



5TH N.E. DISTRICT



Oriental No. 33 ★ Hesperia No. 411 ★ King Oscar No. 855 ★ Paul Revere No. 998
Kelvyn Park-Willing No. 1075 ★ Lux Lunae No. 1181

R.: W.: Bro Elliott A. Velez, District Deputy Grand Master

Some Thoughts About Masonic Funerals

By W.: Bro Ray DeGroote, Jr., PM

Masonic funerals are never a popular subject to discuss, along with wills and bequests, operations, and hospital visits. But all Master Masons, especially newer and younger ones, should be familiar with some of the aspects of a Masonic funeral. More especially, Masters, Wardens, and Secretaries should know the basics since they may be asked to organize one.

Funerals are mentioned several times in the Grand Lodge Constitution and By Laws. Code 274 provides that a Mason in good standing is entitled to a Masonic burial if he made such a request or the family requests one. Code 216A advises Masonic funerals may be performed on Sundays. Codes 209 and 296 also mention funerals.

The important part is that the brother must make his wishes known to his spouse or partner, his lawyer, funeral director, or cemetery custodian. Even his closest lodge brothers should know. Oral notification is acceptable, but written instructions are preferred and beneficial. He should make known where to find his Masonic apron given him when he was raised so it can be placed on his body, or at least in his coffin if wishes to wear a Past Master's apron.

Whoever learns of the death of a brother should notify the Secretary, and the the Master. The Secretary should work with the family and funeral director to determine the time and place of the service, and with the help of the Master and Wardens arrange to let all the members know either by an email, the Grand Lodge "Call-em-all" program, or other method of mass communication. All members, whether they knew the brother or



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not, should do all they can to attend the service and take part in the funeral lines.

The funeral service is included in the Book of Ceremonials. The first part has general instructions and the second part has the actual ritual to be performed. The officers are the Worshipful Master, Chaplain, Secretary, Marshal, and Bearer of the Great Lights. The Master will speak the actual ritual, while the Chaplain will give the prayers. The Secretary will read the obituary roll outlining the brother's Masonic history. The Marshal will lead in the funeral lines, and upon direction of the Master reform the lines to leave the ceremony. The Bearer of the Great Lights will carry the Holy Bible which should be open to the 12th Chapter of Ecclesiastes with the Square on one page and the Compasses on the other.

Each officer has some items to think about as he performs his duties. Prior to the service the Master should review with the members how to give the funeral honors. He should be sure to have the sprig of acacia in his coat pocket, and that the white apron to be placed on the casket is being carried by someone close to him. The Marshall should lead the procession into the chapel in two lines usually to the side of the seated guests. If there is just a center aisle, the Marshal should be sure that the lines do not block the view of the guests; if necessary move all the brothers up closer to or around the casket.

The Secretary should read the obituary roll when called upon by the Master. He should be carrying the necessary information on a regular size sheet of paper so that it looks like a "roll." It is not good form to read from a scrap of paper or from a phone. The roll includes the deceased's place of birth and date, when he petitioned for the degrees and what lodge (considering there have been mergers through the years,) and the dates of each of the three degrees. He should also include if he was a Past Master and any other positions or honors from the Grand Lodge. Membership in the principal appendant bodies can be included within reason. Items of family or career data are not to be included.

The Secretary has duties before and after the service. His part in notifying the members has already been mentioned. He should notify the Grand Lodge of the death using the electronic data system. He can assist in getting the members organized and he should have a sign-in sheet available for all members to sign. Later he should prepare a set of Minutes for the lodge records and record the service as an Emergent Meeting (or Special Meeting) in the Grand Lodge Annual Report.

Appearance is everything. Members should wear a suit with tie. Be sure the aprons that the members will be wearing are neat and clean. It is suggested that they be kept in a separate container with the other material needed for the service is kept including the Bible, Square and Compasses, and Marshal's baton. And be sure someone knows where the aprons are and has access to them. Funerals may happen quickly, and you must be prepared.

Sometime before or after the service the lodge Master should introduce himself to the family in case he does not know them. If he is not the person giving the service, that person speaker should also introduce himself. Explain we are proud to perform this last rite for our brother.

Remember that a funeral service is one of the few times when the public can actually see and hear ritual performed (installation of officers and rededications of temples being two others.) While you are participating in this service as a duty to your fellow brother, you also are displaying the dignity and beauties of the fraternity for everyone to see. Look your best. Keep that in mind for the benefit of all.



Cradles to Crayons

By W.: Bro Jack Recinto

On a crisp winter morning, Saturday February 12th, 2022, the Brothers of Chicago's 5th Northeast District came together to focus on charitable work. It was an excellent group of Brothers and their family members who all volunteered two hours of their weekend morning to provide for children in need. Pulling up into the parking lot, we saw a large factory with several loading dock bay doors closed. Not really the place you would expect a charity for children to be located in, but there it was. Walking in we were greeted with a cheerful "Good morning!" by several employees of the organization who proceeded to take our names and showed us to a waiting area with chairs. It was an excellent time for several of us Brothers to get together and catch up as well as meet and speak with some of the brothers we haven't met or known very well. The perfect demonstration of how there are no strangers among the craftsmen, only Brothers that we haven't yet met.

Once we had all arrived, we were conducted to the place we would do our work. The four rows of tables in the center of the "Giving Factory" were loaded up with neatly lined up tubs of shirts, pants, sweaters and sweatshirts all separated by size and type. Our group divided itself along the rows and took the various stations. Our lead was a nice young woman in a Cradles to Crayons apron who explained our goal. The job was simple. Go through each piece of clothing in the tubs, carefully examine the donated clothes for any tears, holes or stains. If it was a quality article of clothing, we were to check if it had any sports teams logos, school names or religious references or holidays. The clothes that didn't pass inspection, we were to place them in a container to be recycled or donated in some other capacity. If they were quality, we placed twenty five of the same type and size of clothing into a bag with a label having the count of, size and type of clothing and if they were for boys or girls. It was explained to us that the key is quality and nothing that could make the child feel uncomfortable, like the logo of a sports team they may not like, or a religion they don't practice or a school they don't go to. At that point, other volunteers collected the bags and deposited them on shelves to be later distributed to children in need. As our Brethren and their families would empty the tubs, volunteers would bring more and set them in the neatly lined rows.

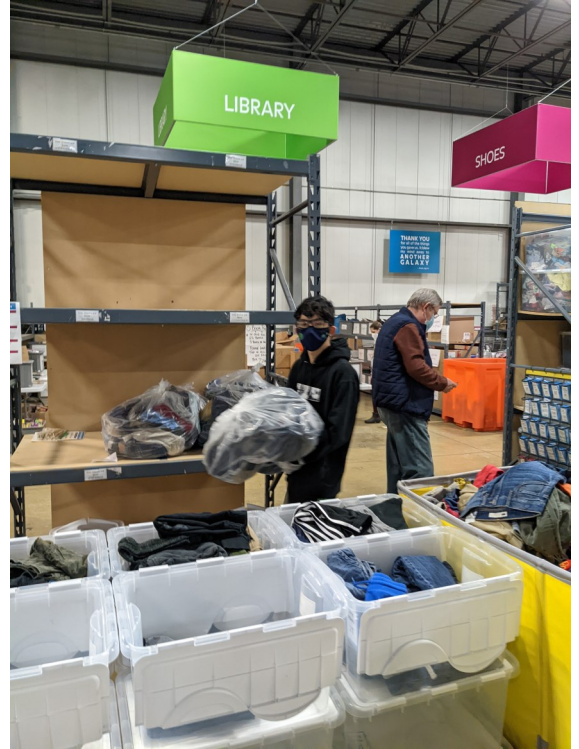
Our group worked quickly sorting, bagging and packaging the clothes, all while talking, joking and enjoying each other's company. The two hours went by very quickly. All being said and done, the Brethren of the 5th Northeast District emptied 77 tubs of clothes for a total of 1375 articles of pants, shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters for boys and girls from 0 to 12 years old. We all gathered at the entrance where we were thanked for our service and told a story on how the work we completed makes an impact.

Cradles to Crayons was contacted by the counselor or a grade school on the Southside of Chicago. A 12 year old boy was going to school in his grandmother's winter coat. His grandmother was taking care of him and they didn't have the money for winter clothes for him so he had to wear hers. Though he knew he had to wear it, he was so embarrassed that he would take it off a block away from school to avoid being teased. When leaving school, he would walk away two blocks, no hat, no coat, no gloves, take out his grandmother's coat and wear it on the walk home hoping that no one would see him. The school counselor asked if there was anything Cradles to Crayons could do, and thanks to the volunteers and generous donations, they could. Cradles to Crayons sent the counsellor a winter kit of a quality winter coat, hat, gloves

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and boots. The counselor reported back that when the child had received the clothes and was told that they were his, he had the biggest smile she had ever seen on him and that he was proud to wear them everyday. It's not just the gift of clothing that the child received that day. It was also the gift of dignity and what better gifts to give a child than that of comfort and dignity. And on that cold Saturday morning in February, our brethren helped to create gifts that will give hundreds of needy children comfort and dignity at a time when they may not have much of anything else.



District Holiday Party Recap

On Sunday, December 5th, over 80 Masons and members of their families and friends came together at the Jefferson Masonic Temple for the 1st Annual District Holiday Party. W.: Bro Myron Dent organized and coordinated the event, pulling together members and resources from the District.

We had Santa come out with treats and presents for the kids in attendance. The Lodge hall was taken over with Holiday cheer, as the kids had their pictures taken with Santa. Gift bags were handed out as soon as our Brethren and their families walked into the building.

There was plenty of boxed lunches including salads, and pizza for the kids. Snacks and cakes galore.

Gingerbread houses were given out for families to enjoy building together. The atmosphere in the building was electric can't wait until we do it again.



Widow's Initiative Holiday Poinsettias

In December the Lodges of the 5 NE distributed poinsettias and Grand Lodge charity packets to the Widows of our departed brothers. Overall, the program was well received and many followed up with thank you notes, expressing their gratitude for being remembered during the holiday season. If you have other ideas for engagement and assistance to our widows, please let us know.





District Past Master’s Dinner

There will be a Past Master’s Dinner for the Past Masters and current Worshipful Masters of the 5NE District, on Saturday, May 28th, 2022 at the Jefferson Masonic Temple. The cost for dinner will be \$30 per attendee. More details to come.



Saturday, June 11th, 2022, Jefferson Masonic Association will be placing a time capsule in the Temple, replacing the one that was opened. Each Lodge is invited to contribute an item for the time capsule. See your Worshipful Master and offer a suggestion.



5NE District Workshop



“Why Good Men Need Freemasonry Workshop Impacting Membership Retention and Attraction Results”

— When — Sat. 4/9/22 from 9 am to 11 am; attendees should arrive by 8:30 am to register and enjoy fellowship

— Where — Jefferson Masonic Temple located at 5418 W Gale St., Chicago, IL 60630

— Facilitator — This unique learning and development experience will be facilitated by R.: W.:Bro. Wayne Spooner, Grand Lodge Membership Committee Chairman and Grand Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee Chairman

— Attendees — Master Masons only

— Attire — Casual

— Overview — During this two hour workshop, the attendees will have an opportunity to extract key lessons from our ritual work and review several best practices that will help positively impact their personal development and the membership retention and attraction results for our Lodges. As usual, we will have fun learning and growing together!

Save the Date

Masonic Family Health Foundation

Virtual Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 23rd, 2022 | 11 AM to Noon

Meeting and login information to follow.



Grand Lodge School of Instruction (TYPE III)

You are encouraged and welcomed to attend this 5th NE District Grand Lodge Type III School of Instruction, on Saturday, May 14, 2022 at the Jefferson Masonic Temple. 9 AM to 11 AM.

The Grand Lodge Type 3 School will cover the Third Degree, Second Section work — Allegory of the Third Degree. This Type 3 School of Instruction is open to ALL Master Masons and especially lodge officers.

Lead Instructor R.:W.: Bro.Wayne Spooner.

Join us for this two hour session of excellent Masonic instruction. Enjoy fellowship, explore your knowledge and have some fun as we learn.

Sign up today so that we can learn how to deliver our ritual ceremonies with precision, confidence and pride together.



Grand Lodge of Illinois A. F. & A. M. Masonic Charities Committee Northeastern Area Symposium

Please join us to learn more about the Illinois Masonic Charities, the work that they do, and how we, as Masons, are integral to their ongoing missions to serve our worthy and distressed brothers and their families.

Presentations will be made by:



Saturday, April 30, 2022

Villa Park Masonic Temple

26 W. Central Blvd, Villa Park, Illinois

Coffee and Donuts — 9 AM

Symposium — 10 AM to Noon

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

Membership & Retention

Masonic Education

Quality Ritual Work

Masonic Charity & Community Service

Lodge Operations & Financial Management

Lodge Officer Training & Development

Communications

Implement Grand Lodge Programs in District

1. Champion Membership Retention and Attraction (Brother Love)
2. Promote Masonic Education and Enlightenment that supports the Self-Improvement of our Brethren (Masonic Truth)
3. Learn and Deliver Quality Ritual Work (Masonic Truth)
4. Promote Masonic Charity, Community Service and Taking Care of One Another (Relief)
5. Execute effective Lodge Operations and Financial Management (Business Affairs)
6. Deliver Lodge Officer Training and Development (Leadership & Management Skills)
7. Encourage Communications amongst the Lodges and Brethren (Staying Connected)
8. Implement Statewide Illinois Freemasonry Programs in the District.



OUR LODGE PAGE

Our Lodge Page (OLP) is a tool provided by the Grand Lodge to facilitate communication and promote Masonry and does not cost you any money to use.

If you do not have an OLP account, visit their website, <https://ourlodgepage.com> to create an account.

You will need 3 pieces of information to complete sign-up: Organization, Member Number and Birth Date. Organization name is the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Your membership number can be found on your dues card and starts with the letter "M".

If you have trouble completing sign-up, ask your Lodge Secretary to confirm your information.

With OLP, you can text other members, look up email addresses and telephone numbers, access the Lodge's calendar and download files that have been shared by the Lodge officers.



**5TH NE DISTRICT
MASONIC / RITUAL
SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION**

The school meets on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 7:30 PM (Except for Holidays and only meets on the 2nd Monday in November/December) at the Jefferson Masonic Temple, 5418 W. Gale St. in Chicago.

Please join us at one of these schools to learn new ritual or brush up and perfect work you already know!

QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETINGS

Jefferson Masonic Temple

5418 W Gale St

All meetings start at 9 am

- ◆ March 5, 2022
- ◆ June 11, 2022
- ◆ September 10, 2022

DISTRICT LODGE OFFICER'S SCHOOL

Jefferson Park Masonic Temple

5418 W. Gale Street Chicago, Illinois 60630

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 14th (TYPE = III)

DISTRICT WORKSHOP

Jefferson Park Masonic Temple

5418 W. Gale Street Chicago, Illinois 60630

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, April 9th

LODGE

Oriental No. 33

Hesperia No. 411

King Oscar No. 855

Paul Revere No. 998

Kelvyn Park-Willing No. 1075

Lux Lunae No. 1181

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

W.: Bro Jack Recinto

W.: Bro Chip Smith

W.: Bro Brett Barnes

W.: Bro Kelly Khora

W.: Bro Adam Miranda

W.: Bro Jaime Vargas