

Brethren,

The Importance of Appearance, Attire, and Conduct

Freemasonry teaches us that the manner in which we conduct ourselves reflects the man we are striving to become. While character is ultimately measured by our actions, there is also meaning in how we present ourselves when we enter the Lodge. Our appearance, attire, and conduct should demonstrate the respect we have for the institution to which we have pledged ourselves and for the Brethren who labor beside us.

The Lodge room is a place set apart from the ordinary. When we enter, we should recognize that we are entering a sacred space of Masonic labor, instruction, and fellowship. Proper attire is therefore more than appearance. Wearing a jacket and tie, a suit, or, when appropriate, a tuxedo, demonstrates that we recognize the importance of the occasion and have made an effort to honor it.

This is especially important on degree nights. A candidate may remember many things about his initiation, but he will also remember the atmosphere created by the Brethren around him. When the room is filled with properly dressed, attentive, and respectful Masons, it communicates something powerful: **this is important, and you are important to us.**

Our conduct in the Lodge room matters as well. We should be attentive during the ritual, respectful when others are speaking, and mindful of the dignity of our proceedings. Conversations, unnecessary movement, distractions, and casual behavior have no place during degrees or serious Lodge work. There is a time for fellowship and laughter, and a time for silence, reflection, and reverence.

Our Masonic protocol provides order, preserves dignity, and allows the Lodge to function as a unified body. Following proper protocol is not about being rigid; it is about showing consideration for our Brethren and preserving the traditions entrusted to us. We should never forget that every time we enter our Lodge, we represent something larger than ourselves. We represent our Lodge, our Grand Lodge, and the generations of Masons who came before us.

Let us make a commitment: **when we come to Lodge, let us come prepared.** Wear the proper attire. Know the protocol. Respect the ritual. Give your undivided attention. Conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the apron you wear.

We cannot ask our candidates to take Freemasonry seriously if we do not take it seriously ourselves.

Let our appearance reflect our respect, our behavior reflect our character, and our conduct reflect the principles of the Craft. **Every time we enter this Lodge, let us give Freemasonry our very best.**

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.

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.

Recommended Readings

- **Vile and Impious Wretches, A Novel of King Solomon’s Temple and the Ancient Middle East**, by R.W. Michael A. Czech - A historical-fiction novel exploring the lives, motives, and struggles of three Craftsmen, blending Masonic symbolism, ancient history, and intrigue. .
- **Words of Freemasonry, A weekly guide to self improvement**, by R.W. Robert S. Dilworth is a weekly guide offering thoughtful Masonic lessons, reflections, and practical wisdom to encourage personal growth, self-improvement, and a deeper understanding of Freemasonry.
- **Kind Offices, A Chaplain’s Revival** by D.W. David J. Meredith is a thoughtful look at the Masonic chaplain’s role in providing faith, comfort, and encouragement to the Brethren. It reminds us that the chaplain’s work is more than an office—it is a meaningful opportunity to serve and strengthen the Lodge. A valuable and inspiring read for any Mason seeking to better understand the spirit of service within the Craft. . .

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. Progress from Journeyman-level travel within New Jersey to Master-level travel that includes out-of-state 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



October

- 01** Phoenix Lodge No.168 -Blood Drive
- 02** Wyckoff Lodge No.287 - Regular Communication
Fellowcraft Degree with Phoenix Lodge No.168
- 03** Phoenix Lodge No.168 - Octoberfest
- 05 No District DLI**
- 05 Grand Lodge Candidates Night**
- 07** Phoenix Lodge No.168 & St. John’s Lodge No.1 -
Fellowcraft Degree at St. John’s Lodge No. 1
- 08** Phoenix Lodge No.168 - Regular Communication
- 09** Fidelity Lodge No.113 - Regular Communication -
Presentation by Bro. Michael Elston DEO
- 14** Genesis Lodge No. 88 - Regular Communication
- 16** Wyckoff Lodge No. 287 - Regular Communication
- 19** Order of Eastern Star - Little Falls Chapter No. 224
- 22** Phoenix Lodge No.168 - Regular Communication
- 23** Fidelity Lodge No.113 - Regular Communication
- 23-25 Grand Lodge Masonic Leadership Conference**
- 28** Genesis LodgeLodge No. 88 **Table Lodge**

November

- 02 No District DLI**
- 02** Order of Eastern Star - Little Falls Chapter No. 224
- 03-05 Grand Lodge Annual Communication**
- 06** Wyckoff Lodge No.287 - Regular Communication
- 11** Genesis Lodge No.88 - Regular Communication
- 12** Phoenix Lodge No.168 - Regular Communication
- 13** Fidelity Lodge No.113 - Regular Communication
- 16** Order of Eastern Star - Little Falls Chapter No. 224

Dates to Remember

- 10/05** - Candidates Night
- 10/12** - Columbus Day
- 10/13** - United States Navy Birthday
- 10/23** - 10/25 - Masonic Leadership Conference
- 10/31** - Halloween
- 11/03** - 11/05 - Grand Lodge Annual Communication
- 11/10** - United States Marine Corps Birthday
- 11/11** - Veterans Day
- 11/26** - Thanksgiving

District Communications

“Educate”

A Valuable Educational Resource for Our Candidates

Attention Worshipful Masters and Lodge Secretaries:

One of our greatest responsibilities as Masons is not simply to confer degrees, but to help our candidates understand and appreciate the lessons those degrees are meant to teach.

There is an excellent educational resource available through Grand View titled *Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, or Master Mason Degrees Explained*. These concise 14–18 page guides provide additional insight into the degree a candidate has experienced and give him something meaningful to take home, study, and reflect upon. This printable version can be located on Grand View under resources under the appropriate degree.

A degree should be more than an evening of ceremony and memorized words. It should be the beginning of a lifelong journey of discovery. When a Brother leaves the lodge, he should have questions to consider, lessons to explore, and resources that encourage him to seek further Light.

I believe these guides would be an excellent addition to the materials we provide our candidates. Consider printing the appropriate guide and presenting it on the night of his degree along with his cipher and Claudy book.

I strongly encourage every Worshipful Master and Lodge Secretary to consider making these educational guides part of the materials presented to our candidates. A few additional pages may seem like a small thing, but for a new Mason beginning his journey, they may become the beginning of a much deeper understanding of Freemasonry.

Let us not simply initiate new Masons. Let us educate them, encourage them, and help them discover the Light that brought each of us to the Craft.

“Elevate”

2nd District Blood Drives

With the guidance, dedication, and determination of W.B. Pat Cuntrera of Wyckoff Lodge No. 287, the 2nd Masonic District is proud to report a year of meaningful service to our community.

Over the past year, the District partnered with the American Red Cross to conduct four successful blood drives at the Ramsey Masonic Center, collecting more than 100 units of blood. Behind every unit is an opportunity to help save a life when someone is facing an accident, illness, surgery, or medical emergency.

This spirit of service extends throughout our District. Genesis Lodge No. 88, in partnership with Vitalant, has also conducted successful blood drives this past year.

These efforts remind us that Masonry is not simply about what we learn within our Lodge rooms, but what we do with what we learn. Our principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth call upon us to serve others and leave our communities better than we found them.

We are grateful to all the Brothers, donors, volunteers, and organizations who have made these efforts possible. The work continues, and so does our opportunity to serve.

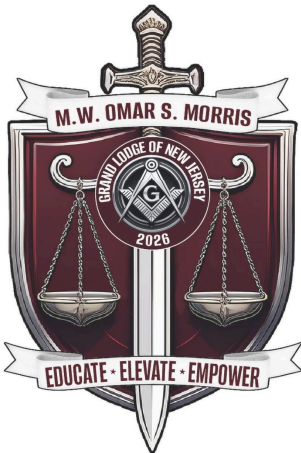
“Empower”

Order of the Eastern Star Little Falls Chapter No.224

Brethren,
Let us come together and show our support for the Ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star. Their dedication, friendship, and commitment to service are an important part of our Masonic family.

Let us take the opportunity to join them, share in their fellowship, and show our appreciation for all they do. Their support of our Masonic community has long been valued and appreciated. By being present, we strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship that make our Masonic family special.

Your presence is not only appreciated—it is a meaningful expression of Masonic brotherhood and support.



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DISTRICT RITUAL INSTRUCTOR

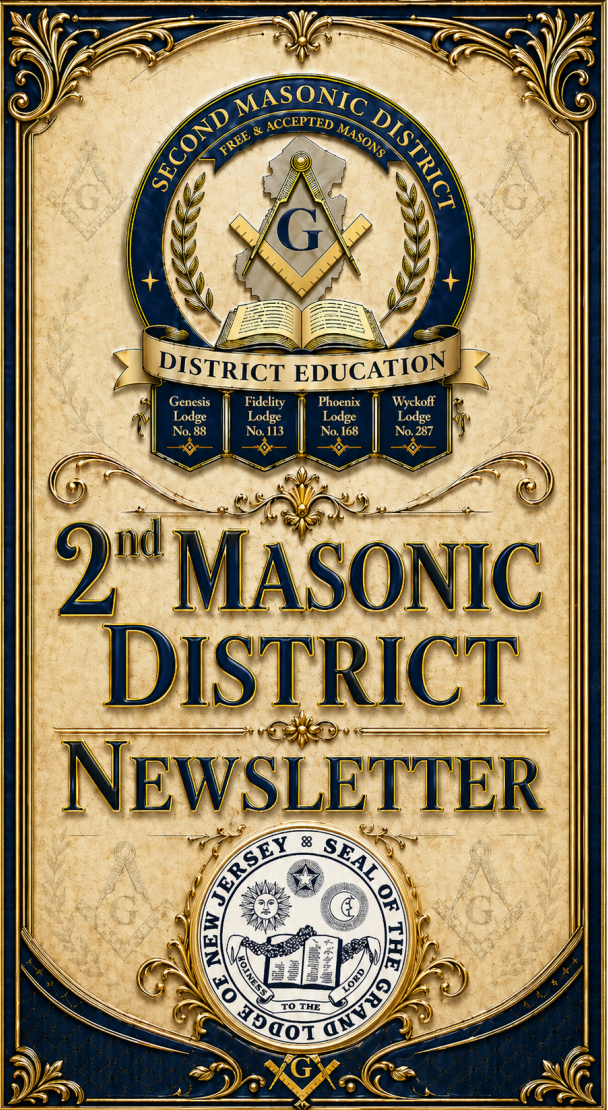
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Worshipful Masters & Secretaries

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