

Third Masonic District

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



History & Purpose of the St. John's Day Banquet



In Freemasonry, our two patron saints are St. John the Baptist, and St. John the Evangelist; the latter of whom is celebrated with this evening's festivities. Originally, a banquet was held for each of the Saints Johns annually. St. John the Baptist day is celebrated on the summer solstice, June 24. On June 24, 1717, the first recorded St. John's Day Banquet was to celebrate the formation of the Grand

Lodge of England and the installation of its first Grand Master. It was at this time Freemasonry become known to the world. There was a great feast, now known as the Feast of Holy Saint John, on this occasion. The menu was as follows:

- 9 dishes of fowl, three in a dish (2 roasted and 1 boyled with oyster sauce)
- 3 Yorkshire Hams
- 6 Geese, two in a dish
- 3 Turkeys
- 3 Chines
- 3 Dishes of Tongues and Udders
- 6 Dishes of Tarts

Wine: 12 Gallons of Red Port and 4 Gallons of White Port.

Although some Lodges still hold a feast in honor of St. John the Baptist, the majority of Lodges hold a banquet in honor of our other patron saint, St. John the Evangelist.

St. John the Evangelist is less known than St. John the Baptist, but is written about in the New Testament under the names John the Epistle, John the Divine of Patmos, and as disciple of Jesus. He is also thought to have authored the book of Revelation. The feast of St. John the Evangelist was held on the winter solstice originally, but moved to its current date of December 27. St. John the Evangelist is believed to be a Patron Saint of Freemasonry, because he wrote much about the interconnection of God, the Word, and Light; all pillars of Masonry.

Event Announcements

Monthly School of Instruction

Business of the Lodge
21 December 2020
2021 Incoming Officers

Virtual Grand Lodge Communication

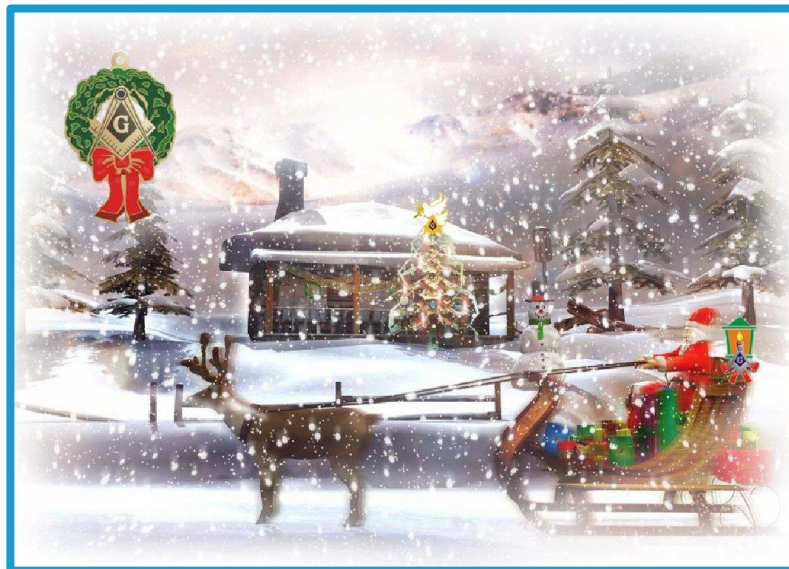
02 December 2020
7:00pm – 8:00pm

A prime example of his writing and its commonality with Freemasonry reads, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was the life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and darkness comprehended it not."

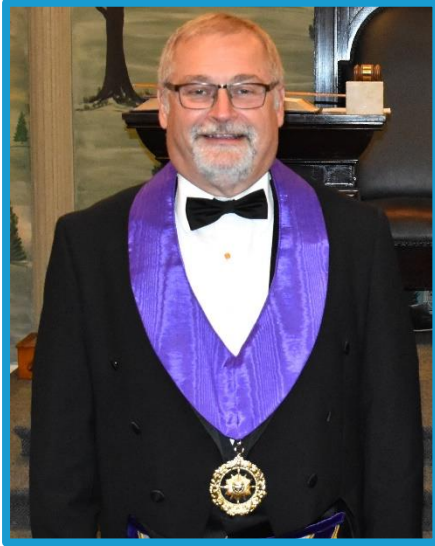
St. John the Evangelist is thought to be the most loyal disciple to Jesus. He wrote much on the importance of brotherly love and Fellowship. So who started the feast in his honor (or the other St. John for that matter)? Scholars' debate where the tradition originates, but it is believed it may likely come from the Knights Templar, who held St. John with greater admiration than other namely Saints of the Catholic Church, Peter and Paul. When the Catholic Church tried to remove the Templars (along with their wealth and influence), the Knights Hospitallers (actually called the Knights of St. John) took in property of the Knights Templar and, many Templars became Hospitallers. Even before they joined, a common thread between the two groups was their reverence for the Saints Johns. In 1737, it was written that the close relationship between the Hospitallers and Freemasons resulted in many Hospitallers becoming Freemasons.

When the first St. John's Day feast truly took place, we will never know. What we do know is that the feast of the Evangelist is an important event in Freemasonry, and is celebrated every December 27th – the beginning of the Masonic year. It is on that day newly elected officers begin their term. While often not on December 27th, our feast serves as an occasion to honor those who have served our Lodges for the previous year, and to celebrate the newly elected lodge officers.

Source: "History & Purpose of the St. John's Day Banquet." *State College Lodge No. 700, F. & A. M.*, 2020, www.lodge700.org/education/st_johns_day.html.



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



Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

As we resume our labors in this fall holiday season, we need remember the widows of our deceased Brethren. They supported their spouses as they practiced the Craft. There were many evenings they remained home while their husbands attended Lodge. We as Freemasons should not forget the sacrifice they made. A short phone call from the Lodge would show that we care for them and demonstrate the respect for their departed husband, our Brother. Better yet deliver a fruit basket or some flowers to brighten their day!

After a long delay in conferring the Master Mason Degree they have resumed. I have been able to attend several extra meetings in the last month and the work performed by the Lodges of the district has been excellent. This is truly a testament to the individual Lodges, Worshipful Masters, and their Instructors. The dedication to learning the work demonstrated by the

Worshipful Masters has been second to none!

Saint John's Day next is rapidly approaching. The incoming of Masters are getting ready to start an exciting year in their lives. Being a Worshipful Master of a Lodge, especially in District 3 is one of the most rewarding experiences in a man's life. I'm sure each incoming Master has put together his plan for his term and how they are going to execute this plan. They need to concentrate on one or two items they want to complete in their term and do them well. When they leave the East, their name will be listed among the Worshipful Masters that have went before them as part of the Lodge history. The Lodge will be better for having them as Worshipful Master!

Be safe as you travel to the different Lodge activities and follow the guidelines set forth by the Grand Master and other Government officials. I will see you soon as we all hit the Freemasonry trail.

Have a great day in Freemasonry!!
Jeffrey R. Miller DDGM03



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



Brethren all,

We all know that this has been a challenging year in our lives in general and in Freemasonry in particular. In the SOI, we met only four times this year so far, and two of those were with very limited numbers. As I look at the current situation while writing this article, it does not appear that the health environment is showing any signs of improving in the short term. It is likely that we may have to continue with the current restrictions for some time.

Many of you will agree with me when I say the real work of Freemasonry is done in the Blue Lodge. So, while we haven't had a lot of instruction at the SOI this year, I know that you in the Lodges did a lot of work as we slowly started meeting and conferring degrees again within the restrictions we had. Thanks to everyone, Lodge instructors, officers, and all who participated in making these meetings, including the District Three Low Vale, a success.

As I mentioned in the first edition of the newsletter, I believe our current restrictions are an opportunity, not only for the line officers but for all Brethren, to spend some time on ritual and Masonic skills. While we can't gather in larger groups, we can meet one-on-one or in smaller groups with proper precautions and social distancing. Do what you can to keep your ritualistic skills from atrophying until we can meet more regularly and in larger groups.

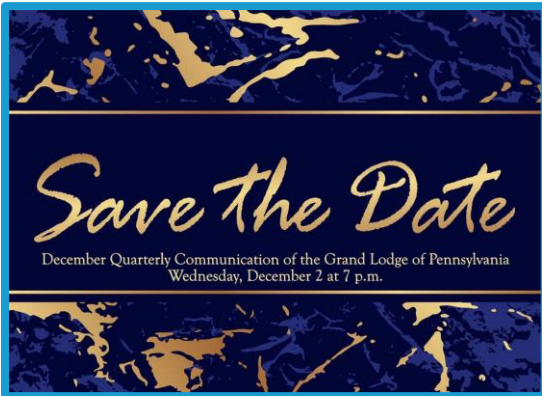
Individual Lodges have done elections and installations for a long time, many of them "their way." Lodge instructors and many past masters know how it can be done or is to be done. The important thing is to have a meaningful installation for Brethren moving into new chairs and particularly for new WMs being installed. As you prepare for elections and installation of officers, please reach out to the assistant principals and me if you need help and we will get together with you.

Also, if you have Brethren who need certifications, please let us know and we will be glad to get together and make that happen. For incoming officers, we will be glad to meet with you before your first stated meeting of 2021 if you want us to. I believe there are many who still need certifications, and we will also find a way to get those done. Remember that other than the DDGM, only the Principal and Assistant Principals can certify Brethren in the required ritual, and it must be documented in our records when complete.

Brethren, I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and that you will also have a wonderful Christmas season. Please remember to help care for those who need assistance, as Freemasons always do. I look forward to the New Year with hope that we can soon return to more "normal" times and fellowship we have missed during these last several months.

Virtual December Quarterly Communication

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 AT 7 PM EST – 8 PM EST



All members are invited to attend a live YouTube livestream of the Annual Grand Quarterly Communication. Your District Deputy Grand Master may be setting up a location(s) near you to attend. Physical attendance may be limited by COVID-19 restrictions. You can also view from your home on any device that can access YouTube videos: computers, smartphones, tablets and smart/internet access TVs.

Visit <https://youtu.be/ucPjzozbzi5Q> to watch on the day and time of the event.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Masonic Charities Annual Fall Appeal



Do you know your Masonic Charities encompass various charities, each one with its own unique mission? With the 2020 universal pandemic, each charity of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has felt the impact of this crisis. Supporting your favorite Masonic Charity is needed now, more than ever. There is still so much to do! Visit www.masoniccharitiespa.org for more information on each of these Pennsylvania Masonic Charities: The Masonic Library and Museum; Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation; Masonic Children's Home; and the Masonic Villages. Please support the 2020 Masonic Charities Fall Appeal. Send a check to the Masonic Charities, Office of Gift Planning, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or by visiting www.pagrandlodge.org and clicking "Masonic Charities" in the banner and navigating to the charity of choice and clicking "Donate Now".

If you are age 70 ½ or older, consider making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) this year to your favorite Masonic charity – tax free! For the charitable distribution to be tax-free qualified, please have the check payable directly to the charity and not you, the owner.

Thank you for your continued support!

Academy of Masonic Knowledge



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the October 2020 Symposium has been cancelled. Stay tuned to this page for information on the March 2021 Symposium.

Upcoming Academy Dates

Saturday, March 20, 2021

Saturday, October 23, 2021

The Masonic Information Corner



Trees have been important spiritual symbols in many human cultures. Evergreens often symbolize immortality and eternal life because they retain their leaves throughout the winter. To the Iroquois people, the white pine is a symbol of the Great Peace that united their separate nations into an enduring League. The Peace Tree is related to the Tree of Light, a central symbol in Iroquois cosmology. Similar mythological trees are found in European traditions, including the Norse World Tree and the medieval Christian Tree of Life. The World Tree symbolizes the unity of all life, and the struggle of order and growth against chaos and disintegration. The white pine is thus linked to one of the most universal spiritual symbols of the human species.

Source: Schroeder, H.W. 1992. The Tree of Peace: Symbolic and Spiritual Values of the White Pine. In proceedings of the White Pine Symposium (p. 73-83), Sept. 16-18, 1992, Duluth, MN.



[Around the District](#)

George Washington Lodge No. 143

74 South Second Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201

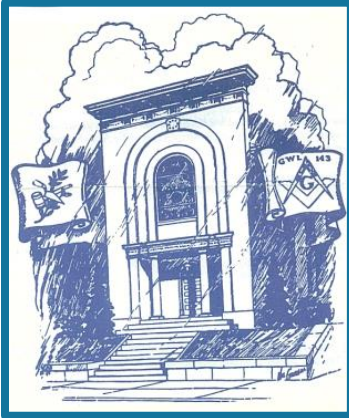
Second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Michael S. Essis

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://gw143.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/georgewashingtonlodge143>



Gun Raffle

George Washington Lodge No. 143 is holding a Gun Raffle. See below for details.

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.

Carlisle Lodge 260

1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA, 17013

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Jeremy L. Miller

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://carlisle260.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/St.Johns.260>



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Your help is needed again this year for the annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. The Lodge will once again be ringing the bells at the Wine & Spirits Store which is located in the Giant Plaza located on Walnut Bottom Rd, Carlisle on December 12th and 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day.

Several one hour slots are still available. To sign up for a 1-hour slot, please contact Brother Bill Bunt, PM at wrb@pa.net or at 717-503-9073.

If you have never helped to ring the bells, be sure to sign up. We love having new members help. It's a great way to spread some brotherly love during the holiday season and show the public the good things we do as Masons.

Don't delay, reserve your time slot today and help raise monies for those who are in need this holiday season.

Orrstown Lodge No. 262

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257
Second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Brother Drew S. DeWalt
Worshipful Master

Website: <https://orrstown262.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrrstownLodgeNo262>



Orrstown lodge No. 262 will be holding a rehearsal for election and installation on Monday December 7th at 6:45 p.m. Principal of SOI will be in attendance.

Thursday December 10th at 7:30 p.m. will be our stated meeting. We will open in the Entered Apprentice form. Program for the evening will be Election and Installation of Officers.

Monday December 28th at 6:00 p.m. we will be our Extra Meeting. We will be conferring a third degree.

Eureka West-Shore Lodge No. 302

910 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
First Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
Brother Kenneth B. Robinson
Worshipful Master

Website: <http://eureka302.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/EurekaWestShoreLodge302>



The lodge held a stated meeting on Monday November 2nd with a presentation by Bro. William A. McQuade, PM on "Masonry during World War I" based on letters home from his Grandfather. The program was well received by the approximately 24 brethren in attendance. Learning about how Freemasonry was impacted as well as Freemasons involvement in the first Great War was fascinating and even more special due to the personal influence on one of our own brethren.

On November 19th we continued with our unofficial ZOOM toast meeting at 9:00 p.m. with the Worshipful Master and 2 other brethren enjoying the brotherhood from the lodge parking lot with cigars in hand. We always seem to have a great deal to commiserate about and enjoyed the remote fellowship once again.

Our next stated meeting will be on December 7th, with a recognition of our Past Masters as well as election of officers. Later that week will be raising Bro. Rick Kellinger to the sublime degree as well as entering two new brothers. Happy Thanksgiving to all we have much to be thankful for!

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Kenneth B. Robinson, WM EWS 302

Cumberland Valley No. 315

41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg PA 17257

First Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Bryan L. Ruth

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://lodge315.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Cumberland-Valley-Masonic-Lodge-No-315-1386129258366656>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1486480571653567>



A Stated Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. December 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Program for the Evening: Election and Installation of Officers.

An Extra Meeting of Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315 Free and Accepted Masons will be held at the Masonic Temple, 41 Stewart Place, Shippensburg, PA. Thursday December 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The Master Mason Degree will be conferred.

Consider the Lodge Fundraiser for 2020 a Standard or Custom Designed 20-ounce Masonic Tumbler. Includes a sliding splash proof lid with straw, stays cold for 24 hours or hot for 8 hours! See any Officer or the Worshipful Master for Details!

Remember your lodge dues.

Big Spring Lodge No. 361

131 Centerville Road, Newville, PA 17241

Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother J. Wheeler Hammontree

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://bigspringlodgeno361.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/bigspring361>



Mt. Pisgah Lodge No. 443

Third Floor, Tower Bank, Greencastle, PA 17225

Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Toby A. Stoner

Worshipful Master

Website: <https://mtpisgah443.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mount-Pisgah-Lodge-No-443-668433266645074>



Tuesday December 15th at 7:30 p.m. will be our stated meeting. We will be having election and installation.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
Toby A. Stoner, WM

Acacia Lodge No. 586

33 West Main St, Waynesboro, PA 17268

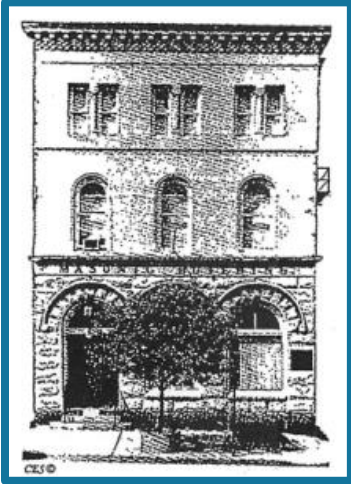
Third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Brother Zachary L. Wilhide

Worshipful Master

Website: <http://acacia586.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2580660782177324>



Acacia has a history of providing fruit baskets to the Widows of Acacia Lodge at Christmas time. This year due to the Covid issue, the Lodge will be mailing Christmas Cards to the Widows along with a Gift Card from Martin’s (Giant) Foods.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members of PA Masonic District 3!

Pennsylvania Lodge of Research

Semi-Annual Meetings at Various Locations

Brother Richard L. Wenner

Worshipful Master

<https://palodgeofresearch.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/92580616988>



To: Members of the PA Lodge of Research and Brother Master Masons
From: Brother Richard L. Wenner, Worshipful Master of the PA Lodge of Research (LOR)

Brethren,

I need not tell you how serious the COVID-19 pandemic is in our country, and more specifically in the Commonwealth of PA. As of the current time, the cases of the virus are increasing with no downturn foreseen in the near future.

In consultation with the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, DDGM Jeffrey Miller, and several elected and appointed officers of the LOR, I have decided that the

December 12, 2020 Stated Meeting scheduled for Sunbury, PA is CANCELLED. Some of the reasons for this action include: the rising number of cases of COVID in PA, the membership scattered around PA, the limited number of attendees which cannot exceed a total of 40 (20% maximum currently allowable, 15 of which are officers, two DDGM’s and the speaker), the average age of our membership and potentially severe consequences of this virus. Today, the Governor of PA has further reduced the maximum number of indoor meeting attendees to 10% of the maximum occupancy of the building (Now 20 Brethren maximum). Potential out of state Brethren would also pose

an issue to be dealt with. As I stated in cancelling the June, 2020 meeting, I can't conceive of the emotional trauma I would endure if a Brother contracted COVID and as a result, passed away!

Our DDGM has directed the following action be taken due to the meeting cancellation: Our Senior Warden will not be installed until the next scheduled meeting in 2021. I will continue as Worshipful Master until our next Stated Meeting in 2021, at which time Brother Yasser, SW, will be installed as Worshipful Master. All of the current officers will remain in their stations and places until that time as well. There are some items to be reviewed between now and then which I will pursue with the District Deputy.

I know this is not what any of us anticipated. We must all work together to ensure growth in membership in the LOR and allow a smooth transition to the new officers in 2021. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at dicwen@aol.com or 717-856-6331.

Have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Respectfully and fraternally,
Bro. Richard L. Wenner, WM

