



Second Masonic District

www.secondmasonicdistrict.org

Serving Ohio Lodges in Butler, Montgomery, Preble, and Warren Counties



February 2012

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District Education Officers

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W.B. H. Matthew Reed

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R.W.B. Douglas N. Kaylor

From The District

The inspection season has started and is going well. As I write this we have had five inspections with an average home lodge attendance of 33.0 and an average visitor attendance of 61.6. This gives an average total attendance of 94.6. There are ten inspections during the month of February. Please continue to come to the inspections and support your friends and brothers at their inspections. **As a note**, St. Johns inspection has been rescheduled for March 30th.

The **Grand Master's Reception** is scheduled for **March 17th**, which is also St. Patrick's Day. So expect to see a lot of green and maybe an Irish touch to the evening. **Brother Rick Grimes**, who will portray **Confederate Brigadier General Lewis Addison Armistead**, will provide the entertainment for the evening. General Armistead will talk about his life, what lead up to the Battle of Gettysburg, and his role in the battle. The District encourages you to come, enjoy the evening, and learn about Brother Armistead. Again this year the dinner will be a buffet starting at 6:30 p.m. with the entertainment following at approximately 7:30 p.m. Dinner tickets are still priced at \$20 per person.

In addition to your attendance, the District offers several ways you can support this event. These include:

1. **Sponsor a Grand Lodge Officer** – For \$200, a Grand Lodge Officer and his Lady will sit with your Lodge at dinner. Your Lodge will also receive a full page in the Sponsorship Program. Any Lodge that sponsored a Grand Lodge Officer last year will have first chance at sponsoring him again this year.
2. **One Line Supporter** – For \$5, your name will be printed in the Sponsorship Program. Ten or more names from the same Lodge will receive Lodge recognition.
3. **Sponsorship Program** – There are for different sponsorships available. For \$200, you receive a full page; for \$150, you receive a three-quarter page; for \$100 you receive a half page; and for \$50, you receive a quarter page. Your Lodge will receive one free dinner ticket for every \$100 dollars of sales. This is a great way to earn free dinners for your Lodge.

This year **two Lodges** in the District will celebrate their **Two Hundredth Anniversary**. These Lodges are **St. Johns Lodge #13** in Dayton and **Washington Lodge #17** in Hamilton. St. Johns Lodge will be celebrating on March 17th while Washington Lodge will celebrate on May 5th. Both of these lodges would love to see you on their special day.

Fraternally,
Joe Fair
President
Second Masonic District Officers Association

From The District Deputy Grand Masters

Future of Freemasonry

When I mention the “**Future of Freemasonry**” what does it bring to mind? Concern for our membership, rising costs for our buildings, care of the ritual, change. Of course the issue of membership is at the forefront of all Masonic bodies. Over the past sixty years, Freemasonry has seen a gradual decline in the number of Masons. In the U.S. alone, it has been reported that membership of the 50 Grand Lodges combined has seen a drop in membership by more than 50%. The question regarding the future of our order has most certainly come across the desk of many Grand Lodge Officers and affiliated bodies. Some lodges have closed, others have merged and the maintenance of our beautiful temples and Masonic centers, (that of which we are very proud of and are the external window to our communities) have become an ever-increasing responsibility to maintain.

Masonic scholars have reported various theories for the declining membership:

- Some claim; this is a return to normal sizing of the fraternity after the unusual increase in membership since the Second World War.
- Some claim: “*it’s the changes society has brought forth*”: Such that Americans have drifted away from civic activities and have increased their hours in “solo or personal” activities like television, video games and internet surfing.
- Others have said: Lodge meetings are too routine.
- Others attribute the cause to: Both parents are working. “We are all so busy!”

Whatever the underlying cause maybe or the culmination of many, the fraternity must be prudent in obtaining new members, provide an appealing Masonic atmosphere to retain our current members and adapt to change. If we continue to do the same things we have always done, we are going to continue to have the same results. I know there are many things we could focus on, but I would like to discuss membership and change.

Has your lodge been effected by change? The Economy? Technology? What has your lodge done to accommodate these changes? Does your lodge have a Website, Facebook page, Twitter account, Blog Page? If not, maybe it’s time for change. Does your lodge feel the pinch of the economy? Is your lodge proactive to address its financial concerns?

No one is asking Masonry to change in that our core values remain the same, only that our Fraternity adapt to today’s and tomorrows ever-changing world. Our ancient brethren saw a need to adapt to their environment after Euclid’s theory of geometry was rediscovered and published; thus revealing the secrets of the operative Masons and how they constructed the large temples of their time. They saw the need to adapt as their craft diminished and witnessed a loss in membership in their guilds. These ancient craftsman began to accept into membership, men who had no connection with the building trades; men who had an interest only in the moral principles encouraged by the guilds. If they had not taken this bold step, we as Freemasons might not exist today.

The future of Freemasonry depends upon our leadership and direction. We must have good leaders at the grass roots of our order. We need men full of energy, men with a vision, men with a willingness to work, good men, men that can speak for the fraternity, men who can adapt to change and present change to the lodge brethren. We need to focus our attention upon the younger men in our lodges (as we see more and more younger men joining our ranks) by giving them increased Masonic knowledge and an opportunity to become participants and not mere spectators.

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(Future of Freemasonry continued from page 2)

Due to movies like **National Treasure** and **The DaVinci Code**, television shows on The Discovery Channel - **“The Secret History the Freemasons**

<<http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk/conspiracies/organisations/freemasons/index.shtml>>”, books like Dan Brown’s – **The Lost Symbol**, Freemasonry has attracted a lot of attention. Men are looking for meaning in their lives, and they are seeing Freemasonry for the first time, and in it, are seeing the answer to their need.

The Internet hasn’t only made it easier to learn more about Freemasonry, it’s changed the type of men coming forward. There is so much information on the Internet that by the time someone comes to a lodge to seek membership, they already know much about the Fraternity. Which is a big change from previous generations.

Recently, a young man who works for the House of Representatives, living in Chillicothe, was referred to me by a brother in the Second District, who indicated that this young man had saw his Facebook page and wanted more information about our Fraternity. After a couple of emails back and forth, I contacted this young man, discussed at length the Fraternity and what it means to me, and provided him with a contact for a lodge in Chillicothe. As this represents a change from previous generations on how we promote the Fraternity and obtain new members; regardless of change, Freemasonry is offering what it always has; a system of moral teachings, taught by allegory, illustrated by symbols, impressing upon the minds of our members our cardinal virtues.

Remember, the Future of Freemasonry is up to you.

R.W.B. Bryan Worley, D.D.G.M.
Second Masonic District

2012 SCHEDULED EVENTS

18-JAN	DOA Meeting – Farmersville Lodge (7:00 pm)
21-JAN	Wardens / SD Workshop – Eastern Star (9:00 am)
28-JAN	AASR Worshipful Recognition Night (6:00 pm)
09-MAR	State Secretaries Meeting (3/9 – 3/10 – All Day)
17-MAR	St. John’s Lodge #13 Reconnsecration – 200 Years (10:00 am)
17-MAR	Grand Master’s Reception (6:30 pm)
19-APR	DOA Meeting – High Point Lodge (7:00 pm)
21-APR	Wardens / SD Workshop – Vandalia (9:00 am)
05-May	Washington Lodge #17 Reconsecration – 200 Years (10:00 am)
05-MAY	1 st – District Grand Master’s Reception (6:00 pm)
19-MAY	DOA Golf Outing
10-JUN	Ohio Masonic home Day (11:00 am)
16-JUN	Outdoor Raising – LeMay Estates, Waynesville, OH
22-JUN	Special Olympics (6:30 pm)
03-AUG	George Washington Memorial – MM Raising (8/3 to 8/5)
08-SEPT	RWB James Easterling’s Grand Master’s Rollout Program – Middletown Masonic Center (9:00 am)
15-SEPT	Wardens / SD Workshop – DMC (9:00 am)
19-OCT	Grand Lodge – Akron
20-OCT	Grand Lodge – Akron
23-OCT	DOA Meeting – Mystic Lodge, DMC (7:00 pm)

District Announcements

The **Grand Master's Reception** is March 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dayton Masonic Center. In addition to your attendance, the District offers several ways you can support this event. These include:

1. **Sponsor a Grand Lodge Officer** – For \$200, a Grand Lodge Officer and his Lady will sit with your Lodge at dinner. Your Lodge will also receive a full page in the Sponsorship Program.
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Inspections

Saturday	February 4	Solar	FC
Thursday	February 9	Huber Heights	EA
Wednesday	February 15	Farmersville	MM
Thursday	February 16	Minerva	EA

Lodge Announcements

Washington Lodge will hold its 15th Annual **Dennis Ray Davis Youth Fishing Derby** Saturday, May 19th from 8-11 am. There will be food and prizes for ages 3-16. The event will be held at the Hamilton Optimists Club 567 Beissinger Rd, Hamilton, OH. If you have questions contact fish@washington17.org or the Lodge Hotline (513) 341-8624. There will be trophies for the lightest fish, shortest fish, youngest fisherman, oldest fisherman, first fish, last fish, longest fish, most fish, and heaviest fish

Benjamin Franklin Lodge No. 719 will be hosting a **Valentine's Dinner** at the Hamilton Masonic Temple on February 18, 2012 with the meal being served at 6:30 p.m. Following the meal Bluegrass Band "East Fork Junction" will entertain us. We will be honoring the widow's of our deceased brethren this night. The menu will consist of: Stuffed pork chop, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, dinner roll, coleslaw, coffee and tea. Dessert will be hot fudge cake. Cost of the meal & entertainment will be \$10.00. Reservations can be made through Phil Brown at 513 868-2338 or e-mail prbrown719@gmail.com. Payment, with reservation, can be made at the door. **RESERVATIONS NEEDED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 10, 2012.**

From the Lodges of the Second District

Saturday Morning Breakfasts:

Alpha Lodge – 1st Saturday
Huber Heights Lodge – 1st Saturday
Fellowship Lodge – 2nd Saturday
Camden Lodge – 3rd Saturday
Eastern Star – Last Saturday

Please call the Lodges for times and cost.

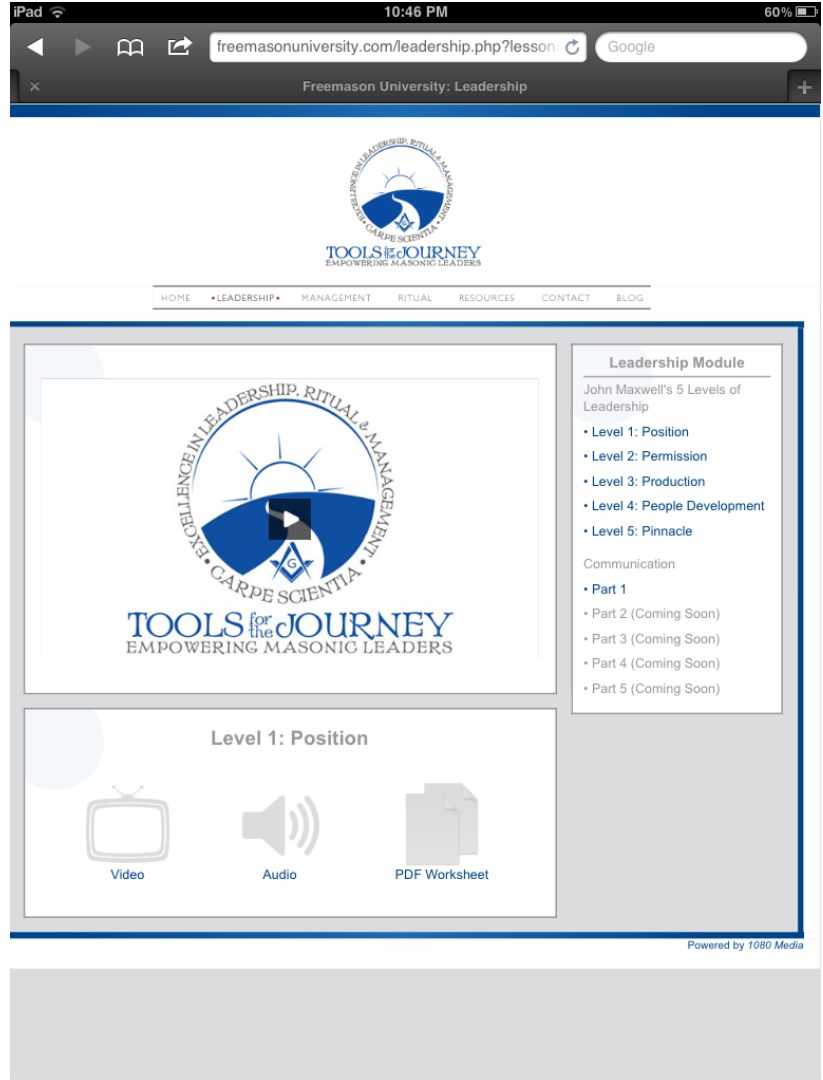
For Your Information

Brethren visit our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/secondmasonicdistrict> as well as the 2nd Masonic District's web page at <http://www.secondmasonicdistrict.org> for events and pictures from around the district!

From the District Education Officers

Under the direction of Past Grand Master MWB Jack Allen, Ohio's Freemason University has been created to provide Master Masons with essential tools for their Masonic journey. Every individual has unique talents, and those talents can be developed into strengths by adding skills and knowledge.

The University will continually grow to meet the needs of Ohio Freemasonry. This year, there will be three main areas of focus: Ritual Appreciation, Lodge Management, and Lodge Leadership, each with their own resources including video, audio and handouts.



If you are ready to pick up your tools and get to work, visit the programs website @ freemasonuniversity.com.

