2026 ISSUE #7

# ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT

July 2026



## We've got some good Masons.

In the pages of this month's Ashlar, you will find images of the winners of this year's district awards. These men have dedicated untold hours to putting on the best work possible for their candidates and their brethren, and the district is proud to recognize that work each year.

Take the time to get to know these men, if you get the chance. Learn from their hard work and let their example inspire you to find your own stone to work.

It's impossible for one brother to do everything in a given degree. The examples of these award winners have shown us all the way to success in putting on good ritual as individuals: pick a path....and walk it.

In this issue:

Does Growth Equal Change?

**Page 2**

Rough Edges

**Page 4**

The Man On The Other Side

**Page 6**

District Awards

**Page 10**

Around the District

**Page 13**



## Does Growth Equal Change?
## Bro. Robert Burns

When we ask, "Does growth equal change?" the answer from a Masonic perspective is both yes and no.

Growth requires change. No man can become wiser, more capable, or more virtuous without changing. The Entered Apprentice who first knocks at the door of the Lodge is not the same man who eventually kneels as a Master Mason. Through study, fellowship, service, and reflection, he changes. More importantly, he grows.

Yet not every change is growth.

A man may change jobs, move to a new city, or simply grow older. A Lodge may alter its traditions or adopt new practices. But growth is not measured by what becomes different; it is measured by what becomes better.

Freemasonry teaches this lesson through the symbolism of the Rough and Perfect Ashlars. The stone does not become useful simply because it has been altered. It becomes useful because its imperfections have been removed and its virtues refined. The purpose of the labor is improvement.

The same principle applies to our investment in young men through DeMolay.

For over a century, Freemasons have recognized that growth does not happen by accident. Young men do not automatically develop leadership, integrity, confidence, and character simply because time passes. Those qualities must be cultivated. They require mentorship, opportunity, and encouragement.

A young man may join DeMolay uncertain of himself. Through public speaking, planning events, serving his community, working with others, and accepting leadership responsibilities, he begins to change. But those changes are not random. They are purposeful. They are growth.

In many ways, DeMolay represents the same work that Freemasonry performs. We take individuals with potential and help them discover what they are capable of becoming. We help transform uncertainty into confidence, followers into leaders, and boys into men of character.



## Does Growth Equal Change? (cont'd)
## Bro. Robert Burns

And that brings me to a challenge for the Brethren.

If we truly believe that growth is one of the highest aims of Freemasonry, then we should speak about DeMolay with the same enthusiasm that we speak about Freemasonry itself - perhaps even more.

We often share stories about what Masonry has done for us. We proudly discuss our Lodges, our degrees, our traditions, and our accomplishments. Yet how often do we speak with that same excitement about the young men who represent our future?

If we are concerned about the growth of our Fraternity, we must also be concerned about the growth of those who may someday inherit it. Every DeMolay Chapter supported, every young man encouraged, every event attended, and every hour volunteered is an investment in growth - not just for DeMolay, but for our communities, our Lodges, and society as a whole.

So, does growth equal change?

No. Growth does not equal change.

Growth is purposeful change directed toward improvement.

That is true of a man. It is true of a Mason. It is true of a Lodge. And it is true of a young man in DeMolay.

As Freemasons, our responsibility is not merely to preserve what we have inherited. It is to help others grow into what they are capable of becoming. Because the greatest measure of our success will never be how much we changed ourselves, but how much we helped others grow.



# Rough Edges
## RWB Chris Greise

This morning, during my usual preparation for work, I glanced at the place where my mirror used to hang. Back in September, my parents came to town and helped me tackle a bathroom remodel. We completed all the major parts of the project then, assuming I would finish the remaining drywall repairs and repaint the room afterward. Well, here we are at the end of May, and it still is not finished. Mainly because the lessons of our working tools are often easier to discuss than they are to truly put into practice.

Drywall work is one of my least favorite household tasks. No matter how many times I apply fresh mud, allow it to dry, sand it smooth, and repeat the process, there always seem to be more imperfections needing attention. In many ways, I believe that mirrors the continual work we must do on ourselves.

As I reflect on the last several years in Masonry, I realize how much I have grown as a person. Yet even after years of sanding away rough edges, there is always more work to be done. I know I am not alone in this process. Every one of us is working through areas of our lives that remain under construction.

One lesson we too easily forget, however, is the importance of silence when it comes to the struggles and shortcomings of others. We take obligations to one another. I trust that my imperfections and private struggles will not become secondhand conversation because someone chose to speak loosely about areas of my life still being repaired. We must hold the confidences of our brothers close. If we are concerned enough to discuss a brother's shortcomings, then we should be even more concerned with helping him find guidance, encouragement, and a better path forward rather than becoming another voice contributing to his burden.



## Rough Edges, cont'd
## RWB Chris Greise

Too often, a brother walks into a room wondering if others are discussing him rather than supporting him.

Negativity toward a brother, even for a brief moment, can quickly gain traction and spread like a virus. Harmony is one of the greatest strengths of our fraternity, and even a small fracture can begin to weaken the foundation we have worked so hard to build. Left unchecked, those cracks can slowly cause a once-stable structure to crumble.

I am not sure why human nature so often leads us to criticize others in an effort to feel better about ourselves. But silence, discretion, and compassion are characteristics we must never forget. Let us remain vigilant in our efforts to strengthen the harmony of our Masonic community, uplift our brethren, and continue smoothing the rough edges within ourselves.

**"The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance."**

**-MWB Benjamin Franklin**



# The Man On The Other Side Of the Checkered Floor
## WB Michael Emery

Over the past couple of years, I've taken to learning chess. I've spent hundreds of hours studying positions, practicing endgame techniques, and thinking through sequences of moves. I've played people from more than a hundred countries. I've read the stories of some of the greatest players to ever sit at the board. Through all of this, one thing has remained consistently true:

I am quite bad at chess.

I have an extremely detrimental flaw in my gameplay. I tend to focus on my own attack and development without putting enough thought into what my opponent is trying to accomplish. I think about what they will do in response to me, but not what their strategic goals are. Simply put, I forget that the person across from me is playing chess, too. I have come to think that this is trying to teach me something about myself.

It is far too easy to become consumed by my own plans, my own convictions, and my own idea of what should happen next. In doing so, I can fail to appreciate that others are laboring toward goals of their own. Goals that may be different from mine, but are often no less worthy.

This is not to say that I view my brothers as opponents. Far from it. But how many times in life do we get in the way of another man's work, even unintentionally? For me, at least, it has happened more often than I would like to admit. I have forgotten the lessons of the compasses and allowed my passions to make others see me as adversarial. I have become so eager to see Masonry succeed in the twenty-first century that I have sometimes failed to recognize the work my brothers were already doing toward that same end. I have placed my convictions ahead of their needs and left them carrying burdens I could have helped bear.



## The Man On The Other Side Of the Checkered Floor, cont'd
## WB Michael Emery

In other words, I have forgotten that my brothers are playing chess, too.

Yet each time I have made that mistake, they have shown me more grace than I deserved. Though I may have made their work harder, they have always been willing to help me take another step forward.

My hope is that one day I will become good at the game. It is comforting to know that, in the meantime, I 've always had good coaches surrounding me. Even if they never knew they were teaching.

**"Chess is the struggle against error."**

**-Johannes Zukertort, (Chess) Grand Master**

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

**WB Patrick Mayer**
President

| | |
|---|---|
| **WB Jay Miller**<br>1st Vice President | **WB Kenneth Goble**<br>2nd Vice President |
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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

**AUG 1**

**HOFBRAUHAUS SOCIAL EVENT**
3 PM

**AUG 2**

**HIGHBANKS PARK**
District Picnic
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

# District Awards




**Best EA Degree**
**Neoacacia 595**




**Best Apron Lecture**
**Charles Postle, Blendon 339**




**Best EA Lecture**
**John Purdum, Blendon 339**




Image not available

**Best EA Charge**
**Daniel Rumpz, York 563**

# District Awards



**Best FC Degree**
**Arts & Sciences 792**

Image not available

**Best G Lecture**
**Robert Young, Reynoldsburg 340**

Image not available

**Best FC Lecture**
**Fred Ford, Grove City 689**



**Best FC Charge**
**Salvatore Licata, Capital City 656**
**Jeff Niesing, Grove City 689**

# District Awards




**Best MM Degree**
**University 631**



**Best Craft Team**
**Sunrise 683**




**Best MM Lecture**
**Sean Pisano, Sparrow 400**




**Best MM Charge**
**Jacob Davenport, Sunrise 683**
**Daniel Black, Sparrow 400**

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.