submissions must be sent before the 15th of the month before publication (i.e. January 15th for the February Ashlar).

UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 7	**REYNOLDSBURG** FC Inspection 7 PM	**APR 14**	**GROVEPORT-LOCKBOURNE** FC Inspection 7 PM
APR 16	**ARTS & SCIENCES** FC Inspection 7 PM	**APR 20**	**GROVE CITY** FC Inspection 7 PM



3 FLOORS OF MASONRY

ONE NIGHT • FELLOWSHIP • INSIGHT

Presented by 14th District and SYSK 2026

Saturday - APRIL 25 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Westgate Masonic Lodge

2925 W. Broad St., Columbus, OH

$10 ADMISSION Hors d'oeuvres Provided

Registration Link
https://square.link/u/qZGgbACj

Or use the QR code




14TH MASONIC DISTRICT
GOLF OUTING
Swing for Brotherhood!
JULY 11TH, 2026
11:00 AM – Registration & Lunch
1:00 PM – Shotgun Start
$120 per Golfer
18 HOLES OF GOLF
DINNER & PRIZES
RAFFLES & FUN!
ALL MASONS & GUESTS WELCOME!
York Golf Club
7459 N High Street

BLENDON LODGE #339
PRESENTS:



MASONIC VOLUNTEER TRAINING

CONTACT RACHEL LANCASTER (877-881-1623X4 OR RLANCASTER@OMCOH.ORG) TO REGISTER OR REQUEST A TRAINING PACKET PRIOR TO JUNE 22ND

- Become an MVP Committee member for your district to partner w/the Resource Center to help identify & assist those masons, wives, widows & stars in need.
- Learn how to provide effective outreach on behalf of your Lodge or Chapter.
- Understand the programs of the Resource Center, in particular our financial assistance, and how we can help members of your Lodge or Chapter





JUNE 22, 2026 at 630pm
Blendon Lodge # 339
130 S. State St., Westerville