Twenty-three Masonic Districts Have Reached Their Quota in Support of “Pennsylvania Plan”

Twenty-three Masonic Districts have 100 per cent of their Lodges complete in the “Pennsylvania Plan” in support of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial. As of October 24, the list of Districts and Lodges that have reached their quota is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Lodges Complete</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2 of 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>36 of 36</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>12 of 12</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>19 of 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>44 of 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>25 of 25</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Many other Districts are nearing completion and will probably reach the 100 per cent mark before the end of the Masonic Year.

We are approaching the Holiday Season—the time to count our blessings and pray for continued success and happiness in the New Year.

I wish you all a Happy Holiday. May the blessings of God be with you and yours always.

In life, we often take too many things for granted. We must be thankful for many things. We thank God for a country of abundance in all—no opportunity to work and dream—and for full opportunity to work and dream. "Wholesome." Our principle of independence has made America a land of plenty and a free opportunity to associate with Freemasonry and its teachings. The Brotherhood is strong.

Although we have these freedoms today, we must guard and continue to protect them. "Without our Free Masonry, our blessings and prayers for continued success and happiness in the New Year.

Levittown No. 788 was Constituted on November 10.

The Officers of the Lodge are: William L. Vanbuskirk, Worshipful Master; C. G. L. Thompson, Senior Warden; J. D. A. Fairchild, Junior Warden; B. H. E. Read, Treasurer; and J. R. R. Evert, Secretary.

The following are examples of comments Lodges have made about the films:

“Excellent films! They were enjoyed very much. It was most pleasing to hear many of the nuns remark—"They feel so much more proud of their membership after seeing the great work being done by them through the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.""

“Everyone enjoyed the entire pictures. Some of our Members who had never seen the Homes could hardly believe their eyes.

“Films were well received—and the great impression could not help but evoke a feeling of greater pride.”

On behalf of the Guests at the Homes, I express my sincere appreciation for the continued response for the Christian and Entertainment and Visit Program for the Guests at the Masonic Homes.

If you have your return envelope, please send your Christmas gift to the Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

You are invited to our New Year’s party on December 28, 1959, where we will show continued progress in Freemasonry. It will show that the Brothers have maintained their spirit and determination.

Freemasonry could be described as an example of what the principle of independence can accomplish.

Perhaps the true characteristic of the numerical growth of Freemasonry is that we are very happy to report that approved petitions increased approximately nine per cent during the ten years of this period compared to the same period last year.

This is a very encouraging sign. However, we can’t afford to relax. In fact, we must look at this as a good start and continue our efforts and Masonic teaching. One of the most important projects being conducted by Grand Lodge is the Endowment Program for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial at Alexandria, Virginia.

This program means that every Lodge must raise a sum equal to one-tenth of their annual income for the Lodge itself. This is a one-time requirement. I am sure Pennsylvania Masons want to do their share to keep this wonderful Memorial open to the public.

As of October 24, 1960—457 Lodges in Pennsylvania have completed this project. I feel sure the remaining 339 Lodges will reach the 100 per cent participation goal before the end of the year.

Grand Lodge’s two films—“Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown” and “Youth Program” have been received well. They have been shown in 319 Masonic Lodges to an audience of approximately 20,000 Masons.

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The Constitution of New Lodges in all new communities is all very good. However, we are not keeping up with our population growth in our efforts to provide the opportunities of Freemasonry in every community. I feel sure this trend to constitute new Lodges will increase in 1961.

Beuthen, Freemasonry is a relationship of kindred souls— deduced to understand (for the benefit of all humanity)—brought together by an all-pervading love of one Father—the Creator of Man and Master Craftsmen.

Freesermonies function like a great balance wheel. It lends stability to human life. It gives assurance to the human heart. It has lived through the ages—and it will grow through more years.

It secures for men today a new significance of life for those who would see the Truth.

Cordially and gratefully,

Freemasonry

157 Life Member "Roll of Honor" Certificates Go to Pennsylvania Masons and Organizations

Since February 22, 1968, 157 Pennsylvania Masons and Organizations have subscribed $100 or more each to become Life Members of the Pennsylvania Masonic National Memorial Association. They have received "Roll of Honor" Life Membership Certificates from the Masonic Association.

The May issue of the Pennsylvania Freemason carried the names of 30 Life Members and the August issue, the names of 70 Life Members.

The following are additions as of October 24, 1960:

Bro. Henry M. Ahlert, Cherry Lodge, No. 277, Tarentum.
Bro. Jacob Berend, William C. Hamilton Lodge, No. 90, Philadelphia.
Bro. Gordon H. Drueck, Jr., Buchanan Lodge, Member.
Bro. Christian G. Davis, Perry Lodge, No. 392, Erie.
Bro. John G. Dunn, West Shore Lodge, No. 646, Camp Hill.

These masons and organizations have subscribed $100 or more each to become Life Members of the Masonic National Memorial Association.

Heart Attack Fatal to Brother Francis H. Mills, Superintendent of the Homes

Brother Francis H. Mills, who was appointed superintendent of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, died of a heart attack on September 24 in Reading. He and his wife, Helen, were preparing to leave for Boston, Mass., to attend the Supreme Council Session of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

Brother Mills, general manager of Hotel Abraham Lincoln in Reading for many years, succeeded Brother Arthur L. Myron as superintendent of the Masonic Homes.

Brother Francis H. Mills was appointed to the Masonic Homes and its Executive Committee from 1954 until he became superintendent.

He was a Past Master of Isaac Beres Lodge No. 660, F. & A. M., Reading; Thirty-Third Potent Master of Reading Lodge of Perfection; Past Commander-in-Chief of the Reading Valley of Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Philadelphia, No. 125; Elected Captain, Thirty-Third Degree, Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction; Past Master of Philadelphia, No. 53, Philadelphia; Member of the Committee on Masonic Homes, No. 295, Philadelphia; and Past Master of the Committee on Masonic Homes, No. 259, Reading.

He was a Past Master of the Masonic Homes, No. 535, Philadelphia; Past Master of Miles Memorial Lodge, No. 259, Reading; Past Master of the Masonic Homes, No. 176, Reading; and Past Master of the Masonic Homes, No. 131, Reading.

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From Our Grand Secretary's Office

The September Quarterly Communication culminating in the annual meeting and recessed for the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

The Grand Master, Brother Max F. Balcom, and the other Grand Lodge Officers met with many individuals on Tuesday morning, September 25th, in preparation for the meeting of the Committee on Finance on Tuesday afternoon. This very important Committee had met prior to this meeting to be sure of the facts.

On Wednesday morning, the Grand Lodge Officers, including the Grand Master and the District Deputy Grand Masters and Appointive Officers, met in the Grand Lodge Hall to receive a report from the Committee on the progress of the "Pennsylvania Plan," in connection with the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Endowment Fund. Each District Deputy reported on the status in his District.

Many other subjects were discussed including:

Preparation of applications for the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, the DeMolay Handbook, a copy of which was given to each District Deputy; support for activities of the Committee on Masonic Culture; increased efforts to reduce suspensions for non-payment of dues; and encourage attendance after suspension.

It was also pointed out that many Lodge Correspondence offices and Lodge Junior Officials of the National Associate Grand Lodges. All of the above were referred to the Committee on Correspondences, to which Brother Richard A. Kear, P. M. G. M., is Chairman.

Masonic Means in Friendship

Brother J. Milton Rayell

Many proposed amendments to Lodge By-laws were adopted and referred to the Committee on By-laws. On the recommendation of this Committee, the proposed By-laws of three Lodges were amended as were recommended, while three of those Lodges were rejected.

The Committee on Appeals, of which Brother Allan A. Balcom is a member, has received and approved several reports covering the appeals of two former Members for the removal of their expulsion.

On the recommendation of the above Committee, the appeals were rejected on separate motions.

Brother George H. Delie, Sr., P. G. M., Chairman of the Committee on Finance, presented the Quarterly report for his Committee, showing receipts and expenditures for the period.

The DeMolay Handbook, a copy of which was given to each District Deputy; support for activities of the Committee on Masonic Culture; increased efforts to reduce suspensions for non-payment of dues; and encourage attendance after suspension.

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The most obvious thing in life is friendship. There is nothing greater, more valuable to people of any sort — yet not to be found among the Crescendo men. In his houses, yet not to be found. The word of such a man may, to the extent that he may, shall be the beacon light, and there is no man who is not glad to have such a man as a friend.

Friendship means service. Each one is willing to serve the other in his life. Faithfulness to his services is a fait accompli. He is willing to give, not to get; to serve, not to be served. He does not believe in the idea of owing a favor, in this rare and beautiful friendship, love, in this unselfish friendship is the hidden key of a fuller life. May each brother find it for himself and show forth its glories in his daily life.

A wonderful thing has been passed down to us from ancient days; a trust in which each one of us is responsible for its suitable care. Some of the most important work that we do is held in our hands for proper usage and service. It is new to us unattained and without blessing. We must protect and guard its good name, and when we are through pass it on to those who are to follow, with the trust we have made more precious and valuable, if possible, and without spot or blemish. True, we will have our failures and shortcomings but not our faith.

We cannot, however, wholly fulfill our trust when we try to live up to the high ideals and responsibilities which are before us.

As Freemasons, we are the character of the men who are supposed to lead the way. The Masonic Institution for Boys at Elizabethtown, the DeMolay Handbook, a copy of which was given to each District Deputy; support for activities of the Committee on Masonic Culture; increased efforts to reduce suspensions for non-payment of dues; and encourage attendance after suspension.

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