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FROM THE GRAND EAST

New Hampshire Freemasonry is Open for Business

Brethren, it's no surprise that we could use more members in our beloved Craft. I fully appreciate the quality over quantity argument. There's no doubt we want good men. There are good men out there looking for a fuller meaning to their lives, which is exactly what Freemasonry has to offer. We live in turbulent times, and Freemasonry offers a path filled with enrichment, fulfillment and self-reflection. So, if there are good men seeking a better way of life, and Freemasonry provides that path, then why aren't we being inundated with requests by these good men to learn more about us.

The key, my Brethren, is Masonic awareness. Please note the word "awareness". I did not say "advertising". We all know that membership solicitation is not allowed in this Grand Jurisdiction. But, there's absolutely nothing wrong with making your family, friends and community aware of Freemasonry.

What are some of the ways you can make people aware of Freemasonry? As I have traveled throughout our wonderful state, I've seen many examples. Here are some for you to consider.

Not Just A Man, A Mason. For those who attended our recent Semi-Annual



Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, you heard a presentation on this very subject. The Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite has created a program called "The Path Forward", with a campaign titled, "Not Just a Man, a Mason." Although the program was created by Scottish Rite, the campaign is totally branded as a Blue Lodge campaign. The program offers several assets that you can leverage in your Lodge and throughout your community including: videos, banners and flyers. I encourage you to visit www.NotJustaMan.org to learn more.

Veterans and Special Ladies Programs are a great way to recognize Masonic milestones and to give recognition and thanks to Masonic widows. They also create an opportunity for the commu-

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*Grand Master's Message continued*

nity to see our good works. Whether these events are held at a Masonic Temple, a local restaurant or community gathering place, make a point to conduct these programs regularly.

Masonic Funerals, while a solemn affair, create an opportunity for the community to see and hear what we're all about. Done well, not only do you say a final farewell to a fallen brother in a discrete and respectful manner, but you can also leave a lasting impact on the non-Masonic guests. If you are so honored as to be asked by a fallen brother's family to perform a Masonic Funeral Service, do it, and do it well.

Marching in Parades is a great way to come out from the four walls of your Lodge and to show your community the great men to whom you associate with. Dress appropriately for the type of parade you are participating in, but dress sharply and in full regalia (dispensation required).

Community Assistance is another wonderful way of "giving back". It helps the world to see how we care for others. Great examples of the types of community assistance you and your Lodge can provide include: serving hot chocolate at local events, volunteering at a homeless shelter, stocking shelves at food pantries, and recognizing first responders by providing a cook-out.

Community Builder Awards show how your Lodge recognizes the good works of others and in return, gives them a chance to see how and why we care.

Daniel Carter Beard Scouter Awards can be given to Freemasons who have helped with Scouts. Holding an event to recognize recipients of this award gives them a chance to see how and why we care about our community.

DeMolay and Rainbow are members of our Masonic

family. Just as you work daily to support your family, we should strive within the length of our cable-tow to support our youth organizations. DeMolay should not be viewed as a "breeding ground" for new Masons, but DeMolay boys represent the best of our young men, and if it is right for them, their becoming Freemasons is good for us.

Masonic Open House is a way for you to open your Lodge to the world, giving the community a glimpse into us, and the possibilities we hold for them. Remember however that a Masonic Open House is not a recruiting tool – it is an awareness tool.

Guest Speakers at Masonic Functions are a great way for you to make your meetings more valuable. They also afford an opportunity for your speaker and his/her guest(s) to learn more about Freemasonry.

These are time-tested ways of raising your community's awareness of Freemasonry. Try some of them for yourself. Don't be surprised if you hear some of these reactions: "I had no idea." "I always wondered what happened in this building." "You guys are amazing!" "Thank you for opening my eyes."

Brethren, you know much of what Freemasonry is all about. You've seen firsthand the positive affects it's had on your life. You know all too well the many wonderful things Freemasons do to support your local community. It's time we let those good men seeking a better way of life know too.

I've shared some concrete examples of ways you can let the world know that Freemasonry is open for business in your community. Now it's your turn to put my words into action. I can't wait to see the results!



MASONIC FAMILY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25TH 2020 • PORTSMOUTH MASONIC TEMPLE

This event is intended to provide a day of inspiring content to encourage and empower members and officers of the entire Masonic family of bodies. Our organizations share many of the same challenges and goals. This is a unique opportunity to be united to learn about and assist each other.

If we work together, we can succeed together!

TICKETS ARE \$25 PER PERSON

OPEN TO MEMBERS OF ALL OF THE
MASONIC FAMILY OF ORGANIZATIONS.

AGENDA

8:00am - 9:00am

Registration & Light Food / Coffee

9:00am - 10:30am

Jamie Barr - *The Importance of the Membership Mindset*

10:30am - 11:30am

Conflict Resolution and Communication

11:30am - 12:30pm

Walking 2 by 2's

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Split groups

Jay Peringer - *Growth Mindset*

Darien Koons - *Marketing & our Leadership Roles*

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Understanding the Generational Impact - Dejah

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Tech Talk and Workshop

5:00pm - 5:30pm

Debrief Adults / Youth Team Builder

5:30pm - 6:30pm

Dinner

6:30pm - 7:00pm

Sam Drazin - *Celebrating our Differences*

7:00pm - 8:00pm

Dream / Vision Boards

8:00pm

Entertainment

After the evening's events, there will be a sleepover at the Temple for our youth.

THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE

- To better understand generational differences and provide information and concepts to more effectively lead and communicate with each other.**

Large generational gaps exist within all of our organizations, whether it be within Demolay and Rainbow (youth vs advisors), Eastern Star, or Masonry, as well as across our bodies. Learning about how each of the generations think and how we can best speak to each other will help us all grow!

- To enhance our conflict resolution skills to be better enabled to unite in promoting the goals of our organizations.**

In obtaining additional tools to resolve potential strife among our members, we retain more members and maintain our strength. How many times have we lost members or had disruptions in the leadership in our bodies due to simple misunderstandings? The promotion of empathy and understanding among people are key aspects of our organization and of these programs.

- To learn to better utilize technological tools to improve communication both internally between organizations and externally to the public.**

We often take for granted that not everyone communicates via the same methods or connects with the same types of messages. We all can all benefit by obtaining the knowledge and skills to better communicate the value and importance of our programs.

- To help us break out of the "it's always been done that way" mindset by establishing positive, growth-oriented practices and principals.**

If we want to strengthen and grow, we must listen to each other and be open to new ideas. As steeped in tradition as we are, overcoming the "fixed mindset" can be a significant challenge. This program will offer solutions for us to think positively, and move forward united as a team.



**SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH COMMITTEE
OF THE GRAND CHAPTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR**

To learn more and obtain registration instructions, visit <http://nheasternstar.org/MasonicConference2020>
or email Maria Becker at 20mamamia08@gmail.com



IMPORTANT DATES



ENTERED APPRENTICE WORKSHOP

March 7th, Portsmouth Masonic Temple

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

351 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

ENTERED APPRENTICE PROGRAM

March 12th, Jaffrey Masonic Temple

7:00pm

40 Charlonne Street, Jaffrey, NH 03452

More information to come!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR I

April 11th, Portsmouth Masonic Temple

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

351 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR II

April 18th, Portsmouth Masonic Temple

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

351 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801

MASTER MASON SEMINAR

June 13th, Boscawen Masonic Temple

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

53 North Main St, Boscawen, NH 03303



39TH ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND BROTHERHOOD NIGHT

**March 14, 2020 Masonic Campus,
74 Cheshire Road
Wallingford, Connecticut**

The 39th Annual New England Brotherhood Night dinner program will be hosted by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut on Saturday,

Further details for the event, including dinner and registration, will be forthcoming soon. Please save the date in the meantime, and they look forward to seeing many of you there. As in the past, this event is for brothers only.

DISTRICT TOWN HALL MEETINGS

3/2/20 - District 1 - Kingston Masonic Temple

3/5/20 - District 2- Pembroke Masonic Temple

3/9/20 - District 3 - Milford Masonic Temple

3/12/20 - District 4 - Claremont Masonic Temple

3/16/20 - District 7 - Bristol Masonic Temple

3/19/20 - District 6 - Laconia Masonic Temple

3/23/20 - District 5 - Alton Masonic Temple

3/26/20 - District 8 - Lancaster Masonic Temple