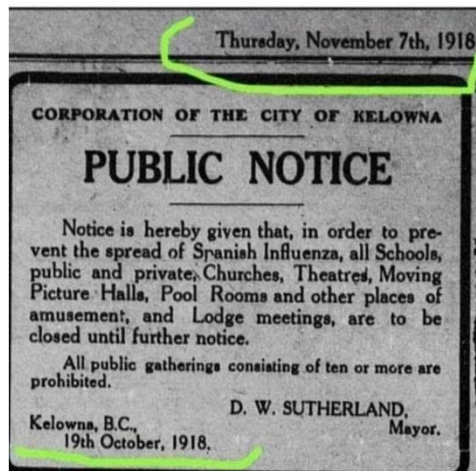


Third Masonic District

<https://www.glpad3.org/>

COVID 19: Nothing New Under the Sun

By Bro. William Britton, PM



Public Service Notice issued by the City of Kelowna, B.C., Canada. Circa. 1918.

Throughout human history pandemics, diseases prevalent over a whole country or world, have been our constant companions from time immemorial. The Antonine Plague of 165 to 180 AD, was brought to the Roman Empire by troops who were returning from campaigns in the Near East. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries a series of pandemics, best known as the “Great Plagues”, routinely ravaged Europe. Today we are faced with the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease which has spread across our nation and the world, with a death toll of 198 thousand persons. Those most at risk are older adults and people of any age with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes, lung disease, or heart disease.

Looking back a little more than a century ago the Spanish influenza pandemic was considered the most severe in recent history. It was first identified in military personnel during the “Great War.” It is estimated that nearly 500 million people became infected. The mortality rate reached 50 million worldwide, with about 675,000 occurring in the United States. Persons most susceptible were those younger than 5 or 65 and older. The effects of the Spanish influenza were devastating here in South Central Pennsylvania as well. The following excerpt from an article entitled *A Brief History of Masonic Charity* on the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge Website provides a look at the charitable relief efforts employed by Pennsylvania Freemasons during the 1918 outbreak.

“The influenza outbreak of 1918 devastated the world, killing an estimated 50 million people in contrast to the 16 million who died during World War I. With soldiers trekking across battlefields and returning home, the virus spread rapidly. One-fifth of the population worldwide suffered from the influenza outbreak to some extent, and one-fourth of Americans contracted it. The influenza epidemic struck the Elizabethtown, Pa., area as severely as other locations. In a grand gesture of service to the community, doctors transferred the Masonic Homes residents without influenza from the Philadelphia Freemasons Hospital to the Grand Lodge Hall Infirmary and opened the on-site hospital to community members with influenza. “This became a splendid asylum for the sorely stricken



Event Announcements

COVID 19 Notice

Due to ongoing concerns surrounding the Coronavirus, effectively immediately and until further notice, Bro. Thomas Gamon, IV, Right Worshipful Grand Master is directing any and all lodge activities be cancelled, including, but not limited to: extra, special and/or stated lodge meetings; social functions; schools of instruction, etc., as well as youth group and community meetings/events that may be scheduled in your lodge building. Thank you for understanding our precautions in making public health a priority. For additional information, please call 215-988-1900 or read our COVID-19 protocol.

Grand Lodge June Quarterly Communication

Cancellation Notice

All activities relating to the Grand Lodge June Quarterly Communication scheduled to held in Erie Pennsylvania on Saturday, June 6, 2020 have been cancelled by direction of Bro. Thomas Gamon, IV, Right Worshipful Grand Master.

families of the vicinity who had no place else to go,” the Committee on Masonic Homes reported. During the several months the hospital took patients from the community, 82 people with no Masonic affiliation received the best treatment possible. As a result of quarantines and precautions, no Masonic Homes residents or guests died from the influenza epidemic.”¹

Today, due to the severe health risks imposed by the Coronavirus, and to assist in lessening the virus’s impact on the brethren, Bro. Thomas Gamon IV Right Worshipful Grand Master has directed the suspension of all Masonic events, stated meetings and social functions, schools of instruction, youth and social meetings across the state until further notice. Redirecting their efforts, Pennsylvania Freemasons continue to contribute to the welfare of others during this health crisis by continuing to serve and protect our homes, communities, and nation through their various professions and businesses.

As a result of the current quarantine, and safety precautions implemented at the Masonic Villages, there have been no reported deaths from Coronavirus. In order to safeguard the residents living within the nursing and personal care areas, residents must spend most of their time in their rooms. The caring staff do all they can to brighten the day of each resident, however we have the opportunity to help brighten their day as well by visiting <https://masonicvillages.org/sending-smiles/>.

Brethren, be safe. Remember to practice all the safety precautions set forth by our health care professionals. Most of all be Masons. Remember we are charged to practice out of the lodge that system of morality enjoyed through the practice of our gentle Craft.



**Grand Lodge Hall, Masonic Homes Elizabethtown, PA
Circa 1918**

¹ “A Brief History of Masonic Charity.” *Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania*, 29 Nov. 2017, pagrandlodge.org/brief-history-masonic-charity/.

From the Desk of Bro. Jeffrey R. Miller
District Deputy Grand Master, Third Masonic District



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours healthy and safe. I personally miss the fellowship and interaction at the various Masonic functions that I attended regularly before the current health emergency. Our Grand Master took the proper steps to safeguard the health and welfare of each of our Brethren in the Fraternity by suspending the meetings and other activities. When the suspension of the activities is lifted, I will be attending as many functions as I can. My wife will probably agree that will be a great idea. I hope

each of you miss the Fellowship like I do and will return to the various activities and meetings when it is deemed safe by the Grand Master.

Continue to reach out to your Brethren and widows of our departed Brethren during this period. A short call can go a long way to lifting the spirits of a Brother or a widow!! You could be only person he or she talks to for the entire day. Please let your Worshipful Master or myself know if you know of anyone that could use our help. Our meeting closing includes the following: "So that we enjoin it upon you, do good unto all, while we recommend it more especially to those who are of the household of the Faithful."

To the officers this is a great time to work on the Ritual. You can only watch television for so long! If you have a mentor please continue to work with them via telephone. I'm sure they would enjoy the time spent together. Please contact the Principals of the School of Instruction if you are ready to get certified in a piece of the Ritual. I'm sure they will find a way to accommodate you at this time.

Be safe and follow the guidelines set forth by our Government officials. I will see everyone when our Right Worshipful Grand Master Brother Thomas Gamon IV in his wisdom sees fit to resume our labors.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!

Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM03

**From the Desk of Bro. Kenneth W. Womack, PM
Principal, Third Masonic District School of Instruction**



Brethren All,

The work of the evening for the originally scheduled SOI on March 23rd was the Funeral Service and Examination of a Visitor. Since we did not have that meeting, I thought the newsletter would be a good place to discuss some of the aspects of a Masonic funeral not actually part of the service.

It is important to remember that no Brother can be interred with the ceremonies of a Masonic funeral unless he has been raised to the degree of a Master Mason and who at the time of his death, was a Master Mason in good standing in a Lodge, unless by virtue of a dispensation by the Right Worshipful Grand Master (Section 9.02 of the Ahiman Rezon). Occasionally there have been requests for a Masonic funeral when a Brother did not meet these requirements.

Remember that the family must make a request for a Masonic funeral service. It is probably most appropriate for the Lodge to notify the funeral

director that the Brother was a Mason and for the funeral director to ask the family if they want the service. The Lodge should not take it upon itself to do a service unless the family asks. For that reason, it is also important to understand that you make your wishes for a Masonic funeral service known to family members.

There is now a specific form available to express your PA Masonic Last Wishes. You should consider giving a copy to your spouse, your grown children, any siblings, brothers, sisters, parents or others you believe might be concerned. This form provides a specific place to designate whether you want a Masonic funeral, and if so, who you would like to do the funeral service. Also, there is a place on the form to identify whether you wish to be buried or cremated, and if you have a Past Master's Apron, whether or not you want it buried with your remains or given to someone. There is also space to designate specific persons to receive personal Masonic items you might want to give away.

As a reminder, at the service, Masonic Dress should be worn by the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Chaplain, if at all possible. Attending Brethren should wear dark clothes, aprons, and gloves, though gloves tend to be optional as there are usually not enough available.

For those who have not had a chance to attend a Masonic funeral, I would suggest that you get a copy of the service and become familiar with it. It is not very lengthy and provides a good overview of what to expect in the service. It is available in Section 9.02 of the Ahiman Rezon and can be found in the Worshipful Masters Handbook. Contact your Lodge Secretary if you would like to have a copy.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Kenneth W. Womack,
Principal, Third Masonic District School of Instruction

PA Masonic Last Wishes Form



FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF PENNSYLVANIA

I _____ is a Master Mason in good standing and a member of _____ No. _____ located at _____ chartered by Right Worshipful Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania who's Lodge Secretary is _____ and his phone number is _____.

At the time of my death, please immediately notify the Worshipful Master or Secretary of this Lodge and any other Lodges, orders, or groups of which I am a member and inform them of my death. If unable to locate or contact either of the above, contact the Grand Secretary of Pennsylvania F&AM at phone no. 215-988-1901 (email gsoffice@pagrandlodge.org) for the current names and addresses of the Worshipful Master and Secretary of my primary Lodge above and any other Lodges or Masonic affiliated orders to which I am a member. If unable to get in contact with a lodge member please call 215-988-1900.

In addition to the above, I am a member of the following:

Church:	Scottish Rite:
Contact:	Contact:
Phone:	Phone:
Plural Lodge:	York Rite:
Contact:	Contact:
Phone:	Phone:
Square Club:	Shrine:
Contact:	Contact:
Phone:	Phone:
Grotto:	High 12:
Contact:	Contact:
Phone:	Phone:

The following are my wishes for the final disposition of my body and certain of my Masonic possessions.

I wish my remains to be ☐ Buried ☐ Cremated. I ☐ Do ☐ Do Not wish to have a Masonic funeral service. (If you check Do, complete the following:)

I would like Brother _____ of _____ Lodge No. _____ to conduct my Masonic service or if he is unavailable or unable to do so, Brother _____ of _____ Lodge No. _____ or whoever might be proficient and convenient for the delivery of the Masonic services.

If I am cremated and I have a Masonic service, I desire the Masonic service to be conducted ☐ Before ☐ After the cremation.

My Worshipful Masters Masonic apron is located at _____ in: _____.

It is my desire that it ☐ be buried with my remains ☐ be given to: _____.

To whom it may concern: It is my desire that, within the boundaries of good taste, as soon as possible and practical that the following named persons are to receive my personal Masonic items named and described hereon and on an attached copy if needed as an addendum:

☐ Check here only if there is an addendum of _____ page(s).

Full Name, Relationship and Address: _____
Is to receive the following: _____
Full Name, Relationship and Address: _____
Is to receive the following: _____
Full Name, Relationship and Address: _____
Is to receive the following: _____
Full Name, Relationship and Address: _____
Is to receive the following: _____
Full Name, Relationship and Address: _____
Is to receive the following: _____

Brethren: When you have completed this form make as many copies as you need. It is suggested that a copy be given to your spouse, your grown children, any siblings, brothers, sisters, parents or others you believe might be concerned.

Please remember that this is not a "will", though in some cases, it might be considered a legal document, and therefore you may wish to attach a copy to your last will and testament. It is, however, an extremely important document to provide some guidelines for completing your final wishes to those you love and leave behind. This document in no way intended to be or convey legal advice or to take the place of a legally drawn will. For proper legal advice always consult your attorney.

Signature _____ Date _____

Masonic Education

Solomon's Magic Mood Ring

By Bro. J. Wheeler Hammontree

Worshipful Master, Big Spring Lodge No. 361, Newville, Pa.



Bro. J. Wheeler Hammontree,
Worshipful Master Big Spring
Lodge No. 361.

This story is a middle-eastern folk tale, possibly originating in Persia (now Iran). It gained popularity in the English language courtesy of Bro. Edward Fitzgerald², who is best known for translating *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. Over time the story behind the phrase has grown, and also appears as a Jewish/Yiddish folk tale^{3,4}. I myself first heard the story from a Pakistani military officer. I've made my own alterations to better fit the Masonic audience.

Our story takes place during the reign of King Solomon. Solomon's Captain of the Royal Guard, Benaiah⁵, had been with Solomon from the beginning and was one of Solomon's most trusted advisors; but, Benaiah had become a bit snobby and boastful, claiming that he had never failed in his duties to the king. So, King Solomon decided to humble Benaiah by sending him on what he thought would be an impossible task.

Solomon summoned Benaiah before his throne and told him "Benaiah, I have heard of a great ring. It has the power, when looked upon, to make a despairing man joyous, but to make the joyful man weep with sorrow. I want you to personally find this ring for me. I trust no one else with this task. I wish to wear it for the harvest festival. This gives you six months to find it."

Benaiah assured Solomon he would return with the ring and went out to begin his search. Benaiah traveled extensively throughout the Kingdom and neighboring lands. He asked the best jewelers and wealthiest merchants, the most popular soothsayers and magi, but none had heard of such a ring. He visited the emissaries of far away lands, but they too could offer no help. Finally, the day before the harvest festival, tired, worn, and weary, Benaiah returned to Jerusalem, distraught at his own failure.

Word had gotten around of Benaiah's quest and even the common people spoke of it. As he re-entered Jerusalem there was some carefully hidden tittering among some of the populace; there are always those who take joy at the distress of others. There was one who wasn't snickering however. Through the crowd approached a youth, a brass-worker's apprentice. "Lord Benaiah, we have heard of your quest. I think I can help you if you will come with me to my master's shop."

Benaiah, having nothing to lose at this point, followed the youth into a dingy part of the city he'd never lowered himself to enter before. The youth led him through alleys into a small market area and then into a crumbling one-room shop with a ragged piece of cloth for a door. The youth lit a lamp, knelt for a short prayer, then took a small piece of brass from the scrap bucket beside the anvil and set to working it. After

² Edward Fitzgerald, *Works of Edward Fitzgerald*, (New York, Boston, etc.: Houghton Mifflin, 1887), p. 433

³ Ellen Frankel, *The Classic Tales: 4000 Years of Jewish Folklore* (Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1989)

⁴ Ahimaaz, Professor Solomon, trans. *The Book of King Solomon* (Baltimore: Top Hat Press, 2005) - A tongue-in-cheek account.

⁵ The name 'Benaiah' means God's (Jah's) Builder; bana – builder, being the same root as part of another important word in Freemasonry.

piercing a hole, he rounded and beat the ring smooth, gave it a quick polish, then took a fine set of chisels and did some careful engraving. Benaiah watched with interest the entire time, amazed at the skill of this youth. Benaiah knew he could never do such a task himself; yet this was only an apprentice. The youth finished the engraving, gave the ring another quick polishing and handed it to Benaiah while holding up the lamp so he could inspect it.

The ring was nothing more than a plain smooth ring of brass, with only three words engraved upon it, but Benaiah jumped for joy and gave the lad all the money and treasures he had with him and promised to send more.

The next evening at the opening of the great harvest festival, King Solomon again summoned Benaiah before his throne. Solomon wore a large grin, as did most of the other advisors who were in on the joke. “Benaiah, have you brought me that ring, which I sent you to retrieve?”

Benaiah approached the throne and handed a small gold-covered box to the king. Solomon surprised opened the box, took out the simple ring inside, saw the words upon it and began to weep, for upon the ring he read “*Gam zeh ya’avur* – This too shall pass.”

-§§§-

The ‘Memento Mori’ or reminder of mortality is a common theme in Freemasonry throughout the world. In many jurisdictions, after being prepared, the candidate is left in a ‘reflection chamber’ to await his entrance into the Lodge. This is most common in jurisdictions working the Scottish Rite/Continental version of the Craft degrees, but has started to appear in those using the York workings as well. It is one of the elements being encouraged by the Traditional Observance/Masonic Restoration movement⁶. The chamber of reflection is often decorated with black hangings, hourglasses, skulls & crossbones, coffins and other mementos mori.

The legend of the third degree is itself a memento mori. In the Preston-Webb versions, we find our Grand Master H.A. at his mid-day devotions contemplating his own mortality by a recitation of the 12th chapter of Ecclesiastes. This book, whose authorship is attributed to our Grand Master King Solomon, when read as a whole [it is a fairly short, but rewarding read], gives us a view of someone struggling through despair and depression. We can imagine King Solomon, after receiving the ring from Benaiah, distraught at his own greatness being but a fleeting thing, writing the words of Ecclesiastes – “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” He was at a seeming high point, only to be reminded it would soon pass.

We must remember the other side of this however. No matter how far down we are beaten down by the evils of life, no matter how many times we feel we’ve been hidden among the rubbish, carried away from all that is good and important to us, buried under the cares of daily life in a dark place where we think we’ll never be found... This too shall pass, and we can look forward to being raised up in that embrace of fellowship.

⁶ Andrew Hammer, PM, “To Await A Time with Patience: Explaining the Chamber of Reflection”

Around the District

Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302

Bro. Kenneth B. Robinson

Worshipful Master



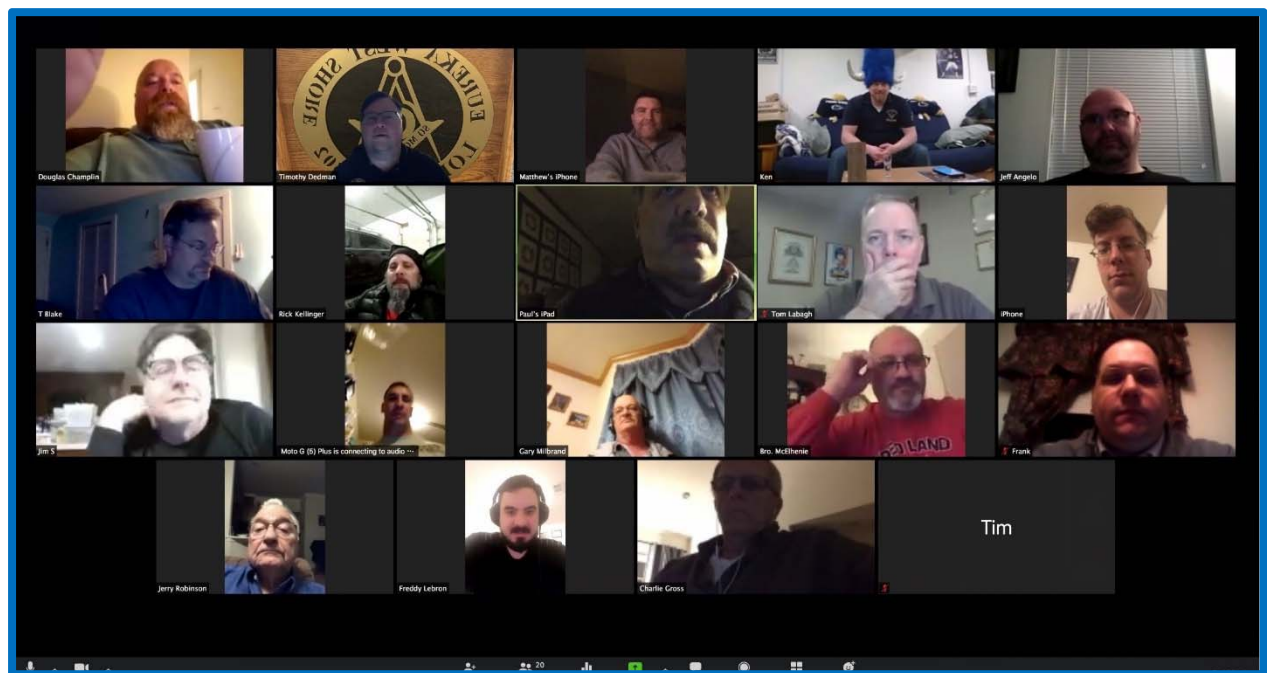
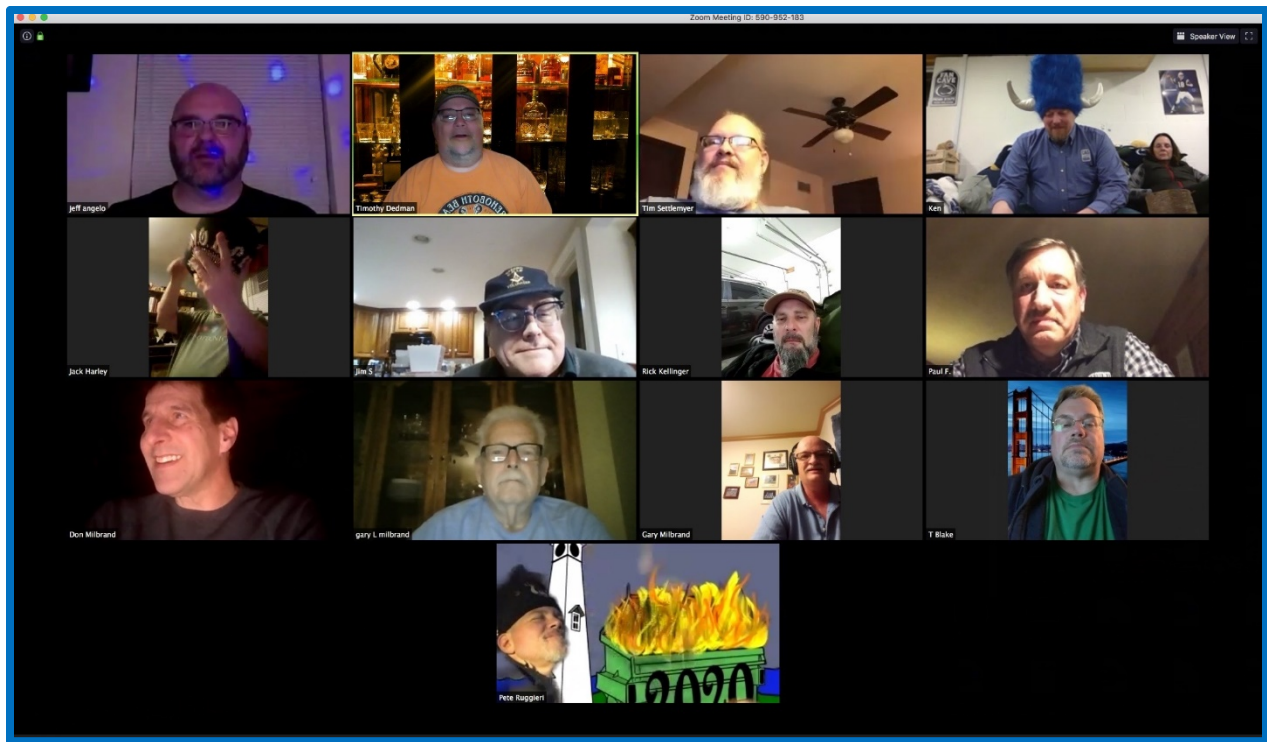
Bro. Kenneth B. Robinson, Worshipful Master, Eureka West Shore Lodge No. 302 donning his unofficial Top Hat and long Gavel.

Like everyone, I was highly disappointed at the cancelation of all masonic activities when it came about. It came just before we had our official visit by Bro. Jeffery R. Miller, DDGM. Oh darn. Later, full of optimism, I was contacting the groups for our stated meeting in May when the word was passed down we would not meet until at least June. Great disappointment to say the least! In the meantime, we pulled together 20 of our brethren to reach out to all of our brothers that are in the high risk category of the virus (over 60). They each called on 25 of our members to check on them and remind them the Lodge is still here to support them if needed. The calls were well received by all

and we found that some were struggling with sickness personally or with family members. Information we never would have found out had we not reached out to them.

For my part, I began personally calling on all of the Widows of our deceased brethren, over 130 of them in all, to let them know they are being thought of and we are here for them. I found many wrong or disconnected numbers, but more importantly, I had the pleasure of speaking to many wonderful women who were very glad just to have received the call. Many were apprehensive to answer a call from an unknown number and some called me back after I left a message. All I spoke to were well taken care of, having family tend to them, or being in homes that were treating them well. They all were touched just to be reminded that they were remembered. Several were so touched by the gesture that I could hear the tears in their voices. The conversations were so pleasant too, I got to learn about what they were doing to keep busy, how they were keeping in touch with friends and family, and it was very uplifting.

In addition, through Facebook, I learned of a tradition of the UGLE, where brothers meet to raise a toast to those that cannot be with us. They were even doing it remotely over the internet. Brother Tim Dedman, our lodge Secretary, and I decided this is something unofficial we could do to keep the brethren in touch with each other. Bro. Dedman set up a ZOOM site where, every night at 9PM, we meet, have a few toasts and carry on over whatever subject comes up, masonic related or not. Most often not. It is open to all masons and non-masons, although, so far only a few non-masons (my wife for example) and several pets have joined us. I believe we have counted brothers from 5 other jurisdictions joining us for the shenanigans. Check out our Facebook page for the ZOOM information and password and join us! I don my unofficial top hat and use my log gavel to un-officially bring the meeting to order and close. It's almost like being at lodge, but not really. It has been quite a stress reliever and a great deal of fun. We will keep it up as long as lodge is closed down and we can stand to see each other's faces.



The above photographs are brothers meeting to raise a toast to those that cannot be with us.

Around the District (continued)

Acacia Lodge No. 586 Bro. Zachary L. Wilhite Worshipful Master

Acacia Lodge #586 puts out the Town Flags

Acacia Lodge No. 586 has been committed to its community for the past 5 or 6 years. Our Lodge members put up the US Flags along Main Street, Waynesboro, PA, for all the Holidays. In 2020 we will be doing this same service for our community beginning on Presidents Day, continuing on for Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veteran's Day. Our Members meet about 7:00 AM each Holiday morning to start putting up the Flags up on Main Street and then again at about 5:00 PM to take them Down.

Chicken BBQs

Acacia Lodge #586 has a Chicken BBQ sale once a month from May to September. The proceeds are used to maintain our Lodge Building. The dates for 2020 are: May 9 (Due to the COVID-19 virus concerns this event is expected to be cancelled), June 20, July 18, August 22 and September 26. All dates are Saturday mornings from about 9:00 to 1:00 at the F & M Trust Bank Parking Lot, East Main St, Waynesboro. Half a Chicken cost \$6.00 and a meal with Half Chicken, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and a Dinner Roll is \$8.00.



Acacia Lodge No. 586 members putting out the US Flags for the town of Waynesboro PA.

Acacia Lodge #586 Ladies Night 2020.

Our Annual Ladies Night is scheduled for October 3, 2020 at the Knights of Columbus Community Room, 42 W Second St, Waynesboro, PA 17268. Additional Info will be coming later.

[Around the District \(continued\)](#)

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Bro. Richard L. Wenner
Worshipful Master



Bro. Richard L. Wenner, Worshipful Master
Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Brethren

The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research Stated Meeting scheduled for June 20, 2020 at the Harrisburg Scottish Rite Building is cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Grand Master has suspended all Masonic activities in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through and including June 1. In addition, he has cancelled the Grand Lodge Quarterly scheduled on June 6 in Erie. This action was taken due to his concern for the Masonic population of Pennsylvania. I make my decision to cancel our Pennsylvania Lodge of Research Stated Meeting with a heavy heart, but I believe it is in the best interest of the health and well-being of all Masons.

Many Pennsylvania Masons are in the “older” age and health category that is most susceptible to an adverse outcome. Many deaths nationally have occurred primarily in this group and some have occurred in the younger population, as a result of their exposure to the virus. In this age of declining Masonic membership, I do not want to tempt fate by potentially exposing our Brethren to this grave disease.

At the present time no vaccine or cure for Covid-19 virus exists, and as indicated by national healthcare leaders, nothing is on the horizon for the immediate future. Social distancing with a 6 foot distance, including the use of masks, is in effect now and for the foreseeable future. Whether these issues will require a continuation of the medical safeguards into the summer months is likely, but is still anyone’s guess at the current time.

In lieu of this action, I want to encourage the officers and members to continue their efforts to grow our Lodge of Research by gathering petitions for membership. We have made some outstanding progress in the focus of the Lodge. We offer an expansion of knowledge and fellowship. We meet twice a year to benefit the Masonic experience of all involved, through voluntary presentations of well-researched papers by knowledgeable Brethren.

Mark your calendar. The next Stated Meeting of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research will be held on December 12, 2020, at 10:00 AM, at Lodge No. 22, in Sunbury, PA. Lunch will be served at Noon. It is open to all Masons, including Entered Apprentice and Fellowcraft Masons. Mark your calendar.

Respectfully and fraternally,

Richard L. Wenner, WM

District and Lodge Events (August to December 2020)
(Pending COVID -19 Concerns)

District Three Low Vale

September 23, 2020

Ladies Night Banquets

Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302

September 19, 2020

Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443

October 10, 2020

Acacia Lodge No. 586

October 3, 2020

Monthly School of Instruction Meetings

Maser Mason

Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302

August 24, 2020

Entered Apprentice

Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315

September 28, 2020

Fellowcraft

Big Spring Lodge No. 361

October 26, 2020

Election and Installation of Officers

Acacia Lodge No. 586

November 23, 2020

Business of the Lodge

2021 Incoming Officers

December 21, 2020