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VOLUME XLV

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FEBRUARY 1998



NUMBER 1



THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



The Grand Master's Message

Key Words Define The Course

Brethren:

Key words stand out in my messages and the words of the Grand Lodge team that define commitment and direction designed to drive Freemasonry in Pennsylvania positively and confidently to the doorstep of the 21st century.

"Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community" encircling the square and compasses on the Grand Master's medallion sets forth my vision and direction for Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. It is more than a slogan; it is a doctrine for action.

We have the "Faith." Masons always put their own "Families" first and involve the "Family of Freemasonry" in their activities, programs, and projects. We must rebuild the "Fraternity" in our lodges and in the appendant bodies. And, we need to serve the "Community" — each lodge reaching out to serve their fellow men and being known for its deeds in its own hometown.

"A Perfect Match" is a perfect term that Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson tagged to the Matching Charity Grants Program. Across the state, this program of benevolence matches the lodge with the community; the lodge charity with community needs; the Mason with his neighbor; and the vitality of Freemasonry with the welfare of mankind. It is marvelous that this worthwhile program has gained such strong, immediate interest, and support.

As a fraternity, we want to continue our good works — to make good men better and serve our fellow men and our communities. The only way we can do that is with a stable and progressive membership.

Accordingly, Membership Development and Retention has to be the highest priority; therefore, "NET ZERO for 1998" are key words. That is my realistic membership goal. By that I mean, we will attract at least as many new members as those we lose through death and unavoidable suspensions or resignations.

Masons attract good men to Masonry. You represent Masonry for some good and worthy men — your sons or other relative, a good friend or neighbor, a coworker, or a church or civic associate. Knowing them to be of the finest character, tell them about the heritage and good works of Freemasonry and be sure that each of them knows that those who desire membership must seek it. They have to ask.

Rather than ask a few brethren to do a lot, I am asking all brethren in this jurisdiction to do ONE THING: REPLACE YOURSELF. I'm

asking each Mason to be the recommender of at least one worthy man to join you in lodge. If each Mason does that, we will not only meet our goal of NET ZERO, we will surpass it.

That makes "Overture" and "Conductor" key words in 1998 and 1999. "Overture" is the comprehensive membership development and leadership training program to be conducted at eight locations across the state. The District Chairmen already have been trained for the 1998 Overture portion that targets membership development techniques. Sessions for lodge leaders will begin next month. The Conductor series in the fall of 1998 will teach leadership and lodge organization, management, and programming skills.

"Cooperation, Communication, and Customer Service" is another set of key words that comprise more than a slogan throughout the Grand Lodge. They define responsibilities and accountabilities.

Masonry is in the people business, and anyone who is in business knows that to be successful, "Customer Service" is the name of the game. In this Fraternity, our members are our customers, so you will find that every facet of the organization has been tailored to provide service. I have defined the operating philosophy this way: "It is not what you can do for Grand Lodge; it's what Grand Lodge can do for you."

We are on the right track, but we must remember what Brother Will Rogers once said: "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just stand there." We will not stand still. I know we can turn the tide of membership decline.

Words are wonderful when they communicate action. All of our key words emanate from "Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community." With teamwork they'll spell "Pennsylvania Freemasonry growing toward the 21st century."

Sincerely and fraternally,

James L. Ernette

James L. Ernette,
R.W. Grand Master



On The Cover

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers

With Pittsburgh's well known Golden Triangle and Three Rivers Stadium as the backdrop, the newly installed Officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania are pictured at the time of the Annual Communication held in the new Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. They are (l-r): William Slater II, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Deputy Grand Master; Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary; and Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer.

[Photo by Bro. Howard Dobmeier]



Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers

The Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers are (l-r): Front row - Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master; Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Deputy Grand Master; William Slater II, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; and Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary. Back row - G. Joseph Frederick, Grand Sword Bearer; Gregory D. Barnhart, Junior Grand Deacon; Donald L. Albert, Grand Marshal; Randy L. Hobaugh, Grand Pursuivant; G. Richard McLucas, Grand Tyler; Jon A. Fair, Senior Grand Deacon; S. Robert Marziano, Jr., Grand Steward; and Steven E. Burlein, Grand Steward.

[Photo by Bro. Howard Dobmeier]

At The Grand Master's Banquet



(1.) Standing in front of a huge Square and Compasses ice carving, Grand Master James L. Ernette and Brenda prepare to host the Grand Master's banquet. (2.) Grand Master Ernette greets Thomas Jackson (front left), M.W. Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge. In the rear are (l-r): Lawrence Harris, R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Prince Hall Grand Lodge; Alexander Clevon, R.W. Junior Grand Warden of the Regular Grand Lodge of Belgium; and Russell W. Baker, D.D.G.M., 5th Masonic District. (3.) Stuart Cowan (right), M.W. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hawaii, and his wife, Victoria (center), present mementos to Grand Master Ernette and Brenda. (4.) State Representative and Bro. Jess M. Stairs, 59th Legislative District, Westmoreland County, presents a Citation from the House of Representatives to Grand Master Ernette. (5.) Allegheny County Commissioner and Bro. Larry Dunn congratulates the Grand Master. (6.) The Lettermen prepare to serenade Brenda Ernette. (Photos by Bros. Robert Binnie and Howard Dobmeier)

Grand Lodges in Germany And D.C. Honor Grand Secretary

Twice, in November and December, Grand Masters of Grand Lodges in the United States and in Germany bestowed high honors upon Thomas W. Jackson, the R.W. Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and awarded him prestigious medals.

During the Triennial Convention of the United Grand Lodges of Germany on Nov. 2 in Berlin, M.W. Grand Master Rainer J. Schicke presented Bro. Jackson with the Grand Order of Merit, the highest ranking distinction of service to Masonry by that Grand Lodge. Bestowing it is a privilege that rests with the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodges of Germany.

On Dec. 23, during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, M.W. Grand Master Robert F. Drechsler presented Bro. Jackson with the Valentine Reintzel medal. It is a most distinguished award of the Grand Lodge of D.C.



THE GRAND ORDER OF MERIT was presented to Bro. Jackson in recognition of "Your manifold personal examples of promoting the cause of Craft Freemasonry Even more inspiring was, and is, your personal reaching out over the ocean to Craft Masonry in Europe in your own special ways... encouraging us to make our world a better place to live."



THE VALENTINE REINTZEL MEDAL was presented "In recognition of the contribution that Thomas W. Jackson is making to Freemasonry in Pennsylvania, elsewhere in the United States, and, in fact, throughout the world."

Memorial Gift for Shriners Hospital



At the January stated meeting of Harmony Lodge No. 429, Zelienople, a very special contribution of \$1,650 was presented to the Shriners Children's Hospital in Erie in memory of Past Master W. Fred Stevens. The donation, which comprised contributions from fellow employees of the late Bro. Stevens, was accepted by William D. Bessor, a Past Potentate of Syria Temple and a member of Harmony Lodge. Bro. Stevens had been known for his strong support of Shriners Hospitals, often saying that the help that had been given to his niece was a major influence for his desire to be a Mason.

Pictured for the presentation are Harmony Lodge brethren (l-r): Robert E. Gee, Trustee; Frank L. Steffler, P.M.; Kenneth Eastgate, W.M.; William D. Bessor, Past Potentate of Syria Temple; and Luther F. Hollerman, Trustee.

Concordia Lodge Awards 15 College Scholarships

At a banquet following its October meeting, Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, awarded 15 scholarships to qualifying college students. Past Masters Norman L. Day and William J. Greet made the presentations derived from earnings of the Ronald Clarkson Scholarship Fund that was established to help members of Concordia Lodge and their immediate families meet college expenses.

The 1997 recipients are: James V. Casey, Stephen Day, Tara Ann Farrell, William J. Farrell, Shawn Greet, Dustin Haftel, Rebecca L. Hollinger, Erik M. Lindstrom, Dorie Pfeiffer, Rebecca Schaffrick, Kimberly Schaffrick, Michele L. Seybert, Meghan Shingler, Leah Ann Smith, and Rudi Emil Witzel.

The late Bro. Clarkson, a member of the Lodge, was born and educated in England as a chemist. He held several patents for pelletizing medications. Having no children, he made the bequest to the Lodge with the mandate that all income be distributed as a grant among student applicants attending accredited colleges.

PA Masons to Build Pavilion for VA Center

The Masons of Pennsylvania will build a much needed recreation pavilion at the Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Health Care Center in Aspinwall, O'Hara Twp., near the city. James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master, accompanied by William Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 54th Masonic District, made the announcement on Jan. 15 when they visited the site and reviewed plans for the structure.

Construction will get underway as soon as weather permits. Completion is scheduled for early June.



The new facility will provide a place for residents of the VA Hospital and their families to visit; an outdoor place for summer entertainment; and a focal point for special activities. The facility will be a key location when the VA Hospital hosts the 1998 Wheelchair Competition in July.

Bro. Kratzenberg is Chairman to carry out the project, which includes accepting lodge and individual contributions to support the Grand Lodge commitment.

▲ Plans to have a new pavilion built for the VA Pittsburgh Health Care Center were announced by: James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master (second from left) and William M. Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 54th Masonic District (left), accompanied by William Vaupel and Richard Angelo, Masonic Services Volunteer. [Photos by Bro. Robert Binnie]

▲ Looking over the plans for a new pavilion at the Pittsburgh VA Health Care Center are (l-r): David G. Tomayko of the VA Volunteer Services; D.D.G.M. Kratzenberg; Grand Master Ernette; Max Dorosa, VA Facilities Management Engineer, and Masonic Services Volunteer Representatives Vaupel and Angelo.



Ten Hawaii Preview Programs Across State in March

Ten programs are set during March at locations across the state where you can get a preview of Hawaii and warm up for a trip in February 1999 with Grand Master James L. Ernette and Brenda (photo), fellow Masons and their families and friends.

Representatives from Vantage Deluxe World Travel will present highlights of a Hawaii tour, explain the three fun-filled tour packages available, answer questions and help those interested in making early reservations.

The dates and area locations for the meetings are:

- March 9 - **Pittsburgh** in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.
- March 10 - **Erie** in the Masonic Temple Ballroom, 8th & Peach Sts.
- March 11 - **Clarion** in Hobah Lodge, Brookville.
- March 12 - **Altoona** in the Altoona Masonic Temple.
- March 13 - **Greensburg** in the Greensburg Masonic Center.
- March 16 - **Philadelphia** in Banquet Room No. 3, Masonic Temple.
- March 17 - **Bethlehem** in Bethlehem Masonic Temple, Brighton and Wyandotte Sts.
- March 18 - **Scranton** in St. John's Lodge, Jenkins Twp.
- March 19 - **Harrisburg** in East Room, Lower Level, of the Scottish Rite Cathedral.
- March 20 - **Williamsport** - in the Williamsport Consistory.



Diamond Head - Oahu



The Big Island - Hawaii



Garden Isle - Kauai



Valley Isle - Maui

Each program will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude about 9 p.m.

The three choices of vacations are seven nights, ten nights, and 13 nights. All begin in Waikiki/Honolulu with the opportunity to share enjoyable times with the Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers, your brethren and friends at the same time that you discover America's very own enchanted paradise. The seven-night vacation is entirely in Waikiki/Honolulu.

The ten-night vacation starts with four nights in Waikiki/Honolulu, then two nights each in the "Big Island" of Hawaii; the "Garden Isle" of Kauai; and the "Valley Isle" of Maui.

The 13-night program includes everything that's in the ten-night program after a seven-night stay in Waikiki/Honolulu.

For information or reservations, call Heather Adams at the Vantage Deluxe World Travel Hawaii Conference Hotline, toll-free 1-888-652-7104.

5th Masonic District's 2nd Annual Drug and Alcohol Expo is Successful



Williamson Lodge No. 309 and the other lodges of the 5th Masonic District conducted their Second Annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Expo on Saturday, Oct. 4. The successful event, held from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Center for Arts and Technology in Coatesville, was attended by several hundred persons from surrounding communities.

There were booths staffed by the Liquor Control Board, law enforcement agencies, treatment centers, and community-based programs combatting drugs and violence. The Pennsylvania State Police Aviation Unit landed a helicopter (photo) on the grounds and gave children a tour of the aircraft. Refreshments were served and five bicycles were awarded as prizes.

Edward Stumm, J.W., Williamson Lodge and the 5th Masonic District Drug and Alcohol Chairman, along with Russell W. Baker, D.D.G.M., were the driving forces for the event. Through efforts of Bro. Stumm, Coca Cola donated signs and refreshments.

MASONS OF NOTE

A Friend to Friend Throat Medallion was presented to **Louis J. Ludwig, P.M.** (left), during the stated meeting, Dec. 9, of Cambria Lodge No. 278, by Robert R. Havers, Sr., D.D.G.M., 41st Masonic District. The Throat Medallion is a Grand Lodge award for having been the first-line signer on 12 petitions.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge of New York, **Ralph H. Besecker, D.D.G.M.** of the 33rd Masonic District represented the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in presenting a 50-Year Service Award to **Robert H. McGarvey**, a member of Union-Cooley Lodge No. 95, Elmira, NY. Bro. McGarvey is currently a resident at the Bucktail Medical Center in Renovo, PA. Officers of Renova Lodge No. 495 who accompanied Bro. Besecker to make the presentation were Phil Marks, W.M.; John Pentz, S.W.; and Edward Wenzel, P.M.

Guy Izzo, J.W., of Fidelity Lodge No. 655, Wilkes-Barre, was pictured and cited as an outstanding "Person of the Year" by *The Wilkes-Barre Times Leader* for his community services as President of the Wilkes-Barre City Crime Watch Coalition.

Noted artist **Edward C. Praediger** (right), a member of Harmony Lodge No. 52, Philadelphia, was presented a Grand Lodge 75-Year Certificate of Recognition by Kenneth W. Bleiler (left), D.D.G.M., Masonic District "E." The presentation was made on Dec. 13 to Bro. Praediger in his new home in the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. Bro. Bleiler said that the walls of the new home, where Bro. Praediger and his wife have resided for several months, are covered with his outstanding artwork. Bro. Praediger will be 92 in August.

G. Llewellyn Duggan (left), a member of Rural Amity Lodge No. 70, Athens, was specially honored Oct. 14 for 68 years of Masonic service. A Certificate of Recognition was presented by the Worshipful Master, James W. McCloe (right). Anniversaries of 28 other members of The Rural Amity Lodge were recognized.



1947 W.M. Invests 50-Yr. Awards



It was an evening of gold in Oasis Lodge No. 416, Edinboro, on Oct. 14. Past Master R. A. Fuller enjoyed the honor of investing 50-Year Emblems of Gold on several brethren who were initiated when he was the Worshipful Master in 1947. In addition, he invested his brother, Max W. Fuller, with his 50-Year Emblem of Gold. Bro. Max was eligible for the award last year, but was unable to attend the lodge at that time. Pictured are: (Front row (l-r): Glenn W. Olsen, D.D.G.M., 24th Masonic District, and a Past Master of Oasis Lodge, who presented the 50-Year Emblems; Glade E. Wright, Max W. Fuller, and J. Robert Billings, all 50-year honorees; and Stephen F. Sanders, W.M. Back row: Ralph C. Zindel, Jr., P.M., a 50-year honoree; Past Master Fuller; Vere O. Woods, a 50-year honoree; and Larry E. Shelhamer, S.W. Phillip A. Walker also received his 50-Year Emblem, but was unable to be present for the picture.

P.M. Welcomes 4 Sons to Lodge



Four sons of Past Master James T. Carr (front left) were introduced to Freemasonry during a one-day conferral on June 21 in Bethel Lodge No. 761, Bethel Park, Pittsburgh. The Past Master's father-in-law, Franklin Regnier (front center) was present for the degrees. Three brothers of the Carr family are in the back row (l-r): James C., Jason M., and Jared A. The fourth, Christopher R. Handwork (front right), is a stepson of Past Master Carr and a grandson of Bro. Regnier.

District Sends Officer to Utah



Officer Wendy Colosimo, of the Reading Police Dept., was presented a check for \$864 to attend a training conference for D.A.R.E. in Salt Lake City, UT. Seventh Masonic D.D.G.M. Frank E. Daniels is presenting the check from the District's Board of Governors. Officer Colosimo is the wife of Reading police officer Francis Colosimo, who is a member of St. John's Lodge No. 435.



Brethren Travel to Award 50-Year Emblem



A contingent of Past Secretaries, who are also Past Masters of Crescent Lodge No. 576, Pittsburgh, traveled to the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown last summer to present a 50-year Emblem of Gold to Past Master Vern Woodward (center in photo). The 98 year-old resident at the Masonic Homes and 33° Scottish Rite Mason, is a nationally known playwright, author, and poet who was inducted as an International Poet of Merit by the International Society of Poets last August. The Past Masters shown with Bro. Woodward are (l-r): Allen J. Brown, Jr.; C. Edward Trapp, Jr., present Secretary of Crescent Lodge; Lewis R. Rauhecker; and Louis Sattler.

District Officers Raise W.M.'s Two Sons



Officers of lodges in the 27th Masonic District (pictured in the rear two rows) joined together in Leechburg Lodge No. 577 on Oct. 23 to confer the Master Mason's Degree on two sons of Leechburg's Worshipful Master, Alvie E. Eshelman, Sr. (center). The sons are Alvie E., Jr. (second from left) and John E. Eshelman (front right).

Dad Invests Son With 50-Year Emblem

The father, John R. Davis, Jr. P.M. (left) who raised his son, John H. Davis (right), a half-century ago had the pleasure of investing him with his 50-Year Emblem of Gold on Sept. 16 in Anthracite Lodge No. 285, Pottsville. Henry L. Leshner (center), D.D.G.M., 11th Masonic District, presented the award. The 92-year-old father said that pinning the emblem on his son was an honor he will never forget.

5 Receive Stenberg Scholarships In 1997; All-Time Total at 19

Five high school seniors were selected from among 125 applicants statewide to receive \$1,000 scholarships from The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children. (Effective January 1, the name was changed to "The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children.")

This annual grant is called the Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., Scholarship, established in honor of the late R.W. Past Grand Master who was the founder of The Foundation. Recipients are young persons who had coped with drugs or alcohol in some form. They were helped by their schools' Student Assistance Teams to overcome their problems and turn their lives around. They have maintained favorable academic records and have been accepted for enrollment in accredited colleges. Students receiving scholarships are required to continue meeting the guidelines of character and academic achievements.

This year's recipients bring the total number of Stenberg Scholarships awarded since 1993 to 19. The first scholarship recipient was graduated from Immaculata College this year. She was an honor student earning a degree in education.



◀ Jonothan Romanoski, of Reinholds, a 1997 graduate of Wilson High School, West Lawn, is enrolled in Alvernia College in Reading. He is shown receiving the scholarship check from Russell W. Baker (left), D.D.G.M. of the 5th Masonic District.

Sara L. Olwejarz of Glenshaw ▶ receives her award from Keith A. McKnight, D.D.G.M., 53rd Masonic District.



◀ Gina Rubino of Blairsville receives her award from Fred T. Hemphill (right), D.D.G.M., 39th Masonic District; Thomas J. Budner (left), District Chairman for the D&A Foundation; and Eldin C. Harris, District Chairman for the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation.

District "E" Secretaries Honored



The lodge secretaries of Masonic District "E" were honored at a banquet on Nov. 22. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, was the special guest and speaker and presented Secretary Service Jewels to two of them. Joining in cutting a celebration cake are (l-r): C. Roger Evans, P.M., Olivet-Oriental Lodge No. 385; William C. Jamieson, P.M., Richard Vaux-Ivanhoe Lodge No. 384; James A. Farrell, P.M., Hiram Lodge No. 81; Bro. Jackson; Charles W. Siegman, Friendship-Williams Lodge No. 400; Raymond T. George, P.M., Mitchell Lodge No. 296; Edward Germer, P.M., Milita Lodge No. 295; I. Thomas Goldblum, P.M., Shekinah Lodge No. 246; and Leroy O. McClellan, P.M., Concordia Lodge No. 67.

Canawacta Masons Serve Feast for Seniors

For the seventh year, the Masons of Canawacta Lodge No. 360, Susquehanna, served a Christmas season dinner on Dec. 13 to more than 120 senior citizens. The festive occasion, which was held in the United Methodist Church in Susquehanna, ended with a visit by Santa Claus, who gave donated gifts to each of the happy and satiated diners. Ready to serve up the feast to a table of guests are (l-r): Eugene R. Graves, W.M. and Secretary-elect; Ray M. Rockwell, II, S.W. and W.M.-elect; and Dieter G. Dauber, D.D.G.M. of the 15th Masonic District and a P.M. of Canawacta Lodge.



Matching MASONIC CHARITY GRANTS

Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Interest, Excitement High For Matching Grants Program

In lodges across the Commonwealth, interest — even excitement — is growing for the Masonic Matching Charity Grants Program. The new program introduced by R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette will match, up to a total of \$5,000 per year, the charitable contributions that a lodge makes in its local community.

Comments and questions have been coming in to the Matching Grants Committee from across the Jurisdiction as lodge officers plan for an increased community presence through their charitable activities. The funds to be matched can come from lodge funds, member donations, or appropriate fund-raising programs.

Some lodges have planned to expand programs already in place. Others are looking to establish something uniquely supported by the lodge. Some of the intended recipients include a women's crisis center, a youth soccer league, a recent widow, a scholarship program, a day-care center for low income families, a crippled child, a community food bank, Special Olympics, and a senior citizens' center.

The screening process that is in place requires the use of a simple application for prior approval of the matching grant. In order to use charity funds of the Grand Lodge, the committee simply will need to assure that specific requirements of the IRS are met. The screening process is guaranteed to take just a few days, and provisions have been made to handle truly emergency situations.

Remember, when all is said and done, the local lodge is to receive all of the credit for the combined donation and matching grant.

Look at some of the comments already received by the committee:

"This is a great idea. We are very excited about it!" — Robert W. Gilbert, W.M., Williamson Lodge No. 307, Womelsdorf

"This is an excellent program . . . obviously a lot of thought was put into this . . . from the legal, financial, and fraternal angles." — William M. Baily, D.D.G.M., 29th Masonic District

"Program looks great! It's easy to follow, and well thought out. Simple. Fantastic!" — Walter J. Foltz, W.M., Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown

In each issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason*, the Committee will be providing reports of successful Matching Grants projects and how this program has increased the public's awareness of the charitable work of the Masonic Fraternity.

For more information about the Matching Charity Grants Program, contact your Worshipful Master or Lodge Secretary; or call to speak to a member of the Committee at 1-800-266-8424.

Treasurer's Service Jewel To Be Proposed at Quarterly



A resolution will be presented at the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on March 4 for establishing a "Treasurer's Service Jewel." This will provide the lodges with the opportunity to recognize the dedicated services given by their treasurers. (Pictured is the jewel to be approved by the Grand Lodge.)

To qualify for the jewel, a brother will have to have served a minimum of six years as a subordinate lodge treasurer. The jewel may be presented following the completion of six years' service, with the treasurer entitled to wear it from that time forward. The jewels must be ordered through the subordinate lodge. They may not be purchased by individuals.

Any lodge desiring to present a jewel to a previous treasurer who has qualified by having served a minimum of six years may do so.

The jewel will be inscribed with the name and number of the lodge on the top bar; the name of the recipient on the middle bar; and the years of service on the lower bar. For those recipients still serving as treasurer, the completion of service date will be added at the end of the term.

Father Sees Three Sons Raised



With their father present, three brothers were raised at an Extra Meeting of Greater Johnstown Lodge No. 538 on Oct. 16. Pictured after the meeting are (l-r): Michael J. and Timothy A. Washko; Robert R. Havers, Sr., D.D.G.M., 41st Masonic District; James R. Virgin, W.M., Lodge No. 538; Daniel L. and Michael C. Washko, the father and recommender for the three sons.



Masonic Homes' Renaissance Unit Sends Patients Home Healthy!



Since the Renaissance Unit opened to receive persons requiring transitional or subacute care, the Masonic Homes admitted more than 325 individuals to the facility in 1997, 14 of whom were not residents of the Masonic Homes at the time. After receiving quality care services in the Renaissance Unit, the vast majority of those patients have returned to their own homes, or to their most independent living environment.

The Masonic Homes has provided transitional care services to residents since 1996, but with the opening of the Renaissance Unit last February, those services are now provided in a more homelike environment, within the beauty, comfort, and security of the Masonic Homes. Since today's health care facilities face cost containment pressures which often lead to shorter hospital stays for persons who require rehabilitation services, the Renaissance Unit provides this level of care to help them make a smoother transition from the hospital back to home.

The 51-bed Renaissance Unit, located in the Ben Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center, is designed with capabilities to perform transitional care services for persons who may require complex medical management following a hospital stay. The staff utilizes equipment conducive to providing a wide range of complex medical services. Immediately after, or

instead of, acute hospitalization, one who has had an acute illness or injury, or is in the exacerbation stage of a disease process, can receive active, complex medical treatments through subacute care until stabilization occurs. The unit provides comprehensive medical, rehabilitation, and consultation programs and services designed to meet the individual needs of each patient. The staff of this unit receives special training and encourages patients to get better and reach their highest level of independence at their own pace. The unit currently provides all of the services available at a hospital transitional unit for a much lower cost and in a more homelike environment. Often, the services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurers.

The Renaissance Unit provides services to all Pennsylvania Masons and their eligible family members, and is not limited to serving only residents of the Masonic Homes. It offers a valuable choice to those who are eligible and require a subacute level of care. If you, or someone you know, needs this level of care, you are urged to call the Masonic Homes to learn how you can be served. Call 1-800-422-1207.



Admissions Counselors Return for Another Successful Session

On Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16 and 17, the Masonic Homes hosted 53 Admissions Counselors for an annual training session. The two-day session was for counselors to learn more about the facility, to see first-hand how it operates, and to reunite with old friends and fellow counselors.

The Admissions Counselors are available in Pennsylvania, Florida, and some neighboring states to assist applicants and their

families who are seeking admission to the Village Green Area and the Masonic Health Care Center. They assist individuals in completing their applications and are available to answer questions.

Masonic Homes welcomed ten Eastern Star Admissions Counselors who now provide additional assistance to those seeking admission to the Masonic Homes and the Masonic Eastern Star Homes. They are:

Jane Bleam, Margaret Nies, Jane Newcomer, Lorene Sinclair, Marjorie Timchak, Bonnee Wettlaufer, Margaret Knaub, and Deborah and Jeff Nale.

Cindy Steff, Administrator at the Masonic Eastern Star Home - West, and Joyce Wadsworth, Assistant Administrator at the Masonic Eastern Star Home - East attended the very successful session.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS TO HOST PA MASONS IN FLORIDA

Invitations were sent to Pennsylvania Masons residing in Florida to meet with Grand Master James L. Ernette and other officers from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Executive Director/CEO of the Masonic Homes accompanied by the Admissions, Development, Outreach, and Marketing staff, will be part of the group.

The informational meetings will be held on Fri., March 27, at the Egypt Shrine Temple, Tampa; and on Sat., March 28, at the Amara Shrine Temple, Palm Beach Gardens. Each meeting will begin with a reception at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon, program at 1:00 p.m., and social hour from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meetings is to share important information on the full continuum of new services and benefits provided at, and by, the Masonic Homes.

If you have not received an invitation and would like to attend one of these sessions, please call us at 1-800-462-7664.

Grand Master Awards Pin at I.L.C.



When Glenn Sowash (second from left) of Shidle Lodge No. 601, Irwin, was unable to return to his lodge to receive his 50-Year Service Emblem, R. W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser (right) and Richard J. Stemmler (left), 30th Masonic D.D.G.M., made the presentation at his home in the Independent Living Community at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. Looking on is his wife, Jonel.

Masonic Homes' Staff to Visit Admissions Counselors in Florida

On March 27 and 28, staff members from the Masonic Homes' Admissions Office will join R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette in Florida at two locations, Palm Beach Gardens and Tampa. During the visit, time will be spent with the Florida Admissions Counselors and in looking for individuals who are willing to serve as counselors.

The Admissions Counselor's role is twofold: assisting an applicant with completing an application for admission to the Masonic Homes, and answering questions the applicant may have regarding the services provided and accommodations available at the Masonic Homes. This is accomplished through a scheduled home visit with the applicant.

Not only is this an excellent opportunity to serve members and their families, many counselors find that they develop long-lasting friendships through their volunteer work. Many also enjoy the satisfaction of knowing they have helped others make the right decision. Should you be interested in serving the Masonic Homes in this capacity, or if you would like to learn more about the position, please complete and forward the coupon.

Please contact the Masonic Homes at 1-800-422-1207 if you have any questions regarding this position.

I would be interested in being an Admissions Counselor

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

☐ I will ☐ will not attend a training session.

Location: ☐ Tampa
Thursday, March 26, 1998
☐ Palm Beach Gardens
Monday, March 30, 1998

Please complete coupon and return to:

Admission Office
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Visit Masonic Homes and Enjoy Hospitality

If a trip to Elizabethtown requires traveling a long distance, you can enjoy the overnight hospitality of the Masonic Homes. If you are interested in becoming a resident in the Independent Living areas, this is an invitation to spend the day touring the beautiful grounds, including the Masonic Health Care Center, enjoying dinner with residents, and staying in one of the beautiful apartments for the night. You will have the opportunity to talk with residents and become acquainted with the services provided in a loving and caring environment. What better way to learn about the Masonic Homes than to experience it first-hand?

To schedule on appointment, return the coupon or call 1-800-676-6452.

Please send me more information about the Independent Living at Masonic Homes!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Please complete coupon and return to:

Marketing Office
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Outreach Update By: John Suchanec, Outreach Director

What do you do when you have a problem and you have no idea how to go about solving it?

Difficult situations arise in our lives daily. Because people are capable, smart, resourceful, and motivated, they often handle them themselves. However, what do you do when a situation arises and, because you've never experienced this problem before, you're unsure about what to do? Maybe you're even uncertain about who can help you find a solution.

Believe it or not, hundreds of people find themselves in this position; sometimes through no fault of their own, sometimes because they didn't plan well. Families, retirees, children, adults, working people... it doesn't matter what age group you belong to; it makes no difference what your level of income is. If you have a problem and you aren't certain about how to solve it, you worry, you become anxious, and you fret until it's settled. The Masonic Homes' Outreach Program is helping people daily... helping families, widows, widowers, parents, and children all across the U.S.A. ... to address their problems and help them find solutions.

The Outreach Program is here to help you, your children, and your parents.

We provide direction and solutions to Freemasons, their families and friends in the community. We help all those who ask. A widower in Texas was helped to find a personal care home until he makes a decision about whether he wants to move back to the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown. A Pennsylvania

Mason was helped to stay with his only remaining family in San Diego. We helped a Brother with a family get back on its feet financially and find employment that will bring security to him, his wife, and children. With financial support from the community, we helped a child with special physical needs gain placement into a treatment plan. We help caregivers meet together and encouraged them to build networks of strength and support. We helped people gain access to information that provided answers to important questions.

Our program offers help directly by working with families on the telephone, making home visits when necessary to help clarify needs, and make presentations to lodges and community groups and are accessible through a nationwide 800 number.

We do this as an extension of the Masonic Homes "Mission of Love." That brotherly love is extended to all as we reach out, into our community, offering information and direction to people who are not certain about where they can turn to meet their needs. The Outreach Program's help is available and working. Together, we will seek solutions to life's problems.

To learn more about your Outreach Program and its services call: 1-800-4-MASONIC (1-800-462-7664).



Children's Home and Lodge No. 9 Celebrated Christmas Early

In November 1997, David Woodhead, W.M. of Lodge Na. 9 (Talcom) Philadelphia, called Gilson "Buz" Cash, Director of the Masonic Children's Home, with a plan to make the holidays extra special for the 38 youths residing at the Masonic Homes.

The Lodge decided to spend the money from its charity fund to purchase "wish items" for the children in a special way. More than 50 lodge members and their families held a Christmas party for the youth from the Children's Home on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14. Lodge members and their families provided food for the celebration. They bought gifts for each of the children, having chosen special items from the children's "wish" lists, such as: bicycles, dolls, games, movie passes, toys, and practical gifts for the seniors. The lodge also bought two big screen television/VCRs to be shared in two of the children's cottages. For



the children, it was as delightful as Christmas morning: the children's faces lit up like Christmas trees at the sight of the brightly colored packages. They quickly scrambled to find which presents held their names.

The Tall Cedars Clowns came along to add entertainment, laughter, and fun to the afternoon. A few members of Somerton Chapter of the Order of DeMolay and their advisor also came along to help make the day a success.



Not Ready Yet? Think Again!

For many people, the reasons for not moving into a retirement community is because "We're not ready yet."

Here's a letter received by the Masonic Homes Marketing Office from one of the residents, Mrs. Janet Muthard, widow of William F. Muthard, Lodge No. 440, Slatington. At one time, she felt that way. Perhaps this will give you a better perspective as to what it is like to enjoy life in the Independent Living areas here at the Masonic Homes.

"I'm not ready for that yet!" If you have ever said those words when invited to move to a retirement community, you have made a mistake. My advice to you is: 'Don't wait until it is too late to enjoy this type of living.' Most of us living at the Masonic Homes say we've never had it so good. No more cooking, no more house cleaning, no more cutting the grass or trimming bushes, no more maintenance of any kind, no more washing windows or shoveling snow, and best of all — very few responsibilities."

"I chose to live here because I wanted to be around people. My husband died and I was alone. As I look around at the many happy couples here, I regret that we didn't come here together. He would have enjoyed it as much as I do. For him, there would have been golf at nearby courses, swimming, card games, the carpentry shop, and maintaining his own personal gardening plot, in addition to ever so many other things. As for me, I can enjoy all of these things and more. If I choose to cook, I have a full-size freezer and stove, already installed in my apartment. One of the nice features provided is a private dining room for our use if we would like to have a dinner party for family or friends, and we don't have to prepare the dinner, which is prepared and served very graciously by our kitchen and dining room staff."

"Come join us in our Independent Living Community. You won't regret it and I'm sure you'll say, 'Why didn't I do this sooner?'"

Do you want to hear more? There is a file full of letters from residents sharing their reasons for making the Masonic Homes their home.

If you would like to make the Masonic Homes YOUR home, call the Marketing Office at 1-800-676-6452 to find out what is available and how soon you can make your decision to become a resident at the Masonic Homes.



Mrs. Janet Muthard

Discover Residential Living at the Masonic Homes

In your retirement years, wouldn't you like to be relaxing among friends? Let Masonic Homes show you how to live your retirement years to their fullest! This Spring, look forward to living within the tranquil environment of the Masonic Homes, surrounded by colorful flowers, tall shade trees, and close friends. All of the conveniences of a small town are provided: transportation, a myriad of activities, and recreational opportunities, as well as access to medical care, is available to all residents.

The Masonic Homes continues to make plans for single and double room accommodations in the beautiful Village Green Area to be available in the Spring of 1998.

Think about joining the Masonic Homes' family today. Call now to make an appointment for a visit and tour. For more information or an application to the Masonic Homes' Village Green Area, return the coupon or call 1-800-422-1207.

Now is the time to start planning for your future!



Mrs. Katherine H. Romito, a resident at Masonic Homes.

Please send me more information about the Masonic Homes' Village Green Area!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Please complete coupon and return to:

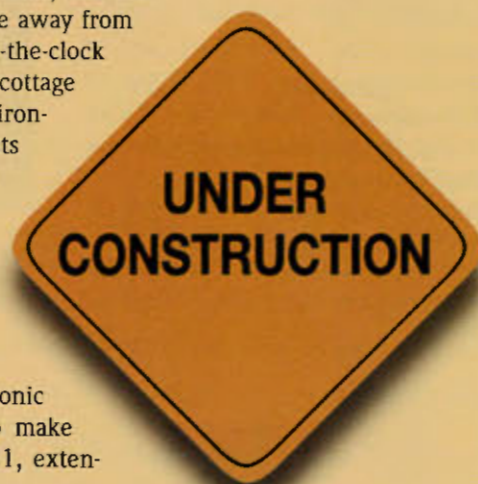
Admission Office
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Renovations Continue on Respite Cottage for Adult Children

Renovations are continuing on the Masonic Homes' respite cottage designed to meet the needs of Masons and members of the community who are caring for their developmentally challenged and mentally retarded adult children. The opening of this eight-bed cottage is scheduled tentatively for March 1, 1998.

If you are the parent or caregiver of an adult child with special needs and are looking forward to scheduling a vacation, the Masonic Homes can help by offering a safe, secure, and nurturing environment. It can be a home away from home for your loved one, with around-the-clock supervised service in a comfortable cottage within the beautiful and caring environment of the Masonic Homes. Guests will receive three nutritious meals a day, plus snacks, social and recreational activities, assistance with personal care, and access to medical care. All of this is available at a reasonable cost.

For more information about the Masonic Homes' Respite Care Program, or to make your reservations, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33301.



Opening of Freemasons Building to End Eight-Year Construction Project

The completion of the eight-year Masonic Health Care Center construction project is within sight! In May, the Freemasons Building will soon become home to 127 residents requiring assisted living accommodations.

These new accommodations will provide assisted living services for residents who are basically independent, but who require some assistance in their daily activities such as bathing, dressing, transportation, and taking medications. Assisted living accommodations allow residents to live at their full potential with the assurance that individual and personalized assistance will be provided when needed. This area will also offer convenient access to all clinics, beauty and barber shop, therapy pool, gift shop, activities and social events.

If you would like more information about the accommodations to be offered in the Masonic Homes' Freemasons Building, call 1-800-422-1207.



Masonic Homes Considers Managed Care Insurance Options

The Masonic Homes has recently signed a managed care contract with MediGuard, a division of Health Guard. MediGuard is an insurance company offering a Medicare-risk HMO product which appears to be the insurance of choice for some individuals in the community.

Since some of the residents at the Masonic Homes have expressed an interest in this type of insurance, a task force consisting of residents and staff has met over the past few years to discuss managed care options for Masonic Homes' residents. A few months ago, the task force heard a MediGuard presentation and after careful consideration felt that insurer currently offers the strongest provider list of physicians and specialists in Lancaster County. While the Masonic Homes is not actively promoting this particular type of insurance to current and prospective residents, it is providing the information to those who may wish to explore this option.

This option is available to residents regardless of pre-existing medical conditions. Ample time was taken to consider this option because the task force wanted to make sure that the contract would cover medical and clinical services provided in the Masonic Health Care Center such as x-ray, laboratory, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, podiatry, ophthalmology, etc.

The Masonic Homes is open to talking to other managed care organizations in the near future and always works to provide a continuum of quality services to allow people to choose how they prefer to live at their most independent level; either by receiving skilled services in the Masonic Health Care Center or by utilizing home or community-based services.

Those who choose this insurance option may save money because with it they no longer will have to pay for Medicare supplemental insurance. The plan also offers additional benefits beyond what is provided by traditional Medicare, such as savings through prescription drug purchases and vision services.

It is important to remember, however, that individuals who enroll in the MediGuard insurance option will be required to choose their physicians and medical specialists from MediGuard's network of health care providers.



Lodges Find Great Programs Presented By Youth Groups

Youth programs were presented on the stated meeting dates in nearly one-third of the lodges in Pennsylvania in 1997, according to reports received by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation. The reports verify that they were well received.

Most of the programs by the Order of DeMolay were ritualistic presentations of the Flower Talk, which is a tribute to mothers; the Ceremony of Light, which describes in a dramatic fashion the seven cardinal virtues of the Order; or the Shield Talk, which describes the significance of the DeMolay emblem.

The programs by the Rainbow Assemblies included the Ribbon or Rainbow Colors Talk; exemplification of the opening and closing ceremonies of the Assembly; and the Cross Ceremony.

The Job's Daughter Bethels conducted Flag Presentations, opening and closing ritual exemplifications, the Robe Talk, and general information about the Order.

Almost all of the presentations were rated "Excellent" or "Very Good." Here are samples of comments in the reports:

"It's a shame more parents don't get to see the wonderful work the youth

groups do. Perhaps then (they) would want their children to join." — Kenneth Vandergriff, W.M., Howell Lodge No. 405, Honey Brook

"Rainbow Assembly No. 158 and Williamsport DeMolay youth gave presentations on history, ritual, and activities of their groups (that were) very well received ... made our Lodge feel very proud of our Masonic youth groups." — Larry E. Maynard, W.M., Watsonsboro Lodge No. 401

"The Rainbow Girls led the Lodge in singing patriotic songs. They also discussed their duties and the Cross formation." — John L. Warsing, 21st Masonic District Youth Chairman, Moshannon Lodge No. 391, Philipsburg

"I have to support the youth because I have seen many youth in our area ... become Master Masons in my lodge. By supporting the youth, I have increased the rolls of my lodge by at least a half-dozen good men." — John Muzina, Jr., W.M., Wilson-Joppa Lodge No. 714, Dravosburg

"The Greenville Rainbow Girls presented the lessons of the Rainbow stations. The program demonstrated the poise and dignity of these exceptional young ladies." — Mark F. Hills, Youth Chairman, Greenville-Eureka Lodge No. 290

Blood, Organ Donor Poster Contest Entries Excellent



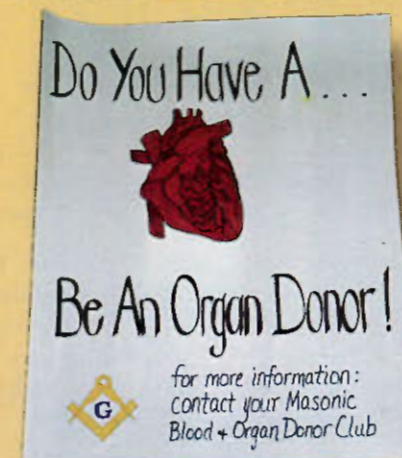
Henry L. Lesh (photo at left), 11th Masonic D.D.G.M., presented the first place prize to Carla during the annual Ladies Night of Page Lodge No. 270, of which her father is a member. Additionally, it was a fitting occasion to make the presentation because the Rainbow Assembly helps to serve the banquet and many of Carla's Rainbow friends were there.

The annual poster contest serves an important role in promoting an awareness for the importance of blood and organ donations and it involves the Masonic youth groups in fraternal activities.

Of 17 excellent finalists in the statewide Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Club poster contest, the one created by Carla Liddle, a member of Pottsville Rainbow Assembly No. 75, Schuylkill Haven, won first place for which she earned a \$300 prize.

Second place was won by Emily Dodson, of Ohio Valley Assembly No. 157, Pittsburgh, earning \$200; and third place by Jenna Wichterman, of Martha Mathers Assembly No. 28, Roslyn, earning \$100.

The winning poster was reproduced and sent to every lodge for posting. Judging of the entries was done by the Masonic Education Committee.



First Place



Second Place



Third Place

Haag Scholarship Winner



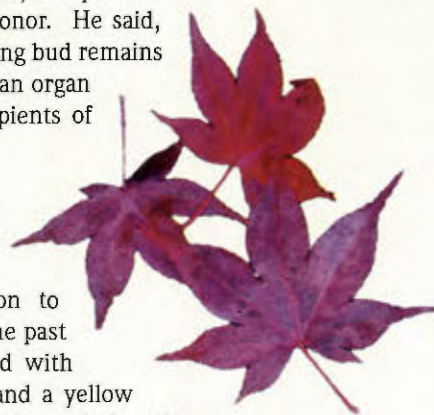
Jill Place, a second-year student at Kutztown University receives the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation's Donald Haag Scholarship Award from Lorne A. W. Bachelder, W.M. of J. Simpson Africa Lodge No. 628, Stroudsburg. With the recipient are her parents, Bro. Horton and Cassandra Place. The winner's father, grandfather, and uncle all are members of J. Simpson Africa Lodge.

Organ Donor Families Thanked At Harrisburg, Philadelphia Meetings

Several hundred members of organ donor families were greeted in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, Nov. 16 and the Zembo Temple, Harrisburg on Dec. 2. R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weissner hosted the Philadelphia meeting and in a moving welcome, compared a fallen autumn leaf to an organ donor. He said, "As a leaf falls from the tree, a living bud remains to give new life. In like manner, an organ donor gives new life to the recipients of his organs or tissues."

The third annual Donor Appreciation Program was held to honor those donor families who made the decision to donate organs or tissues during the past year. Each family was presented with the "Gift of Life" donor medal and a yellow rose. The events were coordinated by the Delaware Valley Transplant Program.

The Grand Lodge continues to encourage all members and their families to become organ donors. For information or donor cards, contact the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program through the Masonic Education Office at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Phone: 1-800-462-0430, menu choice 5.



Reading Lodge No. 549 Doing Big Things For Big Celebration

This is the "Bicinquagenary" in Reading. That's a big word that means the 250th anniversary. It also signifies a big time planned for the city and for Reading Lodge No. 549.

The Worshipful Master, Carey M. Kaucher, P.M., started planning far ahead for the big year. He has designated "Reading — 250" as the theme for 1998 lodge programming. His plans include being a part of the city's 250th Anniversary Parade; a rail ramble to Grand Lodge and City Hall in Philadelphia; and a year-long offering of a commemorative collectible.

On May 16, Reading Masons will be part of the city's gigantic Bicinquagenary Parade. Parading Masons will accompany the Greater Kensington String Band, a regular headliner in the Philadelphia Mummers' Parade. Following the parade, the string band will perform in concert in Reading's City Park.

On Friday, Sept. 25, Reading Lodge No. 549, in cooperation with appropriate city committees, is planning Masonic aspects of a rail ramble to Philadelphia. Twelve buses are planned to take travelers to tour the Masonic Temple and Philadelphia's City Hall. While touring the buildings, they will be greeted by R.W. Grand Master James L. Ennette, Mayor Ed Rendell, and "Ben Franklin." After they have lunch in the Grand Banquet Room of the Masonic Temple, the travelers will board a specially chartered Amtrak for the return trip. The train will be pulled by two restored original engines that were built in the Reading Company Car Shops. Information and reservations for the \$99 rail ramble (\$85 without lunch), are available from Carey Kaucher, W.M., 1518 Linden St., Reading, PA 19604.

The limited edition collectible that has been designed for the Lodge depicts the original Masonic Temple at 124 N. Fifth St. in Reading, which was razed many years ago. The \$20 commemorative cutout piece is hand-screened on wood by Hometown Collectibles artist Dennis Ruffner, who served with the Worshipful Master on the Committee chaired by Dennis Hagan. Information about the collectible is available from Bro. Hagan, of 124 Oley St., Reading, PA 19604, who is the sales coordinator.



The Committee that designed and produced the commemorative collectible (displayed in center of picture) depicting the old Masonic Temple in Reading comprises (l-r): Dennis Hagan, Chairman; Dennis F. Ruffner, artist; and Carey Kaucher, W.M.

GRAND MASTER PRESENTED IN HIS LODGE



After his installation on Dec. 27 in Pittsburgh,, James L. Ennette was presented in his Lodge, Westmoreland Lodge No. 518, during a special meeting held in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. He is pictured above with Richard J. Stemmler (third from right), D.D.G.M., 30th Masonic District, and the officers of Westmoreland Lodge (l-r): Front - Charles D. Kapalka, Sec.; Anthony Daversa, S.W.; Gerald A. Sutherland, W.M.; Bro. Ennette; Bro. Stemmler; Theodore A. Johnson, J.W.; and E. Michael George, J.D. Back - Charles R. Miller, S.M.C.; William L. Treager, Chaplain; Charles H. Johnston, Tyler; G. Ervin Boyce, Pursuivant; J. Paul Stewart, J.M.C.; Charles H. King, S.D.; Howard T. Silbaugh, Aide to the Grand Master; and Rodney E. Boyce, Treas. Grand Master Ennette was escorted by an honor guard of Pennsylvania State Police Troopers (above right) comprising of Troopers James F. George, Tedd L. Pounds, Jeffrey L. Edwards, and Cpl. Allen G. Evans.

[Photo: Bro. Howard Dobmeier]



OVERTURE Off on a Fast Beat With Eight Workshops Scheduled

The downbeat for the Grand Lodge OVERTURE training for membership development and retention has occurred and the program is off on a fast beat. District Membership Chairmen statewide completed OVERTURE leadership sessions during January. The OVERTURE workshops for Junior and Senior Wardens and a membership-oriented lodge leader will be held in eight locations across the state between Feb. 28 and May 2.

G. Kent Hackney, Deputy Chief of Staff and the Director of the OVERTURE Program, listed the following schedule for the eight workshops:

- Feb. 28 - Philadelphia for Districts A, B, C, D, E, 5, 6, 36, and 40;
- Mar. 7 - State College for Districts 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 33, 34, 41, 46, and 52;
- Mar. 14 - Oil City for Districts 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 39, 52, 53, and 56;
- Mar. 21 - Bethlehem for Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 40, 45, 50, 58 and 60;
- Apr. 4 - Wilkes-Barre for Districts 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 35, 45, 46, 50, 58, and 59;
- Apr. 18 - Harrisburg for Districts 1, 2, 3, 19, 34, 42, and 60;
- Apr. 25 - Pittsburgh for Districts 29, 30, 31, 38, 39, 47, 49, 54, 55, and 57;
- May 2 - Pittsburgh for Districts 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 37, 38, 39, 41, 47, 54, and 55;

OVERTURE It is a two-part program for every lodge. First, there will be these eight high-impact workshops for the leaders of every lodge stressing the importance of their leadership in building their membership development and retention programs. A second series of workshops will begin in the fall and end next January to develop practical skills of lodge management. There will be a strong emphasis on preparing for the 21st Century. Then there will be a second round of advanced training in both of the series through 1999.

There will be no cost to the lodges. Every lodge that has at least two of the same Brothers attend the sessions of both series will receive a \$500 grant from Grand Lodge. That money can be used by the lodge, or it can be donated to a community charity of the lodge's choice.

One Day Degrees for Fourth Generation Mason



The first fourth-generation Mason in Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg, received the three degrees in one day. He is Mark R. Kurzenknabe (center), a student at East Stroudsburg University. Pictured with him are (l-r), William D. Dick and John G. Kurzenknabe, both grandfathers; Bruce I. Smith, W.M.; and Glenn R. Kurzenknabe, his father. Mark's great-grandfather was the late Bro. Charles E. Kurzenknabe. A close family friend, W. Michael Greaney, P.M., of Adams Lodge No. 319, New Bloomfield, conferred the Master Mason's Degree.

It's Time to Think Picnic

It is still winter, but it is time to think PICNIC for Masons, their families, and friends. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 16, for the Central Pennsylvania Masonic Picnic at Knoebels Park, Elysburg.

Be sure to save the accompanying coupon; even send in your reservations early. (The next notice in the May issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* is likely to arrive in the mail too late for you to meet the May 10 deadline.)

Knoebels Park, located on Rt. 487 between Elysburg and Catawissa, will be open from noon to 8 p.m. There are three packages from which to choose: No. 1, the combination of food and rides for \$28 per person; No. 2, rides only for \$14 per person; and No. 3, food only for \$14 per person. (No. 3 package only, is free for children under 4 years of age). For those ordering food, there will be lunch at noon (hamburger BBQ and hot dogs with sauerkraut) and dinner at 5 p.m. (BBQ chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, chips, ice cream, coffee, and iced tea). For tickets, use accompanying coupon.

When ordering, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed No. 10 envelope for the return of your tickets. Tickets that are ordered on, or near, the May 10 deadline will not be mailed, but will be distributed at the picnic.

KNOEBELS PARK, ELYSBURG, PA Pavilion "E"

Saturday, May 16 • 11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Package # 1: Food and Rides Price: \$28/Person

Hand stamp good for all rides from noon to 8 p.m., and lunch and dinner

Package # 2: Rides Only Price \$14/Person

Package # 3: Food Only \$14/Person

(Children 4 & Under Free This Package Only)

Parking Included With All Packages

DEADLINE: MAY 10

Name: _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____ District No. _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

_____ No. of Package #1 @ \$28/Person _____

_____ No. of Package #2 @ \$14/Person _____

_____ No. of Package #3 @ \$14/Person _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make Checks payable to "Masonic Picnic" and mail with ticket requests and stamped, self-addressed #10 Envelope to:

Hugh A. Jones,
150 Pocahontas Lane,
Elysburg, PA 17824
(717) 672-1083

Library & Museum To Make PA Masonic Blazers Available

As *The Pennsylvania Freemason* was readied for the printer, the Board of Directors of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania and the R.W. Grand Master approved the production of exclusive Pennsylvania Masonic blazers by Bill Blass Menswear. The Library and Museum will benefit from a portion of the proceeds from the sale of each of the high quality blazers that will be available through the Library and Museum Gift Shop.

The unique blazer is described as being impeccably tailored from the finest worsted wool and having gold, two-toned insignia buttons and a removable silver bullion crest. Bill Blass Menswear values a blazer of that quality and design at \$315; but says that thanks to the Grand Lodge commitment to benefit the Library and Museum, it will be available for \$200.

Order forms are being prepared for the distribution by The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania very soon. The order forms will require a purchaser to provide his name and address and stipulate the size (regular, 36-52; short, 38-46; long, 38-50; or extra long, 40-48) and enclose a check made payable to "The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania." The orders are to be mailed to the Library and Museum at the Masonic Temple, One North Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19107-2520. (Purchasers also can order by fax by including the required information and credit card data to John H. Platt, Jr. at 215-988-1972.)

Bro. Platt, the Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, reported the approval of the blazers' production and sales with enthusiasm, not only for the benefit it will have financially for The Library and Museum, but also because of the exclusively unique, high quality product sportswear that is being offered.

The schedule for ten Sectional Schools of Instruction has been confirmed for 1998 by William M. Jones, Director of Ritualistic Work:

February 28 Clearfield
March 8 Washington
March 14 New Castle
March 21 Pittsburgh
March 28 Harrisburg
April 4 Altoona
April 18 Scranton
April 25 Philadelphia
May 2 Warren
May 9 Williamsport



Let's Use the Freedom We Have

By Bro. Thomas W. Jackson
R.W. Grand Secretary

My Brothers:

We have just passed through that period of the year when each of us probably pauses and considers the significance of the blessings and privileges we have been granted in life. It does not matter what our religious persuasion may be. It is a time when the existence of a Supreme Being probably carries a greater impact upon our hearts because it is the time in which our minds are stimulated more frequently to appreciate His importance in our lives.

We, as both Americans and Freemasons, have a greater reason to be thankful than perhaps those anywhere else in the world. We live in a country where freedom is an accepted aspect of life. We live in a country where we can openly choose to worship God as we please without concern. We live in a country where we can be a member of the Masonic Fraternity without fear of any type of retribution.

And, yet, we all too often take these freedoms for granted. There are many places in the world today where these freedoms simply do not exist. How often we tend to forget that our freedom to worship God and our freedom to be a Freemason are freedoms earned by the sacrifices made by others. Prosperity has a way of dulling appreciation for those whose sacrifices and commitments gave us that prosperity. It is easy to become complacent when we have not had to struggle, and we have become complacent.

I have had the privilege in recent years to be in conversations with Freemasons from many parts of the world. As a result, I have developed an even greater appreciation for being able to walk into a lodge room and sit with my brothers, and of being able to walk into a church of my choice and worship God as I choose.

I have talked with brothers who had to leave their native countries because Freemasons were being persecuted and killed. I have talked to those who today live with a continuing concern for their lives or their freedom because they are Freemasons. I have written to brothers in countries where I had to use envelopes with no Masonic reference because it could place them in jeopardy.

And we, with no reason to fear, do not even put forth the effort to attend our meetings. We have so much for which we should give thanks to the Grand Architect of the Universe and to those who made supreme sacrifices for our freedoms. We cannot do that by not using these freedoms.

My brothers, let us individually commit ourselves to make use of that which we have, the least of which is not the freedom of sitting in a lodge room with our brothers.

Brethren, Take Notice

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held Wednesday, March 4, 1998 in the Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA. Dinner will be served at 5:00 o'clock; Grand Lodge will open at 7:00 o'clock p.m.

Gavel Passed Brother to Brother



The senior brother passed the gavel to his younger brother when retiring Worshipful Master Gregory T. Otto (left) installed Clinton J. Otto in Valley Lodge No. 797, Valley View. The brothers' father, Trent Otto, is also a member of Valley Lodge.

PLATT DIRECTS LIBRARY & MUSEUM

John H. Platt, Jr., is the Executive Director of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Due to an oversight, that appointment was not included in the list published in the Special issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* on Dec. 27.

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