

Grand Lodge of Maine, A.F. & A.M.

1007 Main Road / PO Box 430, Holden, ME 04429-0430

Tel: (207/555) 843-1086 / Fax: (207) 843-1088

www.MaineMason.org



Office of the Grand Master
Thomas E. Pulkkinen

June 2016 Grand Master's Newsletter

Brethren,

While most Lodges go “dark” during the summer months, hopefully the leaders of these and other Lodges will join with you during the summer to plan opportunities for **adding value** and **excitement** to Maine Freemasonry. Summertime planning will allow their Lodges and Brethren to get off to a fast start when the business of Masonry resumes in September, or continues over the summer months in the several Lodges that choose to close their buildings during the cold winter months.

It's exciting to hear that many of you are working on forming new District associations or reorganizing ones that have long been dormant. Some District calendars are actively being used on the Grand Lodge website, but others remain blank. Please make this a priority.

Some of you are making plans for what should prove to be untraditional District meetings that I for one am really looking forward to attending. Remember these are the DDGM's meetings, not the Grand Master's. They are for you to plan and show your ingenuity and excitement about Freemasonry. District 18 will feature Scott Wolter of History Channel's America Unearthed and District 3 plans to meet at the Wreaths Across America Museum. Now what will you come up with to top their ideas?

Please keep me informed of what's happening in your District.

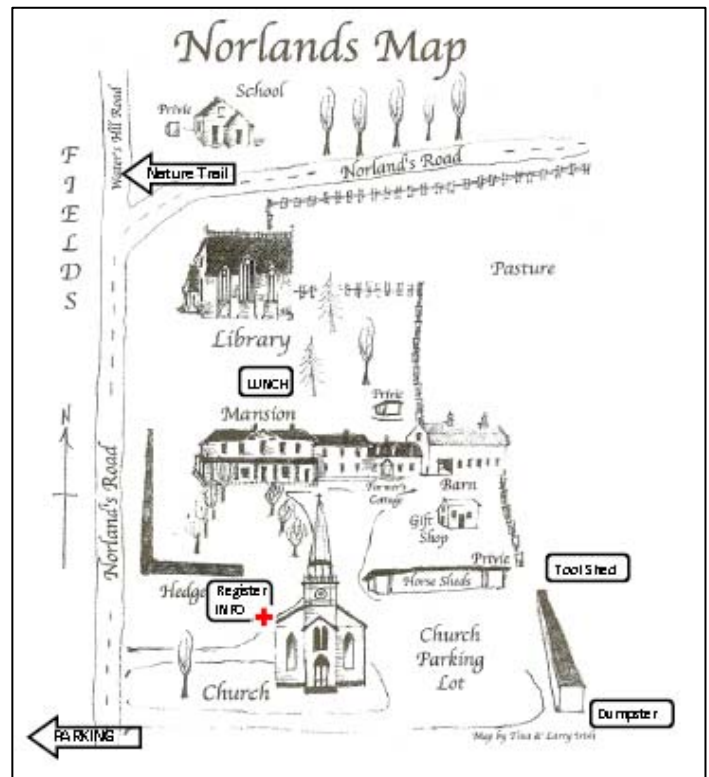
Family Fun Day- Saturday, June 11th

The word is that many Masonic families are getting excited about our first Family Fun Day in Livermore. Please see and share the attached flier. I hope most of you will be able to bring your families and encourage your Brethren and their families to join you – and bring potential Masons and their families too. Please send me good pictures for the Maine Mason. And please send along good ideas for exciting opportunities to have a Masonic fun day in your part of Maine.

While there will not be a charge to attend, there will be opportunities to donate to the Washburn-Norlands Living History Museum, as well as to help defray the cost of hosting this event, including the cost of food, informational brochures, signage and other event necessities.

2016-2017 District Meetings

Hearty congratulations have been earned by all District



Deputies. Each of you scheduled your District Meeting by May 21st, and many of you have also provided the added details on meeting locations and times, as well as whether the meetings will be tyled or semi-public. Let's get that information in **by June 30th** for every District so that information can be listed in the next issue of the Maine Mason. Thank you for your timely action. The meeting details that I have are as follows, by District:

- | | | |
|---------|------|--|
| Oct 29 | Sat | District 1 Mtg, |
| Oct 1 | Sat | District 2 Mtg, noon meal and
1:00 pm meeting |
| Sept 24 | Sat | District 3 Mtg, tentatively at Wreaths
Across America Museum |
| Oct 11 | Tue | District 4 Mtg, |
| Sept 16 | Fri | District 5 Mtg, Piscataquis Lodge,
Milo, 6:00 pm meal |
| Nov 19 | Sat | District 6 Mtg, |
| Dec 10 | Sat | District 7 Mtg, tyled |
| Oct 27 | Thur | District 8 Mtg, Marsh River Lod., Brooks,
6:30 pm meal, 7:30 mtg, semi-public |

Sept 28 Wed District 9 Mtg, St. George Lodge,
Warren; 6:30 pm meal; semi-public

Nov 11 Fri District 10 Mtg,

Oct 26 Wed District 11 Mtg, Morning Star Lodge,
Litchfield; 6:00 pm meal 7:00 Mtg

Sept 29 Thur District 12 Mtg,

Oct 20 Thur District 13 Mtg,

Dec 3 Sat District 14 Mtg, Freeport Lodge,
6:30 pm meal, 7:30 mtg; semi-public

Oct 8 Sat District 15 Mtg, Mystic Tie Lodge,
Weld 200th Celebration

Dec 9 Fri District 16 Mtg,

Nov 3 Thur District 17 Mtg,

Nov 1 Tues District 18 Mtg, Saco Lodge, 6:30 pm
meal – Speaker Scott Wolter of History
Channel’s America Unearthed

Oct 21 Sat District 19 Mtg, York Lodge, West
Kennebunk, Tyled

Sept 10 Sat District 20 Mtg, noon meal, mtg follows

Nov 5 Sat District 21 Mtg, David Hooper
Lodge, noon meal, 1:00 mtg,

Nov 15 Tues District 22 Mtg,

Dec 2 Fri District 23 Mtg, Auburn

Oct 28 Fri District 24 Mtg,

Grand Master’s Decision - Dispensations

Attached is a copy of a Grand Master’s “decision” advising that henceforth no dispensation will be granted to a Lodge, except in emergency situations based upon material facts specific to a request, when the requesting Lodge or its affiliated building association has a financial obligation outstanding with Grand Lodge for more than 60 days beyond the date such payment is due and payable.

Also attached is a revised form for Lodges to request dispensations. I am also changing the process for the filing and approval of dispensation requests, which you should share with your Lodge leaders.

Lodges should simultaneously send the request via e-mail to the Grand Secretary, the District Deputy Grand Master and the Grand Master. The request should be submitted as soon as the need is determined, but it is recommended that the request reach Grand Lodge at least two weeks prior to the event. District Deputies are requested to advise the Grand Master within 72 hours of this receipt of the dispensation request whether or not they have any concerns or comments on the request, which will be considered by the Grand Master when processing the request.

Please discuss these changes with your Lodges. Copies of the new form and the decision will be sent to Lodges by the Grand secretary and placed on the Grand Lodge web site.

Dispensations for Bikes for Books Presentations

Last year, Grand Master Walker made a decision that a dispensation was not required to wear Masonic aprons at Bikes for Books presentations. The Committee on Mason-

ic Jurisprudence indicated its agreement with that decision in its report to Grand Lodge, which report – and the decisions and recommendations contained therein – were accepted by Grand Lodge. Therefore, dispensation requests for this purpose are no longer required. However, Brethren choosing to wear Masonic regalia must also wear a coat and tie.

Recognition of the Grand Lodges of Georgia and Tennessee

As you know, Grand Lodge had a strong debate on the proper stance to take with regard to continued recognition of the Grand Lodges of Georgia and Tennessee over their inclusion of discriminatory membership criteria. Our Grand Lodge reaffirmed that membership should continue to be based solely upon a man being free-born, of faith, proper age, good report and well recommended, and that the establishment of additional inclusionary or exclusionary criteria was inappropriate.

A copy of the letter sent to the Grand Master of Georgia (a similar letter was sent to the Grand Master of Tennessee) is attached. The Grand Secretary will send a copy this week to all Lodges.

Lodge and Building Association Insurance

The Grand Lodge master insurance policy will not be with Great American beginning June 1st. The new carrier, Philadelphia Insurance, is offering preferred rates and will cover nearly all buildings, including those within one mile of the ocean – unless the building is literally on the shore.

As previously communicated, the Bangor insurer Sargent, Tyler and West no longer services our coverage. All communications regarding insurance should be with the Auburn Insurance Agency, at jryan@auburnins.com (Jan Ryan) or aryan@auburnins.com (Austin Ryan), or by calling (781) 863-8004, with a copy to the Grand Secretary.

We are planning regional insurance seminars for Lodge and building association leaders this fall.

Offering Special Recognition to Brethren and Widows

If you know of Brethren celebrating milestone natal or Masonic birthdays or who warrant a special certificate or note from the Grand Master please let the Grand Secretary and me know so we may properly recognize them.

I was in Montreal last weekend for the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Quebec. One of their special recognitions is for Lodges with the best Widows Programs, like what we do for Masonic education and ritual proficiency. I’d be interested in hearing your thoughts on having such a program here in Maine, or other ways that we might recognize our Lodges and Brethren for their good works within the Fraternity. We don’t do things for the recognition, but it sure is nice to get a pat on the back occasionally.

May we all add light and luster to our beloved Craft!

Fraternally,



Grand Lodge of Maine

Family Fun Day

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center
290 Norlands Road, Livermore, Maine

June 11, 2016
10am - 3pm



Grand Lodge of Maine
PO Box 430
Holden, Maine 04429
207-843-1086



Saturday, June 11th - 10am - 3 pm

Masonic Family Fun Day



Come and spend a wonderful day of fun with your Brothers and their families!

There is entertainment for kids, our ladies and us!

Short classes will be offered to the kids in the little red school house.

Small town stories of the 1850's will be told by a period interpreter,

Mercy Lovejoy, that you will want to hear!

See the dresses and formal clothes that are on display!

Stop in the Center's store and see if there is something that catches your eye.

Visit the family mansion, library and other buildings of the Washburn family compound and see how this family from a small town in Maine made a difference in the world.

Or just spend some time relaxing under the stately trees and meet and talk with Brothers you haven't met before and get to know them and their families.

A different day of Masonry we can share with our families.

On Site Events

- Wagon Rides
- Kid Craft Tables
- 1853 School Classes in the one-room school house
- 1850s Fashion Exhibit
- Tours of the Mansion, Barn, Library and School
 - 1850s Outdoor Games for Kids
- Kora Clowns
- Civil War Re-enactors
 - Lunch



The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
of the State of Maine



Application for Dispensation

To the Office of the Grand Secretary:

Please accept this application as an official request by the Worshipful Master of

_____ Lodge No. _____, A.F. & A.M.

located in _____, Maine

that a dispensation be granted for the following day(s): _____

for the purpose of allowing the above named Lodge to

Requested by Worshipful Master: _____

Date Signed

Reviewed / Approved by the Grand Master _____

Date Signed

The requesting Lodge should send the signed request to the Grand Secretary at least two weeks prior to the planned event whenever possible, with a copy sent to the District Deputy Grand Master, (DDGM) for his information and comment, and to the Grand Master. Transmittal by email is preferred. The DDGM should submit his comments on the request to the Grand Secretary and Grand Master within three days of the above date of the request.

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Thomas E. Pulkkinen

May 20, 2016

DECISION

Whereas Lodges and affiliated building associations often incur financial obligations associated with the purchase of insurance and other products and services from the Grand Lodge of Maine, and

Whereas Lodges are required to file Annual Returns with Grand Lodge and to pay amounts determined thereon not later than January 31 each year, and

Whereas the timely payment of these financial obligations is an obligation of these bodies and their elected officers, and

Whereas some insurance bills remain unpaid more than eight months after payment was due, and Annual Returns are in arrears for as much as four months, and

Whereas, the granting of dispensations requested by Lodges is at the discretion of the Grand Master, now therefore, it is the decision of this Grand Master that:

No dispensation will be granted, except in emergency situations based upon material facts specific to a request, when the requesting Lodge or its affiliated building association has a financial obligation(s) outstanding with Grand Lodge for more than 60 days beyond the date such payment is due and payable.

Grand Master

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Thomas E. Pulkkinen

MW F. Andrew Lane, Jr., Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Georgia, F. & A.M.
811 Mulberry St.
Macon, GA 31201-6779

Dear Brother Lane,

On March 14, 2016, Grand Master David A. Walker wrote to his Maine Brethren expressing his personal objection to the exclusion of men from Freemasonry based upon their sexual orientation, feeling that barring them runs contrary to our beliefs as Masons. He added that the Grand Lodge of Maine would address the recognition of Grand Jurisdictions that deny eligibility in our fraternity based upon exclusionary criteria beyond those prescribed in our ancient landmarks.

The Grand Lodge of Maine met last week and, after much spirited debate, decided for now to formally but firmly pronounce that Maine Masons deplore the creation of any qualification, or disqualification, for membership other than a man be free-born, of good report and well recommended; and we specifically reject any additional membership tests relating to political views, religious practice, race or sexual preference. Of course, each applicant and member must also be of lawful age and believe in God.

While this was the majority position of Grand Lodge members, there was a strong voice for removing recognition of any jurisdiction that denies membership based upon sexual preference. It was also voted that further action will be considered at the May 2017 Annual Communication.

Masonic leaders promise to live by the laws of the land and the Ancient Landmarks of the Craft; to exercise temperance, justice and brotherly love towards all God's children. I fully agree with my Maine Brethren in saying that to deny good men of faith admission into Freemasonry because of their sexual preference is not in concord with our often professed and rightly admired desire to bring together men of every country, sect or opinion.

I count among my close Masonic friends, Brothers of many faiths and races, and different sexual orientations. Each firmly believes in and earnestly practices the tenets of our profession as Masons, and contributes positively to building a society of men dedicated to the work and word of God, and the improvement of mankind, including themselves.

Amity among Grand Lodges is based upon two underlying principles: sharing common core beliefs and recognizing the sovereignty of each jurisdiction. Nothing would please me more than being able to report to my Maine Brethren next May that our jurisdictions are once again in full amity, and that the Grand Lodge of Georgia no longer has membership qualifications fundamentally different from those of the Grand Lodge of Maine.

May we continue to be in warm fraternal correspondence on the important business of our beloved Craft.

Fraternally and in His service,

Grand Master