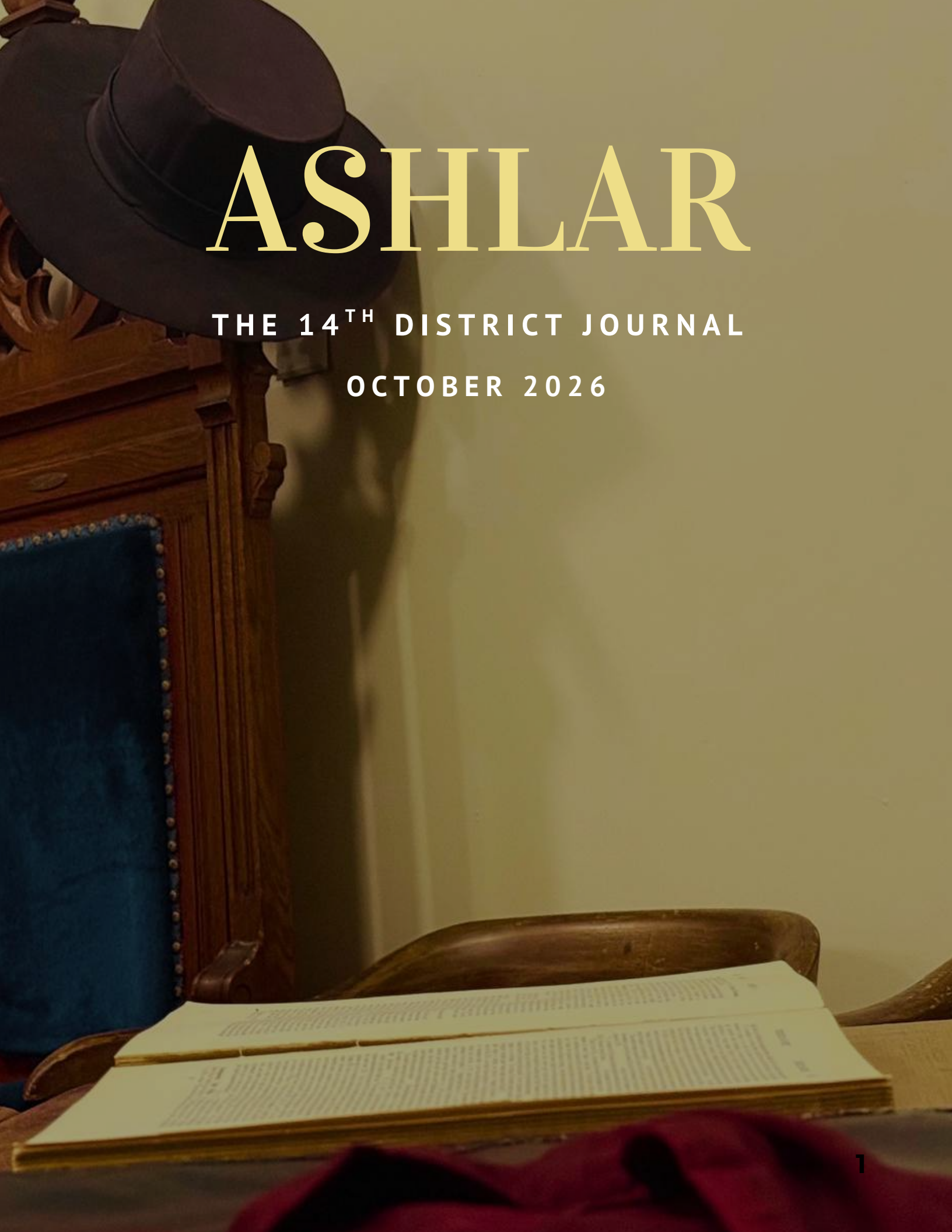


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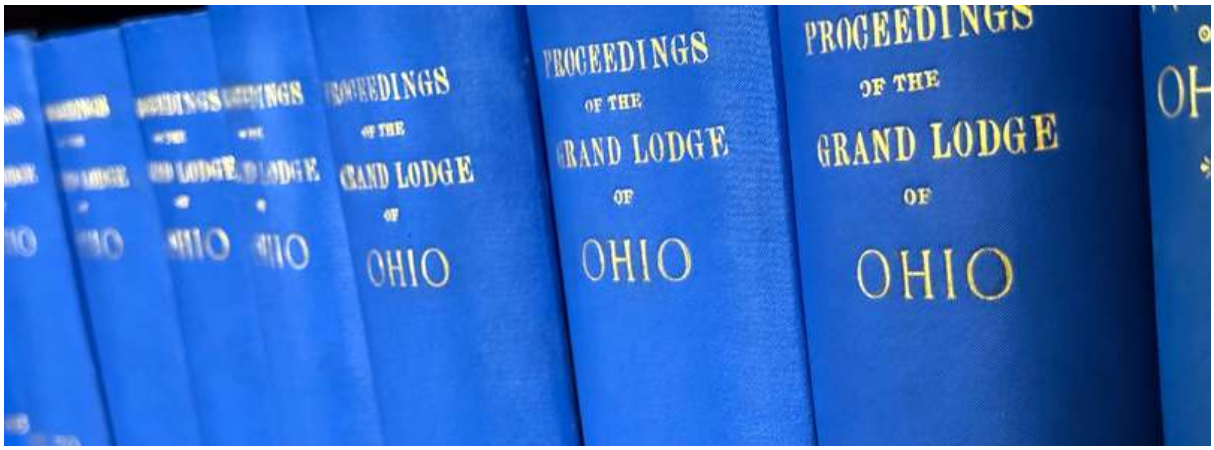
THE 14TH DISTRICT JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2026

ASHLAR

14TH DISTRICT

October 2026



Let's get back to business.

The new Masonic year is beginning, and it's time for you to consider how you'll get involved.

Will you attend your lodge's annual meeting and installation?

Will you plan to attend this year's Communication of the Grand Lodge in Dayton?

Will you consider putting your name in to go through the chairs?

No matter what you decide, the district is better for having you in it. Even if you're just showing your face at your stated meetings, Freemasonry benefits from you and your presence.

New years are the best times for new beginnings, *and* for continuing old traditions. Think about how you can get involved. We look forward to seeing you around the district!

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Did I Do Enough?
WB Nick Bolyard

Deep reflection often provides us with the opportunity to ask ourselves the hardest questions. One of the most profound is: Did I do enough?

We know that time is never guaranteed and that each day is truly an opportunity to serve others. The lesson of the twenty-four-inch gauge teaches us that service is an integral part of our lives. When reflecting on this, ask yourself: Have I done enough? If the Great Architect were to take us by the hand today, can we say we did enough to serve others?

Brethren, we have an inspiring opportunity to put those lessons into practice. Please join us on **October 24, 2026, at 3:00 PM** at the **Blendon Masonic Temple in Westerville**, Ohio. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls will be conferring their Statewide Initiation and holding a Basket Auction to support the Children's Dyslexia Centers.

This is a wonderful occasion for us as Masons to support the young women of Ohio Rainbow and contribute to a vital cause that helps children overcome dyslexia. Let us answer the call of service together.



ALADDIN SHRINERS

75 Years Under The Big Top
WB Jeffrey Hall

For **75 years**, the Aladdin Shrine Circus has brought families together in Central Ohio. Think about that for a moment—75 years of children seeing the Circus for the first time, parents and grandparents making memories, Shriners working side by side, and generations of families gathering together for a few hours of fun and excitement.

As I prepare to serve as Circus Director during this milestone year, I am both humbled and honored. There are some very big shoes to fill, and I have tremendous respect for the Nobles and Circus Directors who came before me and built the tradition we have today. But the 75th Anniversary is about much more than looking backward. It is our opportunity to honor that history by making sure this tradition remains strong for the generations that follow us.

The 75th Anniversary Aladdin Shrine Circus returns to the Celeste Center in Columbus, April 1–4, 2027. We kick things off Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 PM with a very special Shriners Night, including an opening parade featuring our Shrine units and clubs. Friday features our special 11:00 AM Kids/Guest Day, followed by performances at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM. The new Friday 3:00 PM performance will offer $10 tickets, giving families another affordable opportunity to experience the Circus. Saturday brings three performances at 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM, and Sunday concludes the weekend with performances at 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

I especially want to invite my Brothers throughout the 14th Masonic District and across Central Ohio to join us for our Sunday 1:00 PM Masonic Day performance. Bring your family. Bring your Brothers. And consider bringing a candidate or prospect who might enjoy seeing another side of the Masonic family. Sometimes the best introduction to who we are doesn't happen inside a Lodge room—it happens when someone sees Masons and Shriners together, enjoying fellowship, supporting their community, and welcoming families.

ALADDIN SHRINERS

75 Years Under The Big Top, cont'd
WB Jeffrey Hall

Become a 2027 Circus Daddy

This year, we are making the Circus Daddy program an important part of our 75th Anniversary celebration.

For $50, the 2027 Circus Daddy package includes a special 75th Anniversary commemorative challenge coin, a Circus Daddy pin, and a $5 discount on each Circus ticket purchased. The $5 ticket discount applies to our regular performances but does not apply to the specially priced Friday 3:00 PM $10 performance.

And this year, our invitation goes beyond the Nobility. We are challenging every Mason to become a Circus Daddy. Whether you are a Shriner or a Brother from one of our Blue Lodges, this is an opportunity to be part of something that has connected our Masonic family with the Central Ohio community for three-quarters of a century.

Quantities of the special 75th Anniversary commemorative coin are limited, so don't wait. Information about the Circus Daddy program and how to sign up is available at **AladdinShrineCircus.com.**

Put your lodge (or your business) in the spotlight

Brothers, here is another area where we need your help. The 75th Anniversary Circus provides a tremendous opportunity to get the name of your Lodge in front of families from throughout Central Ohio. Advertising your Lodge is an opportunity to tell people that Freemasonry is alive, active, and doing good work in their community.

And if you are a Mason who owns a business—or you know someone who does—we want to hear from you. We have advertising and sponsorship opportunities available for the 2027 Circus. This is an opportunity to support a 75-year Central Ohio tradition while putting your business, organization, or Lodge in front of the thousands of people we hope to welcome through the doors during Circus weekend.

75 Years Under The Big Top, cont'd
WB Jeffrey Hall

Every Mason reading this knows someone the Circus staff may not know. You may know the business owner who wants to advertise. You may belong to the Lodge that wants to get its name in front of the community. You may know the organization looking for a way to support a great local tradition. **Help us open those doors.**

And don't underestimate the difference one Brother can make. Maybe you can't sell 100 tickets or secure a major sponsor. That's okay. **Share a Circus post.** Put a flyer at your business. Talk about the Circus at Lodge. Bring another family. Introduce us to a business owner. Buy an advertisement. **Become a Circus Daddy.**

If every Mason who reads this does **one thing**, imagine the difference we can make.

This is our circus

The success of the 75th Anniversary won't come from one Circus Director, one staff, or one Shrine. It will happen because **people decide this tradition is worth supporting.**

Yes, there are numbers to watch, tickets to sell, advertisements to secure, and expenses to manage. But there is something else we cannot put on a spreadsheet—the look on a child's face when the lights go down and the Circus begins.

For a few hours, families can put everything else aside.

They can laugh together.
They can be amazed together.
They can make a memory together.
That is worth protecting.

Seventy-five years of tradition doesn't happen by accident. It happens because, generation after generation, people decide to step forward when it is their turn. Brothers, now it is our turn.

Come to the Circus. Bring your Lodge. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Bring a candidate or prospect. Become a Circus Daddy. Advertise your Lodge or your business. Share our information. Help us fill those seats. And together, let's give Central Ohio a 75th Anniversary Aladdin Shrine Circus it will never forget.

I'll see you at the Circus.



Find your sweet spot
RWB Chris Greise

In my travels around the district, I've seen lodges that make Masonry seem almost effortless. Not because everything comes easily, but because their members have found ways to contribute, engage, and create something bigger than themselves.

One lodge in particular that I'd like to highlight is **Blendon Lodge #339 in Westerville**.

When I've been fortunate enough to visit Blendon, I am often greeted by more than thirty brothers gathered for dinner, fellowship, and conversation. That is outstanding.

I know the numbers aren't what they once were. I've heard stories of stated meetings with more than one hundred brothers in attendance. But thirty brothers gathered together is still significant. Think about what that looks like to a new Mason walking through the door for the first time. He sees brothers who are glad to see one another. He gets introduced to people. He has an opportunity to ask questions and build relationships. He immediately experiences fellowship and brotherhood.

Sometimes, putting in just a little more effort can pay dividends.
I know some lodges struggle to bring that many brothers out to a meeting. To me, that should cause us to ask an important question: **How do we remind our members of the value of being part of something bigger than themselves?**

Masonry is about so much more than *"What's in it for me?"*

If we want to receive the true wages of a Mason, we have to be willing to put in the work for others. We also have a responsibility to inspire our brothers to come back and experience the magic that happens when more of us show up for one another.

Find Your Sweet Spot

The second thing that has truly impressed me about Blendon is their involvement in the community.



Find your sweet spot, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

All it takes is one visit to their annual fish fry to see how the community rallies behind their efforts. The event has become a tremendous opportunity for the lodge to serve humanity, build relationships, and demonstrate what Freemasonry looks like outside the lodge room.

What makes it even more impressive is that the fish fry was a new endeavor started by one of their Masters. He championed the event and continued to support it year after year.

That is leadership.

Not simply starting something while sitting in the East, but creating something that continues to benefit the lodge and the brethren long after you have handed the gavel to the next Master.

That positive energy has created opportunities for even more fellowship and service. Blendon has helped organize a yearly tailgate event around an Ohio State football game, bringing together members of the lodge, the other appendant bodies, and the organizations that share their building.

They support Habitat for Humanity and other service projects. They support the Boy Scouts through their annual pumpkin sales. They work with the local Garden Club on community activities and even help maintain and improve the landscape around their own building. None of these things happen by accident.

They happen because someone found their **sweet spot**.

Maybe it is community service. Maybe it is degree work. Maybe it is cooking dinner. Maybe it is ritual. Maybe it is mentoring a new Mason. Maybe it is planning an event, working with our youth, visiting a sick brother, or simply making sure that the brother who hasn't been around in a while knows that someone noticed he was missing.

And sometimes, our sweet spot changes.

Keep the Past Masters Engaged

One thing I particularly appreciate is the way Blendon keeps its Past Masters involved.



Find your sweet spot, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

That is one way to ensure that every responsibility doesn't fall on the current officers of the lodge. It gives Past Masters a little skin in the game and allows them to continue being a vital part of the lodge.

Sometimes the drive to stay involved is already there.

Sometimes, we have to light the spark. But our Past Masters have experience, relationships, knowledge, and talents that can continue to benefit the lodge. We should find ways to put those assets to work rather than assuming their service ended when they left the East.

The Band of Brothers
There is one more thing I want to highlight: their traveling as the Band of Brothers.

It brings me tremendous joy to see ten, eleven, or sometimes even more Blendon brothers show up at an inspection together.

That is what brotherhood looks like.
And it reminds me of something important:

We get to do this.

If we want a better experience in our lodges, we are empowered to make it happen.
But we don't have to do it alone.
In fact, we shouldn't.

The goal isn't for one person to carry the lodge on his back. The goal is to engage others in the pursuit of something meaningful—something significant—something **legendary**.
So, take a moment and Reflect on what Freemasonry means to you.
Then ask yourself where you can Commit yourself to the Craft.

Where can you Invest in your lodge?
Where can you Invest in your brothers?
What is your sweet spot?
Maybe you already know.
Maybe you haven't found it yet.



Find your sweet spot, cont'd
RWB Chris Greise

So I'll leave you with a few questions:

How can you contribute to your lodge?
What is something you really enjoyed while moving through the officer line?
What is something you always wanted to do but couldn't accomplish by yourself?
And perhaps most importantly:
Who can you bring alongside you to make it happen?

Because Freemasonry was never meant to be experienced from the sidelines.

We are here to participate.

We are here to serve.

We are here to build something that will outlast us.

Find your sweet spot. Find your people.
Put in the work.

And remember—
We Get to Do This.



Golfing with Don Spriggs
WB Eric Kletrovetz

The oddity of our pairing was not lost to me. At 92 years old Don's cunning game and consistency are remarkable.

At 51 I found myself laughing at myself as he pummeled me on the golf course. I could out drive him 3 to 1. His 3 wood was my seven iron… no way he beats me but through it all, he crafts his game, lulls you into a false sense of security and out putts almost anyone I know. He gave me the best butt whoopin' I ever deserved in my first pairing with him on the course.

He is a quintessential Mason. Steady, strong and full of wisdom. If you have never taken just 5 minutes to talk in depth with him, you have missed a true blessing in your life that was right in front of you. My writing can be direct, tough, and even contain a bit of brash, lightly seasoned with naivete….

As we ride around the course looking for my drive, I quizzed Don on his experience as a Mason. We had some wonderful discussions. I realized what a treasure he truly is to our District and Fraternity as a whole. Don's about 6 years older than my Dad.

I won't lie, my questions were based around the nonsense that I feel perpetuates this fraternity. I asked Don some really tough questions. Being a past master, a past president of our district and active mason of our craft, he undoubtedly has experienced some things that could make one question their membership in our fraternity. I quizzed and probed every avenue I could to get him to crack even just a little bit to find the scoop on his experiences.

I probably should have concentrated more on my golf game, but how many opportunities does a man get to sit beside and have an audience with such a tenured mason in our craft? But he never wavered.

If you are in the craft as long as he has been, experienced the the changes he has seen just in our fraternity and been though the consolidation of once thriving lodges that are mere shadows of themselves, you might find yourself a bit downtrodden on fraternalism… Not WB Don Spriggs.



Golfing with Don Spriggs, cont'd
WB Eric Kletrovetz

From the first moment I put my bags on the cart to the final handshake and refreshment in the clubhouse afterwards, Don is and was a class act.

From the peanut butter crackers he had for each of his friends he plays golf with to the amazing consistency of a 120 yard drive right down the middle of the fairway, Don exemplifies what it means to be a Mason in every aspect of his life. There is no doubt you can see the impact Masonry has had on WB Don Spriggs and there is definitely no doubt you can see the impact Don Spriggs has had and continues to have on the Fraternity even if he only hits the ball 120 yards. His consistency, candor and encouragement are what we should all aspire to be as a Freemason.

It isn't the length of your drive that counts, it's the manner in which you approach the game and the divine consistency with which we practice.

I will say it again, it was the best butt whoopin' I ever had, and I won more than I lost that day on the course with Don. You know that God has blessed you when you get to spend a few hours with Don Spriggs.

To Don, I hope I get my butt whooped by a 93 year old next year, my brother. You impacted me more than you will ever know...



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).

January 2027 inspection schedule

Lodge	Date	Degree
Reynoldsburg 340	Tuesday, January 19th	MM*
Capital City 656	Friday, January 22nd	MM*
Hiram 18	Tuesday, January 26th	FC
Triangle 748	Thursday, January 28th	EA

February 2027 inspection schedule

Lodge	Date	Degree
University 631	Tuesday, February 2nd	EA
Neoacacia 595	Wednesday, February 3rd	FC
Canal Winchester 670	Thursday, February 11th	MM*
Magnolia 20	Tuesday, February 9th	EA
Avery 493	Tuesday, February 16th	FC
Linden 637	Thursday, February 18th	EA
New England 4	Monday, February 22nd	EA
Community 684	Tuesday, February 23rd	FC

* All MM inspections begin at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:15. Second Section at 7 PM

March 2027 inspection schedule

Lodge	Date	Degree
York 563	Monday, March 1st	FC
Sunrise 783	Tuesday, March 2nd	EA
Groveport-Lockbourne 801	Tuesday, March 9th	MM*
Blendon 339	Monday, March 15th	FC
Sparrow 400**	Saturday, March 20th	EA
Grove City 689	Monday, March 29th	MM*

April 2027 inspection schedule

Lodge	Date	Degree
Westgate 623	Monday, April 5th	FC
Goodale 372	Monday, April 12th	MM*
Arts & Sciences 792	Thursday, April 15th	MM*

* All MM inspections begin at 5:30 PM. Dinner at 6:15. Second Section at 7 PM
** Sparrow 400 - Breakfast at 8:00 AM, degree at 9:00 AM

Around the District



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


GROVEPORT CHAPTER
DEMOLAY
OHIO
EST 1976
ORDER OF DEMOLAY
RAFFLE
His & Hers Gifts
• $250 Cabela's Gift Card
• Kate Spade Purse & Wallet
Tickets $10
NOV 9
8:00 PM
Cabela's
GIFT CARD
Raffle Ticket
HIS & HERS GIFTS
$250 CABELA'S GIFT CARD
KATE SPADE PURSE & WALLET
$10
DRAWING ON NOVEMBER 9TH
OR SOONER IF ALL TICKETS SELL
Ticket #:

BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK

USBC CENTRAL OHIO ASSOCIATION

4th Annual Charity Fundraiser

Sunday, Nov. 15th, 2026 - 1:00 PM

at Bowling Palace at Columbus Square

5707 Forest Hills Blvd., Columbus, OH 43231

- 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, silent auction, & bake sale
- 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.

****

BOWLERS TO VETERANS LINK

4th Annual Charity Fundraiser

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

Bowler's Name: _____ Cell #_____

email: _____

AROUND THE DISTRICT

