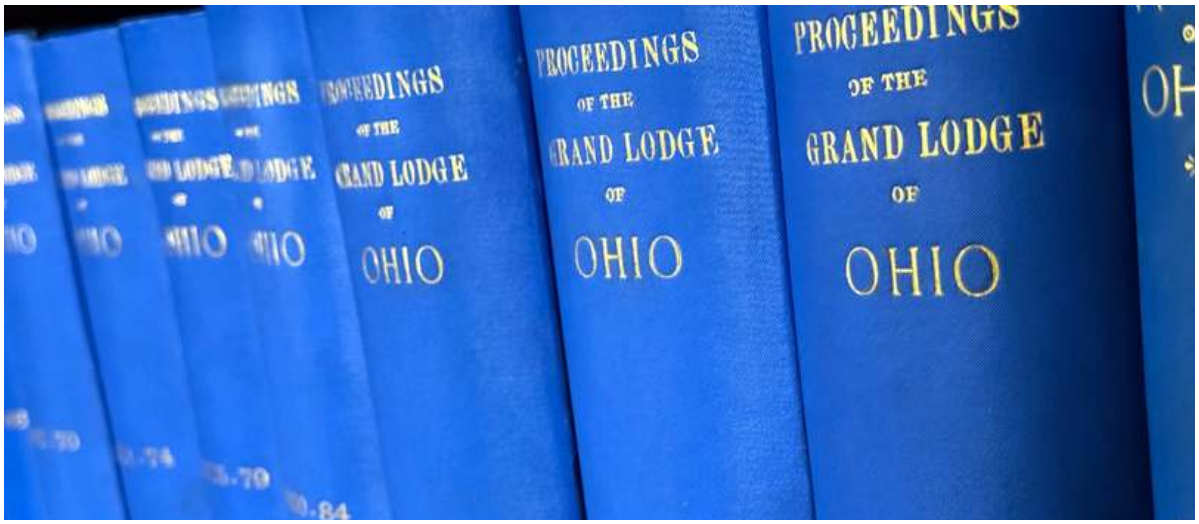
2026 ISSUE #6

ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT

June 2026



Don't let "going dark" dim your light!

As the masonic year draws to a close, it's easy to slip into the routine of summer without a second thought.

Regular meetings being on hold doesn't mean that nothing's happening, however. The district is full of picnics, breakfasts, social events, and degree specials all waiting to see your face.

A great start to the summer would be attending the Grand Master's one day class on June 27th at Aladdin Shrine. This event is open to **all** masons, not just ones with candidates, so show up to share in the fellowship and excitement!

For questions, please email RWB Adam Michael at: Adasm563@yahoo.com

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The Future of the Craft Begins With Our Youth
Bro. (Dad) Robert Burns

There is an uncomfortable truth facing modern Freemasonry: if we desire the continued survival and flourishing of our fraternity, we must become intentional about investing in our youth.

For generations, Masons have asked difficult questions about declining membership, aging lodges, and how to preserve the traditions we cherish for the next century. Committees are formed. Strategies are debated. Programs are redesigned. Yet often, the simplest answer stands directly in front of us: support the young men who may one day become the future leaders of our Craft.

That answer is DeMolay.

Too often, DeMolay is treated as a side body of Masonry rather than what it truly is: the beginning of community leaders, husbands, fathers, and future Masons. DeMolay is not merely a youth organization that happens to meet in our buildings. It is one of the most important investments Freemasonry can make in its own future.

The principles taught within DeMolay – filial love, reverence, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness, and patriotism – are not separate from Masonic teachings. They are preparatory lessons for the very virtues Masonry seeks to refine in good men. Before many young men ever hear the words “Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth,” they first experience them through the mentorship and structure of DeMolay.

And mentorship matters.

Young men today are growing up in a world increasingly devoid of positive male guidance, fraternity, accountability, and meaningful community. Many are searching for purpose, identity, and belonging. DeMolay offers all three. It teaches public speaking, leadership, responsibility, charity, ritual, teamwork, and service to others. More importantly, it surrounds young men with adults who genuinely care about their development.



The Future of the Craft Begins With Our Youth, cont'd
Bro. (Dad) Robert Burns

Yet we must ask ourselves honestly: are we truly supporting our youth in the way they deserve?

Support means more than simply allowing DeMolay to use our buildings. It means attending their events. It means volunteering as advisors. It means financially supporting chapters that struggle to survive. It means showing up consistently enough that young men know they matter to us. It means understanding that when we invest time in DeMolay, we are not "taking away" from Masonry – we are strengthening its foundation.

The reality is that many DeMolay chapters operate with only a handful of active advisors carrying enormous burdens. Some chapters struggle for visibility. Others struggle simply to keep the lights on. Meanwhile, many lodges lament declining participation while overlooking one of the clearest opportunities for long-term renewal sitting just down the hallway.

If we want active lodges twenty or thirty years from now, **we must begin acting now.**

The young men of DeMolay are not merely "the future" of Masonry in some distant abstract sense. They are already leaders among us. They organize service projects, conduct ritual work, plan events, mentor younger members, and learn firsthand the values of duty and brotherhood. Given encouragement and support, many of these young men will become the officers, educators, ritualists, and leaders our fraternity desperately needs.

But even those who never become Masons still leave DeMolay as better men – and that alone justifies the effort.

Freemasonry has never solely been about preserving buildings, titles, or traditions. At its best, it exists to improve humanity through moral instruction, fellowship, and service. DeMolay embodies that mission in one of its purest forms.



The Future of the Craft Begins With Our Youth, cont'd
Bro. (Dad) Robert Burns

That spirit of mentorship and education is precisely why initiatives designed specifically for youth engagement matter so deeply. One such effort currently underway is an upcoming DeMolay Mock Trial program being organized for the young men of our jurisdiction. Far more than simply a performance exercise, the event is designed to teach leadership, public speaking, courtroom procedure, critical thinking, teamwork, ethics, and confidence under pressure.

The mock trial will allow DeMolay Chapters to represent opposing parties in a simulated Masonic trial proceeding, giving participants the opportunity to engage directly with the principles of justice, fairness, decorum, and due process that are foundational both to civil society and to Masonic jurisprudence. Events like these create memorable experiences for young men while helping them develop real-world skills they will carry for the rest of their lives.

All Masons should consider supporting and attending this event, not only to encourage the young men participating, but to witness firsthand the caliber of leadership being cultivated within DeMolay today.

The DeMolay Mock Trial will be held on July 26th from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Northwest Masonic Temple. All DeMolay Chapters within the 4th District, as well as any interested Masons, advisors, parents, and supporters of youth leadership, are warmly invited to attend.

If we truly believe in the future of the Craft, then our commitment to youth cannot be passive or symbolic. It must be visible. It must be intentional. And it must begin now. Because the future of Freemasonry will not be secured merely by preserving the past.
It will be secured by investing in the next generation worthy to inherit it.



Using the Summer Effectively
RWB Chris Greise

As we wind down from inspection season and prepare for summer, this is the perfect opportunity for lodge leadership to come together and evaluate the current state of the lodge. One important area of focus should be our officer line—reviewing where we stand today, inspiring other brothers to become involved, and intentionally working on succession planning.

Having open and constructive conversations about the upcoming election cycle allows officers to honestly discuss concerns, ambitions, and outside responsibilities that may impact the normal progression through the line. In some cases, the solution may not be a simple one-year adjustment, but rather part of a longer-term plan for the future health of the lodge. **Spreading the work among many brothers not only keeps members engaged, but also helps prevent burnout from falling on the shoulders of only a few.**

Another important topic to consider is degree work that still needs to be completed before the end of the year. With so much emphasis placed on the inspection degree, it is easy for other degrees to unintentionally slip through the cracks. Discussing these items during the summer can help ensure the lodge remains on track and prepared before Grand Lodge arrives.

Along the same lines, summer is an ideal time to encourage newer officers and members to learn new portions of the ritual. Whether it is a charge, a lecture section, or another part of the work, introducing these opportunities during a slower season can be a productive use of time. It also allows brothers to gain confidence and be better prepared to step into new positions after Grand Lodge.



Using the Summer Effectively, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

We should also be intentional in how we engage our candidates during the summer months. Far too often, lodges slow down and candidates get lost in the shuffle. Summer fellowship events, such as District Picnics and Golf Outings, provide excellent opportunities to connect with prospects and candidates while helping integrate them into the fraternity in a meaningful way.

Brothers, I challenge you to reach out to non-attending members and encourage them to once again take part in the life of the lodge. It takes many hands working together to intentionally operate a lodge that is doing more than simply treading water. I caution every lodge against allowing attendance to decline to the point where maintaining a quorum becomes difficult. Once a lodge reaches that stage, climbing back out can become extremely challenging.

The lodge experience is vital in inspiring our candidates and engaging our members. When we all share in the labor, fellowship, and charitable work of the lodge, we strengthen not only our fraternity, but also one another. **Each of us has the ability to make our Masonic journey meaningful and impactful.** The brothers who roll up their sleeves and actively help move the fraternity forward are often the ones who receive the greatest wages from the experience.

Do not let this summer simply pass by. Jump in, get involved, and help build momentum for the future of your lodge.



That Which Was Lost
WB Michael Emery

Each meeting I attend at my building, I sit in the same chair. I have done so for years. I am sure many of you do the same. Habits like that make it immediately noticeable when a chair suddenly and unexpectedly goes empty.

A little over a year ago, I lost a brother that I held in the highest regard. He was kind, easygoing, even-keeled, and the sort of Mason I hoped to become. I am not alone in that assessment. I frequently hear Masons speak of him the same way at meetings to this day. That empty chair of his cuts me every time I attend a meeting.

But through the months, the meetings, and the spaghetti dinners, new brothers began coming through that door. New faces entered that lodge room. New voices eventually spoke from that previously empty chair. His empty chair became a full one.

At first, there was something painful about that to me. It felt wrong that the world could continue moving so normally after the loss of someone who had such an impact on the lives around him. But Masonry has always been about continuity. We inherit its lessons from the brothers who came before us, and we carry them forward for the brothers who will someday come after us.

I have come to realize that we carry our departed brethren forward in much the same way. Not by refusing to let their chairs be filled, but by making sure the men who sit in them next still hear their stories.

The pain of losing my brother still follows me, and I suspect it always will. But empty chairs become full ones, brothers. One day, ours will too. The best thing we can do is leave behind examples worth following, stories worth telling, and a fraternity worthy of inheritance.

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

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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).

Around the District

JUN
22

BLENDON
Masonic Volunteer
Program Training
630 PM

AUG
2

HIGHBANKS PARK
Northern Shelter
12 PM Start
2 PM Lunch

LODGE BREAKFASTS

GROVE CITY
1st Saturdays, 8-10A

GROVEPORT
3rd Saturdays, 7:30-10A

HIRAM
1st Saturdays, 8-10A
(Except July and August)

REYNOLDSBURG
Last Saturdays, 8-10A

WEST GATE
2nd Saturdays, 9A-12P

COURT OF LINDEN

CASE NUMBER: 1314-FR-001

THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY

A LIVE MOCK TRIAL EXPERIENCE

THE PEOPLE
(Representing Jacques DeMolay)

VS.

KING PHILIP IV OF FRANCE
(The Defendant)

YOU ARE THE JURY.

HEAR THE EVIDENCE. DECIDE THE VERDICT.



FIRST DEGREE MURDER



AGGRAVATED ROBBERY (AVARICE)



TORTURE & CRUELTY

JULY 26TH | 3PM TO 7PM | NORTHWEST MASONIC TEMPLE

"God knows who is wrong..." – Jacques DeMolay


5th ANNUAL
THOMAS MILLER
MEMORIAL
GOLF OUTING
Hosted by Sparrow Lodge #400 F&AM
August 22, 2026
8:00 AM EDT Registration
9:00 AM EDT Shotgun Start
Silent Auction
50/50 Raffle
Village View
Golf Course
210 South Main Street
Hartford, OH. 43013
Register Here!
https://sparrow400golf26.eventbrite.com
$70 per Golfer Pre-Registered
$80 per Golfer day of event
(Includes Cart, Golf & Dinner)
Hole Sponsors - $100
Pathway Sponsors - $50
For more information, GolfInfo@sparrowlodge.com
or call Geoffrey McCash at 614-582-8039

14th District Masonic Officers Association

Fifteenth ANNUAL | **GOLF OUTING**

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print legibly.

Team 1

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

Email_____

Team 2

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

Email_____

York Golf Club
7459 N High St
Columbus, OH 43235

Saturday, July 11, 2026
11:00 am – Registration/Lunch
1:00pm – Shotgun Start

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE OPEN TO ALL
CASH BAR
Fellowship and fun for all skill levels!

Prizes for First Place | Closest to Pin | Longest Putt | Longest Drive

$120 per person includes:
Golf | Cart | Range Balls | Lunch | 3 Drink Tickets | Afternoon Appetizers

Make checks payable to:
14th District Masonic Officers Association

Mail payment and completed registration to:
Brian Bolyard
PO Box 14034
Columbus, Ohio 43214

Electronic Payment Available:
Email completed form to kennyg219@outlook.com

Registration and payment due by June 30th

For questions or more information contact WB Kenny Goble

kennyg219@outlook.com

OHIO COUNCIL OF DELIBERATION GOLF OUTING

REGISTRATION

Completed Form and Paid Reservations are Due by June 17, 2026

Date
Monday, June 22, 2026

Time
Registration: 10:00 AM - patio
Shotgun Start: 1:00 PM
Driving Range and Locker Room are available all day
Lunch - $9 per person
Hot dogs, brats, cookies, chips
Dinner:
Chicken or Steak, Salad, Baked Potato, Rolls and fixins
Dinner Only (no golf): $35

Place
York Golf Club
7459 N. High Street
Columbus, OH 43235

Questions
Craig Lobdell
Phone: 614-906-5627
Email: clobdellms@gmail.com

Sponsorships
Hole Sponsorships are available for $100 each!

Call Charles at the office (614-766-2272) and get yours today. Last day to purchase is June 15.

Prizes
Various prizes will be awarded for game play

Ladies are Welcome!

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

Team Name: _____

Player 1 Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Lunch: ❒ Dinner Only (no golf): ❒ Choice for Dinner: Chicken ❒ Steak ❒

Player 2 Name: _____

Email: _____

Lunch: ❒ Dinner Only (no golf): ❒ Choice for Dinner: Chicken ❒ Steak ❒

Player 3 Name: _____

Email: _____

Lunch: ❒ Dinner Only (no golf): ❒ Choice for Dinner: Chicken ❒ Steak ❒

Player 4 Name: _____

Email: _____

Lunch: ❒ Dinner Only (no golf): ❒ Choice for Dinner: Chicken ❒ Steak ❒

Registration Fee: $95 per Golfer

Registration fee includes golf, cart, dinner, 3 drink tickets and clubhouse from 8:00 AM until the event closes. Drink carts and Grill Room are open for beverage purchases all day.

Make checks payable to AASR, Valley of Columbus. Mail this form with a check to AASR Valley of Columbus, 290 Cramer Creek Court, Dublin, OH 43017.

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