

Brethren,

As we continue with another Masonic year and enter the season of summer refreshment, we do so not by stepping away from our obligations, but by carrying the lessons of the Craft with us into our daily lives.

Freemasonry has long taught that balance is essential. Just as labor must be tempered with rest, diligence with reflection, and service with renewal, this season offers each of us an opportunity to pause, reconnect with our families, strengthen friendships, and restore ourselves in mind, body, and spirit.

While some organizations may speak of "going dark," Masons are never truly in darkness, for we are always seeking more light. The lights of our lodge rooms may rest for the summer season, but the light we have received through our obligations, our teachings, and our brotherhood continues to guide our thoughts and actions wherever we may be.

Summer refreshment provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon the lessons we have learned throughout the year. It is a time to consider how faithfully we have applied the virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth. It is a chance to ask ourselves whether we have governed our passions, extended kindness to those in need, and conducted ourselves according to the principles we profess.

Though we may be apart from our stated communications, let us remember that Masonry is not confined within the walls of the lodge room. We remain ambassadors of the Craft in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. Wherever our travels take us, may we continue to meet, act, and part as Masons.

May we meet others with respect and compassion, act with integrity and humility, and part from one another with goodwill and friendship.

As we enjoy this season of refreshment, let us return renewed in purpose, strengthened in fellowship, and inspired to continue our pursuit of Masonic light.

May the Grand Architect of the Universe watch over you and your families, grant you safe travels, and bring us together again in health, harmony, and peace.

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

- **Masonic Jeopardy** R.W. Roy G. Simpadian -. An engaging and enjoyable way to learn and grow at the lodge.” A fun and interactive learning experience for the lodge community.
- **Protocol, The Masonic Manners we DIDN'T learn in School** R.W. Glenn T. Visscher - A fun, engaging, and informative look at the customs, courtesies, and unspoken rules that shape Masonic culture. From lodge etiquette and introductions to respectful conduct and officer decorum.
- **Brother and Naval Captain John Paul Jones** R.W. David Van Pelt - Remembered within Masonic tradition as a celebrated patriot whose maritime leadership during the American Revolutionary War reflected ideals of brotherhood, honor, and service.

Recommended Readings

- **The Builders**, by Joseph Fort Newton - A classic Masonic work exploring the philosophy, symbolism, and moral purpose of the Craft.
- **Jachin & Boaz; or an Authentic Key to the Door of Freemasonry (1762)** , by Samuel Pritchard - is an 18th-century exposé that claims to reveal the rituals, symbols, passwords, and ceremonies of Freemasonry as practiced in English lodges of the period.
- **Constitution and Laws** , by Grand Lodge of New Jersey - is important to Masons because it establishes the rules, principles, responsibilities, and standards.

Grand Lodge Educational Initiatives

Voyager Award Passport

Voyager is a lodge-travel passport program that adds adventure to your Masonic journey as a Traveling Man. Brothers visit and record Regular and Emergent Communications at other lodges, beginning with the Journeyman level through travel within New Jersey, then continuing to the Master level with out-of-state visits and at least one international lodge visit.

[Click here](#)

David Brearly Award

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

[Click here](#)

Society of King Solomon (SKS)

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

[Click here](#)

Masonic Leadership Conference (MLC)

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

[Click here](#)

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.

[Click here](#)

Recommended Reading List [Click here](#)
Recommended Speakers [Click here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



June

- 1 2nd District DLI**, @ Phoenix Lodge No.168
- 5 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Regular Communication**
R.W. Alexandru D. Aldea
- 10 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication**
R.W. Glenn Visscher, JGW
- 11 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication**
- 12 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 - Regular Communication**
R.W. Jeffrey Chan
- 19 Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Regular Communication**
- 23 Blood Drive @ Phoenix Lodge No. 168**
- 24 Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication**
BBQ Dinner
- 25 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication**
R.W. Richie Schultz
Hawaiian Shirt Night
- 26 Fidelity Lodge No. 113 - Regular Communication**
Family Barbecue
Hawaiian Shirt Night

July

- 9 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication**

August

- 13 Phoenix Lodge No. 168 - Regular Communication**

**** The above dates for July and August are not a misprint**, Phoenix Lodge #168 will be having meetings in the summer.

Dates to Remember

- 06/26** - 15th & 19th District Reception
- 06/30** - 10th & 12th District Reception
- 09/19** - Grand Lodge 1 day Class
- 09/23** - 2nd & 3rd District Reception
- 09/30** - 4th & 6st District Reception
- 10/23 - 10/25** - Masonic Leadership Conference
- 11/03 - 11/05** - Grand Lodge Annual Communication

2nd District Traveling Gavel

The Traveling Gavel program is a great way to encourage participation, increase lodge visitation, and strengthen the bonds of fellowship throughout the district. It gives Brethren the opportunity to travel together, support neighboring lodges, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our fraternity so meaningful. Now is the perfect time to gather a strong turnout, coordinate with your members, and make a memorable visit to claim the gavel from the lodge that presently has it. With enough support from your lodge, the Gavel could soon be proudly displayed in your lodge room.

2nd District Traveling Gavel Rules

- 1. In order to capture the Traveling Gavel within the Second Masonic District, at least four (4) members of the same Lodge must attend a Regular Communication of the Lodge currently possessing the Traveling Gavel. Of those visiting: at least one must be the Master or a Warden; at least one other must be a Past Master; and at least one other must be an appointed officer. A visiting member who is both a PM and a current officer can only satisfy one of those criteria. Current Grand Lodge officers do not count as visitors.
- 2. If two or more Lodges simultaneously qualify under these rules to capture the Gavel, the winner of the Traveling Gavel shall be the Lodge with the largest number of members in attendance. In case of a tie, the winner shall be the Lodge which traveled the greatest distance.
- 3. A brother who is a member both of the Lodge which currently has the Gavel and of the Lodge which is visiting to capture the Gavel, will only count as a visitor to the Lodge which currently has the Gavel if such brother is an officer of the Lodge making the visit, and not an officer of the visited lodge.
- 4. The Lodge taking the Traveling Gavel must immediately notify the District Deputy and all the Lodges in the District that they are in possession of the Traveling Gavel. The Lodge taking the Traveling Gavel must also inform the District of its meeting days and scheduled starting times.

The DDGM, at his discretion, may remove the gavel from a lodge and award it to another.

Phoenix Lodge #168 currently has the 2nd District Traveling Gavel and meets on the second and fourth Thursday 6:30 social and 7:30 meeting.

District Communications

Honorable Mentions

The following brothers have demonstrated exceptional dedication and excellence in masonry, and their outstanding achievements deserve recognition.

Bro. Nicholas Abolafia

Fellowcraft Lecture Bar

Bro. Michael Macri

Society of King Solomon, Silver Award

Bro. Neil Macasaet

Honorary Membership for Phoenix Lodge #168

Bro. Mark Lombardi

Society of King Solomon, Silver Award

W.B. Marty Malemed

50 Year Gold Token

2nd District Craftsmen Club

R.W. Roy Simpadian has taken the initiative to establish the 2nd District Craftsman Club, with the goal of exemplifying ritual work and assisting all lodges within the district in practicing and excelling in ritual proficiency. This Craftsman Club is supported and encouraged by R.W. Michael Volk, D.D.G.M., and R.W. John Matteson, D.R.I. These practices will not occur on the same day of any regular communications.

**Dates are to be determined, Information will be communicated at a later date.

2nd Masonic District
Grand Lodge Appointments

R.W. John F. Matteson - DDGM

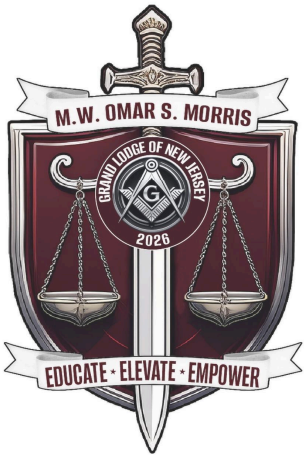
W.B. Richard Alam - DRI

W.B. Aaron Hassell - GC

Bro. Michael A. Elston - DEO

Happy Belated Father’s Day

To a father who has walked before us with wisdom, strength, and quiet humility, your example has been a guiding light upon the path of life. Like the working tools of our Craft, you have taught that true character is built through integrity, compassion, and steadfast labor. The lessons you have passed down are treasures more enduring than stone, shaping generations yet to come. On this Father's Day, may you be honored for the love you have given and the legacy of brotherly kindness you continue to build. .



GRAND MASTER OF MASONS
OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Most Worshipful Omar S. Morris
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DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Right Worshipful Michael W. Volk
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DISTRICT RITUAL INSTRUCTOR

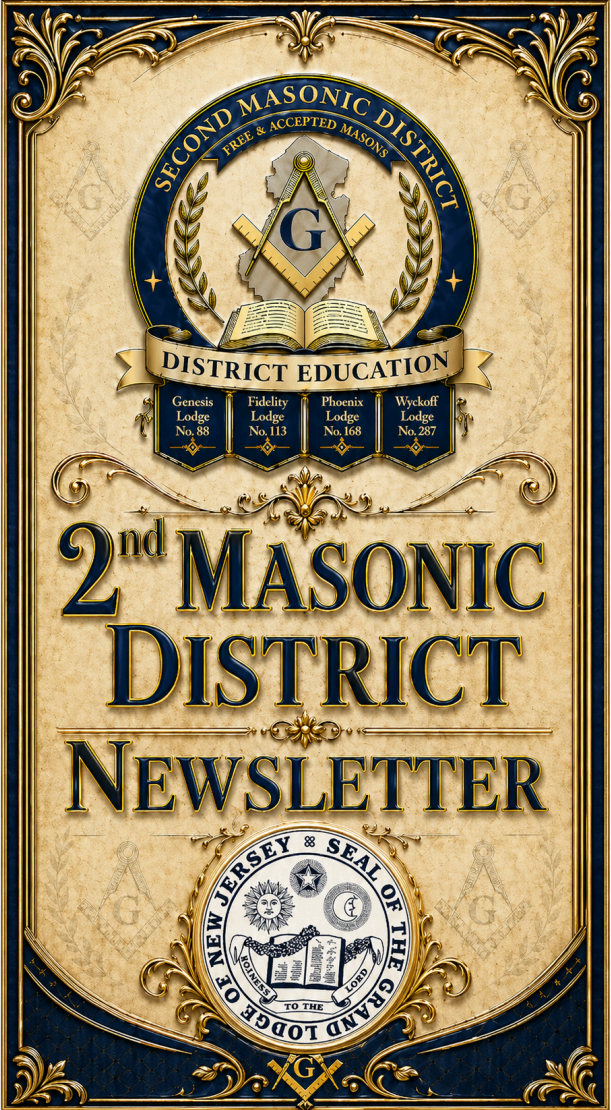
Right Worshipful John F. Matteson Jr.
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GRAND CHAPLAIN

Right Worshipful Paul Burkart
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DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER

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22 June 2026

Worshipful Masters & Secretaries

Please send district events,
education nights, speakers, and lodge programs to:
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