



Delaware Freemason



July 2026



Grand Master Corner Stone Laying



Cornerstone Laying Re-enactment in Old New Castle

On June 13, 2026—City of New Castle Separation Day— Most Worshipful Grand Master Richard M. McTheny and Grand Staff proudly brought history to life at the original courthouse in New Castle, Delaware, our First State’s first capitol building. Dressed in full colonial attire, they conducted a dignified cornerstone re-enactment ceremony, honoring the traditions of our forefathers and celebrating Delaware’s rich Masonic and civic heritage. A memorable tribute to the past, carried forward with pride and precision.

Following the re-enactment ceremony, MWGM McTheny and several of the Grand Staff proceeded to Battery Park where a station was set up for the public to visit, ask questions, and pickup information on Freemasonry.

A big thank you to Worshipful Brother Bud Skinner for designing and constructing the cornerstone and tri-pod that was used in the re-enactment ceremony, and for his coordination of this event and providing for the Battery Park station setup and handout materials. Another big thank you to M.:W.: Ronald Ferraro, PGM for taking care of the sound system, and to our Scottish Rite for allowing us to borrow two large masonic banners.





Grand Master's Masonic New Year's Eve Bash

On June 20, 2026, the Clayton Fire Hall came alive with coastal flair as brethren and their families gathered for the Grand Master's Masonic New Year's Eve Beach Bash. The themed celebration provided the perfect setting to close out a successful Masonic year while welcoming the promise of a new one.

Decorated in true beachside fashion, the hall came alive with vibrant colors, tropical touches, and a spirit of camaraderie that could be felt from the moment guests arrived. Attendees embraced the theme, trading tuxedos for tropical shirts and formalwear for relaxed, festive attire—reminding all present that while Masonry is rooted in tradition, its bonds are strengthened through moments of joy and shared experience.

During the evening, the Grand Master and Delaware Masonic Charities further demonstrated their commitment to community and service by presenting donations of \$15,000 to the Grand Master's charity, ***Reins of Honor***, and \$5,000 to the ***Dutch Neck Sportsmen Club***.

More than just a celebration, the Beach Bash highlighted the enduring spirit of brotherhood—bringing Masons together to honor the past year and step forward with confidence into a bright and promising future. Many thanks to Worshipful Brother Steve Sabourin, his Lady Lisa, and the entire committee for their hard work in making the arrangements for this very special evening.



Delaware Freemason – July 2026



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday on the Wilmington Riverfront

Brethren,

On July 4th, Grand Master Richard M. McTheny and Grand Lady Marianne joined fellow Masons and members of the public at the Wilmington Riverfront to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. It was a privilege to take part in this historic occasion and to share with the community the important role that Freemasonry played in the founding and building of this great nation.

Our display featured a symbolic cornerstone exhibit, providing visitors with an opportunity to learn about the traditions of Masonic cornerstone ceremonies and the many contributions of Freemasons throughout American history. We enjoyed countless conversations with members of the public, answered questions about our fraternity, and shared the values that have guided Freemasonry for generations.

The event also provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and fellowship with brethren from Delaware and other jurisdictions, strengthening the bonds of friendship that unite us across state lines.

It was a truly enjoyable day of fellowship, education, and patriotic celebration. We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped showcase the enduring connection between Freemasonry and the history of the United States.

Fraternally,

Richard M. McTheny

Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Delaware, A.F. & A.M.



Delaware Freemason – July 2026



Independence Lodge No. 76 Plants Liberty Trees Across Delaware

As part of the commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, Independence Lodge No. 76 undertook a meaningful project to plant three Liberty Trees—one in each of Delaware's three counties.

These Liberty Trees are direct descendants of the last known original Liberty Tree, which stood on the campus of St. John's College in Maryland until it was lost to Hurricane Floyd in 1999. Independence Lodge was able to obtain these special trees through the generosity of the Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania, Robert Brink.

What better way to honor the revolutionary principles upon which our nation was founded than by planting these living and enduring symbols of freedom? Beneath the branches of the original Liberty Tree, American patriots gathered to discuss their response to British oppression. From those meetings grew the seeds of revolution, as colonists resolved that they would no longer live under the yoke of tyranny. Instead, they envisioned and ultimately created a new nation founded upon the then-radical ideals of liberty, justice, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

With the assistance of Jackson Lodge No. 19, the first Liberty Tree was planted on May 12, 2026, at Southern Park in New Castle County. The second tree was planted on June 16, 2026, at Hopkins Preserve in Sussex County. The final tree was planted June 24, 2026 at Levy Court Park in Kent County.

At the base of each tree, a commemorative plaque was installed featuring a QR code that provides visitors with the history and significance of the Liberty Tree. The plaque also acknowledges that the trees were provided by the Freemasons of Delaware, ensuring that future generations will remember both the historical importance of the Liberty Tree and the commitment of Delaware Masons to preserving our nation's heritage.







Most Worshipful Richard M. McTheny, Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, discusses how Masons and their values played a key role in the country's formation. McTheny spoke Tuesday at a ceremony at the Levy Court building in Dover to dedicate a Liberty Tree.



The Delaware Freemason Podcast

The Delaware Freemason Podcast is the official podcast of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Delaware, created to showcase the people, programs, traditions, and events that make Delaware Freemasonry unique. Through engaging conversations, event coverage, and interviews with Masonic leaders and members, the podcast provides an inside look at the fraternity while highlighting the positive impact Freemasons have throughout the First State.

Each episode offers viewers an opportunity to learn more about Delaware Freemasonry, hear inspiring stories from Brothers across the jurisdiction, and stay informed about the charitable, educational, and community-focused initiatives taking place throughout the Grand Lodge. Whether you are a longtime Mason, a newly raised Brother, or simply curious about the Craft, the Delaware Freemason Podcast serves as an informative and entertaining resource for all.

New episodes are available on the Delaware Grand Lodge YouTube Channel, making it easy to watch and share with family, friends, and fellow Masons. Subscribe to the channel and turn on notifications to stay up to date with the latest episodes and special features from around Delaware Masonry.

Visit the Grand Lodge of Delaware's official online resources to learn more about Freemasonry in Delaware and explore additional educational content and updates.

Watch, subscribe, and join us as we share the stories, traditions, and future of Delaware Freemasonry on the Delaware Freemason Podcast!

<https://www.youtube.com/@DEGLAFAMmedia>

JUNE 3, 2026, WAS A SPECIAL AND HISTORIC DAY FOR JEFFERSON LODGE NO. 15.

The evening began with a wonderful meal prepared and served by the Brothers of the Lodge. Following dinner, the Brethren retired to the Lodge room, where Worshipful Master David Lorah opened Jefferson Lodge in due form on the Third Degree of Masonry. What made this meeting particularly significant was that, after more than two years of planning and construction, it was the first stated meeting held in Jefferson Lodge's new Masonic Temple.

More than forty Brothers were in attendance, representing four Masonic jurisdictions and eight different Lodges. Also present were two Past Grand Masters, making the occasion even more memorable.

After conducting the regular business of the Lodge, Worshipful Master Lorah called the Lodge from labor to refreshment and invited the Brethren to accompany him to the Fellowship Hall for a special presentation.

There, Jefferson Lodge expressed its profound gratitude to Worshipful Past Master Walter C. Hopkins, Sr. by dedicating and naming the hall the **Walter C. Hopkins, Sr. Fellowship Hall**. This honor recognizes Walter's extraordinary generosity, vision, and dedication to the Lodge. While no tribute could ever equal the magnitude of what he has done for Jefferson Lodge and its future, the dedication serves as a lasting expression of the Brothers' appreciation.

Walter was also presented with the prestigious Pop Jefferson Award by Past Master Tim Wolfe. The award, presented annually by Jefferson Lodge, recognizes outstanding service and dedication to the Lodge and the Craft.

Following the presentations, the Brethren returned to the Lodge room to complete the remaining business of the evening, including the election of officers for the upcoming Masonic year. The Lodge was then closed in form by Past Grand Master Ronald P. Ferraro.

Afterward, the Brothers once again gathered in the Walter C. Hopkins, Sr. Fellowship Hall for refreshments, fellowship, and the enjoyment of a truly memorable evening in the history of Jefferson Lodge No. 15.



Representing Delaware at the 2026 Shriners Imperial Session

Grand Lady Marianne and I were honored to represent the Grand Lodge of Delaware at the 2026 Shriners International Imperial Session held in Tampa, Florida, from July 11 through July 15, 2026. This annual gathering brought together Shriners and Masonic leaders from across North America and around the world to celebrate the charitable mission, fellowship, and traditions that unite our fraternity.

A highlight of the week was participating in the **Grand Masters Summit**, where Grand Masters from numerous jurisdictions met to discuss issues affecting Freemasonry, share ideas for strengthening our lodges, and explore opportunities for future collaboration. The summit provided valuable discussions centered on leadership, membership engagement, and preserving our traditions while preparing for the future of our Craft.

Grand Lady Marianne and I also had the pleasure of attending many of the social events and activities throughout the Imperial Session, renewing friendships and strengthening the bonds that connect our Masonic family far beyond state boundaries.

One of the most memorable moments of the week was the **Imperial Parade**, where thousands of Shriners filled the streets of Tampa with colorful units, bands, clowns, motor corps, and specialty units. The parade showcased the spirit, dedication, and enthusiasm that make Shrinedom such a visible and impactful part of our fraternity.

As always, it was inspiring to witness the tremendous support for the Shriners Children's mission and the countless volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to serving children and families in need. We returned home proud to represent Delaware and grateful for the opportunity to strengthen relationships with Masonic and Shrine leaders from around the world.

Marianne and I thank all those who worked diligently to make the 2026 Imperial Session a success and look forward to continuing the strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood that were reinforced throughout this remarkable week.

Thanks,
Rick McTheny





Delaware Freemason – July 2026



Jackson Lodge Celebrates Two Years of Its Food Pantry & Book Nook Serving Delaware City Strong

Two years ago, Jackson Lodge No. 19 brought a heartfelt vision to life in Delaware City with the installation of a unique Food Pantry and Book Nook combo. What started as a simple idea has grown into a beloved community resource that continues to make a meaningful difference — still going strong and standing as a testament to what collaboration and compassion can achieve.

While food pantries and book nooks exist in many communities, Jackson Lodge's combined unit was designed to address two essential needs under one roof: access to non-perishable food and free books for anyone, anytime. The project was sparked when 11-year-old Emily Pace, while volunteering at a Northern Star Children's Foundation event, asked why Jackson Lodge didn't have something available every day instead of only on special occasions. That innocent but powerful question stayed with the Lodge.

P.M. Jamie Fields championed the idea, and young Emily stepped up in a big way — offering her own money to sponsor the materials. Her father, P.M. Carl D. Pace, III, connected with Delaware Technical Community College's Community Work Force Development Program, whose students and staff generously built the unit at no cost. A smart suggestion from one of the student designers led to a single blended structure for both food and books, saving time and resources while creating a more efficient and welcoming design. DTCC also solved potential ventilation challenges with a custom screen system to keep out pests while allowing proper airflow.

On June 22nd (two years ago), the completed pantry was delivered and installed by a dedicated team of Jackson Lodge members, friends, and DTCC staff. Fueled by donuts, determination, and plenty of sweat (plus one minor "non-reportable injury"), the project came together beautifully. The shelves were quickly filled with books on one side and a variety of canned goods and non-perishables on the other.

Two Years Later: Still Going Strong...

Since that day, the Jackson Lodge Food Pantry and Book Nook has become a true community hub. Lodge members work hard to keep it well-stocked with a rotating variety of foods and books, but the real success story is the active participation of the Delaware City community itself. Neighbors regularly donate items, while those who need support come by to take what they need — creating a beautiful cycle of giving and receiving.

The pantry continues to embody the simple but powerful belief that reading should be available to anyone, anytime, and that no one in our community should feel hunger. Over these two years,

it has quietly helped countless individuals and families, proving the lasting impact of that original vision.

Jackson Lodge extends its deepest thanks once again to materials sponsor Ms. Emily Pace, building sponsor Delaware Technical Community College, Bevan's Home Improvement for tools and equipment, and every brother, friend, and community member who has contributed sweat equity, donations, or support along the way. Your partnership has turned this project into something that continues to serve and uplift Delaware City.

If you or someone you know could use non-perishable food items or a good book, Jackson's Food Pantry and Book Nook is located at 406 Fourth Street, Delaware City, DE, and is always open. For those needing additional assistance beyond what the pantry provides, support is available through the Food Bank of Delaware at FBD.org.

Thank you, Delaware City — here's to many more years of community care, generosity, and neighborly support!



Answering the Community's Call for Help: Jackson Lodge No. 19 Delivers Relief During Record Heat

When the call came, there was no time to waste.

"We need help! Many people in town are without air conditioning, and Delaware City wants to open cooling stations for the community."

As a historic heatwave gripped the region, temperatures climbed to 104 degrees, while the heat index—what it actually felt like outside—reached a staggering 122 degrees. For many residents of Delaware City, especially those without air conditioning, the extreme heat created a dangerous situation.

The request for assistance reached one of Jackson Lodge No. 19's valued community partners, Delaware City Refining Company, after the Town sought emergency relief. The refinery stood ready to donate pallets of bottled water to support the cooling stations, but logistical requirements meant the shipment would take approximately 24 hours. The community, however, needed help immediately.

Without hesitation, the officers and trustees of Jackson Lodge No. 19 sprang into action. Working directly with the Delaware City Town Manager, the Lodge quickly developed a plan to bridge the gap until larger relief efforts could arrive. Within minutes of receiving the distress call, volunteers were coordinating resources. In less than an hour, vehicles were on the road. Just ninety minutes after the initial request—and during the middle of a workday on the eve of a long holiday weekend—Jackson Lodge members had delivered 55 cases of bottled water to both the Delaware City Library and Delaware City Town Hall, where cooling stations were serving residents seeking refuge from the oppressive heat.

While the bottled water provided immediate relief, the story is really about something much greater.

It is a testament to the strength of community partnerships and the importance of being prepared to serve when the unexpected occurs. The longstanding relationships between Jackson Lodge No. 19, Delaware City officials, Delaware City Refining Company, Triton Services, and other community organizations made it possible to respond quickly when every minute mattered. Freemasonry teaches that service is not measured by grand gestures alone, but by answering the call when neighbors are in need. Whether responding to a natural disaster, supporting local institutions, or simply lending a helping hand, Masons strive to make a positive difference in the communities they call home.

On that scorching summer day, Jackson Lodge No. 19 did more than deliver cases of water—they delivered compassion, hope, and a reminder that when Freemasonry is around, no one stands alone.



Shield & Square CHRONICLE

VOLUME I ISSUE I

JULY 2026

RAISING BROTHERS TO THE SUBLIME DEGREE

The Shield and Square Club and its Degree Team was hosted by Franklin Lodge No. 12 A.F. & A.M. in Georgetown on June 16, 2026, Ionic Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. in New Castle on June 23, 2026, and Washington Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M. in Wilmington on July 9, 2026.



Franklin Lodge No. 12 A.F. & A.M. – Candidate Ryan J. Potter



Ionic Lodge No. 31 A.F. & A.M. – Candidate Jason J. Schramke



Washington Lodge No. 1 A.F. & A.M. – Candidate Aiden A. Battista

SHIELD & SQUARE CLUB WELCOMES MOST WORSHIPFUL RICHARD M. McTHENY, GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN DELAWARE

On June 2, 2026, President Tyler S. Thompson and the Shield and Square Club of Delaware, along with The Colonials, Brandywine Forest No. 29, Evergreen Forest No. 49, and the Southern Delaware Shrine Club, hosted Most Worshipful Richard M. McTheny and his Grand Staff for a Grand Visit at the Felton Fire Hall. During the evening, Most Worshipful Richard M. McTheny (U.S. Army) was presented with a custom thin-line-style military / Masonic American flag, which was made by Brother Tom Shoemaker. A wonderful feast of fried oysters, chicken salad, dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans, and coleslaw was enjoyed by all! There were a total of 112 brethren and guests in attendance. A special event to the Grand Visit Planning Committee – Worshipful Brothers Lad Dick, Chad Robinson, and Hunter Whitman, who work tirelessly to execute a perfect event and thank all for attending! The 2027 Grand Visit will be held on April 6, 2027 at the Felton Fire Hall.



A UNIFIED EFFORT

Beginning in 2024, the Shield and Square Club of Delaware and the Lower Delaware Shield and Square Club began discussing the idea of unifying into one Club for the benefit of the Craft and Club. Under the leadership of Vice President Karl E. Hitchens and Secretary Chad T. Robinson, the two Clubs furthered the discussion and developed a list of agreeable

points, to create the foundation of the Unification. The Lower Delaware Shield and Square Club approved the motion on January 17, 2026, and the Shield and Square Club of Delaware approved the motion on February 23, 2026, and together both Clubs signed the Unification document on June 2, 2026, during the Club's Grand Visit. The Shield and Square Club of Delaware now represents Freemasons of public service in Delaware, and their professional affiliates.





The Shield & Square Club of Delaware seeks to strengthen the Masonic ties among brethren in the public service community – police, fire, military, EMS, dispatchers, judicial, corrections and government.

The mission of the Shield and Square Club of Delaware is to exemplify freemasonry in Delaware by conferring outstanding ritual and Degree work upon deserving candidates with a background in public service, thus fostering an environment in which the principal teachings of masonry shall flourish among all brethren of public service.

The Shield & Square Club of Delaware is available to confer the Sublime Degree of Master Mason upon candidates by request.

The Shield & Square Club of Delaware is now accepting applications for membership.

For Degree requests, membership inquiries, and more information, please email shieldandsquaredelaware@gmail.com



Hand Carved Wooden Waving American Flag Raffle



benefitting:

SHIELD & SQUARE CLUB OF DELAWARE

Tickets:

\$5.00 each

5 for \$20.00

*Flag will be raffled off during the
Grand Lodge Picnic on August 8, 2026!*

To purchase tickets, please email shieldandsquaredelaware@gmail.com

2027 Conquer the Canal Race

🔴 IT'S OFFICIAL... REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! 🔴

The 2027 Conquer the Canal Race Series is LIVE, and we can't wait to welcome runners and walkers back to one of Delaware's premier race series!

Whether you're chasing a new personal record, earning another finisher medal, walking your first 5K, or making memories with family and friends, there's a place for you at the starting line.

- 🏃 Multiple race distances and events
- 🏞 Beautiful C&D Canal scenery
- 🕒 Professionally timed races
- 👕 Premium race shirts
- 🏆 Incredible finisher medals
- 🎉 An unforgettable race-day experience

Every year, thousands of participants make memories along the Canal—and many of our races reach capacity.

🎯 Don't wait until it's too late... Register today and start planning your 2027 race season! The best discounts are NOW!

👉 Secure your spot now:

[🌐www.RunTheCanal.org](http://www.RunTheCanal.org)

Tag your running partners, your family, or that friend you've been trying to convince to run with you. Let's make 2027 the biggest Conquer the Canal Race Series yet!

This event is Hosted, organized, and administered by Jackson Lodge No. 19

— DELAWARE'S PREMIER RACE SERIES —

★ ★ ★

CONQUER THE CANAL RACE SERIES

2027

CONQUER THE CANAL

RACE SERIES

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

DON'T WAIT - RACES FILL FAST!

 **MULTIPLE RACE EVENTS**

 **CUSTOM FINISHER MEDALS**

 **PREMIUM RACE SHIRTS**

 **PROFESSIONALLY TIMED EVENTS**

 **BEAUTIFUL C&D CANAL COURSE**

 **FAMILY FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE**

REGISTER TODAY!

RunTheCanal.com

   EXPERIENCE THE SCENERY 🏹 CHALLENGE YOURSELF 🏹 EARN THE MEDAL

See You At The Canal!

The Craft and the Law: Observations of an Attorney and Past Master

By Douglas J. Cummings, Jr., PM

We, as Freemasons, acknowledge that Ancient Greek civilization has given us much of value. In climbing the winding Stairs of the Second Degree, we are informed that the three great orders of architecture originate from the Greeks. Another cause for admiration is the several words in the Greek language to express different kinds of love. Those include *Agape*, translated as, “the love of God for humanity, and of humanity for God”; another being *Philia*, “the bond of platonic love, loyalty and shared values between equals,” or, said differently, “brotherly love.”¹

My Brother, in completing my term in the East of my Blue Lodge,² and, awaiting the installation of my very worthy and elected Successor, my wish for you is that you have more love in this world than you did before. Whether it is brotherly love for your fellow man and Mason, romantic love for another person, working love for your chosen career or trade, or some other variety, my hope is that your heart has expanded because of the practice of our Craft.

I am certain that mine has over the course of this year. That said, at one time, I believed two of the several things I love in this world, Freemasonry and the Law, were separate and distinct concepts. But, having recently conferred the Third Degree, in part, on two worthy Candidates, my thinking has changed. I now believe the Craft and the Law as being of similar origin. Whether that is Greek culture, I am uncertain. But, if you would permit me, I will share with you three observations on why I have come to think in this manner.

Enduring Institutions whose Faces Change

In the performance of ritual (which we often describe to the profane as a type of play), the floorwork and dialogue remain the same. But, with annual elections, installations of new Officers, and jointly conferring degrees with the Officers of Sister Lodges, the identities of the performers change. Think about the ritual performed for your degrees, or, that you performed for another: was it the exact same person who wore the hat each and every time? Likely not.³

Indeed, it is custom that each of the three Degrees is conferred by each of the three Senior Officers. And yet, the same personal pronoun (“I”) is used by the Worshipful Master in each performance, by whomever is sitting in the East. That is, when he freely gives an assurance before

¹ It is said that the name of the first City to serve as our Nation’s capital, Philadelphia, includes the related Greek word (Philos), and is translated into English as “brotherly love.” Hence, the City of Brotherly Love.

² Lafayette Lodge No. 14 A.F.&A.M., Wilmington, Delaware.

³ Have you ever heard a Past Master reprimand a younger Officer that there is no place for innovation in the performance of ritual? This may not be just being a “stickler”. Rather, it is likely to ensure continuity over time and space in preserving the institution of Freemasonry.

the Candidate decides whether to take the obligation, and, approaching the Candidate from the East on the step, with the due guard and penal sign. Our Judiciary conducts itself in a similar manner.

The Opinions written by the highest Court of our State (Delaware Supreme Court), as well as of our County (United States Supreme Court), generally speaking, make use of “we” as a personal pronoun. This is so, when the Court refers to itself in the Opinion it has just written, as well as when referring within that Opinion to one of its prior Decisions. For example, the Court could say something to the effect of, “We now wish to take the opportunity to clarify what we said in *Smith v. Jones* on this subject.” The first “we” referring to the current Members composing the Court, who are authoring the Opinion; the second “we” alluding to whomever it was that composed the Court when the prior Decision was made, however many years ago.

As it is said that the Supreme Court of the United States issued its first, written Opinion in 1791, it would be impossible for the same Justices to preside today.⁴ Similarly, the Grand Lodge of the State of Delaware came into existence in 1806. Both the Craft, practiced within Blue Lodges formed under the Jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge, and the Law, practiced under the supervision of the Delaware Supreme Court, are similarly enduring institutions whose faces change.

Incredibility of Hearsay and Resolution by Trial

The obligation taken by a Candidate in each of our Degrees is the most important part of ritual. Within the obligation there are words that reoccur in each degree. Indeed, we swear not to reveal any of the secrets of our Art to the unworthy. But, what about someone who merely says that they are a “Brother”? Or, what if a third person, whom we are uncertain if they, too, are a Freemason, says that the initial person is a “Brother”? This would be hearsay. And, we know, from our obligation, that hearsay is insufficient.

The law provides similarly. Within the Delaware Uniform Rules of Evidence, there is a general prohibition against hearsay. “Hearsay” being defined as an out-of-Court statement offered into evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted. When this general rule applies, a Court will not consider the hearsay statements. In other words, a Judge will not allow the hearsay to affect their decision-making process; the mind of the Judge will not be changed as a result of impermissible hearsay.

As Freemasons, we promise to evaluate another’s sincerity in one of three ways, including by due trial. Similarly, the Law provides for both substantive and procedural *due* process in the conduct of *trial* to resolve a dispute. Both our Craft and the Law recognize hearsay as an

⁴ The first, written opinion of the Supreme Court of the First State is said to have been issued in 1951. The composition of that Court has consistently and regularly changed since then, too.

untrustworthy indication of truthfulness, and recognize the conducting of a due trial as a means of illuminating the truth.

Embedded Aspirations of our Best Selves

Both our Craft and the Law require us to be the best version of ourselves. In our Third Degree, each of us portrays a celebrated Artist, and, we are instructed that in using all the tools of Masonry, indiscriminately, no contention should exist among us, except for that noble contention (or rather emulation) of who can best work and best agree.⁵ Indeed, we are to emulate a pillar of our Fraternity, who was *always* punctual in the performance of his duties.

Similarly, there is an area of the Law where one's past conduct is evaluated as to whether it conformed to (or breached) a duty of care owed to another. That evaluation is performed by measuring the subject behavior against the standard of a "reasonably prudent person." That standard being, essentially, the idealized human; an aspiration of who we should be, and, whose conduct we should emulate. If the party in question behaved as would have the reasonably prudent person in the same circumstances, they will be found not at fault.

In conclusion, I love the Craft and the Law, and, I choose to think of them, not as separate and distinct, but of similar origin. They both: (1) are enduring institutions whose faces change; (2) believe hearsay to be incredible and due trial a meaningful means of arriving at the truth; and (3) require us to be the best versions of ourselves in our treatment of each other.

⁵ I do not believe "best agree" means eager to capitulate. To the contrary, it means being committed to use the entirety of one's faculties, while acting in good faith and motivated by a spirit of cooperation, to identify workable solutions and areas of mutual compromise so all involved may, to a degree, share in some benefit and, in the name of progress, move forward together. It is, to my mind, akin to the informal definition of a successful settlement in the practice of the law: "when all parties are neither completely satisfied nor dissatisfied, but able to move on."

Well Informed Brother: No. 3

By Worshipful Brother Patrick Light, Past Master
Thanks to Worshipful Brother Jeffery Hague, Past Master

At the 58th Semi-Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, the Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Matthew Thompson, asked Senior Grand Warden, Right Worshipful Brother William Thompson, “who composes this Grand Lodge?” The correct response was given diligently by Right Worshipful William, and included Past Masters from our lodges as members of Grand Lodge.

Past Masters originally were not accounted for as members of Grand Lodge beginning in 1806. It was not until Most Worshipful Brother James P. Lofland, Past Grand Master, introduced a resolution at the December 27, 1848, Communication of Grand Lodge, where he was sitting as Senior Grand Warden Pro-temp. The venue was the “Masonic Hall in Milford”.

Most Worshipful Lofland suggested at the afternoon session that Past Masters be considered members of Grand Lodge by including them in the code, at the appropriate place, as “Worshipful Past Masters.” Thus, enlarging the composition of Grand Lodge.

Most Worshipful Brother Lofland was a member of Temple Lodge No. 9 and served as Master and Secretary, and was initiated on February 18, 1816. The Fellow Craft and Master Mason interestingly were both conferred on April 19, 1816. Shortly after being raised, he served as Master for several terms: 1819, 1821, 1822, and 1823. He served our Grand Lodge as Grand Master from 1839 to 1841. Professionally Most Worshipful was a medical doctor in Sussex County, and civically served in the Delaware legislature along with serving as president of the Delaware Medical Society. He passed on August 7, 1851. Upon Most Worshipful’s entry in the Grand Lodge’s membership ledger, under the remarks section, written in elegant script states a bold epitaph,

“Our Great Light”.

Union Lodge No. 5 Visits Ronald McDonald House

Union No.5, led by Bro Nick Lynch, collected essential household supplies and monetary donations to help families remain together while children receive critical medical care at the Ronald McDonald House. On June 3rd, brethren from the lodge visited the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, DE and delivered food, puzzle books, and kitchen items. They also presented a check for \$800 from donations collected from lodge members.



Union Lodge No. 5 Awards Scholarships

Union No.5 Annual sporting clay fundraiser providing scholarship funding to deserving students through the David C. Burris Scholarship Foundation. Two \$1,500 scholarships were awarded and presented at the Appoquinimink HS awards ceremony by Bro Jason Crook and Bro Danny Burris Jr.



THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

This address was given in the Blue Room of The Grand Opera House & Masonic Temple to Temple Lodge No. 11 by their Past Master, Worshipful Brother Charles M. Allmond, III (Master 1968-1970), on Wednesday, May 14, 1975.

Each of us, as we work our way through the chairs of a Masonic Lodge, can be said to be serving an apprenticeship. We are learning to be Masters. We are supposed to be well-versed in the science of Freemasonry by the time we reach the Master's chair. Yet, how many of us are truly prepared for the office when the gavel is finally turned over to us?

Every Master is competent in the ritualistic work of the Lodge. The Grand Instructor has seen to this. But what of the other aspects of a Master's job? What about the powers of the Master? What about his duties and obligations in leading the Lodge? Who teaches these things? The answer, of course, is that no one really teaches them. This is an area where the Master must educate himself. It is he who must ferret out the information and assimilate it. Tonight, we are going to consider some of the important but often neglected aspects of the office of Worshipful Master.

The Grand Lodge Code provides that before the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden or Junior Warden can be installed, each must have read sometime during the preceding twelve months the Constitution, Code and Standing Resolutions of Grand Lodge. The Code further provides that the officers' proficiency committee shall require the officers elect to make a declaration that they have complied with this requirement. Thus, every Master theoretically has read the Constitution, Code and Standing Resolutions at least three times prior to his installation. I am afraid this provision is more honored in the breach than in the observance. Yet, the requirement is there. Those documents contain a wealth of information. If we ignore them, we neglect our duties as officers of the Lodge. More importantly, we remain uninformed and ill-prepared for the Master's Chair—a chair which is difficult enough to fill without the handicap of unnecessary ignorance.

No one expects the Master to be a walking encyclopedia of Freemasonry; yet, a general acquaintance with the salient features of Masonic jurisprudence is essential. A study of the Constitution, Code and Standing Resolutions of Grand Lodge can be most enlightening in this regard. Needless to say, a Master should familiarize himself with the By-Laws of his own Lodge. And he should not overlook Mackey's treatise on the Jurisprudence of Freemasonry. The abridged version is inexpensive and adequate for our needs.

Time does not permit us to delve into the niceties of Masonic Law this evening, but if we were to distill several centuries of thought and literature on the subject, I think we might come up with something like this:

Masonic Jurisprudence teaches these basic rules:

- **First**, a rigid adherence to the fundamental principles and Landmarks of the Craft, and faithful obedience to its laws and usages;
- **Second**, an unyielding resistance to all innovations however slight; and

- **Third**, that while in everyday life one may lawfully do what is not prohibited, so far as a Mason is concerned, whatever is not permitted by those Landmarks, laws or usages is absolutely forbidden.

If a Master will guide his Lodge with these rules firmly in mind, it is unlikely that he will get in trouble with Grand Lodge or the Jurisprudence Committee.

After grounding himself with a general knowledge of Masonic Jurisprudence, a Master-to-be would do well to examine the Ancient Charges. After all, he will be required to acquiesce to them prior to his installation. Let us read them now:

- I.** You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly obey the moral law?
- II.** You agree to be a peaceful citizen, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside?
- III.** You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against the government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature?
- IV.** You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrates, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men?
- V.** You agree to hold in veneration the original rules and patrons of Freemasonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations, and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren when convened in every case consistent with the constitutions of the Fraternity?
- VI.** You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess?
- VII.** You agree to be cautious in your behaviour, courteous to your brethren and faithful to your Lodge?
- VIII.** You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance imposters and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry?
- IX.** You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues and to propagate the knowledge of the Mystic Art?
- X.** You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master, for the time being, and to his officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry?
- XI.** You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry?

XII. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge on receiving proper notice; and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry, on convenient occasions?

XIII. You admit that no new Lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge; and that no countenance be given to any irregular Lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, as being contrary to the Ancient Charges of Freemasonry?

XIV. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or admitted a member of, any regular Lodge, without previous notice and due inquiry into his character?

XV. You agree that no visitor shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and satisfactory evidence of his having been initiated in a regular Lodge?

Those Ancient Charges give you an inkling of your place as Master in the Masonic scheme of things but there is much more.

The Master of a Lodge occupies a position unlike that of the presiding officer of any other organization. He is not merely a president or executive. Nor is he simply a moderator. He is an individual whose duties are extensive and whose rights and prerogatives are supreme. His status is unique.

The qualifications of a Master are the same today as they were in 1723 when they were laid down in Anderson's Book of Constitutions - He must be "of good morals, of great skill, true and trusty, and a lover of the whole fraternity." Thus, are succinctly stated the three-fold qualities of a Master: moral, intellectual and social.

- **He must be of good morals** - One who teaches the Masonic principles of virtue and morality should himself exemplify those qualities. In addition, he is the representative of the Craft to the world, and by his example will it be judged.
- **He must be intellectually of great skill** so as to comprehend what he is to teach his brethren and to be capable of communicating his ideas to them.
- **Finally, he must be true and trusty socially**, that is, as a member of a society, and a lover of the whole fraternity. This insures his observance of the Ancient Landmarks and his devotion to the Craft.

To paraphrase Mackey, a Master should rule his brethren with love rather than force. He should exercise firmness with moderation; cultivate a spirit of conciliation and learn to subdue by mildness the irritations which often arise in angry debate. He should rule on questions presented to him for decision on the basis of reason and not simply demand compliance by virtue of his authority. The office of Master is one which should not be too readily sought, for its functions are not easily discharged.

What are some of the prerogatives and duties of the Master?

First, and most importantly, he should preside over his Lodge. As a presiding officer he has powers not possessed by the president of most organizations. He presides over the business as well as the work on Masonic labors of the Lodge. His decisions on all points of order are final. No appeal of his decision can be taken to the Lodge. An aggrieved brother can appeal only to Grand Lodge.

The Master alone, if he is present, has the right to open and close the Lodge. He may select the time for opening and closing. He is the sole judge of the proper time. He may suspend business, even in the middle of debate, if he so desires. For this reason, no motion to adjourn, or to close, or to call from labor to refreshment can ever be made in a Masonic Lodge. Such a motion would interfere with the Master's prerogative. The Master also has control over the business to be brought before the Lodge; this includes the prerogative to refuse to entertain a petition for membership if he so desires.

While the Master has the power to cut off debate, he should always permit discussion on motions presented to the Lodge before calling for a vote. Too often we see Masters announce a motion and call for a vote without allowing discussion. Such a procedure sometimes results in the passage of unwise resolutions simply because the brethren have been uninformed as to their import. The Master, however, should never permit discussion which might disclose a member's vote after balloting on a candidate.

Because the Master is charged by Grand Lodge with the sole responsibility for the good conduct of the Lodge, a Masonic Lodge can never, under any circumstances, be resolved into a committee of the whole, and the Lodge cannot remove its Master.

As you can see, the Master's authority is that of a despot. But there are certain controls over this despotism. He is bound by the most solemn obligations to the faithful discharge of his duties and the impartial administration of justice and equity. And as a further safeguard, the Grand Lodge, as the appellate court of the jurisdiction, is ever ready to listen to appeals, to redress grievances, to correct the errors of an ignorant Master and to punish the unjust decisions of an evil one.

The Lodge has no power to try its Master on charges brought against him. This can only be done by Grand Lodge. The reason for this is obvious. The Master has the absolute right to preside over his Lodge when present, which includes Masonic trials when he automatically becomes judge. It would be ridiculous for him to preside as judge at his own trial; therefore, he must be tried by Grand Lodge.

If Grand Lodge is not in session, and the offence of the Master requires immediate action, the Grand Master can suspend the Master from office until the next Communication of Grand Lodge when a trial can be held. Needless to say, this is an extraordinary prerogative of the Grand Master which should be exercised with the utmost caution.

The Master has the duty, along with the Wardens, of attending the communications of Grand Lodge. This insures the representation of all subordinate Lodges at Grand Lodge. If the

Master and Wardens cannot attend, the Master may appoint a proxy with the assent of the Lodge.

The Master has the right to control the admission of visitors to the Lodge. He is the sole judge of whether a visitor has passed a satisfactory examination and there is no appeal from his decision. Similarly, he has the power of admitting or excluding a member. Remember the words: *"none may pass or repass except those as are duly qualified and have permission of the Worshipful Master."* Thus, he may keep out a member whose presence might create discord. But as this affects the member's right, as a Freemason, to be present, it should be exercised with caution. The disgruntled brother may prefer charges against him in Grand Lodge, whose duty it is to punish every arbitrary or oppressive exercise of prerogative.

The Master also is responsible for the Charter and property of the Lodge. These may be kept in the building for convenience, but they are his responsibility. Lodge property cannot be moved without his permission.

The Master alone has the power to appoint committees, and he is entitled to be present at all their meetings, and if present, to act as chairman. He also has the power to appoint a temporary substitute for any officer absent from a meeting.

While a Master may convene a called communication at any time, provided proper notice is given, he has no power to cancel a stated communication. It is well to remember that a called communication can be for any purpose, but it can only be for the purpose announced, and balloting on candidates is never permitted.

Many Master's do not realize that the Master has one vote on all questions coming before the Lodge, just as every other member. In addition, he has a casting vote in the event of a tie. In other words, he may vote twice!

Finally, mention should be made of the Master's obligation in entertaining the Grand Master and his staff at the Annual Grand Lodge visitation. Remember, he is Grand Master of Masons in Delaware, not Grand Master of the Grand Lodge. He should be properly introduced. His title is "Most Worshipful". No other Grand Officer is so addressed. The elected officers are "Right Worshipful", and the appointed officers are "Worshipful", with the exception of the Grand Chaplain who is "Most Reverend".

This annual visitation is an important event in the Lodge. The Master should let his visitors know he feels it is important. He should use some forethought in introducing the Grand Master and other speakers. It is easy to find out a little beforehand about the man and his subject, then he will avoid saying, "we will now have a few words from Brother..." Try to avoid cliché introductions of this kind. A Master of a Masonic Lodge does not have to be a polished public speaker, but with a little thought and planning he can handle the evening with ease and fluency.

Always remember the maxim: *The Master with more of power than his brethren, should also be distinguished by more of virtue and more of wisdom than his brethren.* Or, stated in more modern terms: *If you are number one, you try even harder!*

Granite Corinthian No. 34 & Lafayette No. 14

Costume Master Mason Degree

By: WB Patrick Light, PM

With the help of Worshipful Brothers Lee Stein and Russel O'Neill, Granite-Corinthian No. 34 and Lafayette No. 14 held a joint Master Mason Degree on June 3, 2026, in full theatrical costume. The degree was for Brother Rhyan Hugo (No. 14) and Brother Ryan Kramer (No. 34). Brother Rhyan has family who are active in Masonry outside of Delaware, and Brother Ryan's father is Worshipful Brother Cory Kramer, Past Master, who presided as Master at Granite-Corinthian No. 34 during 2014-2015. Worshipful Master Douglas Cummings (No. 14) conferred the first section in excellent form, and Worshipful Brother Kramer conferred the second section along with the lecture in superb fashion.



Some of the ritual team before the degree with help from all our District One Lodges.

Left to Right: WB Mike Jones, WB Patrick Light, WB Cory Kramer, WB Al Lefranc, Marvin Lightcap, WB Lee Stein, Evan Kallish, WB Russel O'Neill, Carl Barnes, WB Doug Cummings, WME Joel Mey, Paul Wojick, WB Rob Kleiner

The best part of the evening was during the presentation of gifts section, and Worshipful Brother Kramer, in a moving moment, presented his son Ryan the first masonic ring given to him by his wife – Ryan's mother. A wonderful evening of brotherhood and ritual as two brothers took their next step in Masonry.



Worshipful Brother Cory Kramer (left) giving his first ever masonic ring to his son, Ryan (right).

2026 District One Installations

By: WB Patrick Light, PM

Congratulations are in order for all of the Lodges in District One of the Grand Lodge of Delaware A.F.&A.M. Below is a photograph from each lodge's installation.

Washington No. 1



Left to Right: Marvin Lightcap; FC Aidan Battista; Elio Battista; WM David Walters, MWB Herbert Atkinson, PGM, Fred Palmer; Kevin Fasic (Photo by WB Mike Jones)

Temple No. 11



Front Row (left to right): James Taylor; Eric West; James Carrico; WM Bud Skinner; WB Al Lefranc; WM Mike Rodgers; James Huling; Keith Kindall; Demarcus Cheeseboro
Back Row (left to right): WB David Bamberger; WB Kevin O'Rourke; WB James Pierce; WB Dave Conly (Photo by WB Mike Jones)

Lafayette No. 14



Front Row (left to right): WB Michael Jones; WB Jason Brugmann; WB Joe Marvian; WB Patrick Light; Carl Barnes; Paul Wojick; Evan Kallish; WB David Arnold; Drew Wedel
Back Row (left to right): WB David Baumberger; Tom Sandilands; WB Kevin O'Rourke; MW James Hanby; WM Tyler Bazzoli; WB Robert Kleiner; WB Lee Stein; WB Jay Troy, Laurent Zenidiu (Photo by WB Mike Rodgers)

Granite-Corinthian No. 34



Worshipful Master Joel Mey being installed by W.B. Mike Jones, PGSB, Grand Instructor (Photo by author)

George Washington: America's First Commander-in-Companion

When you think of George Washington, you probably picture him crossing the Delaware, chopping down cherry trees (okay, maybe not really), or starring on the dollar bill. But did you know America's first president was also a Royal Arch Mason? That's right — the Father of Our Country was also a Companion!

From Brother to Companion

Washington was initiated into Freemasonry in 1752 and became a Master Mason a year later. But he didn't stop there — like many curious Brothers, he wanted to know the rest of the story. Washington was exalted as a Royal Arch Mason in Fredericksburg Chapter No. 1 in Virginia in 1753.



That means that before he ever commanded the Continental Army, he was already exploring the deepest mysteries of the Craft.

Leading by Example

Washington was a busy guy — general, president, farmer — but he still found time for Masonry. His Royal Arch membership is a reminder that even men with world-changing responsibilities took value from the lessons of Chapter.

Imagine the scene: Washington in his scarlet apron, surrounded by Companions, learning about the rediscovery of that which was lost. It must have been quite a sight — a future president sitting in a Chapter room, thinking about timeless truths that transcend politics and war.



The Washington Effect

Washington's membership gave Royal Arch Masonry a certain patriotic prestige. If it was good enough for the Commander-in-Chief, it must have been worth checking out! To this day, Fredericksburg Chapter proudly claims the title of "Washington's Chapter."

Fun Fact: Washington's Masonic Apron

You might have seen Washington's famous white silk apron (the one embroidered with Masonic symbols). Imagine what his Royal Arch regalia must have looked like — the bold scarlet colors would have made Mount Vernon's parlor look like a royal court!

The Takeaway

George Washington's life was full of challenges, victories, and historic firsts — but his Masonic and Royal Arch membership shows us that even the most famous among us can pause to seek light, truth, and fellowship.

So, the next time someone asks you, "What's so special about Royal Arch Masonry?" you can smile and say:

"If the Father of Our Country found value in completing his Masonic journey as a Royal Arch Mason, perhaps there's something there worth discovering."

I love the fraternity,

A. Tony Maxwell

... for more information or to join a Chapter, please contact:

A. Tony Maxwell

Grand High Priest

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Delaware

Mobile (302) 528-2636 | tonymaxwell@hotmail.com



Bottom Row (left to right): W.B. Mike Jones, W.B. Bud Skinner, W.B. William Shaw, W.B. James Pierce, W.B. Al Lefranc, W.B. Russell O'Neil, W.B. David Conly, W.B. Cory Kramer, W.B. Joseph Marvian (Senior Deacon for Conferral), W.B. Jason Brugman

Top Row (left to right): W.B. Kevin O' Rourke, W.B. Robert Kleiner, W.B. Patrick Light (Master for Conferral), W.M.E Joel Mey, W.B. David Baumberger. (Photo Provided by W.B. Mike Jones, PGSB, Grand Instructor)

District One's Actual Past Master Degree

By: Patrick Light, Past Master

On June 16, 2026, Granite Corinthian No. 34 held a Special Communication and conferred the Actual Past Master degree on Worshipful Master Elect Joel Mey.



Delaware DeMolay July 2026

I hope everyone is having a great summer, even though it is a bit dry and warm. Delaware DeMolay has been kind of slow this summer. One report I have is that our State Master Councilor Thomas Glenn III and our State Senior Councilor Matthew Hanna attended our International Sessions last month in Chicago. I am proud to say that they represented us well. Our State Senior Councilor also attended the Maryland DeMolay Conclave where he evidently had a great time and learned more about our organization. The Grand Junior Warden Elect, Jim Lawrence, and his Lady joined me for the banquet on Sunday. Both of us were asked for some comments and we did not disappoint.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate our State Senior Councilor Matthew Hanna for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts. This was not an easy task and he deserves to be recognized for his accomplishments.

There are some other promising things going on. I am in the process of restarting the Kent Chapter at Union Lodge No.7 in Dover. We also have some interest in starting a brand new chapter up state, more information to follow on that endeavor. I am hoping to get the Duncan Beard Chapter at Jackson Lodge No. 19 in Delaware City going again. We have the availability of chapters. Now we need the young men to join them. So, I will state again if you know of a young man between the ages of 9 and 21 that you think would be interested in joining a Chapter, please let me know. There are some new programs coming forward from DeMolay International that will hopefully help in the area of membership. If you need to get in touch with me here are the easiest ways, email deldemolay@aol.com or cell phone 302-745-6984. In closing, For God, For Country, For DeMolay.

Dave Penney
Executive Officer

Doric Lodge No. 30 Raises \$3,000 for the Grise Family Through Community Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

In times of tragedy, communities often reveal their greatest strength, not through words alone, but through acts of kindness and compassion. That spirit was on full display as the brethren of Doric Lodge No. 30 came together to support the Grise family following the heartbreaking passing of Austin Grise.

Austin was a young man with his entire life ahead of him. A recent graduate of Indian River High School, he was known as someone with a bright future and limitless potential. His untimely passing has left an immeasurable void in the hearts of his family, friends, classmates, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Wanting to make a meaningful difference during this difficult time, Doric Lodge No. 30 organized a community Chicken BBQ Fundraiser. Thanks to the incredible generosity of local residents, businesses, friends, and supporters, the event raised \$3,000, with every dollar donated directly to the Grise family to help ease the financial burdens that often accompany such an unexpected loss. The fundraiser was far more than a meal; it became an opportunity for the community to come together in support of one another. Every chicken dinner purchased represented more than a donation; it was a heartfelt expression of love, compassion, and solidarity with a family navigating unimaginable grief.

Freemasonry teaches the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, and the members of Doric Lodge No. 30 believe those principles are best demonstrated through service. Whether supporting local families, awarding scholarships, assisting charitable causes, or volunteering throughout Sussex County, the Lodge remains committed to making a positive impact in the community it proudly serves.

The success of the Chicken BBQ Fundraiser is a testament to what can happen when people unite for a common cause. Doric Lodge No. 30 extends its deepest gratitude to every volunteer who donated their time, every supporter who purchased a meal, and every individual whose generosity helped make this effort such a meaningful success. Your kindness transformed a simple fundraiser into a powerful demonstration of community.

To the Grise family, please know that you continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. While no amount of money can lessen the pain of losing Austin, we hope this outpouring of support serves as a reminder that your community stands beside you and that Austin's memory continues to inspire acts of generosity and love.

Moments like these remind us that the true measure of a fraternity is found not only in its traditions, but in its willingness to serve others when they need it most. Doric Lodge No. 30 is honored to have played a small part in supporting the Grise family and remains dedicated to living the Masonic values of compassion, charity, and brotherly love.

"The greatest monuments we build are not made of stone, but of kindness shown to those who need it most."

Delaware Freemason – July 2026



BINGO! Jackson Lodge No. 19 Brings “Speed Bingo” **Excitement to Delaware Hospital**

Thursday, May 21, 2026, the residents of the Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill in Smyrna enjoyed another unforgettable evening of bingo, thanks to the ongoing partnership between Jackson Lodge No. 19 and Rotary.

With only one hour to play, the volunteers have learned that residents love squeezing in about 10 fast-paced rounds. When time started running short, the team introduced something new: Speed Bingo — lightning-fast number calling that had everyone laughing and scrambling to keep up!

The residents leaned in with big smiles, double-checking their boards and shouting “Bingo!” with extra energy. The fast pace added a fun, playful challenge to the night, and the new format paid off — every round featured three winners, filling the room with cheers and happy faces.

This marked the latest chapter in a thriving monthly tradition that began in February when Celeste Bevans of Rotary partnered with Worshipful Master Carl Pace and Jackson Lodge No. 19. Since then, the brothers have returned faithfully each month, bringing small gifts for winners, creative costumes, and most importantly, genuine friendship and warm encouragement.

What started as an effort to keep bingo alive has become a highlight the residents look forward to. The volunteers’ consistent presence, patient assistance, and lively spirit continue to brighten evenings for those living with physical challenges.

Jackson Lodge No. 19 remains fully committed to this partnership. Nights like last night remind everyone that Masonry is about showing up and creating joy through simple, steady acts of service.

Here’s to more laughter, more “Bingos!”, and plenty more Speed Bingo in the months ahead!



Brethren All,

We hope this message finds you well and in good fellowship.

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that the Masonic Brotherhood Riders Southern Chapter announces the 13th Annual Grand Master's Ride, scheduled for Saturday, September 19th, 2026. Please find the Official Flyer attached for your reference and distribution.

This cherished annual event is held in support of the Grand Master's Charity and this year proudly benefits **Reins of Honor — "Where Service Members Take the Reins of Their Journey"** — a cause that is close to all of our hearts and a true reflection of the Masonic values of service, brotherhood, and compassion.

If your Lodge or business would like to show your support through sponsorship, we kindly ask that you reach out no later than August 1st, 2026, so that we may include your name in our T-Shirt order and ensure you are properly recognized for your generosity.

Event Details:

- 📍 Start / Sign-Up: Holly Lake Campground | 32087 Holly Lake Road, Millsboro, DE
- 🕒 Registration: 9:00 – 10:30 AM (Breakfast Available)
- 🚲 Kickstands Up: 11:00 AM
- 📍 End Point: Milford VFW | 177 Veterans Circle, Milford, DE (Hot Dogs & Refreshments)

Registration:

- Pre-Register via Zeffy (QR Code on Flyer): \$20.00
- On-Site Registration: \$25.00

Your support — whether through sponsorship, registration, or simply spreading the word — makes a tremendous difference and helps us honor those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

We look forward to riding alongside you and sharing in this wonderful Brotherhood. We hope to see you on September 19th!

Fraternally and with gratitude,

Masonic Brotherhood Riders Southern Chapter



SCAN ZEFFY QR CODE TO PRE-REGISTER, DONATE & BUY T-SHIRTS

Lodge and Business Sponsorships \$200

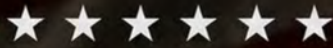
T-Shirts: \$ 25.00

Bake Sale at Holly Lake Campground (By the Eastern Star)

Contact: James Lawrence (302) 265-8609

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/13th-annual-grand-masters-ride>

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Friday Evening 5PM

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Saturday Morning 8-10AM

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Breakfast

Saturday Evening 5PM

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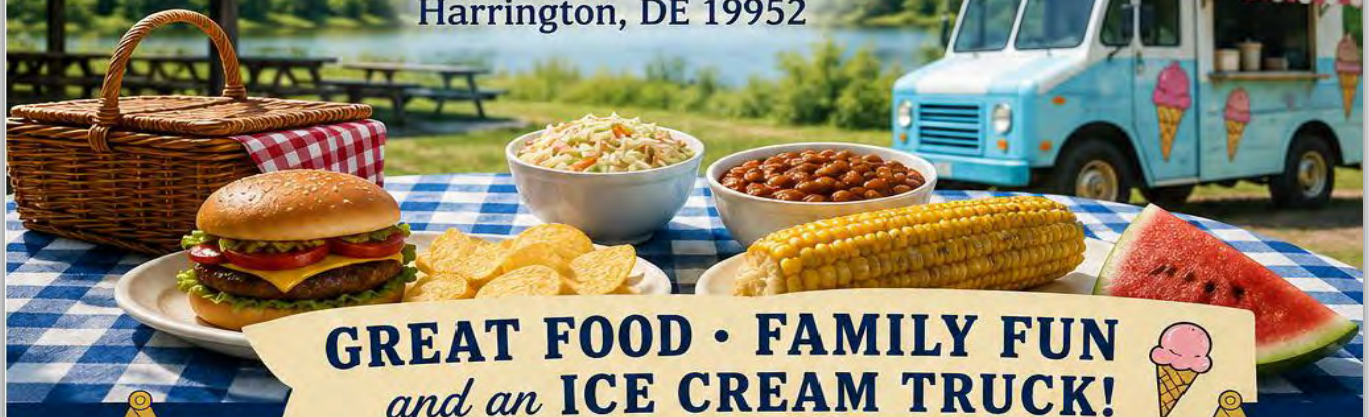


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**Saturday Morning -
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**Saturday Evening -
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Capacity Warning: We have guaranteed the Hotel 35
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Contact & Reservations

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Phone/Text: 717-578-7656

Email: Blingen@comcast.net

Please feel free to email, call, or text me with any questions.

Please do not contact the hotel.

How to Submit Your Payment

To reserve your room, you can mail or deliver the reservation form with a check made out to:

NUR Shrine, 198 South DuPont Highway, New Castle, DE, 19770.

IMPORTANT! you decide to mail your check, please text, call, or email me so we can be on the lookout for it!

SEAWITCH RESERVATION FORM

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Others staying in my room: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Room Type Request (circle one): **DOUBLE** or **KING**

Special Request/Requested Room: _____ Additional Wristbands: _____ \$35 for the weekend

Complete and return this Form with Payment to NUR Shrine.

This is a non-charitable event. All proceeds retained by Nur Shrine.



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Milford, DE 19963

Website: <http://temple9.org/>
Facebook: templelodgeno9

On behalf of the officers and members of Temple Lodge No. 9, we would like to invite all brothers, friends, family, and those who are in search of a good time to attend the 19th Annual Crab Feast and BBQ held at JP's Wharf (201 Hubbard Avenue, Frederica, DE 19946) on Labor Day, September 7, 2026. The event will be held from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM with the last seating at 2:30 PM. The bar will be open at 12:00 PM. The menu includes steamed crabs, fried shrimp, clams, hush puppies, corn on the cob, hot dogs and fries. There will be a 50/50, silent auctions, raffles, cash bar and live music with Quade Gannon.

Cost of the meal is \$75.00 for 1 adult, \$700.00 for a table of 10, and children 5 and under are free, but are required to have a ticket to assure adequate seating.

Tickets can be purchased individually or as a group. Each ticket sold will correspond to a specific table at the feast. In order to ensure you are seated with friends, we ask you to please mail your order together in the same envelope or make a note on your order form. Each rectangle table seats ten (10) people. You can process your reservation in the following ways:

Hand Delivery—complete the order form and return with payment to Brother Chad Robinson.

Regular Mail—complete the order form and return with payment before August 15, 2026 to:
Chad Robinson
8 John Andrews Drive
Harrington, DE 19952

Visit—<https://www.temple9.org/19th-annual-crab-feast> and complete the order form and make payment there

Orders will be processed on first come, first served basis and tickets will be distributed following order processing.

If you have any questions, please contact Brother Chad Robinson by email at temple_lodge_9@yahoo.com.

Thanks in Advance,
Temple Lodge No. 9 Crab Feast Committee

Order Form

Name: _____ Individual Tickets: _____ X \$75.00 _____
Address: _____ Tables _____ X \$700.00 _____
_____ Children 5 and under _____ Free _____
Phone: _____ Total _____

Complete this order form and make checks payable to Temple Lodge No.9 and return both to Chad Robinson by August 15, 2026



Masonic Brotherhood Riders of Delaware
Southern Chapter



JOIN US FOR THE 13TH ANNUAL
Grand Master's Charity Ride
September 19th, 2026



Benefitting: Reins of Honor

"Where Service Members Take the Reins of Their Journey"

Start/Signup: 9:00 – 10:30 am @ Holly Lake Campground,

32087 Holly Lake Road, Millsboro, De, (Breakfast Available)

Pre-register (using Zeffy QR Code, Scan Below) \$20.00, On Site Registration \$25.00

KSU: 11:00 am

End Point: Milford VFW, 177 Veterans Circle, Milford, DE (Hot Dogs/Refreshments) Pre-register/Donate on Zeffy (Using QR Code)



SCAN ZEFFY QR CODE TO PRE-REGISTER, DONATE & BUY T-SHIRTS

Lodge and Business Sponsorships \$200

T-Shirts: \$ 25.00

Bake Sale at Holly Lake Campground (By the Eastern Star)

Contact: James Lawrence (302) 265-8609

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/13th-annual-grand-masters-ride>

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CRAB, CHICKEN & CORN FEAST

UNION LODGE NO. 7 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



LOCATION:
**MARYDEL
FIRE COMPANY**

**110 FIREHOUSE LN,
MARYDEL, DE 19964**

DATE:
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH

TIME: 1 P.M. TO 4 P.M.
Doors Open 12:30 P.M.



\$55 PER PERSON

Children 12 and under: FREE

Contact any Officer or
BRIAN LINGENFELTER
Email: blingen@comcast.net
Call/Text: 302-223-4120

**SCAN FOR
MORE
INFORMATION**





**GRAND LODGE OF
DELAWARE & NUR
SHRINE CARAVAN**



PRESENTS

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH
7:30PM @ THE NUR
SHRINE**

**FREE TO ALL DELAWARE MASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES,
OUT DOORS ON THE BIG SCREEN, BRING A CHAIR AND
DRESS FOR THE WEATHER, CAR POOL IF YOU CAN**

**WE WILL PROVIDE A FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE, BON
FIRE, HOT DOGS, POP CORN, MARSHMALLOWS &
NON ALCOHOLIC DRINKS**

**PLEASE ADVANCE RSVP SO WE HAVE A
HEAD COUNT FOR CONCESSIONS**



**RSVP & CAMPING
INFORMATION CALL
OR TEXT DANNY B
@ 302-892-2818**



MOVIE SHOWING AT DUSK

SPONSORED BY THE
GRAND CHAPTER OF DELAWARE
Order of the Eastern Star



\$1000.00
Amazon Gift Card



★ ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ★

WAYS AND MEANS OF THE GRAND CHAPTER

TICKETS
1 FOR \$5.00
5 FOR \$20.00



DRAWING TO BE HELD ON
DECEMBER 12,
2026

Contact Any Member

★ Thank you for your support of Eastern Star! ★

Winners need not be present to win.

Chairpersons to contact for more Information

Jennifer Esham-Bradish

☎ (302) - 841-0810

✉ sapphire1966@aol.com

Joan Siler

☎ (302) 359-1493

✉ Jsiler1980@gmail.com

All tickets to be turned in by December 5, 2026

Jackson Lodge No. 19 “Born & Raised in Delaware” or “Delaware Raised” T-Shirt Fundraiser

"Born & Raised in Delaware" or "Delaware Raised" Pre-Order Only \$20

Stand out in your "Born & Raised in Delaware" black Masonic T-Shirt!
Not born in this great state? We got you. Try our "Delaware Raised"

These are original designs by Jackson Lodge No. 19 that you won't find on Amazon or elsewhere.

These are PRE-ORDERS.

All orders will be placed at the same time, and the shirts will be available for pickup or delivery in about 7 to 10 days after ordering has closed.

We have a lot of "Masons on the Move" at Jackson Lodge and can facilitate a delivery or pickup throughout the state.

To order your shirt today, [visit www.Jackson19.com](http://www.Jackson19.com)



POP THE TAB, CHANGE *a Life.*

EVERY TAB
HELPS US
DRIVE OUR
MISSION
FORWARD.



NUR SHRINE IS COLLECTING
PULL-TABS TO SUPPORT
OUR TRANSPORTATION FUND.



YOUR DONATIONS HELP US
TRANSPORT PATIENTS TO
THEIR APPOINTMENTS
WITH CARE AND COMPASSION.



**NUR
SHRINERS**
NEW CASTLE, DELAWARE
— EST. 1953 —



CONTACT CHIEF RABBAN
MARK BUTTON
FOR DROP OFF AT THE SHRINE
OR HOME PICK-UP



443-303-9058

Proceeds benefit the Nur Shrine Transportation Fund and are not tax deductible.

NURSHRINE.ORG

I'm **John Marriott.**

I am a veteran and
I need a kidney transplant.



Would you consider
becoming a living
kidney donor?

You don't need to be a match for me, you just have to be healthy enough to donate. Your donation will generate a voucher for me, helping me receive the best possible match for a living donor transplant. To prevent any financial hardship from donating, you can be reimbursed for lost wages, travel expenses, and dependent care costs.



**Scan the QR code or
visit www.nkr.org/DYT898**
to learn more about becoming a
donor or to share my story.

You can help save my life!



NATIONAL KIDNEY REGISTRY®
FACILITATING LIVING DONOR TRANSPLANTS



Masonic Brotherhood Riders of Delaware



The Masonic Brotherhood Riders of Delaware

Invite all

Masonic Brother Motorcycle Enthusiasts

With a Passion for Riding

To come and Join our Group.



To better unify Masonic Riders throughout the State of Delaware

Efforts are being made by the MBRDE to reestablish

The Northern Chapter to work in unison with the Southern Chapter

Membership is Open to All Masonic Brothers in Good Standing

It is the intent of MBRDE to have Norther and Southern Chapters work together and compliment each Chapters activities.

The Reestablishment of the Northern Chapter will require a minimum number of active members to be determined and the assistance of the prospective members in the officer line.

If you would like to Join the MBRDE-NC

Contact

WM Steve Salvatelli 302-691-5961 shalvatelli@comcast.net

Bud Skinner 302-420-6912 bskinnet@maintenance-tech.net

OR

Reach out to any Masonic Brotherhood Rider





Masonic Brotherhood Riders of Delaware Northern Chapter

Petition for Membership

(CLEARLY PRINT ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION)



First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City and State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ Cell/Ph # _____

Date of Birth: _____

State of Lodge: _____

Lodge Name, # & City: _____

Membership Type (Check One): Full Member _____ Supporting Member _____

Motorcycle Make/Model: _____

Engine Size: _____ cc

Other Motorcycle Group Memberships: _____

Medical Concerns: _____

Spouse's/Significant Other's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Rides w/you? YES _____ NO _____ On Own Bike? YES _____ NO _____

Emergency Contact (if other than above):

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Phone: _____

References (must be MBR-NC/SC members in good standing):

#1 Printed Name: _____ Lodge: _____ MBR Chapter: NC SC

Signature: _____ Date: _____

#2 Printed Name: _____ Lodge: _____ MBR Chapter: NC SC

Signature: _____ Date: _____

=====

To be completed by MBR-NC:

Petition Fee & Dues \$20- _____ BL Verified _____ Ride Verified _____

Date-Acc/Reject _____ Card Issued _____



Make check payable to 'Delaware Lodge of Research'

Attend your Blue Lodge

1 st Thu	Washington Lodge No. 1	2016 Foulk Road, Wilmington
2 nd Wed	St. John's Lodge No. 2	1406 Wilmington Road. New Castle
3 rd Tue	Hope Lodge No. 4	102 West 6th Street, Laurel
1 st Tue	Union Lodge No. 5	105 West Park Place, Middletown
1 st & 3 rd Tue	Union Lodge No. 7	1478 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover
2 nd & 4 th Thu	Temple Lodge No. 9	125 Causey Avenue, Milford
2 nd Wed	Temple Lodge No. 11	818 North Market Street, Wilmington
4 th Tue	Franklin Lodge No. 12	151 E. Market Street, Georgetown
1 st & 3 rd Thu	Harmony Lodge No. 13	11 North Main Street, Smyrna
2 nd Tue	Lafayette Lodge No. 14	2016 Foulk Road, Wilmington
1 st Wed	Jefferson Lodge No. 15	116 1/2 Second St., Lewes
2 nd Thu	Endeavor Lodge No. 17	201 Mill Street, Milton
3 rd Tue	Jackson Lodge No. 19	406 4th Street, Delaware City
2 nd Thu	Hiram Lodge No. 21	2710 Woodland Ferry Road, Seaford
2 nd Thu	Eureka -Dupont Lodge No. 23-29	2016 Foulk Road, Wilmington
2 nd Mon	Hiram Lodge No. 25	207 East Delaware Avenue, Newark
3 rd Thu	Armstrong Lodge No. 26	112 East Market Street, Newport
3 rd Wed	Gethsemane No. 28	2710 Woodland Ferry Road, Seaford
1 st Mon	Doric Lodge No. 30	35476 Atlantic Avenue, Millville
1 st Thu	Ionic Lodge No. 31	1406 Wilmington Road. New Castle
1 st Tue	Granite-Corinthian Lodge No. 34	1611 Concord Pike, Wilmington
2 nd Wed	Solomon Lodge No. 36	112 East Market Street, Newport
2 nd Tue	Delaware Lodge No. 37	28892 Church Street, Dagsboro
2 nd Wed	High Noon-Unity Lodge No. 38	112 East Market Street, Newport
3 rd Tue	Independence Lodge No. 76	Various District 3 Lodges





The Shield & Square Club of Delaware seeks to strengthen the Masonic ties among brethren in the first responder community – police, fire, military, EMS, dispatchers, judicial, corrections and government. The Shield & Square Club of Delaware currently meets monthly at the Grotto's in Middletown.

The Shield & Square Club of Delaware is available to confer the Sublime Degree of Master Mason upon candidates by request.

The Shield & Square Club of Delaware is now accepting applications for membership.

For more information, contact Tyler Thompson at thompsons44@gmail.com



**WE OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
OF THOSE BROTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED
BY THE GRAND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE
(MAY 1, 2026 – JUNE 30, 2026)**

2026-05-21	William	Charles	Toth	St. Johns	2
2026-06-14	Harvey	M	Cannon	Temple	9
2026-05-19	Earl	S.	Smith	Franklin	12
2026-05-06	David	H	Pippln	Lafayette	14
2026-05-25	Christopher	Work	Miller	Armstrong	26
2026-06-11	Van	Wilson	Milligan	Gethsemane	28
2026-05-12	Thomas	A	Temple Jr	Gethsemane	28
2026-05-31	Harry	Hocker	Dukes III	Doric	30
2026-05-31	Tenney	Hall	Wheatley Jr	Granite-Corinthian	34



January 16, 2026

Brethren All,

On behalf of Right Worshipful Matthew W. Thompson, Deputy Grand Master, and his lady, Robbin, I am pleased to share with you information about the 2027 Grand Lodge Cruise.

The cruise on the beautiful Royal Caribbean Vision of the Seas will depart San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sunday, February 28, 2027. The itinerary includes beautiful ports of call in St. Thomas, Antigua, Martinique, Grenada and St. Vincent, as well as one day at sea. The cruise returns to San Juan, Puerto Rico on Sunday, March 7, 2027.

Please note you do not need a passport to fly to San Juan, however, one is always recommended when traveling outside the United States. Also, there are many flight options from BWI and Philadelphia to San Juan.

Registration is now open. Please see the attached flyer with more details. Final payment is not due until November 30, 2026. There are multiple cabin options to fit any need you would like.

To make your reservations, please contact Aaron Jackson from Dreams Fulfilled Travel at (302) 858-7841 or by email at aaron.jackson@DreamsFulfilledTravel.com. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me at (302) 270-4391.

Fraternally and Sincerely,
Chad Robinson, PGMars.





Delaware Masonic Cruise Feb 28 to Mar 7, 2027

8 Day Southern Caribbean

Round-trip from:

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Visiting:

- Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas
- St. Johns, Antigua
- Fort De France, Martinique
- St. George's, Grenada
- Kingstown, St. Vincent
- San Juan, Puerto Rico

not included: insurance, gratuities, airfare, transportation, hotel stays, excursions

Deposit of \$500 per cabin due at booking

Final Payment due November 30, 2026

Optional Travel Insurance is available, quote provided after booking

Third and fourth guest rates are available along with other cabin options.

Valid Passport **NOT NEEDED** but recommended for cruise travel outside the US

Best offers and perks available NOW



**Available
Balcony & Suites
Ocean View & Interior**

302-858-7841

Aaron.Jackson@DreamsFulfilledTravel.com



LEAVE THEM SMILING

