

Second Masonic District

September, 2006

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From The District

Brethren,
I hope all of you and your families had a great summer. Time to go from refreshment to labor. Grand Lodge will take place on October 20 & 21 at Dayton Masonic Center. The next D.O.A. meeting will on October 25th, 7:00PM at the DMC and hosted by Dayton Lodge #147.

September's Quote

“The future must be seen in terms of what a person can do to contribute something, to make something better, to make it go where he believes with all his being it ought to go.”

Frederick R. Kappel

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

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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
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District Deputy Grand Masters

WHAT CAN I TELL MY NON-MASONIC FRIENDS

Masons, by tradition and practice, are circumspect when it comes to discussing the Craft with non-Masons. Members are so careful that they fear to even mention the things that everyone knows about the Craft, possibly because they believe that Freemasonry is a "secret society" and it is forbidden to talk about its principles with non-members. This is a mistaken idea. There are many things that Masons can tell their non-Masonic friends.

Most often the question asked by a non-Mason is “What is Free Masonry?” There are diverse answers – colored by the interest of the individual Mason in its teachings, Philosophy, Charities, ritual or ceremonies. It may be described thus: “Freemasonry is a fraternal organization, religious in character, based on the principle of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of man and the immortality of the soul. It does charitable work among members and in the community. Through its teachings and ceremonies, it seeks to make good men better and thereby make a better world. With the open Bible on the alter and the National Emblem in its standard, love and God and country is stressed by obligation to the ordinances of civil and religious society.”

Freemasonry is a “voluntary” association in that no one is invited to become a member. The Craft Lodge never solicits anyone to become a member. You should emphasize that the prospective member must ask of his own free will and accord, and that he usually seeks membership because of the high regard he has of the Craft because of the upright conduct of Masons as men.

You can make it clear that Freemasonry is not a religion, although the unknowing sometimes make the statement. You can explain to your non-Masonic friends that Masons know their organization is not a religion or a church. Masonry is religious in that one cannot become a Mason unless he believes in God. Most Masons belong to an established church. Masons worship God on the Sabbath when each goes to the church of his choice. There is no religious test applied nor is one required or asked to subscribe to any religious tenet or dogma. You can state that it is forbidden to discuss religion or politics in a Lodge meeting.

You can state that Freemasonry is not a “Secret Society.” A secret society is one that keeps its existence a secret and whose members hide affiliation therewith. Freemasonry is not a secret society because it does not hide its existence or members their membership. On the contrary, the organization meets in buildings situated on public streets, announces its meetings in public media, engraves the words “Masonic Temple” on many of its buildings and published periodicals. It maintains homes for orphans and the aged, supports blood banks and engages in research. Like most fraternities, it has “secrets” but it is NOT a secret society.

You cannot, of course, discuss the ritual, the passwords or other confidential matters. You can go so far as to tell that the degrees of Masonry consist of ceremonies strictly serious in nature, without horseplay, which teach basic moral truths in an impressive and solemn manner. You can tell that the ritual contains a philosophy of life, which provides something upon which to build for a blessed immortality.

Carlos R. Pratt
DDGM, 2nd Masonic District

Asked Myself

I watched them tearing the building down,
a group of men in a busy town.
With a ho heave ho and lusty yell,
they swing a beam and a side wall fell.
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
the kind I'd hire if I wanted to build?"
He gave a laugh and said no indeed,
why common labor is all I need.
These men can wreck in a day or two
what builders have taken years to do.
I asked myself as I went my way,
which of these roles have I tried to play?
Have I been a builder that works with care,
measuring my deeds by the rule and square?
Or am I a wrecker that stalks the town,
content with the job of tearing it down?

Author unknown

Submitted by:

Rick Shields

President Second Masonic District

Lodge Announcements

Please see the main page on the website. (secondmasonicdistrict.org)

