



Third Masonic District

Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts

Constituent Lodges of the Third District:

King Solomon's Lodge (1783)
Bethesda Lodge (1819)

Mystic Valley Lodge (1797)
Pequossette Lodge (1856)

A Message from the District Deputy Grand Master



Greetings to The Third Masonic District! It's been a fantastic and auspicious start to the year in the Metro Boston Masonic Region! The District Suite and I have thoroughly enjoyed the Fraternal Visit season, being welcomed so warmly by all of the constituent Lodges, their Masters, officers, and brethren throughout the area.

We are in the very early stages of what appears to be an extremely busy year, as the Nation begins to celebrate the semiquincentennial. From lantern lighting, parades, the shot heard 'round the world, and rededications galore, we certainly have a host of opportunities to reflect on those freedoms many take for granted. Please take time to not only deliberate the season, but join in when you can without injury to yourself or your family.

I'm excited for many of the Grand Lodge initiatives that are underway, which will further strengthen our presence and enduring charge to serve our fellow man. First, be sure to get your picture taken next time you're in Lodge, so each Secretary can upload a fresh face to reference your name. This adds significant value to the tools we use to care for and interface with our brethren.

To that is the District Ambassador, Worshipful Brother Robert Bushey, and his charge, which is to facilitate a much-improved lead tracking system. This will ensure prospective candidates are sourced to a proper Lodge and that the candidate has someone guiding him through the initiation process.

The Third District has much potential, and it's incumbent to all of us to ensure we leverage our strengths to improve the sustainability of the Craft in this part of the Jurisdiction and Commonwealth. There are committed brethren in each Lodge, and there remain long-term challenges that we can meet head-on to overcome. I am encouraged by the dedication across the District, and look forward to the growth and stabilization that stands before us.

There are plenty of ways to get involved at the local Lodge level, as we have plenty of day-to-day work that must be done just to keep a Lodge running. Add to that the efforts to grow and/or strengthen a presence in the Community, and there are countless ways you as an individual brother can make a difference. First and foremost, please look in on that older brother. We have many members that are enjoying their twilight years, and a friendly face and helping hand tend to extend that time.

I look forward to so much more time with you all, from upcoming Table Lodges, the Grand Master’s Family Fun Day where we can man a booth to share fraternalism with the Craft, and to the Fall Official Visit season. We can’t be at everything, but we can make each interaction quite meaningful. Take time to enjoy your Masonic Experience, as these are what lifelong friendships make. As always, see you in Lodge.

Cordially & Fraternally,
 Right Worshipful Terry William Griffith, Jr.
 District Deputy Grand Master

Third District Calendar

Below are the events organized in our lodges, district, and the Grand Lodge through June 2025.
 For the most up to date information, please check the Third District’s website at:
<https://massfreemasonry-3rd.org/>

Date	Time	Event	Organizing Body
April 15	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Bethesda Lodge
April 17	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	King Solomon’s Lodge
April 18	6:30 PM	Signal Lanterns Lighting Commemoration Ceremony	Grand Lodge
April 19	8:30 AM	Concord Parade with Deputy Grand Master	Grand Lodge
April 19	2:00 PM	Lexington Parade with the Grand Master	Grand Lodge
April 21	7:00 PM	Lodge of Instruction	3 rd District
May 8	7:00 PM	Table Lodge and Regular Communication	Pequossette Lodge
May 13	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Mystic Valley Lodge
May 15	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	King Solomon’s Lodge
May 19	7:00 PM	Lodge of Instruction – District Exemplification	3 rd District
May 20	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Bethesda Lodge
June 10	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Mystic Valley Lodge
June 12	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Pequossette Lodge
June 16	7:00 PM	Lodge of Instruction	3 rd District
June 17	7:00 PM	Regular Communication	Bethesda Lodge

King Solomon's Lodge News

Meetings on the Third Thursday at 19 Academy St, Arlington

Coutoumas' Hockey Success!

It is with great pride that King Solomon's Lodge's Worshipful Master Don Coutoumas announces his grandson, Colin Coutoumas was on the Mites team that won the Mayors Cup and last weekend won the Valley League Mite Championship skating for Charlestown. How befitting that their jerseys feature the Bunker Hill Monument on them . Colin is 8 and lives in Somerville. His father Brother Eric Coutoumas is a coach.



Mystic Valley Lodge News

Meetings on the Second Tuesday at 19 Academy St, Arlington

Raising New Candidates!

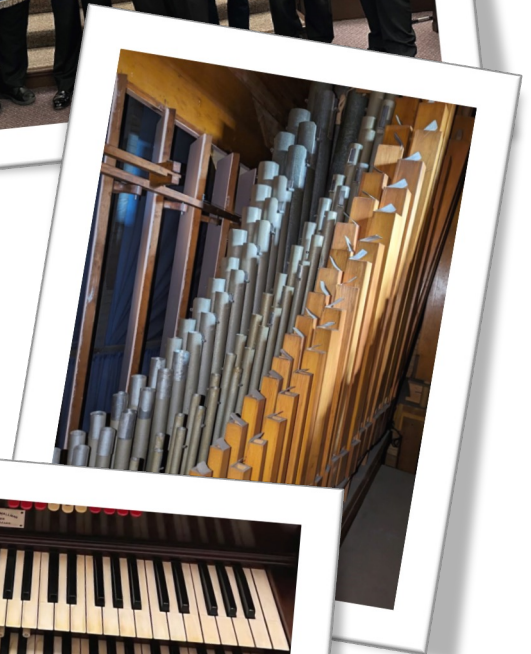
Mystic Valley Lodge will be raising two candidates this spring, Lee Hazeltine and Francis Sullivan, both young men from Arlington. Francis was Initiated in March, and Lee is scheduled to take his First Degree on April 8. Then if all goes to plan (and since when has that ever worked out?), we will be Passing them both during our Regular Communication on May 13, and Raising them on June 10. Everyone is of course welcome to join us, and we'd be happy to work with courtesy candidates if needed.

Mystic Valley Takes LOI Gavel

Of course, everyone knows that Mystic Valley took possession of the Traveling Gavel at the last LOI, even in the absence of the presiding Master, who was distracted by civic duties that night. And we intend to keep it (throws down the white glove).

Arlington Masonic Temple Announces Organ Restoration

Not a Lodge function, but the Arlington Masonic Temple Association announced that it has completed the repairs of the pipe organ, one of the few remaining functional instruments in Masonic lodges. If you want to hear it in all its glory, come to a Mystic Valley or Pequossette meeting and hear Organist Jon Hindmarsh tickle those keys. The AMTA thanks everyone who donated to the Stanley Locke Pipe Organ Fund, and is working on a plaque to memorialize their generosity.



Bethesda Lodge News

Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 460 Newtonville Ave, Newton

Honoring a Legacy of Dedication: A 50-Year Masonic Journey

On March 18, 2025, we gather to celebrate an extraordinary milestone in the life of a dedicated Mason, Brother Robert Sullivan: the awarding of the prestigious 50-Year Veteran's Medal. This moment is not just a testament to one man's unwavering commitment to the principles of Freemasonry, but it is also a powerful symbol of continuity, family, and legacy. What makes this occasion even more remarkable is the presence of four generations of his family, standing proudly to witness and honor his profound contributions.

Fifty years ago, this Brother embarked on his Masonic journey, guided by the core tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Charity. Over the decades, he has exemplified these virtues, illuminating the path for others in our fraternity. Through his actions and character, he has become a living embodiment of the values we hold dear—an inspiration to all who strive to lead lives of integrity and service.

The significance of this ceremony extends beyond the individual; it connects the past, present, and future. The presence of four generations of his family reminds us that the true impact of a Mason's life ripples through time, influencing and inspiring those who follow. It is a testament to the strength of familial bonds and the enduring power of example.

As we presented this 50-Year Veteran's Medal, we reflected on the many lives this Brother has touched—within our fraternity and beyond. Let us honor the countless hours he has dedicated to



Bethesda Lodge News

Meetings on the Third Tuesday at 460 Newtonville Ave, Newton

our lodges, the wisdom he has imparted to his Brethren, and the kindness he has shown in our community. This medal is not merely a recognition of time but a celebration of a life lived with purpose and dedication.

To our honored Brother: your journey has been nothing short of extraordinary. Your family, standing here today, is a living testament to the legacy you have built—not just as a Mason, but as a patriarch, mentor, and friend. May that day serve as a reminder of the indelible mark you have left on all of us and the generations to come.

Congratulations on this monumental achievement. May your light continue to shine brightly, inspiring us all to uphold the principles of Freemasonry with the same devotion and grace.



Pequossette Lodge News

Meetings on the Second Thursday at 19 Academy St., Arlington

Pequossette Lodge to Host Table Lodge on Victory in Europe Day, May 8, 2025.

Pequossette Lodge has had a busy year so far and we're coming up on the crescendo with our Table Lodge event on 8 May 2025, in honor of those that served in the Armed Forces of the United States. Never know when things will align, and this happens to be the date of our Regular Communication as well as the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, marking a milestone at the end of World War II. We hope you can join us for what will be a memorable evening! RSVP ([Table Lodge RSVP](#) link) for the event soon as seating is limited.



Pequossette Hosts First Fraternal Visit for Right Worshipful Brother Giffith

The Lodge also had the pleasure of welcoming R.: W.: Terry W. Griffith, Jr. as the new District Deputy Grand Master for the Third Masonic District during his First Fraternal Visit in January 2025. I look forward to his stewardship of the Third District and leading it into the future.



Pequossette Lodge News

Meetings on the Second Thursday at 19 Academy St., Arlington

The Ashlar Narrative Series at Pequossette Lodge

We've heard the phrase, or something similar, "everything here is symbolic." But how often do we take this phrase and apply it to the objects and symbolism within the Craft in a format for discussion and deeper understanding? In preparation for my term in the East of Pequossette, I wanted to find a way to bring some format of Masonic Education into the Lodge...thus formed "The Ashlar Narrative" series. A monthly discussion expanding on the history, meaning, and application of our Ritual and the Symbols we see when dwelling among Brothers.

At our communication in October 2024, during an Official Visit of the District Deputy Grand Master, those in attendance were presented the Symbolism of the Square. Researching this implement, its history and application, and just how far back the symbolism goes, was certainly unexpected and a revelation. That Ashlar Narrative touched on the foundational aspect of our Craft, the rich tapestry and history we are part of, and was read as follows:

The Ashlar Narrative – 10 October 2024:

We learn that the square is the second Great Light in Freemasonry which is known to be a simple implement of absolute precision equaling 90 degrees or the fourth part of a circle and is a symbol of integrity. This angle is also known as "right" because it was necessary for stones to be cut to in construction of a wall or building which was meant to inspire beauty. This is the implement that ancient stonemasons used to prove perfect ashlar, meaning they were ready for the builders use.



Not that we need proof of symbolism within the Fraternity, but in 1830, during reconstruction of the Baal Bridge in Limerick, Ireland, a brass square was discovered under a foundation stone with the inscription; "I will strive to live with love and care...upon the level – by the square" and was dated 1507. It was discovered in the eastern corner of the northern foundation pier. "Square" is even defined in a dictionary published in 1852, titled "Archaic and Provincial Words," as "honest; equitable [or] square dealing."

Pequossette Lodge News

Meetings on the Second Thursday at 19 Academy St., Arlington

Just how far back does symbolism of the square go? In circa 500 B.C.E., Confucius wrote in the Great Learning; “What a man dislikes in his superiors, let him not display in the treatment of his inferiors; what he dislikes in inferiors, let him not display in the service of his superiors; what he hates in those who are before him, let him not therewith precede those who are behind him; what he hates in those who are behind him, let him not bestow on the left; what he hates to receive on the left, let him not bestow on the right; this is what is called The principle with which, as with a measuring square, to regulate one’s conduct.”

No matter where it is, nor how many times we should see it, let us be reminded of our own personal dedication to the moral truth in life symbolized by this tool. Remember that our feet make a square with each sign of a degree as a symbolic decency of our actions. Let it remind us that it gives awareness of ourselves and those actions as we go our separate ways when concluding our work, but with the knowledge our courses in life will be going according to the angle of the Square, or “right” direction, until we meet again.

This has since been complimented by an open forum discussion after our meetings, with recent topics on how Social Capital is built through a Masonic Lodge and how Brothers maintain balance as symbolized with the 24-inch Gauge. It would be a misconception to say that this series has fostered deeper Fraternal bonds between the Members. Check out the end of our monthly Notice for the prior discussion!

Remember, our culture is made up of our Members, not an individual and except for executing the duties of an Office as fixed by the Ritual and usages thereof, every Brother meets on the Level and shapes the future of our Craft.

