

36th Masonic District

The R.W. Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient & Honorable Fraternity of Free & Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging

March 15, 2008

Chester | George Bartram - Paul Sands | Prospect | Concord | Penn | Lansdowne | Springfield - Hanby

Vol. 1 No. 6

District Calendar

Mar 18.	District Visitation.	Springfield-Hanby Lodge (7:00 pm)
Mar 18.	FC Degree.	Concord Lodge (7:00 pm)
Mar 19.	MM Degree.	Lansdowne Lodge (7:30 pm)
Mar 27.	John Rose, Regional Instructor.	Prospect Lodge (7:30 pm)
Mar 27.	Grand Lodge Special Communication.	Treichler Lodge (5:00 pm)
Mar 28.	Brotherhood Night.	NUR Shrine, New Castle, DE
Mar 29.	Pancake Breakfast.	Springfield-Hanby Lodge (7a-2p)
Apr 12.	Blood Drive (see within).	Concord/Penn Lodge (8 am to 2 pm)
Apr 26.	Regional School of Instruction.	Grand Lodge (7:45 am)
Apr 26.	Lodge Banquet.	Concord Lodge (TBA)
May 10.	CHIP Event.	Williamson Trade School (11 am - 4 pm)
Jun 6-8.	CHIP event.	Linvilla Orchards (see within)
Jun 07.	Lodge Banquet.	Penn Lodge (TBA)
Jun 14.	Dorney Park Family Picnic.	Allentown (see attached)
Jun 27.	Blue Rocks (see within).	Wilmington, DE

Earn it Again . . . Agent of Change . . .

Brethren, did you ever consider yourself an agent of change? There is an old Chinese Axiom, “If you always do what you’ve always done; you will always get what you’ve always got. It is amazing how often we want something to change but we are not willing to do something different. It just doesn’t work. Of course not all change is good, but all change is certainly different. The “good part” is up to us to create. There are two basic elements to changing something: the *willingness* to change and the *capability* to make it happen and see it through. There are certain dynamics of change that often get in the way: (a) people feel awkward and ill at ease about change, (b) they think first about what they will lose, (c) they will feel alone even if others have had the same experience, (d) people can only handle so much change at one time, (e) they operate at different levels of acceptance, (f) they often have concerns that they lack needed resources, and (g) people often revert to old habits when the pressure is off. Change is not easy and only exemplary leaders are comfortable navigating its perfidious waters. There are however things we can do to help: (a) expect the best, (b) listen before talking; think before acting, (c) get to the point, don't beat around the bush, (d) change what people do, not who they are, (e) model the behavior you desire, (f) adapt your approach to the person, (g) provide for dignity and self-respect, (h) appeal to self interest; what's in it for them, (i) rejoice at success, and (j) cut your losses with enlightenment, not guilt. So Brethren, my challenge to you is to identify something that you want to change, get the collective wisdom of others in your lodge together and do something about it. Ask for help and challenge others to be a part of it. Create buy-in and promote the successes, however small. We can earn it again and move this fraternity forward one step at a time. Remember that every journey began with a single step, a first step, and then followed with successive ones until the journey was complete. Even when the path got detoured, we never turned around but accepted the delay and moved forward. We can do this !!

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School of Instruction

Brethren, this past week at the wayfarers' meeting, I commented on the quality of the ritual that I witnessed while traveling around the district in February. I mentioned that while I felt the District is operating at a decent level, that we can always do better. That we ought to be trying to elevate our ritualistic work from good to great. That the Masters ought to be helping educate the brethren in their lodges. Through the example they set from the East, others will come to appreciate the importance of proper protocol. Our ritual is THE single greatest factor that differentiates us from other organizations. Our ritual is that which denotes our quality of operation. Our officers and others of interest are invited to attend the District School of Instruction Thursday evenings (all except the first Thursday of the month) from 7:30 to 8:55 pm to find out how you can strengthen your own ritualistic work as well as start your journey through the chairs if interested.

NPD (non payment of dues)

REPEAT

Brethren it is that time of year again when every lodge has before its membership those brethren who have yet to pay their dues. Why every year we go through this dance is an enigma, but are we not our brother's keeper? Every effort needs to be made to contact those brethren who are on the brink of abdicating their membership. April is just around the corner and the question will be asked of each of us whether we did all that we could to help a brother in need: in need of a reminder, in need of a welcoming phone call, in need of understanding, in need of friendship. You are just the person to help, to reach out, to suggest that he come back and become part of that which our freemasonry has to offer. Don't just ask him to pay his dues but remind him of the opportunities that lie ahead. Invite him back to a meeting, to a social, to the school of instruction, to your house. Offer to stop by and drive him to a meeting.



Audits are needed



Worshipful Masters, Secretaries, Treasurers, Trustees, and Audit Committees . . . oh yea everyone has a stake in it! Since the last newsletter, no additional audits were posted (5 still outstanding). Allow this to serve as a friendly reminder that ALL Lodges must be in compliance with the audit deadlines in order to facilitate the work of yours' truly and the Grand Lodge. Brethren, it is our fiduciary responsibility to our lodge memberships and the Grand Lodge to provide the necessary accounting for our budgets that enable us to be fiscally responsible as well as solvent. Please help me out here gentlemen and thank to those who are on the ball.

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CHIP Program



Bro. Rich Caruth, (rnc911@rcn.com) has put together a busy Identification schedule to help us protect our children. If you are able to help out, drop Bro. Caruth a note. The Chip program benefits the children of our area and affords the possibility of saving a life.

May 10 (11 am - 4 pm)	Middletown Township Pride Day	Williamson trade School
June 6 (5 pm - 9 pm)	Rotary Club Delco Fair	Linvilla Orchards
June 7 (1 pm - 9 pm)	Rotary Club Delco Fair	Linvilla Orchards
June 8 (1 pm - 5 pm)	Rotary Club Delco Fair	Linvilla Orchards
Sept 27 (TBA)	Marcus Hook Community Day	Marcus Hook
Oct 04 (TBA)	Robin Ford - Glenolden Fire Company	Glenolden
Oct 18 (TBA)	Sen Pileggi's Kid's Fair	Sun Valley High School
Oct 28 (TBA)	MOM's Group of Havertown	Grace Chapel in Havertown



Concord Lodge is holding its 7th annual Blue Rocks family picnic outing on Friday evening, June 27th. As in the past, they are inviting any brethren and their families to join them. As in the past, they have reserved space in the ProZone picnic area down the third base line. The price of the event is \$22 per person and includes the game, a delicious buffet picnic, and a Jacoby Ellsbury Bobblehead giveaway to the first

1,000 fans. Menu includes: BBQ Chicken, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Veggie Burgers, tossed green salad, baked beans, potato chips, ice cream sandwiches, and non-alcoholic beverages served from 5:45 to 7:30. Sodas and water available through the 7th inning. Game starts at 7:05 pm. If you are interested, Contact Bro. Rick Swalm at rswalm@temple.edu or 610-389-1323. Website: <http://www.bluerocks.com>.

Daffynitions

- Dust: Mud with the juice squeezed out. .
- Eyedropper: A clumsy ophthalmologist.
- Gossip: A person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage.
- Egotist: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.
- Chickens: The only creatures you eat before they are born and after they are dead.
- Cannibal: Someone who is fed up with people.
- Myth: A female moth.
- Paradox: Two physicians.
- Yawn: An honest opinion openly expressed.
- Stalemate: An old spouse.



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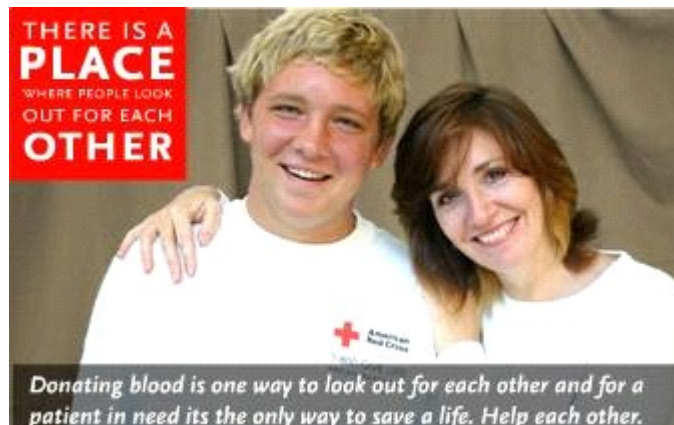
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Masonic Education

Five Points of Fellowship

The symbol of a building's completion. Ancient builders laid out the position of any structure with square corners from a center; thus the building was erected upon five points. The pentalfa or five pointed star, symbol of the five points, is a diagrammatic representation of man - two arms, two legs, and a head. A symbol may be something different from what the symbol teaches; the five points, symbolizing the completion of a building (a making) teach the essentials of geometry and exact science, teaches a love for learning.



32,000: Number of pints of donated blood used each day in the United States

3: Number of gallons of blood used every minute

2: Number of seconds that another person needs blood

6: Number of times you can donate blood each year

3: Number of lives saved with each donation

60: Number of minutes it takes to donate blood

Being a hero to patients in need? PRICELESS.

Please donate blood.

Concord Lodge No. 625 and Penn Lodge No. 709 F. & A.M. will be hosting a blood drive and platelet drive on Saturday, April 12th from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For your convenience we are offering the ability to schedule your appointment online by signing up at

<http://www.membersforlife.org/pennj/schedule/login.php?sponsorcode=12777>

or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

Annual Eastern Pennsylvania
Masonic Family Picnic
At



Dorney Park



(10:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M.)

Wildwater Kingdom

(10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.)

Rain or Shine

Saturday, June 14, 2008

“ALL YOU CAN EAT” MENU SERVED 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

**FRIED CHICKEN, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, BAKED BEANS,
POTATO SALAD, SODA, ICE CREAM, CONDIMENTS AND MORE!**

ADULTS \$33.00



AGE 3 YEARS TO 48” TALL \$25.00



CHILDREN AGES 2 YEARS AND UNDER ARE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE

ADMISSION PRICE PAYS FOR BOTH PARKS

PARKING \$ 9.00

COVERED PAVILION FOR MEALS

Mail your ticket requests to:

Guy T. Matthews
139 W. Richardson Avenue
Langhorne, PA 19047-2827

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO “MASONIC PICNIC”

_____ No. of Adult Tickets @ **\$33.00** \$ _____

_____ No. of Child Tickets @ **\$25.00** \$ _____

(Do Not Send Money For Parking)

Name _____ Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Address _____

*****ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS - MONDAY, MAY 31, 2008*****



The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Of The Most Ancient And Honorable
Fraternity Of Free And Accepted Masons Of Pennsylvania
Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598
Web Site www.pagrandlodge.org



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R.W. Grand Secretary

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e-mail: gsoffice@pagrandlodge.org

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE LODGE:

By direction of the R.W. Grand Master, the following copy must be printed in the Lodge Notice of every Lodge for the Stated Meeting next preceding March 27, 2008, if time permits. If not, then this **must be read at your next Stated Meeting:**

GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, PA, February 29, A.D. 2008, A.L. 6008

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE:

You are hereby requested to attend a Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to be held at 5:00 o'clock, p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2008 at Treichler Lodge located on the grounds of the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, 1 Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA. This Special Communication is being called for the purpose of acting on a Resolution approving the issuance of bonds in 2008 to refund bonds previously issued in 1999, 2001, 2002 and 2004.

By Order of the R.W. Grand Master.

Mark A. Haines
R.W. Grand Secretary



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Web Site www.pagrandlodge.org



Stephen Gardner
R.W. Grand Master
Phone: (215) 988-1911
Fax: (215) 988-1951

February 27, 2008

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS AND MEMBERS OF THE LODGE

Re: New Decision and Amendments to the *Digest of Decisions*

I am hereby issuing a new **Article 11.18 Balloting on Petition** as follows:

11.18 If a ballot were to be held at a Stated Meeting that was cancelled or postponed due to local or weather emergencies, the ballot must not occur at the rescheduled meeting. The ballot must be laid over to the next Stated Meeting.

Gardner, 2008.

I am hereby amending **Article 55.10 Lodge Meetings** of the *Digest of Decisions* to include the following paragraph at the end of the Article:

If a Lodge meeting is canceled or postponed due to local or weather emergencies, such meeting may be held within seven days after such cancellation or postponement without requesting a dispensation. Members must be given due and timely notice for the rescheduled meeting. Any ballots scheduled cannot take place at the rescheduled meeting; they must be laid over to the next Stated Meeting.

(Rev. 2008)

Kimmel, 1972; Gardner, 2008.

I am hereby amending **Article 74.16 Master** of the *Digest of Decisions* to read as follows:

74.16 Unless otherwise provided by the Grand Master, if the office of the Master has become vacant, the Senior Warden becomes the Acting Master of the Lodge.

(Rev. 2008)

Day, 1883; Gardner, 2008.

These Decisions are to be read at the next Stated Meeting of the Lodge and then filed in the Official Binder for Grand Lodge Communications making proper and sufficient reference in the Minutes.

Given under my hand and seal at the City of Philadelphia this 27th day of February, A.D. 2008, A.L. 6008.

Stephen Gardner
R.W. Grand Master

cc: All Right Worshipfuls
All District Deputy Grand Masters
All Blue Lodge Secretaries
J. Russell Mann, Chairman, Committee on Publications