

# Third Masonic District

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

## Grand Master's Covid 19 Update

May 13, 2020



Dear Brethren,

Previously, I had stated that our Masonic activities would be suspended until July 1; however, since the Governor has started to open the state regionally, we will do the same for lodge activities. We will follow the state's red/yellow/green phase guidelines for counties to resume activities as follows:

### Red Phase

- All Masonic events/meetings remain in suspension.

### Yellow Phase

- You may resume limited Masonic activity two weeks after your county officially enters the Yellow Phase.
- No Stated, Extra or Special meetings are permitted due to the social distancing requirement.
- Masonic buildings are allowed to open and will be permitted to host events such as blood drives, fund raisers, elections, Masonic and non-Masonic social events, private rentals, permitted businesses, etc. for groups of 25 people or fewer at a time.
- All governmental regulations must be strictly enforced.
- The Worshipful Master is responsible for oversight, aided by a Safety Officer (somebody who is knowledgeable in the current governmental regulations in place at that time; this may be the Worshipful Master himself).

### Green Phase

- You may resume ALL Masonic activities two weeks after your county officially enters the Green Phase, as long as all governmental regulations (if any are in place) are adhered to.



## Event Announcements

### 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.

### 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

Maser Mason  
Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302  
August 24, 2020

- The Worshipful Master is responsible for oversight and is aided by a Safety Officer (somebody who is knowledgeable in the current governmental regulations in place at that time; this may be the Worshipful Master himself).

If at any time a county or region reverts back to a previous color phase, Masonic activities will follow suit immediately. If a county opens without permission of the Governor, Masonic activities will continue to follow the Governor's mandate for the county. While we all desire to resume our in-person meetings, events and comradery, we must always place the safety of our brethren at the forefront.

I continue to hear of the many ways our brethren are helping each other and our communities. I wish to thank each and every one of you who is serving on the frontlines and/or helping others behind the scenes. For those of you who may soon resume Masonic activities, cherish your time together. It is my hope and prayer that we will all be able to reconvene safely in the near future.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,  


Thomas Gamon, IV  
R.W. Grand Master

### **The Masonic Villages**

Our [Masonic Villages](#) continue to exemplify our Masonic principles of love and benevolence. Employees from all parts of our operation are pitching in to help care for our residents by delivering meals to residents' accommodations to promote safety and social distancing. Staff are finding creative ways to help residents stay in touch with their families and enjoy modified recreational and spiritual opportunities. To recognize their hard work, sacrifice and commitment, the Grand Lodge officers and I made emergency relief funds available to provide resources to benefit our front-line caregivers, as well as to supplement other resources to procure elevated levels of personal protective equipment. If you, your lodge or your family would like to brighten our residents' days, please visit <https://masonicvillages.org/sending-smiles/> to learn the best ways to do so.

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



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

I hope this newsletter you and yours healthy and safe. The last several months have been trying as we navigate the pandemic restrictions and guidelines but the end is getting near. At this time several Lodges in District 3 has progressed into the yellow phase and it seems like the green phase will follow shortly. I do not know what the new normal will look like when we get back to Lodge, but the good work of Freemasonry will continue on no matter what that new normal is. The time is quickly approaching when we can again meet and fellowship under the Square and Compasses.

We must continue to reach out to the widows of deceased Brethren and the other members of Lodge. Lend a hand where needed. Give a Brother a call just to say hello, you may be the only person he may talk to for the entire day. I'm sure that you would like someone to reach out to you when you are in need of some good conversation Brother to Brother. You do not need to even know the Brother before you call him but as soon as you identify yourself as a Brother you will be best of friends. The call will be as rewarding to you as it is to him. Call a Brother today!

To the Officers of District 3 now is an excellent time to be learning Ritual. You can only watch soap operas for so long each day till need a diversion. Let Ritual be that diversion!! The staff of the School of Instruction stand ready to help you with any questions and find a way to get you certified in the work. I have charged them to help you in any way to advance in your Masonic career. Give them a call. They can help you. Keep in touch with your mentors on a regular basis. They want to see you succeed!

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 used the May newsletter to discuss some things about a Masonic funeral not actually part of the service. This month I want to discuss some of the issues for Examination of a Visitor.

Article 24.01 states:

A visitor unknown to the Master, but vouched for by a Brother present, that he has Masonic knowledge that this visitor is a Brother Mason, or having passed a satisfactory examination by a committee of the Lodge, may be admitted by the Master at his will and pleasure; but the Master may, and should, refuse admittance to any one who will disturb the harmony of the Lodge.

Note that the Master ultimately has the authority to admit visitors and that he does not have to do so. The Digest of Decisions, Article 2.1 makes that clear:

The Master of a Lodge has an absolute right to admit visitors at his pleasure. He is bound, however, to maintain the harmony of his Lodge and it should never be his pleasure to admit a visitor to whom objection is made by a member in open Lodge.

One issue that often arises is who can vouch for a Brother Mason and under what circumstances. We know that any Brother who has sat in a Lodge with another Brother can vouch for that Brother. There are some caveats though. When you do this, you are actually advising the Tyler that you have sat with this Brother in Lodge, and the Tyler vouches for the Brother's entrance and allows him to enter. However, this must be done with all three Brothers present. If the visitor says he sat in Lodge with Brother A, Brother A must be present. You can't call Brother A on the phone to verify it.

It is also important to understand that, "To sit with a person, somewhere else than in a regular Blue Lodge, is not lawful Masonic Information that he is a Master Mason in good standing." This comes up on occasion when you meet a Brother at an appendant body meeting and decide to invite him to your Lodge. Even though that Brother was admitted to the appendant body, he must pass a satisfactory examination to be a visitor in your Lodge.

Lastly, the Digest of Decisions specifies that, "No private examination of a visitor is sufficient to authorize a Brother to vouch for one who applies to visit a Lodge." An examination must be done as specified in the approved ritual.

Can an Entered Apprentice Mason or Fellow Craft mason visit another EA or FC Lodge? The answer is yes. So, do EA and FC Masons have a dues card? We will talk about this when we next meet.

Please be safe. Hopefully you are working on some of your Ritual.

The Principle of Third Masonic District School of Instruction is aided by three Assistant Principles. Over the course of the next few months we will introduce them to you. We will begin our introductions with Brother Scott Fogle.



Brother Scott Samuel Fogle was born in October of 1967 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, to Janet A. Fogle and John L. Fogle. He grew up in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, where he attended and graduated from Red Land High School and Cumberland-Perry Area Vocational Technical School in 1986.

In June 1985, he became an apprentice brick layer for Robert H. Kepler Masonry, where he was promoted to Foreman. He also began his own contracting company on the side, Scott S. Fogle Masonry Contractor.

In June 1992, Scott decided to begin a new business adventure and branched out on his own to continue the work of Scott S. Fogle Masonry Contractor. This self-owned company continued to grow and in January 2009, it became Fogle Masonry, Inc.

In January 2020, Scott became a partner in SJIA Enterprises, LLC.

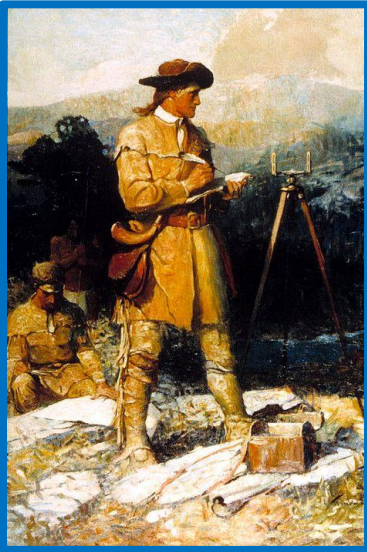
Personally, in October 1991, Scott married Lisa Mae McCreary. They had 2 children, Ethan S. Fogle and Makala M. Fogle. The children are now grown, but during their early years Scott was an Assistant Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America and also a baseball coach for the Red Land Little

League. Scott and Lisa divorced in 2009.

Following in the footsteps of his father, John L. Fogle, Scott was raised to a Master Mason on May 21, 2007, in West Shore Lodge No. 681, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, in the 2nd Masonic District. West Shore Lodge No. 681 and Eureka Lodge No. 302 merged into one Lodge on December 27, 2012. Scott served as Worshipful Master of Eureka-West Shore Lodge No. 302 beginning on December 27, 2016. Since completing his service to his Lodge, he was appointed as an Assistant Principal for the 3rd Masonic District beginning on December 27, 2019. He is also a member of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon #43, Widow's Sons PA Temple Guard, Valley of Harrisburg Zembo Shrine and the Zembo Past Masters Club.

## Masonic Education

### Landmarks



What are the Landmarks of Freemasonry? They are the ancient and unchangeable precepts which we, as Freemasons, are charged to protect and preserve. According to the General Regulations published by the Premier Grand Lodge of England in 1723 "Every Annual Grand Lodge has an inherent power and authority to make new regulations or to alter these, for the real benefits of this Ancient Fraternity; provided always that the old Land-Marks be carefully preserved."<sup>1</sup>

Brother Dr. Albert G. Mackey, PM, 33° tells us in his book *A Lexicon of Freemasonry* that "in ancient times it was the custom to mark the boundaries of lands by means of stone pillars, the removal of which by malicious persons would be the occasion of much confusion, men having no other guide than these pillars by which to distinguish the limits of their property. To remove them, therefore, was considered a heinous crime. "Thou shalt not," says the Jewish law, "remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance."<sup>2</sup> Hence those peculiar marks of distinction by which we are separated from the profane world, and by which we are enabled to designate our inheritance as the "sons of light," are called the landmarks of the order. The *universal language* and the *universal laws*<sup>3</sup> of masonry are landmarks, but not so are the local ceremonies, laws, and usages, which vary in different countries. To attempt to alter or remove these sacred landmarks by which we examine and prove a brother's claims to share in our privileges, is one of the most heinous offences that a Mason can commit.

There are, however, certain forms and regulations which, although not constituting landmarks, are nevertheless so protected by the venerable claim of antiquity, that they should be guarded by every good Mason with religious care from alteration. It is not in, the power of any body of men to make innovations in masonry."

According to Brother Elbert Bede, PM, 33° in his book *The Landmarks of Freemasonry*, "A Landmark is something that has been a part of Freemasonry for so long a period that it never occurs to me to inquire as to its origin in my conduct of a lodge or in my conduct as a Freemason; it is something that I feel, without stopping to analyze why I should feel that way, could not be removed without seeming to me to alter the fabric of Freemasonry; it is a Custom or Usage governing Freemasonry that I so completely recognize as necessary to the preservation of Freemasonry that I live within it without any conscious effort on my part."

The regularity of a Grand Lodge, or a subordinate Lodge, is recognized by its adherence our ancient Landmarks. To date the debate continues, and their definition continues to be a complicated question. Each Grand Lodge is self-governing, and interpretations defining what those ancient and unchangeable precepts are varied leading to the controversy.

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<sup>1</sup> Anderson, James, et al. *The Constitutions of the Free-Masons: Containing the History, Charges, Regulations, &c. of That Most Ancient and Right Worshipful Fraternity: for Use of the Lodges.* Grand Lodge of England, 1723.

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy xix. 14.

<sup>3</sup> It has been supposed by some authorities, that all laws which were in existence in 1717, at the re-organization of the Grand Lodge in the south of England, are to be considered as landmarks.

## [Around the District](#)

**George Washington Lodge No. 143**  
Brother Michael S. Essis  
Worshipful Master

### **George Washington Lodge No. 143 Gun Raffle**

Date: December 25, 2020

Ticket Price: \$10.00

Afternoon Drawing – Choice of Gun

Evening Drawing – Remaining Gun

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Brother Michael S. Essis, Worshipful Master, at 717-648-7378.

### **From the Secretary's Desk**

I am speaking as Secretary of George Washington Lodge No. 143, but this may apply to all. It is imperative that information be correct in the Grand Lodge System. This includes address, phone number, email, etc. If you change any of the aforementioned items, please contact your secretary to update. By not updating, you may not receive your Lodge notices, call-em-all from the Worshipful Master, and yes, dues notices, dues cards, and any other information you, as a member, would normally receive. Also, if you would prefer to receive your Lodge information thru email instead of regular mail, notify your secretary. By using email, it is quicker to share information. Also, as the cost of printing and mailing continues to increase, this would be a cost savings for your Lodge as well. This has become more important with the Coronavirus updates we are receiving from Brother Thomas Gamon IV, RWGM.

Thank you.

Be Safe until we can meet again.

Dennis R. McClanahan PM  
Secretary

### **District 3 Low Vale 2020**

Hosted by Carlisle Lodge 260 and Orrstown Lodge 262

Brethren are you ready to get out of the house for some Masonic fellowship and good food? This fall, September 23rd, 2020 Carlisle Lodge #260 and Orrstown Lodge #262 will be hosting the district Low Vale at Maple Lane Farm located in Newville PA. Plan on coming out to see the conferral of the Master Masons degree by the officers of 260 and 262. As always the attire will be casual with officers the only ones in formal. Cigars are permitted and encouraged!!! More details to follow, including times and ticket sales. Please call Brother Jeremy Miller WM of Carlisle Lodge 260 with questions at (717)440-7261.

## Around the District (continued)

### Big Spring Lodge No. 361

Brother J. Wheeler Hammontree  
Worshipful Master



### Virtual Lodge Meetings

Brethren, as we (hopefully) near the end of this and can eventually resume our labors, we should be looking at best-practices from the world of Freemasonry to include in our contingency plans for next time this, or something similar, affects us. Modern technology allows us a great many options, some good, some not so good. Zoom meetings became quite popular during this ordeal, despite known security risks.

I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend two Lodge meetings held by my Mother Lodge, Sincerity Lodge No. 181, of Odenton, Maryland. The first was very informal and the only business conducted was the absolute necessities – paying the bills, etc. The second meeting was much more in line with a normal Lodge meeting and followed the rules of an edict<sup>4</sup> by Brother Richard P Naegele, MWGM of Maryland. Brother Naegele was even in attendance for that Virtual Meeting. I would like to

share the gist of his edict, in the hopes that we can glean something from it for our own future plans:

1. Notification should be given to all members of a Lodge, where practical.
2. The Grand Inspector [DDGM for us] must be invited to all such meetings.
3. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance should be given at opening.
4. Minutes should be maintained and posted on the [membership database].
5. Bills may presented following normal procedures per the Lodge's by-laws.
6. Petitions may be received and entered in the [membership database]. Follow-up for reading of the petition must be done at first [non-virtual] meeting of Lodge when permitted.
7. Background checks will take place on all new petitions upon entry in the [membership database] as usual.
8. Investigations may take place using social distancing guidelines set forth by the State. Talking with prospective members is encourage by phone or [virtual] conferencing.
9. No balloting on petitions may take place.
10. Educational presentations are strongly encouraged.
11. Catechism instruction and [ritual] rehearsals may take place in small groups (no more than 6 at a time). These instructional classes must be closely monitored as to guests invited.
12. For any [virtual] conferencing, **one Brother must be charged to Tyle** the event so uninvited guests are not allowed to participate. Make sure guests use their real names and phone numbers so they are known to the Brother monitoring the meeting.

I don't agree 100% with the above guidelines, but they at least give a starting point for discussion. These kinds of plans are what we need to be discussing at this point to formalize plans for the future.

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<sup>4</sup> Richard P. Naegele, MWGM. 2020. "EDICT." The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland U.S.A., April 6.



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

### **Virtual Lodge Meetings (continued)**

I did some digging into how the Spanish Flu affected Freemasonry and came across the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Indiana. Their annual Grand Lodge communication was mandated by their constitutions to fall on a certain date each year. On that date, there were not enough members present for a quorum. By their rules in place at that time, **they had to attempt to meet each and every day after that – and did so – for over a month and a half**, until enough Brethren were present to form the quorum. Let's be proactive on this rather than reactive, not just in Freemasonry, but in all we touch.

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

**Acacia Lodge No. 586**  
Bro. Zachary L. Wilhide  
Worshipful Master



**William W. Martz is the 2020 Supreme Tall Cedar.**  
Submitted by Robert W. Nelson, Jr., PM, Secretary

Bill has been a member of Acacia Lodge #586 since being initiated October 18, 2004.

Bill was born into a military family on May 8, 1948, in Washington, DC. His family lived in various locations prior to his dad's retirement when they settled in the Hagerstown, MD, area. He is a 1966 graduate of South Hagerstown High School and in 1970 graduated with honors in mathematics and religion/ philosophy from Shepherd College (now University), West Virginia. He retired in 2010 after a forty year career in computer and information technology for Mack Trucks.

Bill is the proud father of two daughters, Cynthia and Elizabeth, a granddaughter Kelli, and a grandson Noah. He married his wife Linda in 1985; thereafter their combined family includes her son Sean. He has lived just east of Waynesboro, PA since 1998.

As a member of Waynesboro Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bill has been a member and president of the Church Council, chairman of the Mutual Ministry committee, a member of various other committees and the cathedral choir.

He is past president of the Franklin-Fulton Chapter of Thrivent Financial. Bill currently serves as director of the Brown Bag Association, a supplemental food distribution service for mentally disadvantaged children and adults.

Bill's Masonic journey began in 2004 when he was initiated into Acacia Lodge No. 586, Waynesboro, PA. Bill is a member of George Washington Chapter No. 176, George Washington Council No. 66, where he serves as Recorder, Continental Commandery No. 56, Good Samaritan Mark Lodge No. 139, Sovereign Council No. 103, Allied Masonic Degrees, and York Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine, of the York Rite. He is a member of the Valley of Harrisburg, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. Bill is a member of Gettysburg Chapter No. 392, Order of the Eastern Star, and a past member, Secretary, and Patron of Mount Vernon Chapter No. 398. He is a member of Zembo. Bill is a member of Hagerstown Forest No. 95, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, where he served as Grand Tall Cedar in 2011 and 2012.

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

### **Pennsylvania Lodge of Research**

Bro. Richard L. Wenner  
Worshipful Master



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

What the heck is a Lodge of Research?  
Submitted by Bro. Seth B. Anthony, Secretary

Starting in 2020, the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research has been added to the roles of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Masonic District. This was a big change for the organization, as it previously had operated more akin to a Committee within the Grand Lodge superstructure. As always, with change comes opportunity, and we're excited to share more about the Lodge of Research with the members of District three.

The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research truly belongs to you, the Pennsylvania Freemason. Any member of a properly warrant Lodge is eligible for membership in the Lodge of Research – no special invitation required! In fact, you're welcome to attend a meeting of the Lodge without evening joining! While membership comes with certain privileges, such as a vote in the affairs of the Lodge and copies of programs, all vouched for

Brothers are welcomed to our sessions. The Lodge has but one goal, and that is to further the purpose of Masonic study and discourse in the Commonwealth.

This purpose is achieved through two meetings held each year, at various Lodges around the state. Members are not required to attend the meetings, but certainly the education and fellowship gained are invaluable. The Lodge of Research is opened in much the same way as your local Lodge, but the business generally takes a back seat to a special presentation on some Masonic topic. Past programs have included thoughts on Masonic philosophy, historical occurrences within the Craft, deep dives into the language of our ritual, and so much more! Each meeting is different, offering attendees a chance to expand their understanding of our Fraternity.

The Lodge of Research was slated to next meet in June, in Harrisburg. But, due to current events, that meeting has been cancelled. Therefore, the next scheduled meeting of the Lodge of Research is set for Saturday, December 12, at 10:00 AM at the Masonic Temple in Sunbury, PA. More information will be available closer to that date.

You can learn more about the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research, including how to become a member, on our website at [www.palodgeofresearch.org](http://www.palodgeofresearch.org).