

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

Issued Every Three Months By

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of The Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania and Masonic Jurisdiction Thereunto Belonging, through its

COMMITTEE ON MASONIC CULTURE — William E. Yeager, Past Grand Master, Chairman; William E. Montgomery, G. Edward Elwell, Jr., Frank R. Leech, William A. Carpenter, Charles A. Young and Ashby B. Paul.

APPROVED AND AUTHORIZED TO BE PRINTED BY

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Right Worshipful Grand Master

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From Our Grand Secretary's Office

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the payment of all dues. Whether constituted such a member in return for the payment of a specific sum of money, or in consequence of having paid Lodge dues for a specified number of years, is of no importance. What is important is the fact that the Lodge charges him with no dues whatsoever. For each such member the subordinate Lodges, as has already been pointed out, will be charged, under the provisions of the proposed amendment, Grand Lodge dues at the present rate of \$2.00 annually.

No New Life Members to be Made After Adoption of the Amendment

However, while permitting the Lodges to continue to pay Grand Lodge dues at the present rate of only \$2.00 for each life member, the amendment prohibits them from creating any additional life members, or taking any other action to relieve any of their members from the payment of the annual Grand Lodge dues of \$4.00, except members whose dues are remitted by their Lodge because of the inability of such members to pay their Lodge dues.

The fact that the By-Laws of many Lodges now provide for life membership, will give those Lodges no right to constitute life members after the date of the adoption of this amendment. According to our law, when any portion of the By-Laws of a subordinate Lodge is at variance with the Ahiman Rezon, that portion is, by that very fact, null and void.

Honorary Members

It is important to call attention to the fact that the By-Laws of some Lodges provide for what they call "Life Members" who are exempt from the payment of all dues except Grand Lodge dues. The term "Life Member", in such instances is used in error. Members who pay Grand Lodge dues are known as Honorary Members, and the Lodge will be subject to the full \$4.00 charge for all such members.

While the Lodges will be prohibited from constituting life members after the adoption

of the amendment, they may, if they so desire, create honorary members, who will be exempt from the payment of all dues except Grand Lodge dues. However, no Lodge will be permitted to set the dues of any member at a sum less than \$4.00 annually.

When Lodge Dues Are Remitted

Finally, there is still another provision which represents a distinct departure from the practice that has heretofore been followed in charging the Lodge with Grand Lodge dues. One exception has been made to the rule that no Lodge shall be permitted in any way to relieve any of its members from the payment of the annual Grand Lodge dues of \$4.00, namely: those members whose dues are remitted by their Lodge because of the inability of such members to pay their Lodge dues.

Under our present law, Grand Lodge will remit the Grand Lodge dues only of those members of the subordinate Lodges who are confined to mental institutions, and then only after a formal request by the Lodge and the approval of the Committee on Finance. Under no other circumstances will these dues be remitted. The Lodges may remit the Lodge dues of their members who cannot pay, but they must still pay Grand Lodge dues for all such members.

The proposed amendment provides for the first time in the history of Grand Lodge, at least so far as we are aware, that if a Lodge remits the dues of any of its members, for the reason that they are unable to pay the same, Grand Lodge will remit the Grand Lodge dues of those members.

A Summary

Stated briefly, if the amendment to Article X, Section 1, Item 7, of the Ahiman Rezon is adopted, it will have the following effect:

Grand Lodge fees will be \$60.00 for each initiation or admission of a Brother from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction, whose petitions are received subsequent to 12 o'clock noon on St. John the Evangelist's day next.

Grand Lodge dues, payable by the subordinate Lodges will be as follows:

No charge for members whose Lodge dues are remitted because of their inability to pay such dues.

\$2.00 for each member who is a life member as of the date of the adoption of the amendment. No Lodge may create any new life members after the amendment becomes effective.

\$4.00 for all other members.

Corner Stone Laying Ceremonies

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vania Freemasonry: that illness and infirmity of an applicant are no bar to his entry, rather are they the surest ticket of admission.

"As our Homes grew in the years that followed, the Philadelphia brethren kept pace with increasing needs for hospitalization, adding the second and third units

which in 1922 gave 70 additional beds, and the fourth unit in 1931, whose 55 beds brought the hospital capacity up to 165. . . "In his address to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1947 the then Grand Master pointed out that enlarging our hospital is not merely a matter of adding bedrooms. There must be a comparable increase in the ancillary facilities that serve those additional rooms. More important still, new services must be provided in the light of advances in medicine since the earlier units of the hospital were built; such as better laboratories, that must include an adequate X-ray service, electrocardiography, and the like, and there must be trained technicians to man them. This meant planning in greater detail and a more costly construction.

"Once again Philadelphia's Freemasons took up the challenge and they have now nearly completed their self-assigned task of raising half-a-million dollars. This is being supplemented by unrestricted legacies of Philadelphia origin and the Hospital Extension Funds from the same source to produce this fine building; a building which will provide not only 110 more beds but the newest medical facilities to modernize the whole institution. . ."

How badly do we need additional hospital capacity?

At a meeting of the Committee on Masonic Homes held July 22, 1955 the following significant facts were reported.

Adult guests at the Homes—601. Average age of adult guests—80 years. Adult guests in hospital—218. (Hospital maximum capacity should be 165.) Permanent hospital guests—204.

The final cost of the Hospital Extension will be about One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000.00). Dedication is planned for July 1956.

Notwithstanding the unusually hot weather, some 1,500 Freemasons and their families witnessed the ceremonies. Some 800 came from Philadelphia, 300 by special train.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the R. W. Grand Master tendered a dinner to the members of his official family and their ladies and he was further pleased to have as his special guests, the members of the Philadelphia Freemasons' Memorial Hospital Extension Fund Committee and their ladies.

All others who witnessed the ceremonies were served a splendid buffet luncheon at the site of the Hospital Extension.

Let us hope that the labors of the Freemasons in Philadelphia, who continue to look after their favorite Homes project, the Hospital, may inspire Freemasons in other parts of our great jurisdiction, to set up other greatly needed facilities at our Homes. This, in one section, other than Philadelphia, is already being done.

Charles H. Nitsch

CHARLES H. NITSCH
R. W. Deputy Grand Master



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A Message from Our Grand Master

THE MOST RECENT annual report of the Committee on Finance of the Grand Lodge covers twenty-one printed pages in the 1954 Abstract of the Proceedings. Because of the length of this report, which is necessarily detailed and voluminous, I feel that it will not be read by many Pennsylvania Masons and will be studied and analyzed by only the few who are actively engaged in the work of the Grand Lodge. It seems opportune, therefore, at a time when we are so actively engaged in an extensive building program at the seat of our principal charity, the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, to call to the attention of the Masons of our Commonwealth some of the important facts regarding our financial structure.

The statement has been made on some occasions by the uninformed that "Grand Lodge has lots of money." This is true if you consider only the auditors' summary of assets which shows a total in excess of 26-million dollars, but it must be remembered that approximately 16-million dollars of this total is in trust funds each of which is earmarked for a specific purpose by the provisions of the will or deed of gift under which the fund was received, and can only be used for the purpose designated. We are under a very definite legal obligation to see that these funds are expended only as they were intended and, morally, we would be breaking faith with those who have remembered us were we to attempt to use these funds for any other purpose. About 4-million dollars of the total represents the value of the real estate, buildings and equipment of our Homes in Elizabethtown and 3-million dollars our Temple and equipment and other real estate in Philadelphia.

Approximately 2-million dollars is in our reserve funds which must be maintained to insure against future unexpected contingencies. This includes the reserve carried for the Masonic Homes as well as the reserve for Grand Lodge itself.

About 1-million dollars represents restricted funds which are and must be retained for the several purposes for which they were created. Included in this category are such items as the funds presently set aside for the completion of the hospital extension, the development of an advanced publication program, the Military and Naval Service fund, the Pension Plan of the Grand Lodge and other similar projects. As a matter of fact, and illustrative of the general thought expressed above, of the 461-thousand dollars cash in our General Fund but 63-thousand dollars were free cash balances available for unrestricted use as of the date of the last annual report.

It was an analysis of this nature which made your present Grand Lodge Officers realize that many of the trust and estate funds, while clearly designated on our records for use as directed by the donors, were not being promptly applied to such use. After many months of study and examination of the terms of each gift on the one hand and the specific needs of our Homes on the other, it was found possible

to embark on the improvement program at our Homes, including the modernizing of our kitchens, the rehabilitation of the utilities, the erection of the very much needed extension to our hospital and, I am happy now to report, the letting of the contracts for the construction of the recreation building and lodge hall. This is the last of the major undertakings presently contemplated and will supply appropriate recreational facilities which have been so badly needed for many years. Those familiar with the Homes have long realized the almost total lack of such facilities and the increasing need to have them established. We have never had a Lodge Hall at our Homes and this lack has been felt, not only by our male guests, but by many Masons throughout the State who have expressed a desire to arrange for Lodge meetings there which could be attended by members of the particular Lodge making the arrangements and such of the male guests as might be able to attend. For the first time, this will now be possible under regulations which will be adopted prior to the completion of the building.

All these projects are being carried out with funds which were graciously given to us for the purpose to which each has been and is being applied. When the program has been completed, a much larger percentage of our "total assets" will appear on the auditors' report as investments in real estate and equipment, but the far more important investment will be in the added comfort and happiness of our guests at the Homes and our expanded ability to care for that ever increasing number of our less fortunate brethren and their widows who require hospital care and treatment.

So, Brethren, whether "Grand Lodge has lots of money" depends entirely upon the meaning applied to that statement by the person making it. Very definitely, every dollar we have must be considered as available only for the specific purpose for which it was given, and the Grand Lodge must keep ever before it the realization that we have three principal obligations to meet:

First: To maintain and constantly improve, so far as that is possible, our charitable work in our Masonic Homes. The applications for admission are increasing as time goes on and the number of our guests becomes larger each year. Coupled with this numerical increase is an increase in the average age of our adult guests. At the latest report, we were caring for 655 guests whose average age was 80 years. For the future, the Grand Lodge is expanding its work for and among children and, under the resolutions recently adopted, we have proposed the creation of The Children's Service Committee and have given to the Committee on Masonic Homes a much greater latitude in the placing of children therein. Surely, this must be continued.

Second: To care for and administer properly the business of Grand Lodge. We are justly proud of the position our Fraternity has attained

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A Message from Our Grand Master

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after more than two hundred years of existence in Pennsylvania, and I am certain that each member must realize the financial burden imposed in meeting the expanding costs resulting from a constantly increasing membership which now totals just short of a quarter million members.

Third: To plan carefully for the future development of the Masonic Center for Pennsylvania. The magnificent Temple we have today at Broad and Filbert Streets in Philadelphia, recognized, as it is, as one of the finest Masonic Temples in the world, is the result of the careful planning of our predecessors. As they planned for us, so must we plan for our successors. We have taken the first step by acquiring the property at Arch and Juniper Streets, and plans are now being crystalized for its productive use until it will be possible to have it integrated with the present Temple. This is the "forward look" for the generations to come and contemplates a Masonic Center as outstanding for the future as our Temple has been in the past. Financial arrangements of a very definite nature must be established to insure the completion of this Masonic project.

Such future planning for all phases of our activities necessarily involves the careful consideration of annual income and expense and I, therefore, appointed a special committee to study this matter and to report their conclusions and recommendations. The Grand Secretary's office prepared a complete financial survey of all assets of Grand Lodge for the use of that committee and this, with our auditors' reports, served as the basis for their report. Their conclusion was that some way must be found to increase the annual income of Grand Lodge and this conclusion received the unanimous approval of your elected Grand Lodge Officers and your Committee on Finance. It was only after this unanimous approval that the resolution was introduced at the June Quarterly Communication to amend the Ahiman Rezon by providing for an increase in Grand Lodge dues from two dollars to four dollars and an increase in initiation fees from forty dollars to sixty dollars. The amounts involved in these increases were not the result of mere chance or caprice but were figures decided upon after months of study of the conditions to be met.

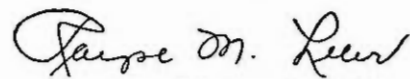
The present annual cost to Grand Lodge for the maintenance and operation of the Homes at Elizabethtown, including the annual appropriation to the Patton Institution, is \$1,068,000 and it has been estimated that, upon completion and full occupancy of the hospital extension, this will be increased to \$1,293,000. To meet this, there is foreseeable income of \$900,000, so that we shall soon be operating there at an annual deficit of \$393,000. The survey has further indicated that a conservative estimate of future general expenses of Grand Lodge will be \$625,000 annually,

with available income for those purposes of \$590,000. Additionally, it is necessary to find a means of providing funds, over a period of possibly ten to twenty years, for the development of the Masonic Center, in Philadelphia, and increased income is required, at least, to form a nucleus for this development.

You cannot feed guests with the value of bricks and mortar, you cannot care for hospital patients by consuming the principal of trust funds, and you cannot operate the Grand Lodge itself with funds clearly earmarked for use at the Homes or for other specific charitable purposes. We must find a way to be self-supporting.

The only alternative to an increase in income is, of course, a reduction in expenditures and this would mean, as to our Homes, a definite "ceiling" on the number of guests to be admitted. I believe the Grand Lodge does not desire to deny admittance to any Master Mason, his wife or widow, nor his children, when deserving of our help and assistance. As to the operation of Grand Lodge itself, the alternative would require the operation of a constantly growing fraternity, in a world of constantly increasing costs, with less expenditures than are presently being made. This would seem to be an impossibility. As to the development of the Masonic Center in Philadelphia, the alternative would seem to indicate a complete abandonment of all our plans and a retreat from that which we have been doing or, at the very least, a postponement into the far distant future of any attempt to relieve the overcrowded conditions in our Temple or to expand our physical facilities.

Grand Lodge dues have remained at two dollars per member since 1912 and Grand Lodge fees at forty dollars since 1923. In the intervening years, the economic conditions of the country have changed and left us far behind. It seems that now we must correct the situation and that the comparatively small increases provided in the resolution to be acted upon in December cannot prove a hardship to any member.



RALPH M. LEHR, Grand Master

Corner Stone Laying Ceremonies for Hospital Extension at Elizabethtown Most Impressive

An event of great significance to the Freemasons of Pennsylvania, and of particular interest to the 54,000 Freemasons in Philadelphia, took place on July 9, 1955, at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown when the corner-stone of the Extension to the Phil-

adelphia Freemasons' Memorial Hospital was laid in accordance with the Masonic Ceremonies of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania by our R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, assisted by the other officers of the Grand Lodge. It was most heartening to note that in addition to the Grand Lodge officers, there were present four Past Grand Masters, Brothers Scott S. Leiby, Richard A. Kern, George H. Deike and William E. Yeager, three Past District Deputy Grand Masters and 50 of our 68 District Deputy Grand Masters. This is a true indication of the interest of the official family of our Grand Lodge in our greatest charity, The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

At 2:15 P.M. the procession formed at Grand Lodge Hall, then, led by the Elizabethtown High School Band, marched to the site of the Hospital Extension, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile. The officers of Grand Lodge and the District Deputies, clothed in full Masonic dress, made an inspiring and colorful appearance in spite of the hot day; the temperature in the shade being 96°.

During the ceremonies, when the Grand Master spreads the cement prior to placing the corner-stone in its permanent position, he asked Brother Scott S. Leiby, R. W. Past Grand Master, to assist him. This gracious fraternal gesture was in recognition of Brother Leiby's thirty years service as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Masonic Homes.

The principal address was delivered by Doctor and Brother Richard A. Kern, R. W. Past Grand Master. He not only reviewed the past history of the Philadelphia Freemasons' Memorial Hospital, but also suggested a pattern for the future, not only for the hospital, but for the Homes in general.

In order to fully appreciate the special interest of the Philadelphia Freemasons in the corner-stone laying of the Hospital Extension, let me quote from Dr. Kern's address:

"This hospital has from the beginning been the idea and the interest of the Freemasons of Philadelphia. As you know, the Homes had no hospital from the time the first guest was admitted on June 25, 1910, until the 40 bed unit Number One was opened in 1916. Indeed you had to be in good health to be admitted to the Homes (a condition that still holds in most Homes for the elderly.) Then some brethren in Shekinah Lodge, No. 246, in Philadelphia conceived the idea of a hospital for the Homes as the project of that city's craft; they were Justin Allman, Bertram Rearick and John Lamon. The last named is the one survivor, and he through all these years has continued to work for the hospital and even now is serving as a trustee of its Endowment Fund. So began the fund raising that provided the first unit of this hospital whose corner-stone was laid 40 years ago. That unit, I repeat, made possible what is to this day the proudest boast of Pennsyl-

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From Our Grand Secretary's Office

Legislation Approved and Proposed at the June Quarterly Communication

After reviewing the resolutions that were adopted, and the amendments to the Ahiman Rezon that were proposed at the June 1st Quarterly Communication, no one would dare deny that they mark a distinct departure from the practices and procedures which have prevailed in Grand Lodge for many years.

The space allotted to the Grand Secretary in this issue of the Pennsylvania Freemason will be utilized in an effort to report to our more than ninety thousand readers the content and significance of these resolutions and proposed amendments.

Child Service

In accordance with a trend that has been apparent among Masonic Bodies for some years, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, at the June Quarterly Communication, took the first steps toward the broadening of its benevolent and philanthropic activities by passing two resolutions and proposing an amendment to the Ahiman Rezon designed to extend those activities to children with no Masonic antecedents whatsoever.

The first step in this direction was taken when a resolution amending the Rules and Regulations Governing Admission to the Masonic Homes was unanimously adopted.

This resolution provided that Regulation No. 4, which enumerates the several classes of children eligible for admission to the Homes, be stricken out and that the following be substituted in lieu thereof:

4. Such minor children of proper age in those cases when Home Assistance cannot be applied, as are approved by the Committee on Masonic Homes.

No longer are only the minor children or grand children of Master Masons eligible for admission to the Homes. Now all minor children are eligible, and may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee on Masonic Homes upon the recommendation of a subordinate Lodge.

A further step was taken by the unanimous adoption of a resolution which made the Committee on Child Welfare, appointed by the R. W. Grand Master, Brother Ralph M. Lehr, in pursuance of a resolution of Grand Lodge adopted at the Quarterly Communication of March 3, 1954, the Children's Service Committee of five persons which shall have the duty to act for the Grand Lodge in all matters relating to Children's service in this Jurisdiction, except in such matters as are properly within the province of the Committee on Masonic Homes, under such rules and regulations as may be approved by the Grand Lodge.

The resolution further provided: THAT an institute be established at the Juvenile Court of Allegheny County in Pittsburgh,

Pennsylvania, to be called THE PENNSYLVANIA MASON JUVENILE COURT INSTITUTE to be administered under the Children's Service Committee under such rules and regulations as may be approved by the Grand Lodge with such appropriations as may be made available to the Committee by Grand Lodge on recommendation of the Committee on Finance.

THAT a children's fund be established to be called THE PENNSYLVANIA MASON CHILDREN'S FUND, to be administered by the Children's Service Committee under such Rules and Regulations as may be approved by the Grand Lodge with such appropriations as may be made available to the Committee by Grand Lodge on recommendation of the Finance Committee:

(a) To provide assistance, care, educational or other financial aid to children of deceased Master Masons or to those of other Masonic relationship or to others without any Masonic relatives who are recommended as worthy of such assistance by a subordinate Lodge;

(b) To supplement, on recommendation of a judge of a juvenile court in Pennsylvania or of a committee of local citizens appointed by him, public resources for a child who has come within the jurisdiction of the court, thereby providing "extras" that mean much to a child in giving him tangible evidence of community interest in him, regardless of race, creed or color.

In order to give permanence to the Children's Service Committee, an amendment to Article XIII of the Ahiman Rezon was proposed in the form of a new Section, to be numbered 42, and to read as follows:

"Section 42. The Children's Service Committee shall consist of five persons which shall have the duty to act for the Grand Lodge in all matters relating to Children's Service in this Jurisdiction, except in such matters as are properly within the province of the Committee on Masonic Homes, under such Rules and Regulations as may be approved by the Grand Lodge. It shall report all its proceedings to the Grand Lodge annually at the Quarterly Communication in December."

Grand Lodge Dues and Fees

The many requests for information concerning the proposed amendment to Article X, Section 1, Item 7, of the Ahiman Rezon, which have been received in the Grand Secretary's office since the June Quarterly Communication, have furnished abundant evidence, not only of a keen interest in the amendment on the part of many of the officers and members of our Lodges, but also, in the minds of many, an apparent misunderstanding of its provisions.

The amendment is prefaced by ten recitals, which clearly indicate that the income of Grand Lodge is not sufficient to meet the greatly increased costs of our present program; that the only alternative to an increase in income is a definite limitation or "ceiling" on the number of guests to be admitted to our Homes, which would be undesirable; and, finally, that after long and thorough study of Grand Lodge finances it has been found that our only possible source of additional revenue is through an increase in Grand Lodge dues and fees.

These recitals are followed by an itemized list of the changes and additions to be made

to Item 7, of Section 1, of Article X, so that when amended it shall read as follows:

"7. Dues and Fees of Subordinate Lodges, viz: Dues for each member annually, \$4.00

Of which dues \$2.00 shall not be charged against nor paid by or for the account of any member who is a life member of a Subordinate Lodge as of the date of the adoption of this amendment.

No Subordinate Lodge shall hereafter, by the creation of life members, or otherwise, take any action to relieve any of its members of the payment of said annual dues of \$4.00 except members whose dues are remitted by their Lodge because of the inability of such members to pay their Lodge dues.

Fee for each initiation, or admission of a Brother from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction, \$60.00

Which fee shall be for Masonic Homes purposes only and be a part of the annual appropriation made by the Grand Lodge for that account."

Masonic Homes Petition Fees

It will be noted that the amendment provides for an increase in the Masonic Homes Petition Fees, charged for each initiation or admission of a Brother from a Lodge of another Jurisdiction, from the present amount of \$40.00, established in 1923, to that of \$60.00. If approved, the new fee will become effective on all petitions received after 12 o'clock noon, December 27, 1955.

Grand Lodge Dues Raised to \$4.00

Provision is also made for an increase in the annual dues of subordinate Lodges from \$2.00 for each member, at which they were set in December 1912, to \$4.00. The new rate, if the amendment is adopted at our December Quarterly Communication, will not apply to the present Masonic year, but will become effective in 1956.

Dues for Life Members Remain at \$2.00

When the Committee, appointed by the Grand Master, to study Grand Lodge finances and to recommend sources of additional revenue, was forced to the conclusion that the only such source available was an increase in Grand Lodge dues and fees, immediately the question arose as to what effect such an increase would have upon the Lodges in which a large percentage of the membership are life members, and from whom they receive no dues whatsoever. After mature deliberation, the Committee finally agreed that inasmuch as it would place too great a financial burden upon such Lodges to compel them to pay \$4.00 for each life member, Grand Lodge dues in the amount of only \$2.00 should be charged against or paid by or for the account of any member who is a life member of a subordinate Lodge as of the date of the adoption of the amendment.

Life Members Pay the Lodge No Dues

At this point it is important that there be a clear understanding of the meaning of the term "Life Member", as used in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

A life member of a subordinate Lodge in this Jurisdiction is one who is exempt from

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