

# Second Masonic District

October, 2006

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## From The District

Brethren,

Grand Lodge will take place on October 20 & 21 at Dayton Masonic Center. The next D.O.A. meeting will on October 25<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM at the DMC and hosted by Dayton Lodge #147.

## October's Quote

**"Gratitude. It takes 15 seconds to thank someone for their time or gift. It takes 15 years for them to forgive you when you don't".**

--  
**Duane Swierczynski**

**Check Lodge announcements on the web page for more events.**

If you have event announcements you would like to have listed in this Letter, please email Walt Barner at [wbarner@woh.rr.com](mailto:wbarner@woh.rr.com)

## D.D.G.M.s

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## District Advisor

Welcome back to Lodge !

As the nights turn cooler and the days shorter, it is time we pick up the working tools and return to labor.

As we re-open our Lodges, we must look forward to the Grand Communication, which will be opened by Cedarville Lodge at the Dayton Masonic Center. The Second District, while not the host district, will be asked to take some volunteer parts in the Grand Lodge's operation.

The Legislation to be considered at this Grand Communication will be sent to each Lodge very soon. I would urge each Lodge to consider the legislation carefully. Some of the legislation has considerable impact on the future of this Grand Lodge. Although lodges may vote to tell their delegates their feelings, they cannot restrict the independent vote of the delegation. Many times, new information is received at the Grand Communication which may come to light and change their opinion. They should be and are permitted to vote their conscience.

I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

**Terry W. Posey**  
**Grand Orator**  
**Grand Lodge of Ohio**  
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## District Deputy Grand Masters

Who published the first Book of Constitutions in America?

Ben Franklin was a Master Mason in Philadelphia when he published the first Masonic publication in the New World, The Book of Constitutions, in 1734.

Did Masons participate in the Revolutionary War?

Masons played an important part in the formation of the United States and especially in the Revolutionary War and the events that led up to this war. It is commonly believed that the lodge rooms of a Boston Masonic Lodge served as the dressing room for the so-called Indians who threw the Boston Tea Party. Paul Revere, who later went on to be Grand Master of Massachusetts, was thought to be one of those Indians.

What part did Masons play in the formation of the new government?

Because of incomplete records, authorities differ on such matters as: How many Masons signed the Declaration of Independence? The Constitution? How many Presidents of the United States were Masons? Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, the number eight is usually accepted as the absolute minimum of Masons who signed the document. Though some evidence exists to show another 24 were Masons, it is not regularly accepted that they were Masons. Clearly, 13 of the 39 who signed the Constitution were members of Masonic lodges. Of the others, absolute proof has not been found.

How much influence did the Masonic fraternity have on the creation of our system of government?

In 1717, in England, local Masonic lodges created a system whereby they sent representatives to a body called the Grand Lodge, which governed them all. The Grand Lodge then elected its own Grand Master. The experiment, which began in this country in 1788, is one in which states send their representatives to a Congress. And if Brother Alexander Hamilton had prevailed, the Congress would be electing the President of the United States. Sound familiar?

A number of authorities report that General George Washington's staff looked like a Masonic convention. The list of American Masons in Washington's service included many of his Generals. Other revolutionary heroes included Patrick Henry, Nathan Hale, and John Paul Jones, just to name a few. The record shows that by 1800 there were 347 lodges in the United States.

Who were/are some famous American Masons?

The history of Masonry and the history of this country are very clearly interwoven although there is no way in this short space to go into any great detail. The following is a short list of some well known Masons.

Masonic Presidents include George Washington, James Munroe, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, and Gerald Ford. Evidence exists to suggest that James Madison and Thomas Jefferson were also Masons.

It wasn't only the successful presidential candidates who were Masons, but some of those who lost as well. Men like Thomas E. Dewey, Alf Landon, Hubert H. Humphrey, Robert Dole, George McGovern, Barry Goldwater, Estes Kefauver, George Wallace, Earl Warren, and John Sparkman as well as Wendell Wilke and Adlai Stevenson (not the governor of Illinois, but his father, the Vice President in 1892 - and a native son from Bloomington, Illinois).

***Written by Ron Blue, PM Normal Lodge, No. 673, AF & AM, Normal, Illinois, Past Master and Secretary Illinois Lodge of Research***

***Submitted By  
Cliff Koss DDGM***

## Lodge Announcements

**Please see the main page on the website. ([secondmasonicdistrict.org](http://secondmasonicdistrict.org))**



