

**Brethren,**

I am honored to introduce myself as the new District Education Officer for the 2nd Masonic District.

As Masons, we are taught to use the trowel to spread the cement of Brotherly Love and Affection, uniting us into one sacred band or society of friends and Brothers. That lesson is a fitting reminder of the purpose of Masonic education: to strengthen our understanding, build stronger connections between our Lodges, and help each Brother continue his Masonic journey with greater meaning.

My mother Lodge is Fidelity Lodge No. 113, and I am also proud to be a dual member of Phoenix Lodge No. 168. Through my own Masonic journey, I have come to appreciate how much we learn not only within the walls of our own Lodge, but also by traveling, visiting other Lodges, and sharing fellowship with Brethren throughout the District.

One of my hopes in this role is to encourage more Masonic travel throughout the Second Masonic District. Each Lodge has its own character, history, strengths, and traditions. When we visit one another, we strengthen the bonds between our Lodges, support our Worshipful Masters and Officers, and remind ourselves that Masonry extends well beyond any single building or stated communication.

Masonic education is not meant to be dry or complicated. It should help us better understand our ritual, our symbols, our obligations, and the lessons we are charged to carry into our daily lives. My goal is to help provide useful, thoughtful, and meaningful education that supports every Brother, whether newly raised or long experienced.

I look forward to working with the Lodges of the Second Masonic District, supporting our Worshipful Masters, Officers, and Brethren, and helping encourage thoughtful education, stronger fellowship, and greater participation throughout the District.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to laboring with you in this important work.

Fraternally,  
*Michael A. Elston*



## Short Talk Bulletins

- **The Lambskin Apron**, By Bro. Howard R. Cruse, June 2025 Bulletin-This brilliant essay discusses the lambskin apron and further symbolism and meaning behind it.
- **The Three Lesser Lights**, by Wade Sheeler, PSGW Grand Lodge of Iowa - The Three Lesser Lights represent the Sun, Moon, and Worshipful Master, symbolizing the light that guides a Mason to the teachings of the Three Great Lights. They remind us that Masonic light must be used to guide our faith, conduct, and actions.
- **Omar N. Bradley** - This article highlights the life and leadership of General Omar N. Bradley, a quiet but highly capable World War II commander who led American forces from D-Day through Germany's surrender. Though often overshadowed by more famous generals, Bradley earned deep respect through humility, competence, and steady leadership, and he was also a Mason raised in West Point Lodge No. 877 in 1923.

## Recommended Speakers

- **A Study in Aprons**  
R.W. Glenn T. Visscher - Lambskin apron, purity of life, honor, and how Masonic symbols are meant to be worn and lived.
- **A Review of Our Ancient Landmarks**  
R.W. Mohamad A. Yatim - It explains the deeper rules, traditions, and foundations behind how Masonry operates.
- **Masonic Symbolism: Its Meaning on a Personal Level to Reach Perfection** - R.W. Ron Murad  
Probably the best broader-topic choice because it lets you connect multiple symbols and tools back to self-improvement, which is the real purpose behind the working tools.

## Recommended Readings

- **The Builders**, by Joseph Fort Newton - A classic Masonic work exploring the philosophy, symbolism, and moral purpose of the Craft.
- **Look Well**, by Dwight Smith - A Masonic-centered reflection on improving oneself by examining the heart, refining one's conduct, and living the lessons of the Craft beyond the Lodge room.
- **The Symbolism of Freemasonry**, by Albert Mackey - A foundational Masonic work explaining the meaning behind the Craft's symbols, ritual, and moral teachings.

## Grand Lodge Educational Initiatives



### Voyager Award Passport

Voyager is a lodge-travel passport: you visit and log Regular/Emergent Communications at other lodges to earn awards, first around NJ (Journeyman), then out of state plus one international (Master).

### David Brearly Award

An award for newly raised Master Masons, completed within one year of being raised. It encourages new Brothers to become active in Lodge life through required and elective Masonic activities.

### Society of King Solomon (SKS)

A Grand Lodge educational program for Master Masons. It focuses on Masonic ritual, symbolism, protocol, and Grand Lodge law. Members who complete the optional research and reflection portion may earn Fellowship status and further recognition.

### Masonic Leadership Conference (MLC)

A Grand Lodge educational program designed to help Brethren develop practical leadership skills for Lodge service. It focuses on communication, planning, officer responsibilities, teamwork, and preparing Masons to serve their Lodges and the Craft more effectively.

### Lodge Leadership Academy

A short training series that teaches lodge leaders how to run meetings well, manage key officer teamwork, build healthy lodge culture, follow protocol/bylaws, and improve membership and candidate work.  
Speakers Bureau List

### Recommended Reading List

Available in Grand View under: Resources → Master Mason → Recommended Reading List

## UPCOMING EVENTS

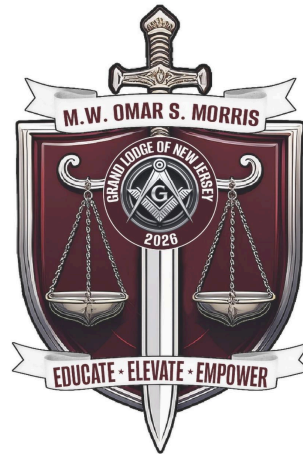


### May

- 1 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - **Table Lodge**  
**The Most Worshipful Grand Master**
- 4 **2nd District GLI** @ Phoenix Lodge No. 168
- 8 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 Regular Communication  
**R.W. Paul DiGaetano - Member Retention**
- 9 **Youth Chess Tournament** @ Genesis Lodge  
10:00 AM - Register: [gl88.org/?p=1538](http://gl88.org/?p=1538)
- 13 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication
- 14 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication
- 15 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Regular Communication
- 22 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 - Regular Communication
- 24 Genesis Lodge Memorial Day Events  
**Pompton Lakes Memorial Day Event, 1:00 PM**  
**Oakland Memorial Day Parade, 1:00 PM**
- 25 Wyckoff **Memorial Day Wreath Laying** 12:00 PM
- 27 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication
- 28 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - **4th Annual Table Lodge**  
**R.W. Paul DiGaetano**

### June

- 1 **2nd District BBQ** @ Phoenix Lodge No. 168
- 5 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Stated Communication
- 10 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication
- 11 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication
- 12 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 - Regular Communication  
**R.W. Jeff Chan**
- 19 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Stated Communication
- 23 **Blood Drive** @ Phoenix Lodge No. 168
- 24 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - **BBQ Dinner**
- 25 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication  
**R.W. Richie Schultz**
- 26 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 - **Family Barbecue**



### GRAND MASTER OF MASONS OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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### GRAND CHAPLAIN

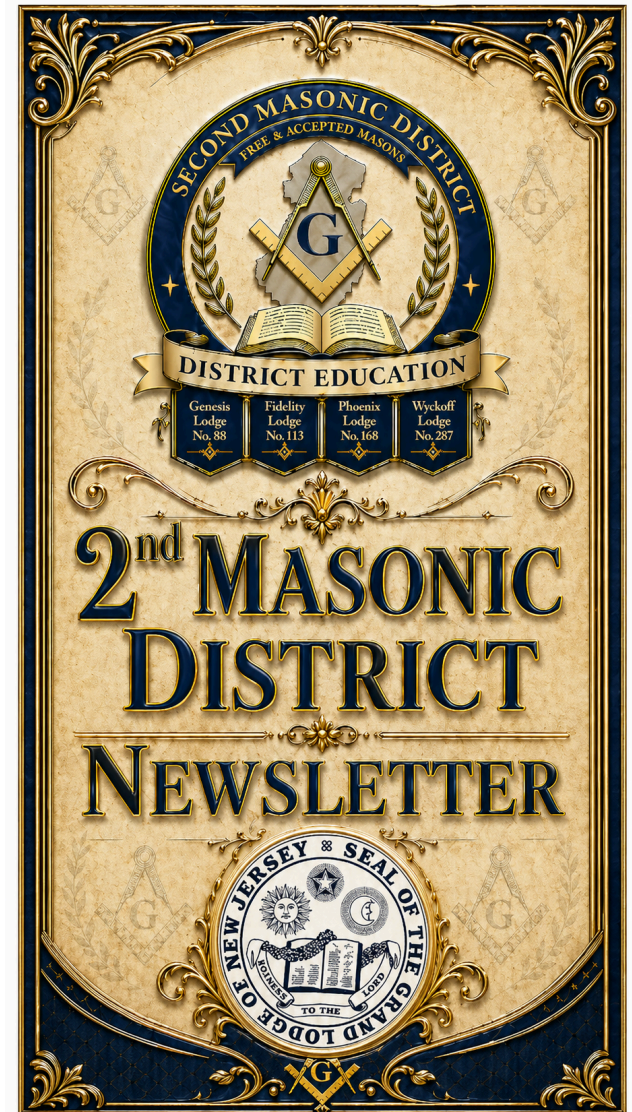
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### DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER

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Most Ancient and Honourable Society  
of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of New Jersey



## 25 April 2026

Worshipful Masters & Secretaries  
Please send district events,  
education nights, speakers, and lodge programs to:  
[Elston.Michael@Yahoo.com](mailto:Elston.Michael@Yahoo.com)