ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT

August 2026



Join us for the district picnic!

Each year, the 14th District puts on a picnic, open to all Masons and their families.

Please plan to attend this year's picnic at Highbanks Park on August 2nd. There is **no cost** to attend, with delicious food and cold beverages provided.

Events like the district picnic are a great way to meet new friends, have fun, and discover new ways to get involved in the fraternity.

We would love to see you (and your loved ones) at this year's picnic. Come out...and bring your appetite!

Additionally, plan to attend the **Deputy Grand Master's Rollout** at Blendon Lodge on August 6th at 7:30 PM for a look at the coming Masonic year's priorities. It's also a great way to meet the man who is likely to become the next Grand Master!

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History of Linden Lodge
WB John Stains

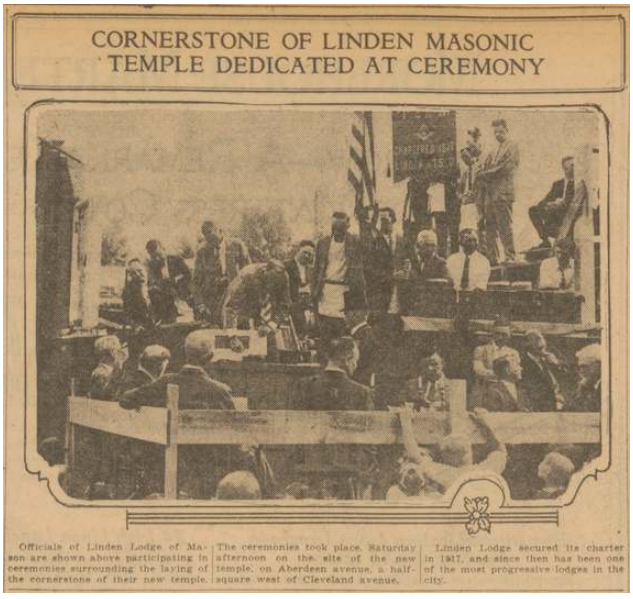
Linden lodge began as Linden Masonic Club in 1915, and soon after received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1917 with 27 charter members. Due to rapid growth of the lodge as well as the Linden Heights neighborhood of Columbus, plans soon began to be made to purchase land and construct a permanent home for the lodge.In 1925, a lot was purchased at 1675 Aberdeen Avenue and an architect was hired to design a 50ft by 100ft building.Within a year, the members had secured funds totaling just over $50,000 to construct and furnish the temple, only 42% of which had to be borrowed from a bank. The Temple was nearly identical in size and similar in layout to West Gate Temple, which had just been constructed and dedicated in 1925.

On Saturday, July 31, 1926, Linden Lodge opened a lodge of Master Masons at 2:30pm and the Grand Lodge Officers were received. After going to refreshment, Grand Lodge was opened by Campbell Voorhees, Past Grant Master, and the Grand Lodge communication was read. Everyone in attendance formed a procession and traveled from the temporary lodge room on Cleveland Avenue to the building site on Aberdeen Avenue. The procession was led by Mt. Vernon Commandery #1, Columbus Commandery #69 and their bands. The ceremony of the cornerstone was completed, after which Bro. Simeon Nash, Grand Orator delivered an address.Achbar Grotto provided music for the occasion. The brethren then processed back to the lodge room, called the lodge to labor, and closed in due form. It was a day to remember in the Linden community.



History of Linden Lodge, cont'd
WB John Stains

Below is a photograph of the cornerstone ceremony, published in the Columbus Evening Dispatch, August 2, 1926. The caption reads "Officials of Linden Lodge of Mason are shown participating in ceremonies surrounding the laying of the cornerstone of their new temple. The ceremonies took place Saturday afternoon on the site of the new temple on Aberdeen avenue, a half-square west of Cleveland avenue. Linden Lodge secured its charter in 1917, and since then has been one of the most progressive lodges in the city."


CORNERSTONE OF LINDEN MASONIC TEMPLE DEDICATED AT CEREMONY

Officials of Linden Lodge of Mason are shown above participating in ceremonies surrounding the laying of the cornerstone of their new temple. The ceremonies took place Saturday afternoon on the site of the new temple, on Aberdeen avenue, a half-square west of Cleveland avenue. Linden Lodge secured its charter in 1917, and since then has been one of the most progressive lodges in the city.

The first meeting was held in the new temple on January 6, 1927. Linden Temple became a focal point for activity and social gatherings in the Linden community. In the early years, there were dances at the lodge at least monthly, pot luck dinners, concerts, magic shows, and speakers that were often sponsored by the lodge.Members would meet, play cards, shoot pool or simply gather to socialize. In the basement, 3 bowling lanes were built with the building and were operated by a paid manager. The Temple hosted Masonic and local church bowling leagues and tournaments, and provided a necessary source of revenue for the lodge until they were ultimately removed in 1957. Linden Lodge held thousands of meetings in the Temple over the years, sometimes over 80 meetings per year.



History of Linden Lodge, cont'd
WB John Stains

Due primarily to increasing costs of operating, maintaining and repairing the building with an aging and declining membership, coupled with security concerns and the overall decline of the surrounding neighborhood, the difficult decision was made to sell the building and move. In 1992, the lodge voted to move to the newly dedicated Northwest Masonic Temple. After several years, the building was finally sold in 1994. The last meeting of Linden Lodge to be held in the Linden Masonic Temple was on April 21, 1994, ending over 65 years at that location.

As for fate of the building, it was severely damaged by a fire on August 10, 2004 and subsequently demolished in 2005. A sidewalk that leads to an empty lot and the building foundation are still visible behind a chain link fence, but there no other remaining indications of the Temple that once was on Aberdeen Avenue.

Today, a few reminders of the old temple still remain...the secretary's desk and ship were relocated to Linden lodge's office and the Past Masters photographs that once hung in the lodge room at Linden temple now hang in the anteroom at Northwest Temple. The altar and officer's chairs were sold to New Lexington Lodge No. 250 to replace theirs that had been lost in a fire. And lastly, the cornerstone, removed from the building in 1997, rests in the east in the lodge room at Northwest Temple.



Finish Strong
RWB Chris Greise

It is time to take a hard look at finishing this Masonic year on the right foot.

As summer arrives and many lodges slow down, it is easy for officers to take their foot off the gas and simply drift across the finish line. Brothers, we must resist that temptation. We need to finish strong, because what happens at the end of this year? Another year begins.

Freemasonry is much like a relay race. Our responsibility is not simply to complete our leg of the race, but to hand the baton to the next runner in the best possible position to succeed. That means identifying our replacements, preparing them for their responsibilities, and giving them the tools they need to be successful. It means passing along notebooks, procedures, and lessons learned. Most importantly, it means remaining available to encourage and mentor them as they begin their journey.

When we do only the bare minimum year after year, the effects eventually become visible. Lodges begin to struggle to fill officer chairs, maintain a quorum, or preserve the traditions that once made them strong. Strong lodges are not built by accident—they are built through intentional preparation and leadership.

Earlier this year, I encouraged each lodge to use the summer months as an opportunity to plan for the future, learn new roles, and prepare for upcoming leadership changes. As we approach the end of the year, I would like to highlight one area that deserves special attention: your lodge records.

Minute Books

Brothers, the minute books are one of the most important records your lodge possesses. Some lodges maintain them with great care, while others have room for improvement. These records tell the story of your lodge and preserve its legacy for future generations.



Finish Strong, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

The reason we can read lodge records from 100 years ago is because those brethren understood their importance. They took the time to properly record, organize, and preserve the history of their lodge. Those records were not left as loose papers in a folder—they became part of the permanent history of the Craft.

While maintaining the minutes may not be the most exciting responsibility in Masonry, it is one of the most important. It is another opportunity to put our working tools into practice by performing our duties with care, accuracy, and pride.

Documents that are often overlooked include:

- Approved & Signed Minutes by Worshipful Master and Secretary
- Certificate of Election, including the Past Master's Certificate from Chapter
- Form 52, signed by the District Deputy Grand Master at the Past Masters Convocation
- Secretary's Annual Report, as read and approved
- Treasurer's Annual Report, as read and approved
- Audit Committee's Report, as read and approved
- Other Committee Reports, as read and approved
- Current lodge budget
- Grand Lodge Summary
- Grand Master's Edicts
- Annual Inspection Report from the District Deputy Grand Master
- Annual Report submitted to Grand Lodge
- List of lodge activities conducted during the year
- List of charitable contributions
- List of distinguished members
- Date and type of IRS Form 990 filed
- Number of dues remissions approved by vote of the lodge



Finish Strong, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

These are only a few of the items that are frequently missed. Most can be addressed easily by ensuring they are part of your Annual Meeting agenda at your first stated meeting in November. Completing these tasks as they arise is far easier than trying to reconstruct an entire year's worth of records after the fact.

This also reinforces the importance of having designated Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers. Life happens. Having trained backups ensures the lodge continues to function smoothly while also distributing the workload among several capable brothers. Many brethren enjoy organizing records, maintaining historical documents, and serving behind the scenes. Give them the opportunity to contribute.

The records we preserve today will become the history that future Masons study a century from now. Let us leave them something that reflects the care, diligence, and pride we have in our fraternity.

These labors should never feel like a burden. They should be labors of love.

If we want Freemasonry to thrive for another 300 years, we must be willing to invest more into it than we expect to receive in return. That investment begins by finishing strong, preparing those who follow us, and faithfully preserving the legacy we have been entrusted to protect.



The Number Three Horse
WB Michael Emery

A few weeks ago, I took my son to see a horse race for the first time. He climbed up and clung to the fence, getting as close as he could to watch the horses load into the starting gate just a few feet away. He picked his favorite immediately: the number three horse, because it was red.

As they thundered down the backstretch, he shouted, "Go, Three!" until he was out of breath. He bounced with excitement as they came charging toward the finish line. It was close...but the number three horse finished second.

My son was devastated. He was convinced that by cheering for his horse, he had somehow caused it to lose. Nothing I said could persuade him otherwise.

Sometimes, I think we can fall into a similar trap in Masonry. It is easy to celebrate our accomplishments, and it is just as easy to take every disappointment personally. We convince ourselves that every success rests entirely on our shoulders, and every setback is ours alone to bear.

But that has never been the Masonic way.

From the moment we first knocked at the door, every step of our journey has been guided by the hands of true and trustworthy brothers. We are linked together by obligation, strengthened by fellowship, and sustained by the men we have chosen to call family.

That is why it is so important to share our burdens. It is equally important to share our victories. Together, those bonds carry us until the day we are ready to carry someone else. In doing so, they carry our fraternity into a better future.

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).

Around the District

AUG 1

HOFBRAUHAUS SOCIAL EVENT WITH VALLEY OF COLUMBUS AASR
3 PM

AUG 2

HIGHBANKS PARK
District Picnic
12 PM Start
2 PM Lunch

AUG 6

DGM ROLLOUT
Blendon Lodge
730 PM

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

AROUND THE DISTRICT



MWB Timothy Wheeland is received with honors at the one day class



Candidates celebrate their raising with attending distinguished masons



The Royal Scofield Society is the premier Masonic Educational Society for the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Membership is earned by completing a robust and unique program intended to inspire and challenge those interested in Masonic Education. It aims not to create sages in ivory towers, but rather servant leaders in Masonic Education.

Join Community Lodge 684 at their September regular meeting Tuesday, September 8 when (subject to approval) WB Robert Burgman will present his RSS masterpiece paper, "Do You Live Freemasonry Every Day?". It will be a personal reflection on how by living our Masonic values, we can have a very real impact on those around us, masons and non-masons alike.

Masonic burial plots available

We have 6 grave lots available in Sunset Cemetery just east of Columbus Ohio at 6959 W Broad St, Galloway Ohio. We have not set a price yet. The lots are section 8 (The Masonic Section) 200-1,2,3,4,5,6. Our father owned them and the family is wanting to sell them now. Please send an email for more information. Thank you so much for your help.

William Kennedy
kennedyvalley@yahoo.com


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