



The 27th Masonic District of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



Website User Guide

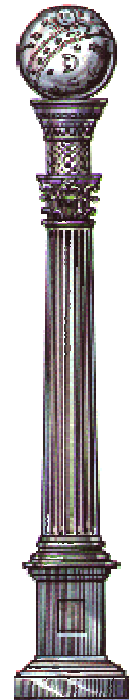


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- 1. Getting Started:** The 27th Masonic district is the registered owner of the following domain name: **http://www.27thmasonicdistrict.org** The domain name was registered by past DDGM Edward L. Alford and Edward is currently the registered owner.

Q:

What is a domain name?

A:

A domain name is another way of referring to the Internet address of a computer or group of computers on the Internet. Whereas an Internet address (or IP address) is made up of numbers (e.g. 144.2.45.6) and therefore difficult to remember, a domain name (e.g. btinternet.com) is made up of meaningful words.

Q:

What is a registered domain owner?

A:

A domain name is registered and paid for by individuals/organizations. Once registered, that person(s) is the legal owner of that name (much like any property). Domain names are routinely bought and sold over the Internet. Once your domain name is sold, you will need to transfer ownership to the new owner. This is a simple administrative process involving the domain registry, your domain hosting company and the new user's domain hosting company.

- 2. Viewing the Website:** To view the 27th Masonic District website you will need an Internet connection and a suitable Internet browser (e.g. Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape, AOL Browser, Mozilla Firefox, Apple's Safari).

Q:

What is a browser?

A:

A browser is what you use to surf the web. There are all sorts of them out there (some are listed above). The most common is Microsoft Internet Explorer, but you also have Netscape, Opera, and others. In addition, your Internet Service may have a built in browser (AOL, CompuServ).

Basically, if you're on the web, you're using some species of web browser. The 27th Masonic District website was designed and developed to perform best with the Microsoft Internet Explorer's Browser.

3. **Security of the 27th Masonic District's website:** The 27th Masonic District website is an http:// accessible website and is open to anyone on the Internet. However, the website does contain an HTML password lock for the **Members Only** subpage.

Q:

What is an HTML Password Lock?

A:

An HTML Password Lock is a powerful application to encrypt and password protect html pages, web pages and whole website, unlike other similar tools which always use very simple algorithm, HTML Password Lock uses industrial-standard **strong encryption algorithms** to provide best security. However, no encryption is 100% hacker proof.

Q:

What is HTTP://?

A:

HTTP is short for **HyperText Transfer Protocol**, the underlying protocol used by the World Wide Web. HTTP defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands. For example, when you enter a URL in your browser, this actually sends an HTTP command to the web server directing it to fetch and transmit the requested Web page.

As explained above the other main standard that controls how the World Wide Web works is HTML, which covers how Web pages are formatted and displayed.

4. **The 27th Masonic District's website URL utilizes a '.org' extension:** The Abbreviation of *Uniform Resource Locator*, the global address of documents and other resources on the World Wide Web.

The first part of the address is called a *protocol identifier* and it indicates what protocol to use, and the second part is called a *resource name* and it specifies the IP address or the domain name where the resource is located. The protocol identifier and the resource name are separated by a colon and two forward slashes.

Q:

What is the significance of the .ORG extension?

A:

Anyone can register a .org domain name; there are no requirements for registration. The .org extension was recommended for and perceived by the common public to be of non-commercial, organizational type of entities, but there are no such registry restrictions.

- 5. The 27th Masonic District's website design:** The 27th Masonic District website was designed by Brother Gerard F. Kiely (KielyNet Web Design) at no charge to the 27th Masonic District. The web site utilizes licensed graphics and numerous hyper/reciprocal links.

Q:

What are licensed graphics?

A:

A copyright is established when an original work is created, composed or written and fixed to a tangible medium such as paper, canvas, recording, a hard drive, on film, etc. For example the portrait of George Washington that is utilized on the site. The rights to this graphic was purchased by Kielynet (from Power Templates). KielyNet has given the rights to utilize this graphic.

Q:

Isn't everything on the internet "public domain"?

A:

To the contrary, the vast majority of the images, graphics, writing, music, etc. that is online is copyrighted to someone. Only works with an expired copyright, works created by the government, or works specifically dedicated by the copyright holder as "public domain" are considered public domain copyright. However, many of the images such as the 'Square & Compasses' can be utilized with the permission of the copyright holder.

Q:

What are hyperlinks?

A:

In computing, a **hyperlink**, usually shortened to **link**, is a directly followable reference within a hypertext document (website). The area from which the hyperlink can be activated is called its **anchor**; its **target** is what the link points to, which may be another location within the same page or document, another page entirely.

The 27th Masonic District's site contains several links. The links are meant to provide additional information that may be useful or interesting. However, the 27th Masonic district cannot attest to the accuracy of information provided by these links or any other linked sites and does not necessarily provide an endorsement of the information presented.

Q:

What are reciprocal links?

A:

Reciprocal links have become one of the MOST popular methods of getting back-to-links for a website. For example the 27th Masonic District's site links to the Mount Holyoke, Mount Tom, Chicopee, Vernon, Pacific and Grand Lodge websites. Many of the Lodge sites also provide direct link back to this website.

6. **The 27th Masonic District Website:** The website contains a main page or home page and several subpages. The subpages can be accessed by left-clicking your mouse on the appropriate selection.

The subpages are separated into four **primary** sections or table of contents. The table of contents is located on the left-hand margin of the page. These sections are as follows:

District Links

Lodge Directory – This page provides a detailed list of the seven lodges in the 27th Masonic District. This includes contact information and driving/mapping instructions.

Deputies Directory – This page provides a complete listing of the DDGM's for 31 Districts, plus Chile and China.

District Officers – This page provides a detailed list of the 27th Masonic District's Officers and appropriate contact information.

Ambassadors – This page provides a complete listing of Ambassadors both at a Lodge and District level.

Visitations– This page provides a listing of both Fraternal and Official visitations for the DDGM.

Events Calendar – This page utilizes an interactive monthly calendar provided by KielyNet Web Design and Calendars.net

Updating or adding to this calendar requires a username and password. This can be obtained by contacting the DDGM.

Photos– This page provides thumbnail (reduced) and full size photographs. Photographs can be submitted to the Webmaster by any member of the 27th District. Please be sure to resize your image files to 640 x 480 pixels. Submit: Gerry Kiely – kiely33@charter.net

Regulations & Constitutions – This page will be utilized at times by the DDGM to cite specific sections or areas of 'Regulations & Constitutions' document. In the near future a full electronic version of this document will also be available will also be available on this website.

Members Only – This page is a secure encrypted document and requires a username and password to access the information. The DDGM will communicate this information to all appropriate individuals. See the **secure login screen** on the next page.

Lodge Officers

Jerusalem – These pages link directly to a table of Lodge Officers. The information contained on these pages varies. Each lodge should review the information, Offices, Names, Mailing addresses, telephone number(s), E-mail addresses, etc.

Hampshire
Mount Holyoke
Pacific
Vernon
Mount Tom
Chicopee

Grand Lodge

Massachusetts – This is a hyperlink that takes you directly to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts website.

US Directory – This page provides a complete listing of ALL the Grand Lodges in the United States. This listing contains hyperlinks that will bring you to their respective websites. If you find a link that is NOT active, please report it to the Webmaster
kiely33@charter.net

Ask A Freemason– This page is a hyperlink that will bring you to the Askafreemason.org website. This website is maintained by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. This site provides downloadable radio and television files. These files can be placed on to your Lodge's website.

Links

Feedback – This page provides both positive and negative feedback received regarding the 27th Masonic District website. Your constructive criticism is **ALWAYS** welcome. Please send your feedback to our District Deputy Grand Master or the Webmaster and we will post your comments.

Links – This page provide both external and reciprocal links. These links are thought to be of interest to Brother Masons. However, the 27th Masonic district cannot attest to the accuracy of information provided by these links or any other linked site.

Providing links to a non-district web site does not constitute an endorsement of the information presented. If you would like to submit a link, please contact the DDGM or the Webmaster for consideration.

Please note, this page also contains video files that you may find useful for your own Lodge's website.

This page also contains a **PowerPoint** presentation that was developed by the Mt. Holyoke Lodge for use as a presentation during Square & Compasses Day. This presentation can be downloaded and modified using Microsoft PowerPoint for use in your own lodge. The Template is licensed to Kielynet.com and permission has been granted for its use.

7. The 27th Masonic District Website: The Webmaster is available to answer any questions or concerns.

E-Mail:

Gerry Kiely at kiely33@charter.net

Telephone:

Gerry Kiely at 413.533.9299

8. **Web Site User Manual:** An electronic version of this document is available of the website on the Links subpage. To ensure widespread access the document has been distilled in a .PDF format.

Q:

What is a .PDF format?

A:

PDF (Portable Document Format) is a file format developed by Adobe as a means of distributing compact, platform-independent documents. It is superficially similar to HTML; a PDF document may contain images and text, as well as hyperlinks. However, as PDF is based on a variant of PostScript, each document is self-contained, packing text, graphics, and fonts into a single file.

You can use Adobe Acrobat to create PDF files, and you can view PDF files either with Adobe Reader or other appropriate .PDF viewers.

Many Adobe software products are available free via the Internet (search for Get Adobe Reader). If you have any questions feel free to contact the Webmaster.