

THE PENNSYLVANIA

FREEMASON

VOL. LXV, NO. 2

MAY 2018



Engaging Our Brethren

How Technology Has Evolved
Our Communications



THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®

VOL. LXV, MAY 2018, NO. 2

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We appreciate the many submissions we receive for consideration. We apologize, but due to space constraints we are not able to publish every submission we receive.

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S. Eugene Herritt, Editor

Mailing address changes

If your address on the back cover of this magazine is not exactly as you have provided it to us, please be aware that addresses are modified through the various mailing process requirements required by the U.S. Postal Service. If you have any questions or would like to inform us of a change in address, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 800-599-6454 or giving@masonicvillages.org.

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The Pennsylvania Freemason magazine staff is looking for photographers and writers to contribute their talents!

Please email a link to samples of your work to pafreemason@masonicvillages.org to be considered as a contributor for the publication. Contributors will receive a photo credit or byline. *The Pennsylvania Freemason* reserves the right to use submissions elsewhere, such as on the Grand Lodge website, Facebook page, as a blog, etc.



Brethren,

Last year, membership in our fraternity dropped below 100,000 in Pennsylvania. That happened despite all our efforts over the last several years to bring in new members through one day classes and incentive programs. We have, perhaps, reached a saturation point in creative ways to bring in new members. Traditionally, the number of deaths each year have very nearly equaled the number of new members we bring into the craft. Most of our losses are a result of members who have left the fraternity because they did not find what they were looking for when they joined our ranks.

If we truly want to stop the decline in membership in the Masonic fraternity in Pennsylvania, we need to engage our members from the time they are voted into the fraternity until they reach a comfort level of being able to come to lodge alone and explore our rituals, our traditions and our opportunities for personal and fraternal development.

And growing our fraternity should not be our primary focus. Our focus should center on making one another comfortable in our lodges and in our daily lives. We should be asking both our new members and our members who have been around for a while, "What were you looking for when you petitioned the lodge?" The answer to that question allows us to guide our brother to the fulfillment of his Masonic expectations and lets him see what else he can experience on his Masonic journey. Encourage him to pursue the Master Builder Award, which will expose him to all aspects of our fraternity. For a more tenured member, make him aware of the Masonic Pillar Award to explore what he may have missed. Encourage his membership in one or more of the appendant bodies available to him because he is a Mason.

Greet him when he comes to lodge. Invite him to sit with you and your friends in lodge. Ask about his family and his work. Tell him about yours.

Engagement is all about creating and nurturing a genuine relationship.

Engage him on a personal level, and both of your Masonic connections will become more valuable.

You don't have to be his assigned mentor to teach him about Freemasonry and the history of his lodge. Make him aware of the learning options available to him. Direct him to our online education portals or our online mentoring program. But most important, be the man he looks to for guidance, reassurance and the brotherhood he was seeking. When a man realizes he has found friends in his lodge, he will become active, if for no other reason than to continue to be in your company. People go where they are comfortable. Let's make all of our members comfortable when they come to lodge and when we greet them in life.



Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Eugene Herritt".

S. Eugene Herritt, R.W. Grand Master



PENNSYLVANIA LODGE OF RESEARCH

Saturday, June 23, at 10 a.m.

Carlisle Masonic Center, 1236 Holly Pike, Carlisle, PA
Featuring a visitation by R.W. Grand Master S. Eugene Herritt.

Information about the Craft in general is shared, and at least two research papers will be presented, followed by discussion and, of course, good fellowship. All Master Masons are welcome to attend.

JUNE QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION

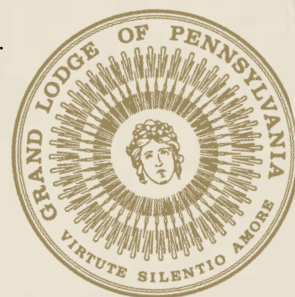
Saturday, June 9 at 10 a.m.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND LODGE:

You are hereby requested to attend the June Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, at the The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, 215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803

By Order of the R.W. Grand Master.

Mark A. Haines
R.W. Grand Secretary



DeMolay Golf Tournament

August 7 and 8, 2018

Interstate Competition - All Proceeds Benefit PA and NJ DeMolay
Limited to 100 golfers - Registration Deadline July 24

August 7 at Eagles Crossing Golf Club, Carlisle, PA

11:30 a.m. Lunch, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun
Scramble format with individual and widow ball team competition
Roast pig supper with all the fixings

August 8 at Cumberland Golf Club, Carlisle, PA

7 a.m. Breakfast, 8 a.m. Shotgun
Scramble format with lunch following

Sponsorships available: Signs recognizing your Lodge, Valley, Shrine center, Chapter, District, Business or Individual (tax exempt donation)
Hotel accommodations for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are available at Comfort Inn, Carlisle. Call 717-706-3400 and mention "DeMolay Golf."

2 rounds of golf, 4 meals, prizes and hospitality at the Comfort Inn Tuesday night for \$160. Fee for one day participation is \$105.

Provide the following information, with check payable to "DeMolay Golf Tournament" to: Mike Aaron, 119 Valleycrest Drive, Cecil, PA 15321: Name of each golfer (4), phone and email. Provide the same information if you wish to be a sponsor (Tee sponsor, \$100; Hazard sponsor, \$150; Meal sponsor, \$300; Hospitality room sponsor, \$500) and your desired sign wording. Questions: 724-263-1778 or shrinepp@comcast.net



JOIN US

ELIZABETHTOWN



Save The Date Autumn Day | 2018

Saturday, September 22, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join members and friends in celebrating Autumn Day at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. The event will feature entertainment, information, delicious food served from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., farm market stands, children's games, tours, Masonic family organization booths and much more.



GOLF TOURNAMENTS

GRAND MASTER'S GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 30, 2018

Chambersburg Country Club, Chambersburg, PA

Golfing with cart
Sleeve of Grand Master's golf balls
Lunch at High 12
1 p.m. Shotgun start

Beverages, prime rib dinner and prizes
\$150 per golfer, limited to 36 foursomes.

To register golfers or for sponsorship information, contact Brother Mike Essis, essis@comcast.net or 1-717-648-7378 • www.glpad3.org

For each golfer, include name, address, phone and email. Make checks payable to "Grand Master's Golf Tournament."

All proceeds benefit the Masonic Charities.

GRAND MASTER'S CENTRAL REGION MASONIC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 21, 2018

Irem Country Club, Dallas, PA

11 a.m. Lunch

Noon Shotgun start

4:30-5:30 p.m. Social hour

5:30 p.m. First class dinner with carving station, followed by awards

\$125 per golfer includes greens fees, cart, lunch, social hour, dinner, special gifts and door prizes.

To register golfers or for sponsorship information, contact Brother Ron Aungst, R.W.P.G.M.

231 Valley View Lane, Jersey Shore, PA 17740

1-570-295-2560 • rwpgm0607@pagrandlodge.org

For each golfer, include name, address, phone and email. Make checks payable to "Grand Master's Golf Tournament." All proceeds benefit the Masonic Charities.





2018 GRAND LODGE RITUALISTIC WORK COMPETITION

Form Your Competition Team

The regional instructor team recommends each district use the most qualified brethren from their district to form teams. Teams may be formed from any group of brethren, including Past Masters. Each team must provide all officers in lodge (the only exceptions to this are the Treasurer and Tyler) and a candidate. Contact your regional instructor to arrange times to help you rehearse.

Guidelines

The regional level of team judging will occur between May 12 - Sept. 1. Arrangements for judging of teams must be made in advance with your regional instructor; the judging will be done by at least two regional instructors. Regional level judging may take place at a central location with multiple

teams/districts being scheduled at different times. If possible, teams will be given time to rehearse at the judging location prior to being judged. No team will be allowed to see another team being judged.

The teams will have one hour to take the floor and exemplify all the work required. Teams may change officers around at any stop/start point. Only the team being judged and judging staff will be allowed in the lodge room at the time of judging. There will be no corrections done during the judging process.

At the conclusion of regional level judging, the regional instructor team will pick teams based on scores from the regional competitions to be invited to the finals in Elizabethtown on Sept. 15. The best team score from that day will be expected to attend the December Quarterly Communication.

Tour Your Masonic Temple in Philadelphia

All-Inclusive Tour of the MASONIC TEMPLE

Grand Master S. Eugene Herritt invites brethren and ladies (and/or guests) to conveniently travel to this majestic, world-renowned Masonic masterpiece and reconnect with the foundations of our great Ffraternity.



Once in a Lifetime Experience...

RSVP by June 15 to reserve your place!

From Pittsburgh

Saturday, Aug. 4 - Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018

PICKUP 1: Aug. 4, 8 a.m., at Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

RETURN: Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m.

PICKUP 2: Aug. 4, 10:30 a.m., Somerset Masonic Temple, 145 Masonic Temple Road, Somerset, PA 15501

RETURN: Aug. 5, 3 p.m.

Price per person (non-refundable): \$90 Double, \$115 Single
Includes transportation, tour, hotel, lunch, dinner and breakfast

Itinerary: Saturday - Drive to Philadelphia. Lunch provided at a rest stop. Arrive late afternoon. Tour the beautiful Masonic Temple and have dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Overnight accommodations at the Philadelphia Marriott West.

Sunday - Breakfast provided at the hotel.

Lunch at your cost on the way home.

Questions/Registration: Brother Tim Shumar, P.D.D.G.M.-30, tlshumar346pm@gmail.com, 412-610-6275, www.pagrandlodge.org

From Erie

Saturday, Aug. 4 - Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018

PICKUP: Aug. 4, 7:30 a.m., at Zem Zem Shrine Club, 2525 West 38th Street, Erie, PA 16506

RETURN: Aug. 5, 6 p.m.

Price per person (non-refundable): \$90 Double, \$115 Single
Includes transportation, tour, hotel, lunch, dinner and breakfast

Itinerary: Saturday - Drive to Philadelphia. Lunch provided at a rest stop. Arrive late afternoon. Tour the beautiful Masonic Temple and have dinner in the Grand Ballroom. Overnight accommodations at the Philadelphia Marriott West.

Sunday - Breakfast provided at the hotel.

Lunch at your cost on the way home.

Questions/Registration: Brother Peter Kraus, D.D.G.M.-24, ddgm24@pagrandlodge.org, 814-897-5993, www.24thmasonicdistrict.org

From Williamsport

Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018

PICKUP: Aug. 4, 7:30 a.m., at Cracker Barrel, 260 South Lycoming Mall Road, Muncy, PA 17756 (park in rear)

RETURN: Aug. 4, 5:30 p.m.

Price per person (non-refundable): \$50 Includes transportation, tour and lunch

Itinerary: Saturday - Drive to Philadelphia. Tour the beautiful Masonic Temple and have lunch in the Grand Ballroom.

Questions/Registration: Brother John Segursky, D.D.G.M.-21, ddgm21@pagrandlodge.org, 814-883-2189, www.pagrandlodge.org



Gene & Sally Herritt

invite you to join them on one or both of the following excursions!

“CAPTIVATING RHINE” RIVER CRUISE

August 3 - 14, 2019



Itinerary includes tours of Amsterdam, Netherlands; Cologne, Rudesheim, Mannheim, Strasbourg and Breisach, Germany; and Basel and Zurich, Switzerland

CRUISE INCLUDES:

- Spacious accommodations in riverview stateroom or suite
- Fine dining, including unlimited wine & beer
- Daily cocktail hour with complimentary beverages
- Cocktail reception and Captain’s Gala Dinner
- Complimentary WiFi access on board
- Guided tour excursions in every port
- Live entertainment, cooking demonstration and more
- Complimentary bicycles
- Services of a Professional Cruise Manager



LAND PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- 2 nights pre-cruise in Amsterdam
- 1 night post-cruise in Zurich
- Transfers between hotel & ship/ship & hotel
- Daily breakfast
- Guided city tour
- Portage service

Starting from \$4,553 per person

Category CB, French Balcony

Rates include: cruise, land program, port charges and gratuities. Airport transfers are additional; ask for details.

TOUR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL HOMES OF VIRGINIA June 29 – July 1, 2018

TRIP INCLUDES:

- 2 overnights at Holiday Inn University, Charlottesville, VA. Conveniently located near Charlottesville attractions and adjacent to The Shops at Stonefield, the city’s newest upscale shopping center, the Holiday Inn University features an indoor pool and exercise room. The hotel is non-smoking.
- 2 full breakfast buffets, 1 lunch, 1 dinner
- Enjoy historic Fredericksburg
- Admission & guided tour of Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson
- Admission & guided tour of Ash-Lawn Highland, the home of James Monroe

- Admission & guided tour of Montpelier, the home of James Madison
- Baggage handling, hotel taxes, meal taxes
- Round trip ground transportation via a climate controlled lavatory & video equipped deluxe Starr motorcoach

Cost: \$589 per person based on double room.

Deposit in the amount of \$100 per person. Make checks or money orders payable to: Professional Travel.

Depart June 29, at 9 a.m. from Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, and return July 1, 2018: 5:30 p.m.

Don't miss the bus, call today!

For additional information about any of these excursions, contact:

Chris at Professional Travel at 215-355-4050 or Chris@BookAndGoNow.com

GRAND LODGE OF PA, F. & A.M.

MASONIC CHARITIES SPORTING CLAYS EVENTS

WESTERN EVENT

Sunday, Aug. 5, 2018

Seven Springs Mountain Resort

777 Waterwheel Drive

Seven Springs, PA 15622

814-352-7777

800-452-2223

EASTERN EVENT

Sunday, Aug. 12, 2018

Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays

2750 Limestone Street

Coplay, PA 18037

610-261-9616



Schedule for both events:

- 8:30 a.m. Registration and warm up
- 10 a.m. Shooting will begin promptly
- Cost: \$150 per person, breakfast & lunch included
\$25 non-shooter lunch

Winners will be determined by the Lewis Class system.
Chinese Auction, 50/50 and more!

Registration deadline for both shoots is July 18.
For more information, call Jeff at 724-396-8001.

All proceeds benefit the Masonic Temple/Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Sponsorships are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to:

Masonic Library & Museum of PA

c/o Harry Rutter

Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Please check the event you wish to shoot

- Seven Springs on Aug. 5
- Lehigh Valley Sporting Clays on Aug. 12

Sponsor Opportunities

- Station Sponsor \$100
- 5 Stand Sponsor \$500
- Breakfast Sponsor \$1,000
- Ammo Sponsor \$2,500
- Lunch Sponsor \$3,000
- Shoot Sponsor \$5,000
- Chinese Auction Item \$ _____
- Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Shooters

Shooter 1: _____

Shooter 2: _____

Shooter 3: _____

Shooter 4: _____

of shooters _____ x \$150 = \$ _____

of Lunch only _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Total: \$ _____



CALL FOR ENTRIES

An Open Art Competition: Embodying Masonic Values

Sponsored by The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

Criteria

All artwork entries must display a visual interpretation of some aspect of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, whether it be philosophical, historical, scientific, social, fraternal, charitable, architectural, etc. Selected artwork will be exhibited in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. Constructed in 1873, the Masonic Temple has been called one of the great “wonders” of the Masonic world. Adorned with some of the finest artifacts of Freemasonry and magnificent lodge rooms based on themes of the ancient architectural world, the Masonic Temple connects us with our past by outwardly displaying our Masonic traditions and values. Located within the Masonic Temple is The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, which houses thousands of texts and artifacts relating to the history of the fraternity in the Commonwealth and the founding of our great nation.

Jurors

Brother Alvin E. Just, D.D.G.M.-41
William Scott Noel, Painter
Moe A. Brooker, Painter

Eligibility

Any amateur or professional artist or college art student may enter, but all will be judged as equals for competition purposes. Artists must be at least 18 years of age. All submissions must be original; they may have been created within the past two years and may have been previously exhibited. No work previously produced on a commission will be accepted. All submissions must be available for purchase.

Categories

Oil
Three-dimensional
Drawing and Print-making
Water-Based Medium
Digital Imagery

Awards

\$200 Prize per winner, per category
\$500 Grand Master’s Prize
\$1,000 Best in Show Prize

Entry Fee

\$25 for first entry, \$10 each for second and third entries. No more than three entries, regardless of media type, will be accepted from each artist.

Auction

If the artists in the Grand Exhibition choose to participate, their entered works may be auctioned off at the Exhibition Gala, with 80 percent of the auction value going to them and 20 percent to The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. The artist may set a reserve price, as well as a direct purchase price for the original work to be revealed AFTER the auction.

Calendar

Entry deadline: Wednesday, Aug. 15, by midnight, E.S.T.
Submit online at www.callforentry.org
Jury selection announced: Wednesday, Sept. 19.
Opening Reception: The Grand Exhibition Gala will be held at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia on Friday, Oct. 5, featuring a cocktail and hors d’oeuvres reception, live music, announcement of winners and a live auction of selected artwork.
Exhibition: The Grand Exhibition will remain open to the public to view on Saturday, Oct. 6, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Masonic Temple
One N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107-2598
For more information, visit www.pagrandlodge.org



Perfect Pink
Series 3



AFTER THE NEW TAX LAW AND MARKET VOLATILITY, WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO GIVE (and sometimes receive income in return)?

by Brother Alvin H. Blitz, Chief Gift Planning Officer for the Masonic Charities

With the enactment of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, many people will not be itemizing their tax returns starting in 2018. Likewise, the new norm of market volatility requires a reassessment of whether life income gifts might be right for you. Let's go over some recent gifts made to Masonic Charities that you might consider in this new economic environment.

Since many individuals will be taking advantage of a higher standard deduction, the use of charitable donations for tax write offs will diminish. A cash donation for someone who doesn't itemize taxes is just a donation but does not reduce your taxes. However, for those age 70½ and older with an IRA, a gift to charity through a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) permits the donor to avoid tax on the gift amount and lower the donor's adjusted gross income, possibly preventing the donor from reaching a higher tax bracket, Social Security tax or Medicare tax. Gifts of QCDs totaling up to \$100,000 per year are permissible. Recently, the Masonic Children's Home received a QCD of \$20,000 to underwrite the cost for furniture for one of the girls' cottages. The donor did not need her annual Required Minimum Distribution and diverted the funds to the Masonic Children's Home to save taxes. We were delighted!

One advantage the tax law did not affect was the avoidance of capital gains taxes by making gifts of appreciated securities held for longer than a year to charity for a charitable deduction or income in return for such gifts. Below are three recent donations which illustrate the advantages of such gifts:

1. Brother Don wanted to help underwrite the cost for furniture for the Masonic Children's Home office. He did not have an IRA to make a QCD gift but had a number of appreciated securities in his portfolio to make a gift of stock to pay for the \$20,000 cost of new furniture for the children's home. The Office of Gift Planning assisted him and his broker to transfer sufficient shares of Exxon stock for the \$20,000 gift. The stock had only cost Brother Don \$5,000 when he bought it years ago, so he avoided capital gains tax on the \$15,000 appreciation of his shares and got a deduction for \$20,000. Don was happy, and the kids were even happier.

2. In another case, Peg, a Masonic Village resident, wanted to dispose of some Apple stock she has held for years that she was getting concerned about falling with all the recent volatility in the market. Peg worked with the Office of Gift Planning to transfer \$20,000 of Apple stock to Masonic Villages in return for a charitable gift annuity. Based on her age, Peg received a payout rate of 7.5% for life on the \$20,000 gift of stock and a tax deduction for \$8,000 while partially avoiding capital gains tax on part of her gift and deferring the remaining capital gains over her life expectancy. Plus, she now is receiving guaranteed fixed income for life, no matter how volatile the market is in the future.

3. In our last case, Brother Ed, from Western PA, wanted to reduce his inheritance taxes but still provide for his niece and nephew with a comfortable income for a period of years. After talking with a Gift Planner for Masonic Charities, Brother Ed decided to take \$500,000 in cash that he recently accumulated from called in bonds and put the funds in a charitable remainder annuity trust to pay his niece and nephew \$25,000 a year for the earlier of their demise or a 20-year period. If Brother Ed survives over a year from funding the trust, he avoids a 15% inheritance tax on the funds which would have been imposed on his death. He also received a \$110,000 tax deduction he could use to reduce up to 60% of his adjusted gross income under the new tax law, with any remaining amounts available for use for up to five years. Brother Ed was thrilled that Masonic Charities would handle the trust and invest the funds for its duration to benefit his niece and nephew. He was also thankful that any remaining amounts left in the trust at the end of its term will help the Masonic Villages.

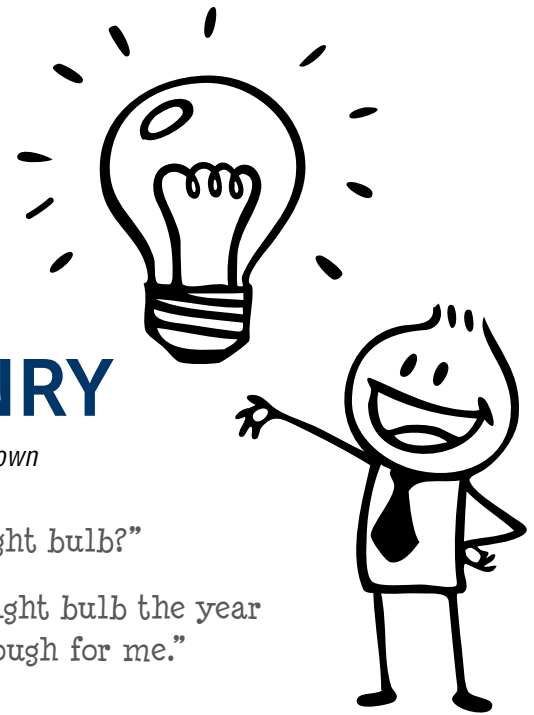
There are many creative ways to make gifts to help a charity and save taxes. For those seeking to provide an income stream for themselves or relatives, such gifts are especially attractive. If you would like to discuss how the Masonic Charities could help you realize your financial and charitable goals, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 800-599-6454 and ask to speak to a local gift planning officer, or email the Office of Gift Planning at giving@masonicvillages.org with your inquiry.

HOW TECHNOLOGY CHANGED FREEMASONRY

by Brother Seth Anthony, P.M., Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown

Question: “How many Masons does it take to change a light bulb?”

Answer: “Change!?! My great-grandfather installed that light bulb the year he was Master. If it was good enough for him, it’s good enough for me.”



Freemasonry has a reputation, both positive and negative, for being averse to change. Yet, from the very moment our fraternity started, we began changing. No longer do we meet around dimly lit altars by the light of burning candle wicks. Today, our lodges convene in rooms brightly lit by LED lights. Where our members once strained to hear the reading of the minutes, they are now assisted through the use of microphones and speaker systems. Instead of piling wood into an old stove, our buildings are now heated by modern means, making for a comfortable experience. Yes, our lodges have changed with technology.

It’s a good guess, however, that when you read this headline, your mind immediately turned to what is defined as technology today; computers, the internet and modern communication methods are more likely what you imagined. Just as our past brothers adopted new technologies to improve the fraternal experience in their lodges, we must utilize the changes in technology that are presented to us. It’s a safe bet there were many arguments over whether electric lights were acceptable in place of candles around an altar. Even a quick reading of the “Digest of Decisions” brings up the use of televisions and modern presentation equipment in a lodge. Both groups, past and present, faced the same challenge of using new technologies in a way that kept the traditions of the fraternity in mind.

Let’s take a look at the simple lodge notice. In the early 1800s, a brother didn’t get a printed, folded notice in the mail. He would get a slip, handwritten by the Secretary, telling him when and where the next meeting was. There wasn’t a list of the officers, nor a complete list of all of the Past Masters. The document was simple and to the point. But, over succeeding

generations, the lodge notice has turned into a newsletter of sorts, with key information on the lodge’s happenings and contact information for the officers. Our brothers from centuries ago would find this innovation just as alarming as some of our current members find the use of electronic communication.

The next and most obvious evolution of the lodge notice is to adapt to modern communications methods; many lodges are already sending out their notice via email. Yes, there are challenges and issues that go with this change. But, isn’t it safe to assume that there was push back when the newsletter type publication was introduced in lodges? Secretaries had to deal with printers, coordinate mailings and more. Many lodges still have printer blocks in their back rooms, from the day when the notice was printed each month. Imagine how difficult it was for the Secretary to prepare the notice for mailing. They couldn’t just print out a sheet of envelope labels from their home computer! The task of sending out the monthly notice was incredibly laborious. But, as technology has improved, so has the job of the Secretary, enabling him to be more efficient.

There is no doubt that we must guard our fraternity from “innovations,” but the use of technology by our lodges is not one of them. What makes Freemasonry special isn’t a burning candle, an electric light or a paper notice. Freemasonry is special because all of these changes allow men to gather in their lodges and become brothers. If a man was cold, unable to see and couldn’t hear, how difficult would it be for him to find enjoyment in Freemasonry? Our forefathers adopted technology to assist in these issues. Now, it’s our duty to adapt to new technologies to make it even easier for men to find the real secret of Freemasonry – brotherly love and affection.



COMMUNICATIONS THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CRAFT

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania is well known for being among the most conservative when it comes to adhering to strict Masonic protocol, policy and procedures. Its acceptance of new methods for communication over the centuries was no exception.

In fact, for over a century, repeated efforts to publish a Masonic periodical were unsuccessful. In 1811, Grand Chaplain George Richardson edited an official Masonic journal, the “Freemason’s Magazine,” which contained information pertaining to Freemasonry as well as articles of general interest. Either due to lack of support by Masonic leadership or lack of interest, it lasted less than a year. Then, in 1843, several Masons wanted to publish a “Freemason’s Monitor,” but the Grand Lodge leaders denied permission. Emphasizing the importance of keeping Masonic matters private, they reasoned that the “Ahiman Rezon” is the most proper text book providing all the information needed for Freemasons.

While Masonic publications were appearing more frequently throughout the United States, any attempt to publish Masonic information in Pennsylvania other than the Grand Lodge’s own official “Ahiman Rezon” and “Proceedings” (a detailed annual report), was met with staunch resistance. According to the Committee on Correspondence, which in the 1850s was charged mostly with reading, answering and filing communications with other Grand Lodges, other Masonic works were “often unauthorized, crude, without much value, aimless or purposeless, as teaching Masonic knowledge, and not deserving of the prominence and importance too often attached to them.”

Beginning January 1852, Brother Leon Hyneman, P.M., Frankford Lodge No. 292, Philadelphia, began printing an unauthorized weekly periodical titled, “Masonic Mirror and Keystone.” The journal, which had 1,500 subscribers, addressed a variety of subjects including Masonic intelligence, discussion and literature and the fine arts. Despite its popularity, the Grand Lodge resisted it. Brother Hyneman spoke out against

the Grand Lodge’s conservative stance, promoting onward progress toward enlightenment. He was subsequently censured in September 1860, and by the end of the year, he stopped publishing the journal. The Committee on Appeals commented that the “tone of the publication was offensive, derogatory to the Order and in violation of Masonic usage” and recommended the Grand Lodge prohibit all such publications.

Still, the quest for Masonic knowledge persisted.

In the late 1870s and early 1880s, the Committee on Library, formed in 1871, began publishing a series of important publications on Pennsylvania Masonic history, efforts that continued well into the early 20th century. The Masonic centennial celebrations of 1882 and 1883 instilled within the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania an awareness of its historical significance. Brother Clifford P. MacCalla, P.M., Lodge No. 67, Philadelphia, became editor of the “Keystone,” the officially sponsored publication of the Grand Lodge. In 1875, he published a lengthy pamphlet titled “Philadelphia, The Mother City of Freemasonry in America,” to demonstrate the fraternity’s contribution to the history of the city. He went on to become Grand Master in 1889-1890.

Recognizing the need for Masonic education, in 1923, a Corps of Lecturers was formed to speak throughout the Commonwealth on various subjects of Masonic interest. In two short years, the corps grew to 100 volunteers. Specialized departments formed within the corps, focusing on esoteric work, history and symbolism, and these special divisions periodically produced and distributed pamphlets and booklets to supplement their lectures within lodges.

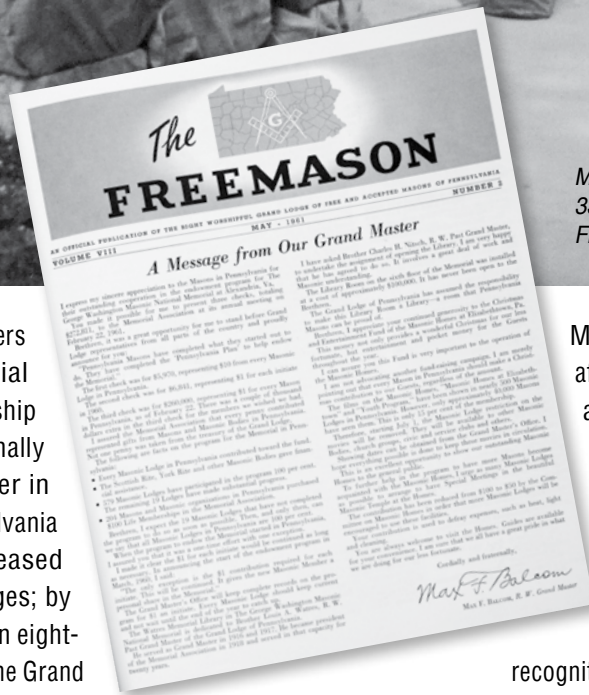
Grand Masters of the late 1940s and early 1950s became increasingly interested in the propagation of Masonic teachings, initiating new ways to expand Masonic knowledge among members. In 1950, four instructional pamphlets were printed for candidates as they advanced through the Masonic degrees to teach the essentials of Masonic history, philosophy, truths, principles, symbolism and their application to character building.



Masonic Village residents help prepare 330 mail sacks of "The Pennsylvania Freemason" in 1962.

Because successive Grand Masters stressed the need for an official publication informing the membership of its activities, the Grand Lodge finally established a quarterly newsletter in November 1954 called "The Pennsylvania Freemason." Subscriptions increased annually, as did the number of pages; by the early 1960s, it had grown into an eight-page illustrated periodical. In 1961, the Grand Lodge moved the magazine's production from Philadelphia to the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown to save costs. In 1962, a room in the basement of the McKee Cottage was equipped for processing and mailing. In addition to employing three people, 50 residents helped file and sort the magazine regularly for mailing. It took a full week to address and sack the mailing in 330 bags before approximately 256,133 Pennsylvania Masons from 602 lodges received the magazine.

R.W. Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson (1982-1983) further pushed the fraternity into the public view. He encouraged



Masonic involvement in community affairs, the promotion of the fraternity and its activities in the media and allowed members to display Masonic symbols openly in public places to generate awareness of the fraternity. He formed a Public Information Committee to publish promotional materials in an effort to build recognition and enthusiasm for the fraternity.

It wasn't until 1998 under R.W. James L. Ernette that Grand Lodge formed a Committee on Internet Services to leverage the world wide web as an effective communication vehicle. Today, a brother can access the website of any recognized Grand Lodge in the world or log onto Facebook and catch up with his brothers.

What new technology will be next?

Sources: Huss, W. A. (1986 and 1988). "The Master Builders: A History of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania" (Vol. 1 and 2). Philadelphia, PA: The Grand Lodge.



DEVELOPING MEANINGFUL FRATERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

With the ease and speed of communication in today's world, one can begin to feel overwhelmed – not only with the sheer volume of information bombarding us day in and day out, but in determining which sources are accurate and truthful versus those that can be misleading and even downright false. With precious limited time, we tend to be selective in which outlets and sources we rely upon to provide the important information we seek.

Competing with so much “noise” in the communications landscape makes it difficult for leaders of any organization to determine how to best communicate with their target audiences, whether they be customers, employees, vendors, shareholders, volunteers or members. The Masonic fraternity is no different.

Understanding the importance of timely communication, Brother Darrin Catts, D.D.G.M.-42, requested the assistance of Brother Ted Potter, P.M., Chairman of Masonic Education for the district, to produce a newsletter to keep members informed. The “Two Way Street” includes upcoming district, regional and state events; Masonic education and trivia and award recognition. Ranging in size from three to nine pages, 23 issues were distributed in 2017. Lodge Secretaries send it along with their monthly lodge notices, and Brother Ted emails it to approximately 400 recipients and mails fewer than 10 copies to Masons who do not have email capability. The list grows as new Master Masons are raised, as well as through referrals from current recipients.

“Realizing that a Masonic lodge is multi-generational, the challenge is to present an assortment of information on many levels,” Brother Ted said. “I try to stay current with blogs and podcasts.” He also gleans various tidbits from appendant bodies to which he belongs. “I have requested authors’ permission to use their material,” he said. “Several have not only given permission for an article, but permission for anything that they have written or spoken as long as it is for the good of Freemasonry.”

At age 69, Brother Ted considers himself a fairly new

Mason of “only” eight years. He reflects on his own Masonic walk as he decides what to include in the publication. “The only thing that remains constant in Freemasonry is change,” he said. “The main problem in Masonry is not numbers, but retention of membership.”

Brothers Bob Mente and Bernard “Bud” Jozwiak team up to produce the monthly “District 47 News.” The newsletter features a message from Brother Robert Amend, D.D.G.M.-47, as well as upcoming events; updates from each lodge; information on Masonic education, the School of Instruction and the mentor program; news from Masonic youth and appendant groups in the district; and legal and public relations notes.

According to Brother Bud, the newsletter has been produced for over five years. It is emailed to all those on the master distribution list and to those who request it. He sends out reminders to Lodge Secretaries to provide submissions for each issue and encourages others to submit their ideas and pictures, as well.

Brother Bob started putting the newsletter together in June 2016. He edits submissions and drafts the newsletter from a template, which Brother Bud then edits and sends out to the brethren. Readership has been increasing, both within and outside the district. Brother Bob is now in the process of developing a website for District 47, which he expects to be complete by September.

Brother Richard H. Bradbury, Sr., D.D.G.M.-8, maintains his district’s website and Facebook page and produces a newsletter which includes a calendar; upcoming Grand Lodge, lodge and district events and fundraisers; recognitions; some Masonic educational, historical and literary information; and any other interesting articles or information he comes across.

Brother Richard has produced the newsletter since he became a District Deputy in 2015. He emails it to the Lodge Secretaries of the district, who include it with their monthly lodge meeting notices to the district’s combined 2,000+ members, either through email or mail. He also posts the newsletters on the district website.

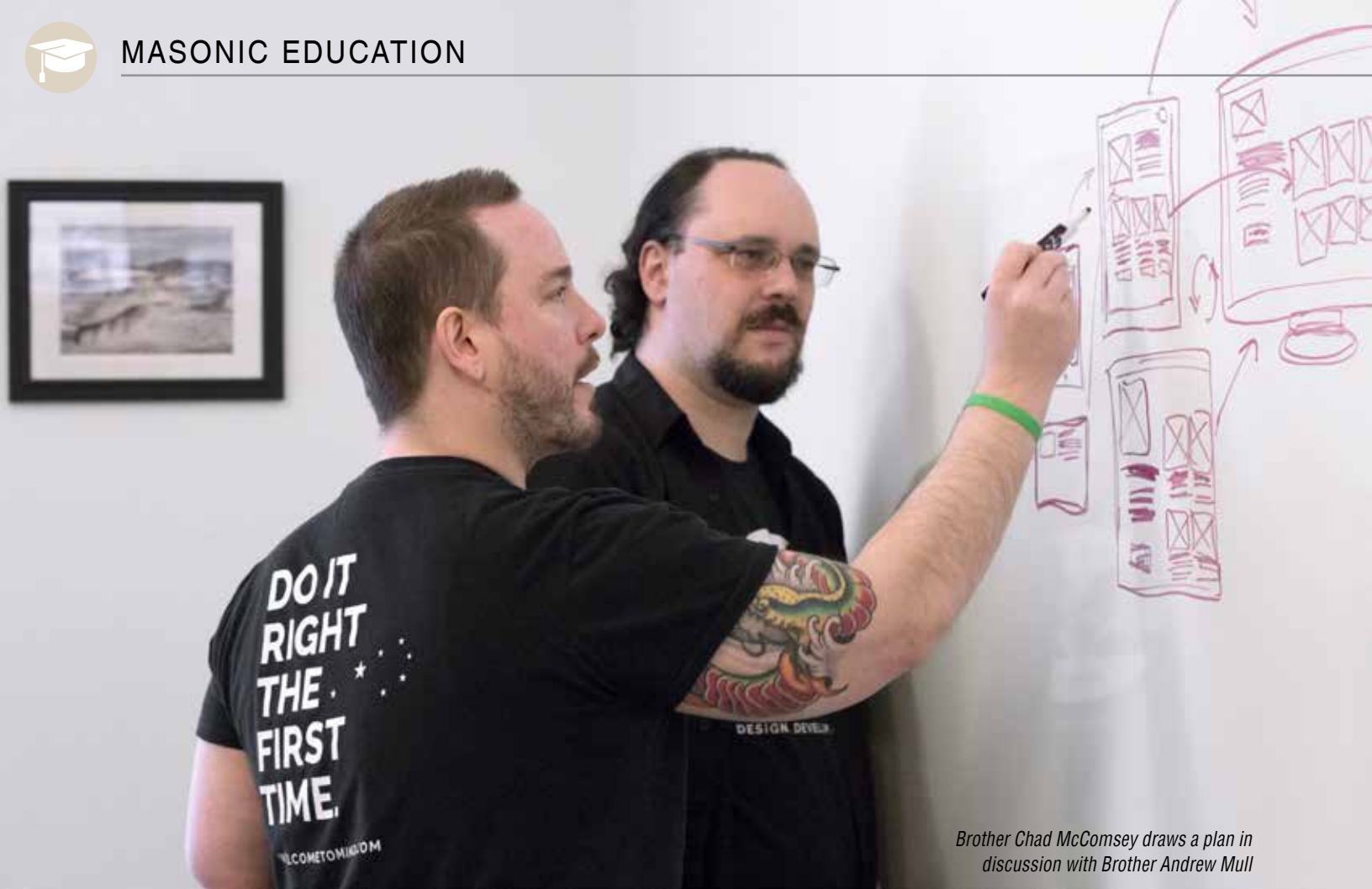


Written in “Readers Digest” style, Brother Richard jokes that the newsletter is less a Pulitzer prize-winning work than good bathroom reading, with glossary terms, Masonic poems and humor and the occasional short Masonic biography. He provides diverse content in hopes of increasing his members’ interest in Freemasonry. “Who knows if the snippet of information they read may cause them to delve into a subject deeper than this vehicle is meant to do?” he queried.

As a result, he has received positive feedback from all age groups. “Many brothers through the years have come up to me and told me how much they enjoy the newsletter, how they learn something new with each one and/or to thank me for putting it together. I have even had wives make reference to it or to an article that appeared. People seem to enjoy it, which was the whole idea,” he said. “If (a brother) enjoys reading it, there is a reason to open the lodge envelope ... he may then read the meeting notice and find something that

interests him and decide to attend a meeting.” He’s even received compliments from other jurisdictions. A brother from Florida, who was trying to rekindle his day lodge, saw the newsletter on the district website and asked to use some content to hopefully spark interest and increase attendance.

Sometimes, the hardest part in developing a newsletter or other communication vehicle is simply getting started. You don’t have to be an English major or professional author; in fact, the brethren quoted in this article have diverse backgrounds ranging from education, information technology and paralegal to management, administration and law enforcement. The most important requirements are some basic writing and computer skills, good organization and time management, a love for the fraternity and your fellow brethren, and a commitment to sharing the light of Freemasonry.



Brother Chad McComsey draws a plan in discussion with Brother Andrew Mull

MINDING THE WEB

Three guys walk into a bar ...

No, this isn't the start of one of those eye roll-inducing jokes – it's actually how a group of brothers and friends came up with the name for MIND Development & Design, LLC, a Lancaster-based firm specializing in web development and design, content and social media marketing. Co-founded by Brother Chad McComsey, Lamberton Lodge No. 476, Lancaster, and his partner, David "Zim" Zimmerman, the agency serves clients ranging from custom home builders, archery suppliers and personal trainers to law firms, nonprofits and hospitality businesses.

"A group of us had gotten together at Quips Pub (in Lancaster) to discuss the potential for us all to work together in starting the business," Brother Chad explains. "We hadn't solidified the branding yet, but we wanted to establish a general concept of doing things right and understanding the internet as a market space in general. I recall looking up and seeing

the classic London Underground 'MIND THE GAP' signage and saying it out loud, 'Mind the gap ... Mind your business ... Mind the web ... Mind. MIND?' I nudged Zim and said, 'What do you think of just calling ourselves MIND?' He was all for it, and after another pint or two, we began fleshing out the concept and planning for the future."

That was in 2009. But let's back up a bit to how it all began.

Having been laid off from his Art Director position during the economic downturn of 2008, Brother Chad began freelancing when he ran into his friend Zim, who was also looking for a new job. They'd both been involved with the internet marketing industry through previous employers, the last of which they worked for together. It didn't take long for the friends to decide to give it a go on their own. "Unbeknownst to us, our wives had been discussing the same thing!" Brother Chad recalls. "Needless to say, we had the drive and encouragement to forge ahead."

The soon-to-be entrepreneurs went to SCORE, a resource network of volunteer, expert business mentors. There, they

Why is a responsive website important?

Let's look at the numbers:

5.1 billion: # of mobile phone users worldwide

200 million: # of people who got their first mobile phone in 2017

According to WeAreSocial's 2018 Global Digital Media Report, much of the growth in internet users has been driven by more affordable smartphones and mobile data plans.



worked with Brother (Charles) Larry Merris, Lamberton Lodge No. 476 ... but Brother Chad wasn't yet a Mason, and he didn't know Brother Larry was at the time, either. "I wasn't raised until after I started the business and had no idea that Larry was a fellow lodge brother until then!" Brother Chad said.

In addition to the co-founders, MIND employs a chief financial officer; search engine optimization expert; project manager; content writers; and several developers, including Brother Andrew Mull, P.M., Charles M. Howell Lodge No. 496, Millersville. "We're very fortunate to have some fellow brothers working alongside us," Brother Chad said. "We've also had the pleasure of contracting with other local Masons and some from out of state, as well."

In almost 10 years, MIND has grown from three guys in an office creating websites for other local firms to a 12-person full-service creative agency. Once only known for its technical capabilities, the MIND team is now known for its innovation within the internet marketing space.

"I enjoy being able to use my creativity in a practical application," Brother Chad explains. "Being able to visually tell a story, elicit a feeling or create a response; in the professional world, having a client express their appreciation when you give them something better than they even imagined. I also really enjoy the challenge that every client brings to the table. It's rarely a cut-and-dry solution, and many times, you need to adapt to the client themselves to objectively make a difference."

Brother Chad offers the following advice to lodges looking

to build and/or maximize their websites: "The most important aspect to consider when discussing modern website builds is being sure that your website is built to be 'responsive.' In other words, making sure that your website appears properly and is usable on all mobile devices, not just on a desktop computer. Google now indexes desktop, tablet and mobile searches separately, so if your website isn't responsive, it's very likely that it's not showing up in tablet or mobile search queries. In 2017, over half of all internet traffic came from mobile devices, so it's more important now than ever before."

While Brother Chad surmises that most technological tasks tend to be handed to a younger brother, "The truth is that the tools we use today are easier to understand and operate than ever before," he explains. He also stresses the importance of engaging one's audience through social media to improve your overall online presence. "If your website is 'Rome,' then your social media channels are the 'roads' leading there," he advises. And who wouldn't want to direct their friends toward the best fraternity in the world?

"I can say without hesitation that my brethren and their families are some of the best people I've had the good fortune to meet," Brother Chad said. "Throughout Blue Lodge and the appendant bodies, there are so many great people doing amazing things that it's tough to touch on them all."

**But one thing's for sure:
he has Freemasonry in MIND.**



YOUR ONLINE IMAGE: YOU ARE WHAT YOU POST

Social media can enrich our lives in so many ways. It provides us an instantaneous way to gain information, search for entertainment, find a new job, and build and maintain relationships with people across town or around the globe.

It's no secret that social media use is exploding. According to WeAreSocial's 2018 Global Digital Media Report, a mere 10 years ago, only seven percent of the U.S. population used one or more social networking sites. Now, that figure has increased almost tenfold, to 65 percent. Surprisingly, the 65+ population is driving current growth. Statista reports that Facebook dominates the social media market with over two billion active users, also boasting the greatest engagement in time. YouTube is in second place with 1.5 billion active users.

While the ease of social media facilitates its adoption rate, it can also be detrimental. Many post before they think about how their comment, opinion or shared material will be received by others. The most recent presidential election is an excellent example. While it's common courtesy (and even Masonic protocol within lodge) to refrain from discussing religion and politics in a professional environment or mixed crowd, it seemed commonplace for people to post their opinions, share articles (some unverified), photographs and jokes about the candidate they did not support. While in this country, free speech allows us to voice our opinions, we are wise to do so with respect, truth and consideration. How many people's views does one expect to change through sarcasm, negativity, condemnation or false accusations?

Your social media activity may affect not only your personal, but also your professional relationships. If you're in the midst of a job search, it's a good idea to evaluate the way you portray yourself on social media. In the same vein, colleges and universities are known to check applicants'

social media accounts to learn more about them before making final decisions.

The most important thing to remember when using social media is to be responsible. While social networking sites spread information faster than any other media, they can also be a source of unreliable and false information. Also, social media posts cannot be completely deleted; for example, the Library of Congress archived all public tweets from Twitter's inception in 2006 until Jan. 1, 2018; now, due to sheer volume, it's being more selective. Less discerning users have learned the hard way that posts can have unintended consequences; Facebook was named as a source of information in one-third of all divorces filed in 2011 (<http://socialnetworking.procon.org>).

When using social media, keep in mind the following dos and don'ts:

DO:

- Click carefully. Social networking site users are vulnerable to security attacks such as hacking, identity theft and viruses.
- Read before you share, like or retweet. The title of an article might sound intriguing, but beware of click bait.
- Know how to set privacy settings. Make sure to address this when setting up your profile in each medium you utilize, so only the people you want to share information with can see your activity.
- Employ basic grammar. It's OK to be casual, but maintain your credibility.

DON'T:

- Discuss confidential information. It could cost you your credibility, your job or even result in a lawsuit.
- Use vulgarity. If you wouldn't say it to your boss, your worship leader or your grandmother, don't post it.



- Vent about your co-workers, company or clients (even if they're unnamed). It's not only unprofessional, but could cost you your reputation, relationships and, well ... your job.

- Over-personalize your profile with your full birth date, cell phone number or anything else you wouldn't want the rest of the world to know.

Remember Masonic Protocol

A Mason should conduct himself on social media in the same way he would as a representative of the craft. You're a Mason 24/7, regardless of whether or not you're wearing your apron, so you become others' impression of Freemasonry whether you're at work, at a community event or online. Therefore, your individual postings not only reflect our own character, but that of Freemasonry ... so they should portray

the highest standards of morality and integrity.

As Freemasons, we need to remember that while social media can be casual, our Masonic protocol doesn't relax with it. For example, it's not ok to discuss the business of a lodge, including applicants and candidates, ritual or "tyled" information. Don't identify any Freemason as a member of the craft unless he has provided his consent or has already identified himself as such. It's not acceptable to use social media to contact other Grand Jurisdictions.

So, what *should* you post on Masonic-related social media? Certainly anything that supports or promotes the fraternity and its members; upcoming events, such as open houses and fundraisers; highlights of past events; and videos and photos that show fellowship, charity and family fun events. Post about what Freemasonry means to you.



Alex Heidbuechel of Flashbox Event Photography

MASONS HIT THE ICE FOR CHARITY

There were many ways the brothers of Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, could have raised money for the Masonic Children’s Home, a cause close to their hearts. However, Brother Stan Pannella never thought strapping into skates and hitting the ice would be one of them.

When brothers from Canada’s Niagara District A came to visit Concordia Lodge on March 3, members knew they wanted to show them the heart of Pennsylvania Freemasonry by providing a memorable experience. Brother Stan took the lead on planning a hockey game, so each lodge could demonstrate their skills while enjoying a little friendly competition and international fellowship.

“We pride ourselves on the way we receive other brothers,” Brother Stan said. “We wanted the Canadians to feel like they were at home with us, and we were excited to host this unique event and raise money for charity at the same time.”

Concordia Lodge brothers worked tirelessly to find a rink, hockey gear, volunteers to work the event, corporate sponsors and, most importantly, players to risk it all on the ice. “We all pulled together to make it happen,” Brother Stan said. “A lot of our guys put up their own money, not to mention their time.”

Many of the volunteer players were somewhat confident with their abilities, having played hockey in youth leagues, high school, college and on minor league teams. Brother Stan himself has played goalie on various teams for the last 50 years. The final Concordia Lodge team, made up of 16 men and one woman, worked hard to brush up on their skills months before the game. Despite the mounting pressure, both teams knew the goal was to have fun and support a good cause.

“I’m proud of our members because they were willing to go out on a limb and take the time to make an international connection,”

Brother Steven Ross, W.M., Concordia Lodge, said. “The future of our organization is not in the feats of our individual lodges. It comes from working together and thinking outside of the box in being one, large united fellowship.”

Thanks to social media and word of mouth, the game had support from fellow Masons and their families. Although Concordia Lodge was victorious against the Canadians with a final score of 8 – 3, it was really the children at the Masonic Children’s Home who won. A \$5 donation at the door, individual and corporate donations and a 50/50 raffle that was won by a member’s wife and donated back to charity totaled \$3,500 for the children’s home, and donations are still coming in.

“All of us believe kids are the future,” Brother Stan says. “All we can do is supply them with the proper tools to afford them a brighter future. If one of those tools is money, we’ll make it happen.”

“At one point in the game, I’m sitting on the bench and watching the smiles of the players, families and friends. I was happy to see everyone who came out to support us was having a good time. They enjoyed watching us make fools of ourselves, which is great. It was more than just a hockey game. Anyone could see that.”

The event made such an impact that there are already plans in place for a future hockey game with the Canadian Masons. Although, next time, Concordia Lodge may visit Canada.

“What I find about Masonry is no matter where your home is, you have a brother around the world,” Brother Stan says. “This is really a story of several lodges coming together to celebrate what it means to be a Mason. We’re all on the level to become better men, so why not enjoy the journey?”



A VERY PROUD MOMENT

by Brother Larry A. Penman, P.M., Sharon Lodge No. 598, Shinglehouse



Brother Larry Penman, P.M., pinning his father, Brother Robert Penman, Sr., P.M., with his 50-year service pin in 2010.

As a child growing up, I can remember my Dad (“Pop” as I call him) working very hard to make sure my four brothers, my mom and I had everything we needed. I knew he was sometimes working two jobs to make ends meet, and that once a month he went to a meeting. I remember that he dressed up very fancy for this meeting, and that one time he brought home a fancy wooden gavel and placed it on his bureau. I never asked him what he was doing, or what the “fancy wooden hammer” was until many years later at hunting camp.

I can remember like it was yesterday, the look on my father’s face, and his reaction when I asked that all important question. Pop (a very proud Scotsman) started sobbing, but smiling at the very same time. He stated proudly through the tears, that he had waited all of these years (I was 48 at the time) for one of his sons to ask “the question,” and that deep

down in his heart, he had always hoped that it would be me. He started to fill me in on how much it meant to him, about our Masonic heritage and how many generations of our family were Masons. Unbeknownst to me, many of the male relatives I grew up enjoying were Masons, including my Grandfather.

I told Pop that had I known how much it meant to him, I would have asked that all important question many years ago! He just smiled and said through the tears of joy, that he and I were going to have a very special bond for the rest of our lives.

Pop, Brother Robert E. Penman, Sr., P.M., was raised in 1960 at Penn-Morrisville Lodge No. 778, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1966. Following our discussion at camp, I worked my way through the chairs, starting at Senior Master of Ceremonies and learning all of the necessary work as fast as humanly possible, determined to be the one to pin my Pop with his 50-year service pin in 2010.

Pop was there when I received the Word of the Chair and entered the East as Worshipful Master. I had the honor of proudly pinning that milestone pin to my Pop’s tuxedo, just as he pinned me when I was raised with my Grandfather’s Masonic lapel pin. Now, I feel as a family, we have come full circle in maintaining our proud Masonic heritage. I also visited Tillicoultry, Scotland, and had the privilege of attending the lodge in the town where my ancestors attended. I was honored when the Worshipful Master opened his lodge and invited me to the East for the entire meeting!

Prior to his passing, Pop was a member in good standing of Newtown Lodge No. 427. While I miss him dearly, I treasure our Masonic journey together.



HELP FOR OUR HEROES



Help for Our Heroes continues to assist our service people in many ways, the most visible being calling cards distributed to troops serving overseas and baby showers for military members expecting a child.

All requests are reviewed by Brother and Col. Harris H. Brooks, Brotherhood Lodge No. 126, Philadelphia, who facilitates Help for Heroes out of the kindness of his heart to

support the U.S. military and the freedoms we enjoy here in this country. When any request is awarded in the theater, where our service people are stationed in harm's way, it has been Help for Our Heroes' policy to work through the Commanding Officer of that unit.

Help for Heroes comes into play when all other options have been contacted and exhausted. Brother and Col. Brooks has been able to direct some requests to other available sources, including working with the Veterans Administration and other government or military relief programs and arranging for pro-bono attorney assistance, or work through Masonic contractors and companies that support our military through donations or at cost. Other examples are mentors for Veterans' court, household repairs and financial assistance for military members facing medical bills and job loss. Phillips, Bye Bye Baby, K-Mart, Valley Forge Casino Hotel and The March of Dimes have made contributions financially and operationally, which allows the program to reach even more service people in need. To avoid administrative costs, Help for Our Heroes has not worked with any foundations; instead, support is provided directly to the service people so every dollar donated is used for its intended purpose.

LIFESKILLS CONFERENCE

Develop Respect, Responsibility, Relationships

July 22 – 27, 2018

WHO: Youth ages 12-16 who are members of a Masonic sponsored youth group, or a relative of a PA Freemason, or sponsored by a PA Freemason or a lodge. Not sure how to qualify? Contact us. For youth 17-21, check out the LifeChangers Conference!

WHERE: The Masonic Conference Center-Patton Campus, Elizabethtown, PA, boasts a 25-meter indoor pool, gymnasium, outdoor tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, a softball field, a media center with a large screen and surround sound, and air-conditioned comfort with private bathrooms for every room.

COST: Through the generous support of the Masons of Pennsylvania, the entire week will cost you only \$300 if you're attending for the first time, or \$450 if you're returning for a second conference.

LIFE CHANGERS PROGRAM

WHO: Youth AGES 17 - 21, LifeSkills graduates and others

WHERE/WHEN: Same time and location as LifeSkills

COST: \$300 for first-time attendees, \$450 for returning attendees



For more details and registration forms, visit: www.pmyf.org, click on **Conferences > LifeSkills** or call the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation at: **(800) 266-8424** or **(717) 367-1536**



A MASONIC FAMILY AFFAIR

by Brother Jeffrey M. Wonderling, R.W. Senior Grand Warden

Back row, l-r: Brothers Thomas E. Bahney, Jr., and Michael R. Bahney, King Solomon's Lodge No. 346, Connellsville; Dylan T. Bahney, Senior Councilor, Westmoreland Chapter, and Jeffrey M. Wonderling, R.W. Senior Grand Warden Front row, l-r: Melinda Bahney, Julia Bahney, Jen Bahney and Sharon Wonderling, Past District Deputy Grand Matron

This account of my personal family experiences as a Freemason will give you an example of our kind and gentle fraternity in action.

Shortly after I joined the lodge, our son, Tom, joined also. Three years later, our son, Michael, decided to follow that same path. Both of them had a much better perspective than I of what our fraternity represents because of their involvement in DeMolay. Tom was active early in his Masonic career but naturally life got in the way. Mike became a Master Mason but shortly thereafter moved to Virginia. He did, however, manage to attend meetings in that jurisdiction. In the interim, my wife, Sharon, joined The Order of the Eastern Star and Amaranth. Two years ago, Tom began attending meetings. When asked, he would substitute as an officer and assist in degree work. In January, he became an appointed officer of the lodge. He is honing his ritual skills by regularly attending the School of Instruction. Michael is constantly working but manages to attend meetings as his schedule allows.

During this span of 20+ years, we were blessed with two grandchildren, Julia and Dylan. Julia became a dancer and videographer, while Dylan became obsessed with video games and ice hockey. Dylan was always a quiet and shy young man. In fact, there was a time when we debated if he would ever talk. At age 14, and after nearly 10 years of hockey, Dylan decided he didn't want to play any longer. A year later, out of the blue, he approached Tom and said, "Dad, I want to join DeMolay." He has been immersed in the group from the day he was initiated. The transformation has been just short of miraculous. He is much more outgoing and has become engaged in working with the other boys. He had a non-speaking part in one of the ceremonies this past year and has agreed to elevate his game by taking a speaking part in the next ceremony. He was

recently installed as Senior Councilor of Westmoreland Chapter and is planning an event for the group. Nobody in our family ever saw this coming. The difference in his demeanor and behavior is awe-inspiring. We could not be more pleased. Tom became a DeMolay "Dad" and the Assistant Chapter Advisor and Treasurer.

Without question, DeMolay is a great avenue for young men to learn what is not taught in school: valuable lessons and skills such as leadership, public speaking, patriotism and respect for parents and peers. They soon understand that in order to advance their ideas, they must negotiate to build a consensus, and during this process, they gain a valuable understanding of empathy. These same lessons and skills are taught in our youth organizations for young ladies, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

For the last 25 years, Freemasonry has been a guide for our family. We tout that one of our core objectives in the fraternity is to "Make Good Men Better." I can testify that each member of our family is a better person because of Freemasonry. Young Dylan saw something in his dad, uncle or grandfather that piqued his interest. He wanted to live a similar life to those he looked up to. Yes, young Dylan had the same experience the three of us had 20+ years ago. Our family is a shining example of how Freemasonry is supposed to work, and I could not be more grateful.

It is said, "A family that plays and prays together, stays together." Our fraternity and its youth groups provide a wholesome environment to do just that. Give your loved ones the same head start that our family has enjoyed. Check out these youth groups online, call the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation at 1-800-266-8424 or email trlabagh@pademolay.net. You'll be glad you did. *Foot to foot.*



Take time to rediscover YOU.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT DALLAS features retirement living villa homes and spacious apartments surrounded by the splendor of the Back Mountain of Northeast Pennsylvania. Meet neighbors for events, play a round of golf or dine at the Irem Clubhouse without leaving the campus. Located next door, Misericordia University extends wellness, lifelong learning, athletic and cultural programs.

To learn more, call 1-570-446-5658 to RSVP attend an upcoming event:

June 14: Seminar and luncheon

Sept. 6: Seminar and luncheon



At **MASONIC VILLAGE AT ELIZABETHTOWN**, residents can choose from 13 different retirement living floor plan options, ranging from studio apartments to two-bedroom/den cottages. A new concept, Sycamore Townhomes at Sycamore Square, is being premarketed as a unique active senior living option for individuals who aren't ready to commit long-term to a continuing care retirement community, but who are seeking a maintenance-free lifestyle with access to dining, fitness and social opportunities.

For more information about the townhomes, or to attend one of the following upcoming events, call 1-717-473-0614.

June 6, at 1 p.m.: Rental Apartment Event

June 13, at 1 p.m.: Bus Tour Open House

Engage and explore. Learn and grow. Relax and unwind. Masonic Village will take care of the rest.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT LAFAYETTE HILL offers options including one-bedroom, one-bedroom den and two-bedroom apartments, amidst the quaintness of the suburbs. Living amidst 21 scenic acres in Montgomery County, only 30 minutes from downtown Philadelphia, makes it easy to leave the worries of home upkeep behind. Enjoy the seemingly infinite number of recreational, social, cultural, wellness and educational possibilities that await outside your door. You're invited to discover more:

Call 1-484-535-3119 to RSVP to attend a seminar and tour on June 19.



MASONIC VILLAGE AT SEWICKLEY includes apartments and villas situated on a picturesque hillside with the skyscrapers of Pittsburgh rising in the distance. Living amidst more than 60 acres of amenities and an array of personalized services make this an ideal Lifecare community. Take a tour and see all our newly renovated amenities during one of the following events, or call for a personal appointment. Call 724-242-5099 to RSVP to attend one of the following events or to schedule a personal appointment:

June 7: Lunch and Learn

August 8: Lunch and Learn



MASONIC VILLAGE AT WARMINSTER offers comfortable, secure personal care studios and nursing care suites. Residents gather with friends in one of the beautifully landscaped courtyards, participate in various outings, creative arts, interdenominational worship services and more. The Mission of the Masonic Village at Warminster includes serving individuals in Philadelphia County who are day-one Medicaid recipients. For more information, call 1-215-672-2500.

MASONIC VILLAGES' ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admissions to the Masonic Villages are governed by the board of directors, members of which are elected by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The board of directors approves or disapproves applications for admission primarily on the basis of need. Decisions concerning admission, the provision of services and referrals of residents are not based upon the applicant's race, color, religion, disability, ancestry, national origin, familial status, age, sex, limited English proficiency (LEP) or any other protected status.

Regardless of your financial situation, you can afford to move to a Masonic Village! **When you choose to live at the Masonic Villages, you are not required to turn over your assets; you maintain complete control of them.** Fraternal support enables the Masonic Villages to serve all eligible individuals as part of our Mission of Love.

Please contact the Admissions or Marketing Office at the Masonic Village of your preference for information on the living area desired. For more information, visit www.masonicvillages.org.



THREE GENERATIONS MAKE MASONIC VILLAGE A TRADITION

Freemasonry makes brothers out of all Masons, but some men are family both inside and outside the fraternity.

The late Brother Frank Schnabel was an active member of Harmony Lodge No. 52, Philadelphia, which met – as it still does today – at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. He received his 50-year pin and Masonic Bible on March 1, 1976.

Upon retirement, like many Masonic couples, Brother Frank and his wife, Isabel, chose the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. He passed away March 31, 1991, after 65 years of service to his lodge and Freemasonry at large. He was buried in the campus cemetery behind the orchard with his Isabel.

Brother Frank’s Masonic legacy lived on through his son, Brother Ken Schnabel, Sr. Brother Frank wanted to encourage his son to join, but at the time, he had to be subtle.

“My dad kept asking, ‘When are you going to come talk to me?’” Brother Ken Sr. recalls.

In 1974, after helping raise three kids and working two jobs, Brother Ken Sr. finally found the time to join his father’s lodge. He was active in lodge activities for many years before retiring at Masonic Village with his wife, Georgette, in 1990, just as his parents did. Now 90, he enjoys tending to the African violets he keeps on his windowsill and spending time with family. Georgette passed away two years ago.

Like his father, Brother Ken Schnabel Jr., was a later-in-life Mason. Although he had two generations of Masons in his family, he did not join until his 30s, after his grandparents moved into Masonic Village.

“After I saw how they had taken such good care of Grandmom and Pop, I joined,” Brother Ken Jr. said. “I was always impressed

with how nice the accommodations were and how the staff really cared.”

Brother Ken Jr.’s petition was approved in 1991. Although he initially wanted to surprise his father, the brethren in his lodge, W.K Bray Lodge No. 410, Hatboro, heartily discouraged him.

“They said, ‘Hold everything – he wants to be there for your degrees,’” Brother Ken Jr. recalled.

He was raised to the level of a Master Mason in 1992. His brother, Brother Dave Schnabel, also joined. They shared special Masonic moments when Brother Ken Jr. guided Brother Dave through his own three degrees.

“To me, Freemasonry has always meant fellowship, patriotism, brotherly love, community and learning – finding more in yourself than you knew was there. I was always greeted with a smile and handshake wherever I went. I try to do the same,” Brother Ken Jr. said.

Brother Ken Jr. and his wife, Mary Jane, kept up the tradition of retiring at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. Visiting for almost 30 years prepared them well for the move.

“The move-in process was kind of a snap,” he said.

In October 2017, they moved into their new apartment, located in the same complex where his parents lived for 20 years. Brother Ken Jr. now enjoys working in the Rooster Woodshop and having his father over for a home-cooked dinner and an Eagles game. He looks forward to “hopefully another 25 good years at Masonic Village,” based on the longevity in his lineage.

“I like that you don’t have to do a whole lot with housekeeping and maintenance,” he said.

His father also agrees. “It’s easy living,” he says.



GROWING THE WIDOWS' GUILD

The Widows' Guild was established to recognize and assist the widows of Pennsylvania Masons. The Blue Slipper Pin is a universal symbol known around the world to identify Masonic widows and Freemasons' duty to provide them care and support. All widows of Pennsylvania Masons are invited to become members of the Widows' Guild. Currently, the guild includes almost 600 members.

Meet Tiffany Brandt-Thomas, Relations Administrator

Please welcome Tiffany Brandt-Thomas, who has joined us in the new role of Relations Administrator for the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Tiffany's life is firmly rooted in her family and is continually evolving through her ongoing desire to connect with others, to participate in community service and to grow through new experiences.

As a Relations Administrator, Tiffany serves as a liaison and direct support to Masonic widows, keeping them connected to each other, to the Masonic Villages and Masonic Outreach programs, and to events and support groups in their communities. She will continue "The Blue Slipper" newsletter to communicate services and events available to widows of Pennsylvania Masons. She is developing a "Widows' Guild Events Guide" for Lodges interested in facilitating Widows' Guild membership and events.

Tiffany explains, "My goal is to talk with widows about their experiences and form genuine relationships with them so I will

better understand their needs and increase participation in the Widows' Guild, creating a network of support and friendship for the Masonic widows of Pennsylvania." She looks forward to being a reliable point of contact and source of support to these special ladies.

Prior to joining Masonic Villages, Tiffany worked in Mission Support for the American Cancer Society, where she facilitated relationships with staff and volunteers who deliver essential programs to patients in need.

Tiffany holds a bachelor's degree in art education from Millersville University and is a Pennsylvania Certified Art Teacher. Although she has not worked in education for over six years, she continues to support youth as a founding member and volunteer coach of the Elizabethtown Mountain Bike Club and by serving on the Coaches Council of the PA Interscholastic Mountain Bike League.

Tiffany hopes all the relationships she nurtures will leave individuals feeling positive about themselves and connected to the communities they live in. She can assist lodges and widows with details on Widows' Guild membership and receiving a membership card and a Blue Slipper Pin. Tiffany can be reached toll-free at 800-599-6454, or locally at 717-367-1121, ext. 33497, or via email at tbthomas@masonicvillages.org.





Home and Community-Based Services Provide More Choices



Receiving medical care in the comfort and privacy of home is an increasingly popular choice for individuals in need of some additional help after a hospital stay, illness or injury. Whether in need of assistance on a short-term or continual basis, these convenient options help people maintain their independence for as long as possible.

Masonic Village at Elizabethtown’s newly-launched home health services deliver a range of services to clients. Upon physician referral, Masonic Village staff conduct a comprehensive evaluation and customize a home health care plan to meet each client’s needs and coordinate care with the client’s physician. Services may include skilled nursing; physical, occupational and speech therapy; medical social work; and the assistance of a home health aide. Home health care is covered by Medicare and many other insurances.

Masonic Village has offered home care services since 2009. Home care is different from home health in that it is non-medical and focuses on assisting with activities of daily living, meal preparation, household services, transportation and other individualized services. These services are not covered by Medicare,

but are paid privately.

Pharmacy services are now the latest option through Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. Having operated its own pharmacy since 1977, Masonic Village has expanded its offerings to staff and the surrounding community, as well as residents and staff in Warminster. Services in Lafayette Hill are slated to begin in the spring. In addition to prescriptions, the full-service pharmacy offers over-the-counter medicine, remedies and toiletries, as well as convenient delivery for customers in the Elizabethtown area. The pharmacy has moved to the Sycamore Square marketplace at the edge of campus, where home health, home care and hospice will also be relocated this spring.

Maintaining independence as long as possible is the goal for most people as they age. Masonic Villages are committed to helping people achieve their highest quality of life by providing convenient, meaningful services at one of our beautiful campuses or wherever our customers call “home.”

For more information about any of these services, call 717-367-1121.

Bleiler Caring Cottage Renovated & Expanded



In operation for 20 years, the Bleiler Caring Cottage has been renovated and expanded so each of its eight residents now has his or her own bedroom. Other upgrades include an additional laundry room and bathroom and a new office space for staff.

“They love their new rooms,” Missy Kilmer, program manager, said. “Everyone needs his or her own space to retreat to. Each

resident was able to personalize his or her room, which makes it extra special.”

The Bleiler Caring Cottage at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown is home to eight individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities. The residents work, volunteer or attend the Adult Daily Living Center during the day. They have access to all the amenities, events, programs and services on campus, as well as pursuing their own hobbies and interests.

The Bleiler Caring Cottage was established with assistance from a generous contribution from Kenneth and Elaine Bleiler that initiated its permanent Endowment Fund. Charitable gifts play an important role in supporting the cottage and its residents. Contributions to the Endowment Fund will generate income in perpetuity exclusively for the program’s operation. This support translates directly into an improved quality of life for the residents.

For more information on supporting the Bleiler Caring Cottage, please contact the Masonic Charities Office of Gift Planning at 800-599-6454.

Qty	Item	Unit Cost
Adult Daily Living Center		
1	Smart DVD player	\$50
1	Heavy duty TV wall mount	\$80
1	Karaoke machine	\$140
Bleiler Caring Cottage		
12	WiFi (monthly fee)	\$40
2	Sharp sweepers	\$225
	New family/living room furniture	\$3,500
1	Future camp trips for residents	\$5,000
Masonic Village at Dallas		
3	AED/Defibrillator packs	\$1,200
24	Retractable awnings	\$3,500
1	Gazebo	\$5,000
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown		
20	Special bus trips/entertainment	\$25
	Local restaurant gift card for hospice patient	\$50
12	Clothing Co. certificates for nursing and personal care residents	\$50
4	Massages or Healing Touch™ for pain	\$65
4	Stand up gardens	\$200
42	Specialty wheelchair cushions	\$500
3	Bariatric wheelchairs	\$500
3	Electric lift recliners	\$1,200
1	Vasocompression device	\$1,200
1	Metro health care for personal care	\$2,500
20	Specialty mattresses	\$2,500
2	Blanket warmers	\$2,800
1	Blood pressure machine	\$4,000
1	Patio set for Personal Care area	\$5,000
Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill		
1	Ping pong table with accessories	\$800
	Spirit of Philadelphia trip	\$1,200
1	LifePack CR Plus	\$1,900
	Harvest Ball event	\$2,500
Masonic Village at Sewickley		
4	Shower chairs	\$350
4	Vital machines and mobile stands	\$2,000
10	Beds and mattresses	\$2,500
1	It's Never 2 Late (computer system technology)	\$9,000
Masonic Village at Warminster		
1	Pulse ox machine	\$330
1	Bladder scanner	\$10,000
Masonic Children's Home Renovation Wish List		
1	Podium, microphone	\$300
3	Sheds	\$500
1	Sports equipment	\$500
1	Day trip	\$1,000

MASONIC VILLAGES' 2018 WISH LIST

OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

1-800-599-6454

Thank you to those who have provided for the following items:

Bleiler Caring Cottage

Elaine Bleiler, Jacqueline Hieber, Masonic Village Piecemakers Quilting Club, Paul Mitchell and Barbara Zell: Activities

Masonic Children's Home

Anonymous: Bus trip and tickets to Radio City Music Hall
 Stuart Brown: Cottage furnishings
 Wayne and Nancy Lee Garafola, Ronald and Judy McKnight, and Michael and Barbara Overbeck: Various items
 Richard Vaux-Ivanhoe Lodge No. 384: Graduation activity fund and holiday wish list
 Joseph Simon and Jeffrey and Evelyn Smith: Furniture
 Robert and Joyce Umbaugh: Gift cards, furniture and appliances for Umbaugh Cottage
 Arthur and Dorothy Wert: College books

Masonic Village at Dallas

Clayton and Theresa Karambelas: Awnings

Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

Anonymous: Continuing education for Spiritual Care
 Ted and Alley Ackroyd: Baird Wellness Center gift cards
 Culp Family Foundation: Electric recliners and blanket warmer
 Craig Dayton: iPads for Music Therapy Department
 Anne Gratz: Painting for the Library
 David and Nancy Halliwell: Painting for the Library
 Wilson Kile, Jr.: MVT Station and books for Clubhouse Library
 James and Virginia McCall: Musical instruments for Music Therapy
 Michael and Carmen McKee: Michael Kemp workshop
 John and Gloria Pritsch: Clothing Co. certificates for residents
 Retirement Living Residents' Association: Various items
 Edward and Ruth Sattler: Sell Chapel audio equipment
 Mark and Judith Townsend: Music Therapy continuing education
 Jayne White: Manicures for residents of the Masonic Health Care Center

Masonic Village at Sewickley

Anonymous: Piano

Masonic Village at Warminster

Delaware County Home Auxiliary, O.E.S.: Mailboxes for residents
 Lodge No. 9: Dining room tables and electrical work

There is an all-inclusive wish list posted on MasonicCharitiesPA.org, or feel free to contact the Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-599-6454. Please note that if funds donated for any item listed are over-subscribed, the funds will be used for additional wish list items or needs in the same service area.

Guaranteed Lifetime Income



What Is It?

- A "Charitable Gift Annuity" - a special type of irrevocable charitable gift that pays donors for life.

What Are the Benefits?

- Guaranteed, fixed lifetime income
- Tax savings

Who Has Participated?

- Hundreds of Masonic and non-Masonic donors

Why?

- Payouts benefit the donor; and
- After the donor passes on, whatever is left in the gift annuity goes to the Masonic Charities.

What Are the Minimums?

- \$5,000 gift in cash or appreciated securities
- Age 65 or older for a one-life and a minimum age of 55 for a two-life annuity

Where Can I Get Information?

- Call Masonic Charities at 800-599-6454 or mail the reply form.



COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Office of Gift Planning, One Masonic Dr., Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Telephone 800-599-6454

I would like more information, with no obligation. Please:

- Send me a Charitable Gift Annuity illustration.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

My birth date _____ Spouse's birth date _____ (if two lives)

Dollar amount(s) to be illustrated (up to three amounts) _____

If using appreciated stock, estimate cost basis _____

- Call me to answer my questions. Phone () _____

SAMPLE GUARANTEED LIFETIME RATES

For One Life		For Two Lives	
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
70	5.1%	70 & 75	4.8%
75	5.8%	75 & 80	5.3%
77	6.2%	85 & 85	6.7%
81	7.0%	85 & 90	7.3%
85	7.8%	90 & 90	8.2%
90+	9.0%	90 & 95	8.8%

Note: This is a partial listing. Rates exist for any combination of ages.

www.MasonicCharitiesPa.org

Financial information about Masonic Charities can be obtained by contacting us at 1-800-599-6454. In addition, Masonic Charities is required to file financial information with several states. Colorado: Colorado residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, (303) 894-2680, <http://www.sos.state.co.us/>. Florida: SC No. 00774. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA. Georgia: full and fair description of the programs and activities of Masonic Charities and its financial statement are available upon request at the address indicated above. Illinois: Contracts and reports regarding Masonic Charities are on file with the Illinois Attorney General. Maryland: For the cost of postage and copying, documents and information filed under the Maryland charitable organizations laws can be obtained from the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (800) 825-4510. Michigan: MICS No. 11796 Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp.htm#charity. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. New York: A copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing the Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. North Carolina: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Virginia: Financial statements are available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. Washington: The notice of solicitation required by the Charitable Solicitation Act is on file with the Washington Secretary of State, and information relating to financial affairs of Masonic Charities is available from the Secretary of State, and the toll-free number for Washington residents: 1-800-332-4483. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. REGISTRATION IN THE ABOVE STATES DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION OF MASONIC CHARITIES BY THE STATE.