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Masonic Trestleboard
June 2020
Making Good Men Better
since 1867

Stated Communication
Canceled

Brandywine Masonic Hall
2016 Foulk Road
Wilmington, DE 19810

All Visiting Brethren Welcome!

www.eurekadupont.org

www.facebook.com/EurekaDuPontLodge.23.29/



Eureka-DuPont



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JUNE 2020

The 248th Regular Communication of Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29 will be held at the Brandywine Masonic Hall, 2016 Foulk Road in Wilmington, Delaware, on Thursday, June 25th at 7:30 pm. This will be a shortened meeting to conduct minor business. All Brothers who are elderly, high risk or have underlying health conditions are encouraged NOT to attend. The dress code is casual; no shorts or sandals/flipflops.

Kevin O'Rourke, Worshipful Master

Attest: *Rollyn Trueblood*, Secretary

FROM THE EAST



My Brothers,

As this Masonic year comes to a close, I would like to say that I feel honored and privileged to have served Eureka-DuPont as its Worshipful Master for the past two years. It was a journey that I will never forget. I very much enjoyed all the fellowship and support from our officers and members. I believe in the course of my time in the East, I have chipped off a few rough edges of this ashlar but am very much aware there remains many coarse edges yet to be cut.

I trust and hope that I was able to steer this lodge in the right direction and leave it better for my successor and those that follow. I pledge to support and serve this lodge in any capacity so that we, as a lodge, will continue to move forward and bring light to those yet to come.

As I pass the gavel to our esteemed Past Master Simkins, I charge all of you to be active within or without the lodge, to support our lodge to the best of your ability and to live and learn by Masonic teachings.

Finally, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you that our dear mentor, friend and brother has departed for the celestial lodge above. MW James A. Pletz, PGM has laid down his working tools for the last time. He will be sorely missed by many.



Serviendo Gubernano,

Kevin O'Rourke, WM

Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29 Living Past Masters

2018-2019 Kevin O'Rourke
2016 Jerome R. "Jay" Troy
2015 Thomas J. Cole
2014 Gary R. Williamson
2005-13 David M. Simkins
1998-2003 Robert Hiddemen
1993 Peter M. Pena**
1990 Neill M. Thompson*
1975 John R. Kraus
1973 David Hipp
1972 Kenneth C. Butler*
1970 Alvin M. Rubenstein
1969 John Barnes



Affiliated Past Masters

James A. Pletz, PGM (#33 DE)
Herbert J. Rubenstein (#25 MD)
Terry C. Martz (#34 DE)
Patrick S. Light (#33 DE)
Russell B. Combs (#529 PA)
Michael W. Jones (#34 DE)
Paul D. Loveday (#9930 UGLE)

* Suspended

** Demitted

JUNE STATED COMMUNICATION

Brothers,

We will be having a June Stated Communication on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 7:30 pm. In accordance with the Grand Master's directive and Governor Carney's Phase 1 (June 1) and Phase 2 (June 15) reopening of the state, we will be able to meet at the Brandywine Masonic Hall and conduct a shortened meeting. Dress will be casual.

The following protocols will be in place:

1. Masks will be required. Each brother should come equipped with their own mask/cloth face covering. We will have a few available, if necessary. Masks cloth face coverings will be removed from the lodge and returned home with each brother.
2. We will not be wearing officer aprons or jewels. Each brother is to bring their own apron. Disposable aprons may be available or pocket aprons.
3. No gloves will be provided or required. If you feel you must wear gloves, you should bring your own.
4. Social distancing (min. 6 feet) will be adhered.
5. Dinner will not be served or available. No refreshments will be available.
6. Brothers who are elderly, high risk or have underlying health issues should NOT attend but continue to shelter in place at home.
7. Maximum capacity is ~30 brothers with social distancing guidelines.

Update on Bro. Della Guardia: Over 70 days in the hospital, Bro. Della Guardia has been released from the ICU at Riddle Hospital and is now in therapy at a Kindred Acute Care hospital and working hard to return home. The family wishes to thank everyone who sent their prayers, thoughts and good vibes for our Brother's recovery. We trust he will be home and embraced in the loving arms of his family very soon.

Masonic Birthdays – 133 Years in Masonry

Brother	Years In Masonry
Jerome O. Herlihy	58
Arnold D. Tabor	34
David R. Clements	14
Jeffrey S. Mapson	10
Alfred A. Wedel	9
Said B. Shakshir	7
Wilbur L. Butler	1



Brother John and Colette Della Guardia

ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS

Most Worshipful Evan R. Moody, Grand Master of all Masons in Delaware, has issued Dispensation No. 19-20-22. Whereby, *“...the Worshipful Master of each subordinate lodge is hereby authorized and empowered to declare the “Qualified and Proficient” members of their respective lodges who will be moving into each elected office of the lodge, to be “Duly Elected” by virtue of the authority granted by this Dispensation No. 19-20-22. (i.e.: WM, SW, JW, Sec, and Treasurer).”*

By the authority invested in me by our Most Worshipful Grand Master, I hereby Declare that the following Brothers are duly elected in the following offices:

Worshipful Master: David M. Simkins, PM
Senior Warden: Kevin O'Rourke, PM
Junior Warden: Gary R. Williamson, PM
Secretary: Rollyn C. Trueblood
Treasurer: Thomas D. Sandilands

I understand that Worshipful Master-Elect Simkins has/will appoint the following Brothers in their respective stations when proficient:

Chaplain: John R. Della Guardia
Senior Deacon: Alfred A. Wedel
Junior Deacon: Timothy S. Jackson
Senior Steward: Laurent R.R. Zenidiu
Junior Steward: Garry S. Norton
Tiler: Wilbur L. Butler II



Please join me in congratulating the Brothers on their election/appointment as the Officers of Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-29 for the Masonic Year 2020-2021. A closed Installation of Officers is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 2020. Due and timely notice will be provided to the Craft.

Kevin O'Rourke, Worshipful Master

THOUGHTS FROM A YOUNG MASON BY G. CLIFF PORTER (ca. 2006)

The other day I heard, once again, from a brother approximately 30 years my senior who told me “what young Masons want.” It was one time too many for me, and so I have put my thoughts on paper as to what a young Mason wants. After all, I’m 34-years old and have been a Mason for 4 years—I should know!

I do not mean this to be a commentary on the division of young and old, but rather to be a proclamation of a young Mason concerning what I believe we want. This is so we might all improve our understanding of one another and progress our fraternity.

It occurred to me that some may not know what young Masons really want. Worse, I think it is often misunderstood or misstated. We “young Masons” or new Masons bear some of the responsibility for this. We are often uncomfortable declaring our desires, our disappointments, and our frustrations. And what do we do? We quietly stop appearing at meetings and simply slip off the rolls. We return to our communities outside the lodge disheartened with Masonry, and—unfortunately for the fraternity—we will often share our disappointments with our friends. Sadly, we then join a group of Masons as diverse as the lodge itself: unfulfilled Masons.

Well, Brethren, I don’t intend to become an unfulfilled Mason. So here I stand. It is vital for the members of the Craft to understand one another so that we can create an environment that is beneficial for all.

Initially, we must discuss Blue Lodge, the birth place of the Master Mason, for without it, Scottish Rite Masonry does not exist. The young man approaching the Craft today does so to supplement and add to what his church and family have already given him. A certain tugging at his soul speaks to him to seek a deeper meaning in life, in family, and in God. He researches and desires an initiation into the esoteric and ancient quest for Truth. He requests a petition with these hopes in mind. Why shouldn’t he? The eloquent writings of Masonic scholars, including the Scottish Rite’s Albert Pike, have hinted at the existence of such knowledge, and Masonic writings abound with hints of this very thing.

What does this man find once he joins? For too many, it’s membership drives, one-day classes, poor and hastily planned ritual, late nights, and a push to become an officer before he is even proficient as a Master Mason. If that man has made it through the three degrees hoping that at the end of his journey some of the promises might be fulfilled, he only learns phrases like “progressive science” and “self-improvement.”

Excitedly, he stands up in lodge one day or approaches a small group of brethren in the parking lot and explains some ideas that he has for lodge and changes he might like to see. He is immediately told, “It has never been done that way, they won’t allow it, and anyway it’s against the rules.”

He swiftly learns that they won’t allow much of anything, and worse, no one will claim to be a member of them. They are the most elusive, but most powerful members of Masonry. They are responsible for every poor, hasty, or frustrating decision ever made, and more importantly, they rigidly enforce their number one rule: **NO CHANGES.**

I bring up them as it leads into discussing what they have decided the young Mason or unfulfilled Mason is looking for. I will attempt to list some of the most common things I’ve heard. Make no mistake, I am listing these because they are misconceptions, and we do not want them.

X 1. Young Masons want everything easier and faster, which leads to one-day raisings, watered down ritual, and little or no memory work.

This simply is not true. Once I arrive at the West Gate and am permitted entry, I want a fulfilling and life-changing experience on which I can build a better understanding of my relationship to my brethren and my God. I don't mind hard work. To the contrary, and this is a big one, I want to feel like I have achieved something. I don't want to be handed a pin, given a handshake, and told thank you for your small fee, and by the way, here is your membership card. I want my path to be challenging and enlightening.

X 2. Young Masons want or need low dues.

I am very willing to pay higher dues. I do, however, want a quality experience—educational, social, and community—for my money. I don't need low dues. If the fraternity does not value itself, why should I value it? Can something that comes so cheaply have real value? These are questions I asked myself when I saw Masonry's low dues schedules.

X 3. Young Masons want it to be easy to get in.

I don't want to believe that just any man could or should get in. I wish that every investigations committee treated their assignment with the importance it should have—if we did not worship at the altar of bigness. I already belong to the community at large, and that costs me nothing in time or money. I would like the Fraternity to be guarded and to care greatly about the men who enter it. If I am going to call a man my brother, I want to be able to trust him. I don't trust everybody who shows up with some money in one hand, and a petition in the other. I have seen brothers sign both lines of a petition, as if increasing our numbers is the only thing that counts. Let us care about our fraternity enough to guard it against those who do not deserve the title of Master Mason and brother.

These observations would prove of little value, if I did not offer some solutions and provide an explanation of how they might be applied to the Scottish Rite.

It begins with ensuring a quality Blue Lodge experience. We as Master Masons should return Masonry from a primarily social institution to one that studies ancient symbolism and the truths so revealed. Encourage and allow the candidate to have a meaningful experience in the initial phase of his degree work. Follow up with quality education and instruction in regards to the symbolism and, more importantly, how to apply it to his life.

The concepts I provide above are succinct, but no less complete. Let us address how they might apply directly to Scottish Rite Masonry and tie it all together.

Scottish Rite Freemasonry is the graduate faculty, the pinnacle of Masonic thought and study, the "University of Masonry." This implies a higher learning and higher level of understanding, research, and study for its members.

Outside of reunions, I cannot remember any Masonic instruction on the Scottish Rite degrees ever being presented—even once—in the years of my involvement. The cure is simple really: treat Scottish Rite Masonry as the university it purports to be.

Do not thrust an application at men the night they are raised Master Masons as if the only thing of importance is a signature and \$250. It debases the man's night, for one, and it says that the man—without further evaluation—is ready for the degrees of the Scottish Rite, which debases our membership.

Do not rush through a reunion like it must be done in three hurried days or it doesn't count. Many of us "Young Masons" work 50 or 60 hours a week and earn about a week of vacation a year. Our wives don't want us to burn two of those precious days on another Masonic event. No candidate can take in what the degrees have to offer in three days. To pretend they can says that all Scottish Rite has to offer can be learned in 72 hours. Let's back off the tight three-day schedules. Offer the degrees throughout the year. Offer some degrees at the stated communications and have a few Saturdays thrown in.

And if it takes a man a couple of years to reach the 32nd Degree, so what? If the man understands what has been presented, if the degrees were done with brothers that knew and understood the work, and if each degree was treated as a special event, then the brother is not going to mind the time. Remember, it is not the speed of the education, but the quality of it that young and unfulfilled Masons are interested in.

Bring education and discussion to the forefront of the meetings. Period.

You are not going to retain young Masons without real change. It is not about a gimmick or a slogan. It is about improving men within the fraternity who seek a higher understanding and deeper meaning of the Craft.

Let the Scottish Rite take its rightful place as the University of Masonry. Let's improve our men and make them better. Let every aspect of Scottish Rite Masonry radiate perfection in ritual and education.

It is not going to be easy because we are asking you to imagine a Masonry many have never seen in their lifetime. I am asking you to see beyond your own personal experiences and allow progress in this beautiful philosophy and science of ours.

G. Cliff Porter, is a homicide detective for the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. He is a member of El Paso Lodge No. 13, a life member of Southern Colorado Consistory, and a member of the York Rite. The *Scottish Rite Journal* (ISSN 1076-8572) is published bimonthly by the Supreme Council, 33°, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Southern Jurisdiction, United States of America, 1733 Sixteenth St., NW, Washington, DC 20009-3103.

Installation of Officers

Tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 16 at 7:00 pm at the Brandywine Masonic Hall.

COVID-19 current guidelines at the time will apply.

ANNUAL DUES



Brothers,

As of the end of May 2020, there are still many Brothers in arrears in their dues. Two of those Brothers are in danger of suspension if they do not answer a summons by June 15. If you have not paid your dues, please send in your payment promptly to avoid further costs to the lodge and yourself. Each of you should have received an email with a statement of what is owed and where to send payment.

If you are having financial hardship, please contact the lodge or any Brother for assistance.



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OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY
MASONIC TEMPLE

**IN MEMORIAM
JAMES ALBERT PLETZ**

Brandywine Lodge No. 33

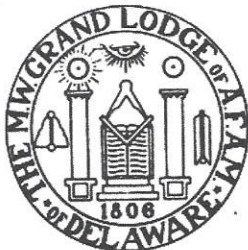


Born:
Entered:
Passed:
Raised:
Worshipful Master:
Deputy Grand Master:
Grand Master:
Departed:

March 10, 1928
April 21, 1970
May 26, 1970
June 23, 1970
June 1979
October 4, 1990
October 3, 1991
June 2, 2020

**"FAREWELL THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT,
ENTER INTO THE GLORY OF THE LORD."**

By the power and authority in me vested by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of Delaware, I do hereby order that all Masonic Altars be draped in memory of our departed Past Grand Master for a period of thirty days from this date.



Given under my hand and with the Seal of the Grand Lodge
affixed this 3rd day of June, A.D. 2020, A.L.6020.

Evan R. Moody
Grand Master

Attest:

Glenn F. Davis, Sr., PGM
Grand Secretary