

The Fifth Manhattan District Association Bulletin



Meeting Notice Of

5th Masonic District Association
5th District Endowment Fund
5th District Camp Fund for Underprivileged Children
5th District Purple Circle Relief Fund

Monday
September 11th 2017 7:30pm
Room 1531 Grand Lodge

District Officers

President	R.:W.: Michael Winkler	(914) 584-4311 (ThinkWinklerTax@aol.com)
1 st Vice President	W. Miguel Filez	(917) 541-3960 (MFR308@gmail.com)
2 nd Vice President	W. George Mejia	(917) 686-6976 (Ggms@aol.com)
Treasurer	R.:W.: Richard Bateman	(212) 724-5109 (AssistantGS@nymasons.org)
Corresponding Secretary	Wor. Greg Feldman	516-242-1072 ifly@gapcpa.com
Recording Secretary	R.:W.: Martin Richards	(917) 709-7703 (MRich5715@gmail.com)

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order 7:30pm
Invocation
Pledge of Allegiance
Reports of Committees
Remarks from the floor
Remarks from the Staff Officer & District Deputy grand Master
Benediction & Closing



From the President

My Brothers:

The summer is over and it is time to return to our Masonic Labors. I hope that all of you and your families had a happy and healthy summer.

A big thank you and job well done to Brother James Gregg and his Masters and Wardens Association for an outstanding Saint John's Day Pilgrimage to Utica.

As we begin our work in our Lodges, there are many new and different things. The new Ritual for the Opening and Closing of the Lodge on the First and Second Degree and the age for the bringing men into Masonry is now 18.

As always Ritual Proficiency is important as is membership for both the Lodge and the District Association

Let us set a goal to each bring one member of our Lodge to membership in the District Association.

Finally the all important task of selecting the next District Deputy Grand Master and Staff Officer to lead and represent our District. The Past Masters of each Lodge should meet and if qualified submit the name of a worthy Brother

See you at the September Meeting on the 11th

Fraternally Yours,
"THE WINK"



From the District Deputy Grand Master

Dear Brethren,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and enjoyable summer break and are ready for a new and exciting Masonic year.

The educational passport program, created by Masters and Wardens Association has launched. This program will definitely help increase understanding of teachings of our Craft as well as increase the interaction within the Lodges which will contribute in increasing Fraternalism in our District. Personally, I can't wait to receive my own educational passport.

This year we have many interesting programs and activities .You can find the schedule and information on important events in our District on the website<http://ddmessage.com>

Brethren, our Masonic ritual is the essence of our Fraternity. It is the ritual that makes us who we are, "upright men and a Mason". It should be the priority of every Master of the Lodge to oversee that the ritual is properly done in its entirety. It must be the goal of every Master elect to qualify for a Henry G. Meacham Award for Ritual Proficiency . Our AGLs, V.:W.: John Sweeney and V.: W.: Blake Bedoya will assist you with ritual work. **All Lodges qualified, will be presented with Meacham Award at the Grand Lecturers Convention which will be hosted by George Washington Lodge No. 285 on March 16th 2018.**

St. Johns Weekend was a huge success. The Masters and Wardens Association was in charge of organizing that event and I would like to thank all who participated.

This year we are starting the selection process for new DDGM and Staff Officer. All those who would like to submit their names for selection process must fill the application forms and send them to me by October 22nd.

In closing, I would like to thank all the Masters and Lodge Officers from the previous year for your hard work and cooperation.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

R.: W.: Arto Vandian

DDGM 2016-2018



From the Grand Steward

Greetings Brethren of the District,

I hope all are well after the summer recess and settling in to the Fall the season ahead. As we return to our Masonic labors, we will continue to focus on our leadership with the Road to the East course being presented in late October. Additionally, we will be adding other courses that aid in educating the administrative aspects of the Lodge. This will entail a course to assist any Secretaries and those Officers who want to further understand the "behind-the-scenes" processes that take place in operating the Lodge in conjunction with Grand Lodge. Classes on educating other areas like public speaking may be explored too.

We will also be looking to add a movie night every other month beginning in December and will keep you informed of those dates.

I would personally like to again thank all who attended the L SOME course on August 16th. We had over 18 prospective candidates and over 12 Master Masons in attendance, making for an extraordinary evening.

September 5th will see the conclusion of the Masters Chair course for our three new Masters in the District and I am equally excited for their, as well as all other Masters year ahead.

I would also like to use each newsletter to congratulate those who have completed the reading courses from the Livingston Library. Recently we had Bro. D. Rishi Ganpat (Course 3 - Scotia, No. 634), Bro. James Gregg (Course 16 – GWL, No. 285), W.' William Morales (Course 3 – TCL, No. 651), and Bro. Charles D. Ordonez (Course 1 – Carpenter Emanuel, No. 588)

Remember to take advantage of all the reading courses at the Livingston Library and to follow through with a lecture about the subject that you read. If interest prevails, we may also look to add a District reading course to our agenda in the future.

Again feel free to contact me with any educational thoughts or ideas that you may have.

Have an amazing Fall season and best to you all and your families.

Sincerely and fraternally,

RW Chad Benton Ploth
Grand Steward
DDGM Fifth Manhattan District



From the District Advisor

Dear Brethren:

In keeping with my family tradition, Eleanor and I dedicate the end of summer and Labor Day to rest and relaxation. As such, we are enjoying a leisurely respite at Woodloch Pines in the Poconos. We trust that everyone has also taken advantage of the warm summer season to recharge their batteries and take a break from the hustle and bustle of urban life.

Although the tempo of Masonry winds down during the summer recess, we are blessed with many opportunities to get together with our family, friends and Masonic family at various social events. Most recently, we joined together with many members of our Masonic family at a festive outdoor barbeque at the home of our District Deputy Grand Master, R.W. Arto Vandian and his wife Irene. There was plenty of excellent fellowship, good laughs, song, wine, and music. And let's not forget the delicious homemade cuisine with an Armenian and Greek flavor. Bona Petite.

This calendar year marks a little observed anniversary of the centennial of the beginning of the Great War to end all Wars, which commenced for the United States on April 6, 1917. In commemoration and gratitude for our continued involvement in the Great War, later known as World War I, until it's end on November 11, 1918, the people of France gave the United States the honor of leading the Bastille Day Parade this past July 14th. Nearly 200 American service

men and women marched along the Champs-Elysees in respectful recognition of the United States entry into the Great War.

We should never forget the over 320,000 military personnel who were injured in service to our Nation during the Great War. This fall, a ground breaking ceremony is planned for Pershing Park in Washington, D.C., where a new memorial plan has been approved for the construction of a National World War I Memorial. To learn more about how you can support this initiative to honor our World War I Veterans Legacy, go to

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html>

In closing, I would like to remind those who have not availed themselves of the 2017 List of Lodges Book to consider purchasing one. This book is an invaluable tool, especially for the sojourning Mason who plans to visit Lodges in other jurisdictions. Many times, I receive inquiries from brothers who are traveling abroad and are interested in knowing if a Lodge meets near the place, city or country that they plan to visit. The 2017 List of Lodges Book provides an easy to read and concise list of every Lodge throughout the globe that the Grand Lodge of New York currently recognizes. For a copy, please contact the Lodge Services Office at 212-337-6649 or LodgeServices@NYMasons.org

I look forward to our reconvening the Masonic Trestle Board this fall. Until we meet again, God bless and be well my Brother.

Fraternally,

Richard W. Bateman



From the Camp Fund & Purple Circle

Brothers,

The winds of autumn are gently calling us back to labor and hopefully you have all had an enjoyable time with your friends and families.

The Purple Circle Relief Fund and Camp Fund have done wonderful things this year. We assisted in sending many children and grandchildren of the Brothers to Camp Turk and the Purple Circle Relief Fund was able to assist a few Brothers in a small way.

The Mason of the Year Dinner was a huge success once again thanks to the support

of the Brethren of the Lodges and others. The District is looking into the possibility of revamping the MOY process to make it even more successful. We hope that the Testimonial Dinner in June will also be such a success. The profits from that Dinner will go directly to the PCRF.

We MUST continue to support both of these important Funds so that our future Brothers will have them available when needed. Please consider a donation which can be made through the District Website at www.DDMessage.com. Some Brothers may consider a bequest if they have the ability to leave a small legacy to the relief of District Brothers.

I know that the future will be bright and with your help will continue to grow and be better for us and our future Brothers.

Be Well and God Bless

Be Well and God Bless
R.:W.: Ed Weigert



From the Masters & Wardens Association

Worshipfuls and Brothers of the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District,

The Fifth Manhattan Masters and Wardens Association welcomes everyone back from our summer respite. Hopefully everyone traveled safely and caught up on a few books from the Robert Livingston Masonic Library. I just finished Albert Mackey's Jurisprudence of Freemasonry and it was a surprising and interesting read. There are so many paths to undertake when looking at material, just make the commitment to read one book a month. It can be done and before you know it, you have completed a course.

I am very excited to begin this year in the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District. It is a year in which all Masters have come together to advance several projects. The calendar is primed to be a year of unity, a year of friendship and a year of real Masonic light.

We will begin by presenting the Traveling Gavel to George Washington Lodge #285. Although they won the honor of first deposit, I challenge all Lodges to come to the presentation [on Friday, September 15th](#) at 7:30pm in the Doric Room with five Lodge Brothers (and you will be able to steal it for your Lodge that night). The visiting Lodge with the most Brothers represented (over five) walks with the gavel. Yes, you can take it with you. It is asked that any Lodge stealing the Traveling Gavel should offer a small lecture of light to leave behind. I challenge all brothers of the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District to come and steal the Gavel. If you do not know where the Gavel is, go to the Fifth Manhattan District website: <http://www.ddmessage.com> (click on the Gavel and it will tell you where it is).

An exciting project that so many of the Brothers of the Fifth Manhattan have contributed towards over the summer is the Educational Passport. All Secretaries, Masters and members of each Lodge have given time and effort in offering histories of each Lodge, committed a date on all Trestleboards to offer a Lecture (whose theme in this two year cycle is the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences), and have edited and supported the magnanimous efforts to make this project a reality. All Brothers wishing to take part of this program will be given their own Educational Passport. Within its pages is useful information every Brother can use to travel wisely and knowledgeably within the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District. Eight lectures will be given throughout the year by the eight Lodges in the Fifth Manhattan Masonic District. Show your support and be a part of this experience. Lecture dates are listed within the Educational Passport and on the District website at <http://www.ddmessage.com> under Dates to Remember. This Passport will be your key to travel and your inspiration as you connect with Brothers from other Lodges and see the light they share. Complete the Passport and takes steps to get to know your District.

The Masters and Wardens will be starting the year with many irons in the fire. These projects were forged through keen dedication, patience and focus. We will look to develop and build on our successes and ask your help and guidance as we bring forth what the Brethren of the Fifth Manhattan find worthy, necessary and true.

I look forward to continuing the Masters and Wardens bi-monthly Socials that have sparked great conversations and curiosities between our Lodges. There is something special about having a drink at Fraunces Tavern and sharing Masonic stories to Brothers next to an old fireplace, sitting in a fine leather chair.

Finally, the District website is a place that contains so much valuable

information. Lodge information, Important dates, all Degree dates for every Lodge and contact info is but a small slice of what you can find. The more the site is used, the more informed we are and this will, in turn, lead to a continued cultivation of the valuable information it contains. Use the site. Become familiar with the website. It is yet another threshold that will lead to a better understanding and awareness of each of our Lodges and our District.

The Masters and Wardens look forward to the year ahead.

Brother James Gregg
President of the Masters and Wardens Association
Fifth Manhattan Masonic District



From the Assistant Grand Lecturers

Brethren,

The AGLs are looking forward to another great year in the 5th Manhattan. First, we would like to reiterate that the AGLs are here to help your lodges with ritual. If you need assistance with degree work, let us know. We are happy to attend your rehearsals or assist in the conferral of degrees. The Masonic degrees are our new Brothers' first impression of Masonry, and it is our duty to ensure that first impression is resoundingly positive. Let us know how we can help.

Please mark your calendars for our annual Grand Lecturer's Convention, to be held Friday, March 16 at 7:30 PM at George Washington Lodge. The topic of discussion will be the opening, closing, and conduction of lodge business on the EA and FC degrees. In the meantime, should your lodge be interested in conducting business on the EA or FC degree, the AGLs can guide you through it. It's actually quite simple, and if you remember your Q&A from these degrees, the opening and closing ritual should be very familiar. Our sincere thanks to the brothers of George Washington for hosting the GLC this year. It promises to be an engaging and constructive evening.

Finally, please inform your lodge members of the annual Metropolitan Assistant Grand Lecturers' Association ("MAGLA") ritual contest, to be held April 30, 2018 at Masonic Hall. The 5th Manhattan will hold its runoff competition in late March or early April, depending on prospective contestants' schedules. That being said, we need to know who from your lodges will compete in the runoff so we can coordinate with them on a date. We have plenty of time, but start encouraging the junior officers and other members of your lodge to consider it. This year's ritual work will feature a selection of the Worshipful Master's work in the EA degree, spoken just after the EA Obligation: (2007 book mid page 45 and newer hole punch book bottom page 44) "*I particularly direct your attention...*" to (2007 book page 47 and newer hole punch book mid page 46) "*... blessed immortality.*"

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at JohnHSweeney@gmail.com and blakebski@gmail.com.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

V.: W. : John Sweeney
V.: W.: Blake Bedoya
Assistant Grand Lecturers
5th Manhattan District

Dates to Remember

October 23 rd & 24 th	RTE-10/23 Doric Ante Room – 10/24 Colonial Ante Room – 6:30 PM.
November 13 th	District Association Meeting at Kismet Temple –Willard Sylvan Grove
November 28 th	Administrative Education-Colonial Ante Room – 6:30 PM.
December 12 th	Movie Night: / Chapter Ante Room 6:30 PM.