

Three Things That May Surprise You



You may be worth more than you think. At least that's what many people discover when they take the time to add up their assets.

Retirement funds have grown, real estate values have increased, investments have multi-

plied, insurance policies have

expanded, and things of value have accumu-

lated over the years.

First, have you checked your financial worth lately? Chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Second, if you find yourself above the \$600,000 level, another surprise may await you — the high estate taxes due after you die.

For example, if you have assets worth \$1.4 million, it is possible your estate will have to pay taxes of nearly \$320,000. And, if that part of your estate includes a qualified retirement fund and the named beneficiary is someone other than your spouse, did you know that the recipient will have to pay the IRS the deferred income tax on that entire retirement account? And, yes, this is in addition to the estate tax.

For estates in excess of \$3,000,000, the estate tax rate is

55 percent. Consequently, it's not unusual for a person with a larger estate to discover, sadly, that more than half of his or her hard-earned money will eventually wind up in the hands of Uncle Sam — even though the person had previously paid income tax on much of this wealth.

Now here's the third surprise: a little planning can make an enormous difference. For example, did you know that you can actually redirect money that is headed for Uncle Sam by earmarking it to a charity of your choice? Did you know that estate gifts to qualified charities are 100 percent deductible?

Gift and estate planning are well worth the investment of your time — even if your estate is modest and taxes are not an issue. Planning allows you to make the decisions about your estate, not the government.

A good place to begin is to contact the Development Department for our free brochure on estate planning. It's a good introduction to this area and can help you get started.

Contact Bro. Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development or Bro. John R. McFadden, Planned Giving Officer. They will be happy to assist you through the gift planning process in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation. You can reach them at (800) 599-6454 or (717) 367-1121, ext. 33311.

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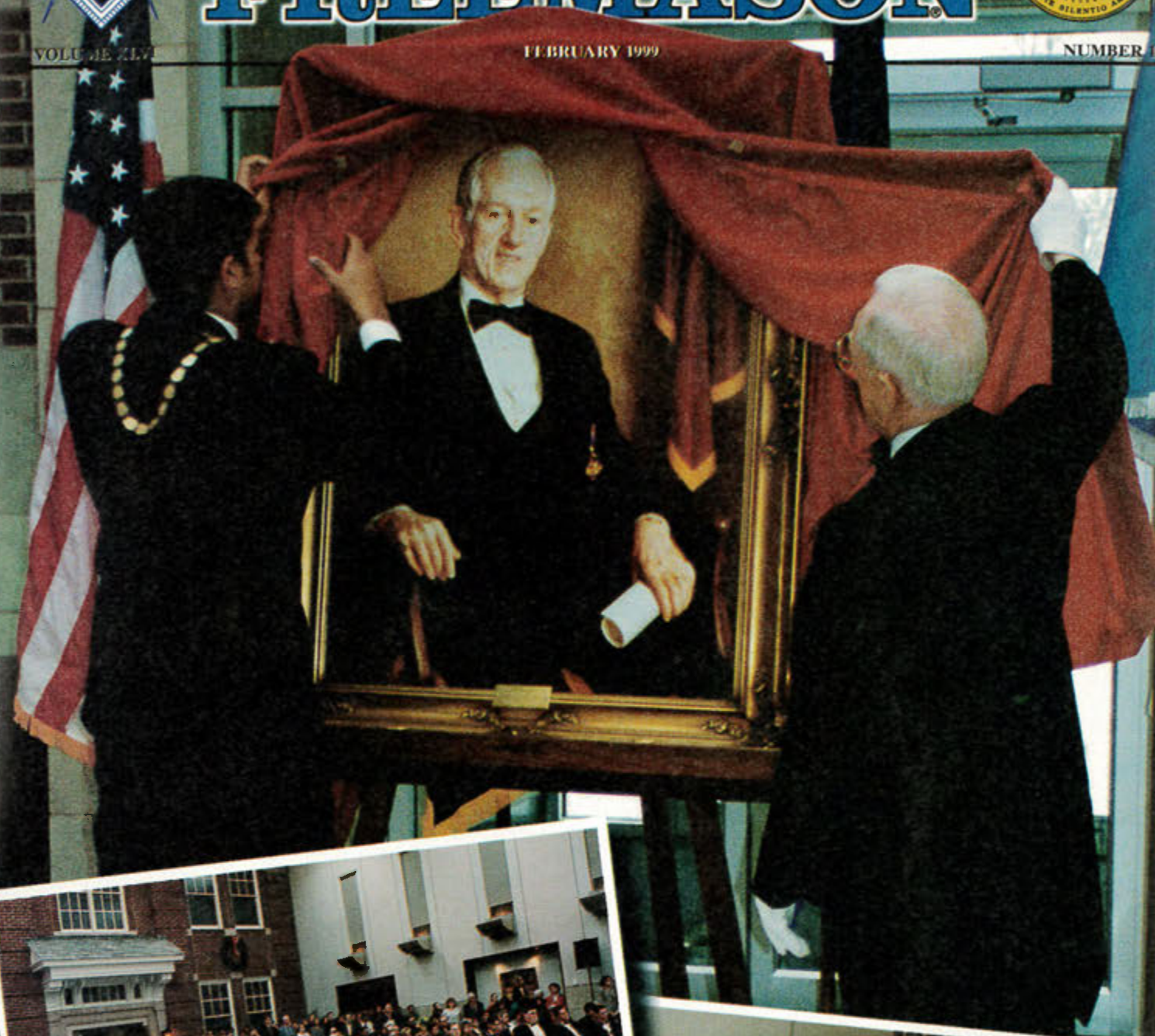
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FEBRUARY 1999



NUMBER 1



A Day of Dedication

(see pages 4 and 5)



The Grand Master's Message

[During the December Quarterly Communication, Bro. Ernette presented an upbeat "State of the Craft" report as the Grand Lodge approached the end of his first year as Grand Master. Following are excerpts from that message.]

Forty-eight weeks ago, I said that I had no doubt that together, we could move forward with unanimity in the best interest of our Fraternity. In my vision, I saw "The Perfect Match" for achievement in the philosophy of Freemasonry that I defined as **"Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community."**

It begins with **Faith**, because Faith is our strength — ever-important in our great Fraternity....

"Family" in our philosophy represents the esteem with which we hold our families. In open Masonic ceremonies, (families shared) the honor when (Masons were) invested with their 50-year Emblems of Gold ... (and) new District Deputies being introduced ... families enjoyed the three Masonic family picnics across the state (and) ... joined the guests at the Masonic Homes for the first Concert on the Green.

The finest exemplification of our concern for each other is the Masonic Homes and its "Mission of Love." Giant steps of progress have been achieved there. On Jan. 1 (1998), the two Eastern Star Homes merged with the Masonic Homes, greatly expanding our ability to serve the needs of our Brothers and Sisters (and their loved ones). We searched for additional capability to provide "continuum of care" services in Western Pennsylvania and have a letter of intent with the Valley Care Nursing Home in Sewickley ... with an estimated ... agreement to take place on March 31, 1999.

We completed the ten-year renovation project to the Masonic Health Care Center ... (and) have reached out in new endeavors of caring, such as opening the Respite Cottage to provide services to adults with mild to moderate mental retardation or similar developmental challenges.

"Family" on the Grand Master's Medallion also recognizes the bonds among the **"Family of Freemasonry."**

A new Multi-Media Center at the Masonic Conference Center on the Patton Campus (*dedicated Dec. 12*). ... truly (gives us) a Masonic Conference Center for the use of the Masons of Pennsylvania, our youth, allied organizations, and the Grand Lodge.

With the Appendant Bodies, we are considering our mutual major concerns At the invitation of this Grand Lodge, the leadership of the "Family of Freemasonry" in Pennsylvania will come together in a "Partners for Progress Seminar" at the Masonic Conference Center on Feb. 6.

The highly successful OVERTURE Program is fostering a Fraternity with better trained leaders Ninety-two per cent of our lodges have participated in the Seminars (and) 300 of the lodges qualified to receive the \$500 incentive payment for maximum participation....

... It is incumbent upon us to operate with today's technology. No-interest loans are available from Grand Lodge for Blue Lodges to purchase computers and fit into the Grand Lodge system now being completed ... a low-interest loan program to help Lodges refurbish and improve their facilities.

This is the 125th Anniversary of this magnificent Masonic Temple, the home of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. (The refurbishing and remodeling to restore this historic landmark) has been extensive This world-renowned Masonic Temple is well groomed to showcase the headquarters of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania as we prepare to greet the new millennium.

Perhaps nothing has heralded Pennsylvania Masons' progress toward tomorrow more than our entry in Cyberspace. Our home page might be one of the busiest "places" on the Internet. ... There are now more than 1,500 pages of factual information about

Freemasonry available through our home page — and more to come. In just nine months, there have been more than 30,000 "hits" on our home page.

... In Pennsylvania, Freemasonry is nearly three centuries old, a **Brotherhood of Man abiding under the Fatherhood of God** and serving mankind charitably. Pennsylvania Masons' concern for their neighbors confirms my conviction that the **Community** is the place to be if we are to personify our commitment and carry forth our charge of service to mankind.

Past Grand Master Sam Williamson came up with ... **"A Perfect Match,"** to describe the Grand Lodge Matching Charities Grants Program. As Masons in lodges across the state are committing themselves and their resources to serve mankind in their OWN communities, Grand Lodge is matching each lodge's financial commitment up to \$5,000 a year. (As of Dec. 1) 295 lodges applied for 603 grants of which 503 have been completed (for more than \$414,000). Through eleven months of 1998, Masons of Pennsylvania (were responsible) for more than three-quarters of a million charitable dollars that are serving mankind in their communities.

... there has been more service to mankind through our programs at the Masonic Homes. The Outreach Program, Adult Day Care, and Respite Care Pennsylvania Masons met a specific need for veterans by building a much-needed recreation pavilion at the Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Health Care Center.

Our commitment to youth continues to be substantial through the services of ... The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children. Our commitment enables the PYF to support and enhance its leadership of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, Job's Daughters and Knights of Pythagoras.

The Multi-Media Center ... will give young people even more developmental opportunities. Our master plan includes upgrading and refurbishing the Rankin and Patton buildings on the campus, including air conditioning throughout and individual bathroom accommodations in every sleeping room. Every year scholarships help so many of our maturing young people.

... support continued (by The Foundation for Children for the) Pennsylvania Department of Education's Student Assistance Program. Now, more than 10,000 educators have been trained at the Masonic Conference Center. The Past Grand Master Carl W. Stenberg, Jr. Scholarship Program granted its full complement of seven scholarships to high school seniors who turned their lives around by participating in the Students Assistance Programs in their schools. Law enforcement officers benefit from similar support through the D.A.R.E. Program. In five years, more than 420 officers have been trained to work with elementary students in teaching them how to say "no" to drugs and alcohol and how to cope with peer pressures. The Masonic Conference Center continues to be the Pennsylvania Headquarters for the D.A.R.E. Training Program. We continue to participate enthusiastically in G.R.E.A.T. and P.R.I.D.E.

We are proud of the acceptance and support for the new Law Enforcement Scholarship Program (that granted) four \$2,500 annual scholarships, each for four-year terms, for sons, daughters, grandsons, or granddaughters of Pennsylvania Masons who plan to enter college to study Administration of Justice.



continued on page 3

The Grand Master's Message

continued from page 2

For us to continue to do our good works, we must sustain a stable membership in all of our bodies. ... Therefore, Membership Development and Retention remains a high priority. As a result of community involvement, family participation, communication, and greater visibility, we have seen an increase in petitions to a point where new members just about replace the deaths. I think we can look to continued improvement there.

The story of suspensions is disappointing. I fear that in too many cases, there are Brethren who leave the Fraternity and no one has been concerned enough to find out why. If a Brother is having problems, the lodge should be there to help. Grand Lodge is urging personal contact with every recently suspended Brother to learn about and evaluate the circumstances and seek positive results.

A year ago, I asked every Pennsylvania Mason, to make a personal commitment to the Grand Master to **"REPLACE YOURSELF."** If you're one of the many who has fulfilled that commitment, please accept my personal thank you. But, if you haven't taken that commitment seriously, I ask you to resolve to do so now.

(Every Pennsylvania Mason should have received his) 1999 Masonic calendar ... with a blank petition and another personal letter asking you again to **REPLACE YOURSELF.** Your assignment is one of education. I am opposed to solicitation As a man of quality yourself, it is enjoined upon you to speak selectively to worthy men ... like you, men of quality whom you would be pleased to call Brother — **REPLACE YOURSELF. But, remember, they have to ask.**

We have forged ahead in 1998 thanks to dedication and hard work by many — the Officers, District Deputies, Committees, the 484 Lodges, and so many Masons who have labored hand-in-hand with unanimity. ... the staff of the Grand Lodge, who adopted customer service as their hallmark and put meaning into the charge, "It's not what you can do for Grand Lodge; but what Grand Lodge can do for you."

Brethren, the stage is set for 1999 — a promising year to close out the Twentieth Century as a prelude to a dynamic start to the next millennium. Abiding in the philosophy of **Faith, Family, Fraternity and Community**, we are a **Brotherhood Serving Mankind.**

Thank you, Brethren, one and all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

James L. Ernette

James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master



VISIT US ON THE INTERNET:
pagrandlodge.org

THE GRAND MASTER'S MEDALLION:

A Symbol of Philosophy and Vision

"Brotherhood Serving Mankind" encircling an adult and children on the 1999 Grand Master's Medallion relates R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette's expression of Pennsylvania Freemasonry's **Faithful** dedication to caring for the **Family, Fraternity, and Community — A Perfect Match.**

The Medallion is a bronze token designed at the direction of the Grand Master to identify his administration on one side and reflect his philosophy for the Fraternity in the Jurisdiction on the reverse. The Grand Master traditionally presents or owards the Medallion at special ceremonies, visitations, recognitions, and to visiting dignitaries.

Grand Master Ernette defines the message on the reverse as:

"Faith" - The Mason believes and places his trust in a Supreme Being and maintains an abiding relationship in the Brotherhood of Man.

"Family" - A Mason's own family always comes first and should be a part of the Fraternity's social activities. Likewise, there is a tie that binds among appendant bodies and organizations that make up the "Family of Freemasonry."

"Fraternity" - Every Mason needs to set the proud fraternal example at all times, act and live the principles of the Fraternity, strive to make good men better, exude honesty in business and civic relationships, and practice moderation in recreation.

"Community" - The Masonic lodge should be a viable force in its community, visible and active in community services and programs, caring for neighbors in need, and always serving mankind.

It is all **"A Perfect Match."**

"Brotherhood Serving Mankind"



BRETHREN TAKE NOTICE

The next Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be Wednesday, June 2, at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center. Details will be provided in the May issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason*.

There will be no Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge in March.

Grand Lodge, Appendant Bodies' Leaders to Meet as "Partners for Progress"

Masonic leaders of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the leaders of the appendant bodies in the Commonwealth will meet Saturday, Feb. 6, in a "Partners for Progress" seminar in the Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center of the Masonic Conference Center, Elizabethtown. Together, the participants will address membership development and retention, leadership qualities, and member motivation.

Debra Moxley, Executive Director of the Westmoreland Council, Girl Scouts of America, will address the seminar to define successful leadership programs. While almost all organizations are facing declining memberships, the Girl Scouts are showing growth as a result of its leadership activities.

A basis for discussions will be the results of a recently completed survey of new members to determine what is of most interest to Blue Lodge members. Conducted by an independent survey organization, the poll represented every new Mason who joined the Fraternity between Jan. 1, 1997, and Aug. 31, 1998.

Each leader attending will receive a leadership handbook offering "75 Ways to Attract and Retain Members."

The seminar will include a workshop on how to create value that will be attractive to new members.

Dedication Day Memorable and Historical at The "Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center"

It was a memorable, inspiring, and historic day at the Masonic Conference Center on the Patton Campus at Elizabethtown on Dec. 12, when R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette and the Grand Lodge Officers laid the date stone and dedicated the new — and newly named — Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center. During the afternoon, the Order of DeMolay initiated 37 members of a class named in honor of the Grand Master.

The new building is an addition to Memorial Hall, the original classroom and shop building on the Patton Campus. It includes a unique and magnificent two-story lobby that encloses the original entrance to Memorial Hall, so named in memory of Thomas Graham Patton, who died at age 7, the only son of Past Grand Treasurer Thomas Ranken Patton.

To the north of the spacious, bright lobby is a functionally designed registration area, six meeting rooms well suited for breakout sessions, public telephones, rest rooms, and display cases.

To the south is the high-tech, 98-seat multi-media conference room with state-of-the-art computer, video, and audio presentation systems. Included are a VCR, DVD player, slide-to-video converter, presentation computer, and a document camera. The voice audio system is separate from the presentation audio system. The surround-sound system is truly theater quality.

Ceremonies for laying the date stone began with the presentation of the colors by a color guard made up of elected DeMolay state officers. Carl R. Flohr, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Sub-committee of the Committee on Masonic Homes, and the architect, James E. Lewis, reported the completion of the construction project and delivered the plans and prints to the Grand Master.

The musical accompaniment throughout the ceremonies were outstanding and moving. The Grand Organist, Jack Goodman, provided the background



On the Cover . . . It was "A Day of Dedication"—Rakesh Kumar, State Master Councilor, Order of DeMolay (left), and Samuel C. Williamson, R.W.P.G.M. unveil a copy of the portrait that will hang in the lobby of the Multimedia Center named in his honor. The large attendance (lower left photo) is shown during the laying of the date stone and dedication ceremonies. R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette spreads the cement in the laying of the date stone.



After the ceremonies, the date stone was placed (above) by Leroy A. Mull, of Manheim Lodge No. 587. He got able assistance (right) from Ashley Frederick, granddaughter of Grand Master Ernette and daughter of Lisa and Joseph Frederick, the Grand Sword Bearer.

music. Selections were offered throughout the program by representative groups who use the Masonic Conference Center. Danny Forrer and Alex Fizz, of Reading Chapter, Order of DeMolay, offered "God Bless the U.S.A." Children and staff members of the Masonic Homes Children's Home sang "Kum Bah Yah," "Amazing Grace," "Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light," "You'll Never Walk Alone," and "Let There be Peace on

Earth" were sung a cappella by Alex Flemming and Kevin Daugherty, of the Franklin Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity at the University of Pennsylvania. John H. Platt, Jr., Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, accompanied by his wife, Elaine, offered a powerful rendition of "Bless This House."

Concluding the date stone ceremony, elected officers of the Order of DeMolay in Pennsylvania unveiled a polished black granite capstone in the floor in the center of the lobby. It depicts the Grand Master's 1998 medallion with the theme, "Faith, Family, Fraternity, Community," and includes the names of the elected Grand Lodge officers. It bears the motto of the Masonic Conference Center, "Dedicated to Freemasonry and Youth."

It was then that the Grand Master called upon Thomas R. Labagh, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation and the Masonic Conference Center. To the background music of "If You Believe" played on the piano by Danny Farrer of

Reading Chapter, Bro. Labagh spoke of the dreams of Thomas Ranken Patton and the school that resulted; of the dream of Grand Master Ernette; and of the dream of R.W.P.G.M. Williamson.

That's when the Grand Master had the Grand Marshal conduct Bro. Williamson to where the officers of the Pennsylvania DeMolay had brought a large easel covered in red velvet (see page 5). The Grand Master proclaimed, "In the spirit of gratitude, I dedicate this edifice as the 'Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center.'" Lettering over the doors of the Multimedia Center were revealed at that moment. Then, with the assistance of Rakesh Kumar, the State Master Councilor of DeMolay, a copy of Bro. Williamson's official Past Grand Master's portrait was unveiled. This is a temporary photo, which will be replaced by a duplicate of the original oil now being painted by the artist, Bro. Henry Cooper. It will hang in the lobby between the two doorways to the Multimedia Center.



R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette is pictured with the team of DeMolay officers who unveiled the capstone (l-r): Amit Kumar, Rakesh Kumar, Grand Master Ernette, Walter Pietrowski, and Louis Grow.

"If You Believe . . . Dream a Dream"

To a musical background of "If You Believe," Thomas R. Labagh set the stage eloquently for Grand Master Ernette to proclaim that the new facility will be known as the "Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center" and for the unveiling of a portrait of Bro. Williamson that will hang in the lobby. He said:

"Listen!

"Do you hear your dreams?

"Do you dare to have dreams?

"IF YOU BELIEVE it will happen — it CAN HAPPEN!!

"Bro. Thomas Ranken Patton dreamed of a school for orphans of Masons, to give them a chance at success in life. He BELIEVED in his dream, and it was realized!

"Bro. Samuel C. Williamson dreamed of establishing a foundation to support the Masonic youth groups, and to bring them to this facility, which had closed its doors after 50 years of faithful service. He BELIEVED in his dream, and it was realized!

"In 1997, Bro. James L. Ernette, then R.W. Deputy Grand Master, began to dream of a state-of-the-art multimedia center — (and it is, as you will soon see). He dreamed of a facility for Masons, for youth, for D.A.R.E., for G.R.E.A.T., and for all who would serve the youth of our Commonwealth. He not only dreamed — as any great leader, he shared his dream with those on his team who could help him achieve it. HE BELIEVED IN HIS DREAM — HE BELIEVED IN HIS TEAM. They all believed in his dream and shared with hun-

From The Grand Master's Dedication Oration

"This Masonic Conference Center now combines a youthful environment with a high-tech, comfortable adult training center. In its own right, the new Masonic Conference Center is like the magnificent and historic Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, and the beautiful and stately Masonic Homes across the road. It is unrivaled by any other Masonic facility in the world.

"We are on the road to the Twenty-first Century. But, let us not be mistaken about our purpose. We did not build this Multimedia Center merely for the technology or comfort it affords. We did not establish this facility solely to improve services to adult or youth programs. And, we did not erect this structure to make history for ourselves, or to preserve a tradition.

"We have constructed and dedicated this Multimedia Center as a better means for training young people to assume useful roles in society. We have established this Masonic Conference Center to provide more opportunities for training adults, with or without Masonic affiliation, to better serve and guide young people through the pitfalls of adolescence — the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse — the tragedy of teenage suicide — the destruction of abuse and neglect.

"Let there be no misunderstanding. Masons build for the future. Masons build to the Glory of God! Masons build their own character, while concerning themselves with enhancing the quality of life for others. Whether here at the Masonic Conference Center, or across Bainbridge Road at the magnificent Masonic Homes complex, these guiding principles of Freemasonry are acted upon daily."



Thomas R. Labagh and Grand Master Ernette congratulate Past Grand Master Williamson in front of the copy of the portrait that will hang in the new Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center.

dreds of members and craftsmen. Working together, they focused on a common goal, and with good planning, talent, and good old-fashioned hard work, and BELIEVE IN THE DREAM, it was realized!

"LISTEN TO THE MUSIC!

"LISTEN TO YOUR DREAMS!

"The greatest of all was the dream of Samuel C. Williamson, who had a vision of this facility continuing to serve the purposes of Thomas Ranken Patton . . . to serve youth, and to serve Freemasonry.

"Because you dared to dream, Brother and 'Dad' Williamson . . . because YOU BELIEVED IN YOUR DREAM and DARED US TO DREAM, Pennsylvania DeMolay has a gift for you and for the Masonic Fraternity."

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MASONIC MATCHING CHARITY GRANTS



Members of Oakdale Lodge No. 669, presented a \$200 check to the Scaff Children Medical Fund. The donation was placed in a youth fund account and will be used to support various youth groups in the community.



Twenty-three teams of the Nazareth Soccer Club were recipients of new goalie shirts from Whitfield Lodge No. 622, Tatamy PA. The Lodge raised more than \$700 to purchase 25 goalie shirts in all.



Members of West Chester Lodge No. 322 held a pancake breakfast to support the D.A.R.E. Program of the West Chester Police Department.

The impact of the Masonic Matching Charity Grants Program in communities throughout the Commonwealth is immeasurable. When R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette launched the Program to the brethren in his inaugural remarks after his installation as Grand Master, he knew it was a "Perfect Match" for Freemasonry. However, the success of the Program has exceeded what anyone could have imagined in just one year since its inception.

The Matching Charity Grants Program has become so much more than a dollar for dollar matching grant from the Grand Lodge. It is more than providing financial support to charitable causes. It is more than making Masonry more noticeable throughout Pennsylvania. It has become an integral part in the lives of so many people who have benefited and participated in what has truly become "The Perfect Match!"

More than 600 applications for matching grants were submitted last year from more than 300 lodges that participated in the program. Where there was a need for support, Masons were out there supporting it.

At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson, Chairman of the Matching Grants Committee, spoke of what he recognized as "one very successful program" by a lodge through the Matching Charity Grants. The program he mentioned was the establishment of a partnership with a local elementary school by Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, Reading. When the Lodge decided to participate in the program, the idea of adopting an elementary school was conceived. The members chose to adopt Jacksonwald Elementary School based on where the majority of the Lodge's members live. They then met with the school board, principal, and teachers, and were given a green light to assist the school in its needs. The Lodge asked the principal and teachers to develop a wish list of what they felt the school needed, and the members of Isaac Hiester Lodge began to implement their plans.

The Lodge committed \$20,000 to school improvements over two years and has already donated half through the maximum matching grant. But, it was not only money that the Lodge has committed themselves to donating, but their time as well. The members of the Lodge physically landscaped the entire school, refurbished the playground, and even built a pavilion near the school's



St. John's Hospice, a shelter for homeless men in Philadelphia, received \$4,000 from Thomas R. Patton Lodge No. 659, Philadelphia. The money will be used to purchase food, clothing and provide medical services to the needy.

soccer field. While some members were digging holes to plant shrubs, other brethren assisted the school secretaries in writing bus-passes for the children and stocking the bookshelves in the library. The program grew to become so much more than a matching grant, it became a part of the community. They involved local businesses and services to complete the work and donate some of the materials, making it a community project.

As a result, newspapers and TV news stations have been covering the progress of the program, members of the Lodge who have not attended a lodge meeting in years are beginning to return, and more than 18 men have petitioned and been approved to be made Masons.

The successes of the Isaac Hiester Lodge's program are largely due to the motivation of the brethren to become more actively involved in their community. When people in the community see that Masons do care, Masonry will shine and good men will ask to join. The members of Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660 see their accomplishments thus far as only mere signs of a bright future. Their program has only begun!

Schuylkill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, conducted another very successful program through the Matching Charity Grants. The Lodge sponsored a delmonico steak dinner when it learned that one of its members had a 4-year old grandson who was struck with Arnold-Chiari Malformation, a rare structural condition which affects the cerebellum, and needed financial support to help defray medical costs associated with the boy's rehabilitation.

The advertised fund raising dinner sparked a light in the community. Every ticket for the steak dinner held at the Masonic Temple was purchased, helping raise approximately \$5,000. From the amount of attention that was being focused

Providing More Than Financial Support

on helping the young boy, other community groups came forth to give their support. The fire company, Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 424, a Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troop, Lions Club, and many more local organizations and businesses supported the dinner and sent donations into a special charity fund established in the boy's name by the Lodge.

After days of organization and hours of grilling steaks, the brethren of Schuylkill Lodge presented a check to the boy's family for more than \$16,000. The Masons of Orwigsburg began a project that became a community effort and was truly a Perfect Match!

Types of lodge Matching Charity Grant Programs can be found on the Grand Lodge web site at <<www.pagrandlodge.org>>



Orwigsburg child, Patrick Tripp, receives a donation from Schuylkill Lodge No. 138. Making the presentation are (l-r): Front - R. Richard Gipe, W.M.; Patrick Tripp; and Earl Deibert, P.M. Center - Henry Lesh, D.D.G.M., Masonic District 11; and Dale Hine, J.W. Back - Richard Bigg Sr., Treasurer; Jim Turner, Sr., Secretary; and James Whalen, S.W. To raise the funds, members of Schuylkill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, grilled several hundred steaks to benefit the Orwigsburg child suffering with Arnold-Chiari Malformation.



Dr. Stephanie Brightbill, Principal of Jacksonwald Elementary, shakes hands with Paul Riffle, Overture Chairman, Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, West Reading, while Dennis Bolibush, Exeter School District Building and Grounds Director and Robert Hoch, P.M., Secretary, Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, work on the landscaping.



LODGE CITES THREE FOR BRAVERY

St. John's Lodge No. 233, Jenkins Twp., honored three members (front, l-r), James V. Sweeney, Jr., Gerald Riviello, and Joseph J. Barrett, for their bravery in saving the life of another brother, Benjamin Accardi (rear, right), Chaplain. Bro. Accardi, a contractor, was building a garage when a gas line exploded and he was thrown from his equipment. The three came to his rescue while others fled for safety. Framed citations were presented to the three by Alfred W. Kotula, Sr. (front, right), D.D.G.M., 59th Masonic District, and the elected officers of St. John's (rear, l-r): Gerald N. Venetz, W.M.; Norman J. Colwell, J.W.; and Angelo A. Salerno, S.W.



March 29 is Deadline For Law Enforcement Scholarships

March 29 is the deadline for applications for the Grand Master's 1999 Law Enforcement Scholarship. Instituted Dec. 27, 1997, by James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master, the scholarship is designed to help children and grandchildren of Pennsylvania Masons. It provides \$2,500 a year for up to four years toward the expense of college for those who major in Criminal Justice.

The program has gained great support from the lodges and the appendant bodies. During 1998, donations of more than \$10,000 were designated toward this scholarship. Also during the year, two full four-year awards and two partial awards were granted to students in their junior and senior years, respectively.

All lodge secretaries, D.D.G.M.'s, and district chairmen for the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children have applications. For information, interested brethren may contact any of the above, or call the Foundation office at (215) 988-1978 or (215) 988-1923.



C. David Smith (center) was a recipient of one of the 1998 Law Enforcement Scholarships. Presenting the award in Cromwell Lodge No. 572, Orbisonia, are (l-r): George Sarra, W.M.; Evan R. Watters, D.D.G.M.; David and his parents, Pat and Bro. David Smith; and F. Rick Knepper, P.M. and P.D.D.G.M.

FOUND

A Masonic ring was found in front of the portable lavatories on Columbus Blvd. on Nov. 1, 1998 during the Toys for Tots parade in Philadelphia. Please call Beverly at 610-284-0997.

Submitted by Bro. Tony Graessle, whose telephone number is 215-724-0397.

MASONS OF NOTE

At the 79th Anniversary banquet of Euclid Lodge No. 698, Harrisburg, **Elmer W. Herman**, the senior Past Master, was honored for his 45 years of service as Secretary. John D. Witmer, Jr., D.D.G.M., 2nd Masonic District, presented Bro. Herman with a plaque of recognition and Donald L. Albert, Grand Marshal and Acting Deputy Grand Secretary, a member of the Lodge, presented a letter of commendation from Thomas W. Jackson, the R.W. Grand Secretary. Bro. Herman is only the third Secretary in the history of the Lodge and has served in that office for more than half of the years that the Lodge has existed.

Congratulations came from a cadre of Past District Deputy Grand Masters and a visiting District Deputy Grand Master when Keith A. McKnight, D.D.G.M., 53rd Masonic District, assisted by John G. Johnson, P.D.D.G.M. presented the 50-year Emblem of Gold to **John H. Crilley, P.D.D.G.M., and James M. Redmond**, in Hebron Lodge No. 575, Mercer. Visiting from the 23rd District was Glenn L. Farren, D.D.G.M. The other Past District Deputies were: L. Wayne Miller, Jack Yates, Richard Slaughenhaupt, and John M. Erb.

When **George Middleton** of Chester Lodge No. 236, celebrated his 100th birthday, H. Dean Smith, P.D.D.G.M., 36th Masonic District, and Warren F. Scheuler, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, visited to offer congratulations. Bro. Middleton has been a Mason for 79 years.

"Brother Teddy Roosevelt" attended Friends Night at Armstrong Lodge No. 239, Freeport. After the meeting, friends and family were invited into the lodge room when professional speaker Keith McGough portrayed the 26th President, Bro. Theodore Roosevelt. "TR" delivered a warm program detailing the life of the President, mixed with messages of spirit and values.

When **Howard W. (Mike) Brannon, P.M.** raised Edward P. Gnoth in Harmony Lodge No. 429, Zelienople, on June 18, it was the 100th degree he conferred. The new Master Mason is the son of the Lodge's J.M.C., Edward L. Gnoth. His grandfather, Edward J. Gnoth, served as the Guide.

Brother Succeeds Brother

Stonford F. Cox (left), the 1998 Worshipful Master of Ephrata Lodge No. 665, installed his brother, Clarence J. Cox, as the new Worshipful Master at the December stated meeting. It was the first time in the 88-year history of Ephrata Lodge that brothers have served as Masters, moreover that one succeeded the other. Both of them reside in Lancaster.



District's Sr. Wardens Confer Degree



The Senior Wardens of the 8th Masonic District conferred the Master Mason's Degree on Thomas W. Drake, III, the third generation of his family to be a member of Fairless Hills Lodge No. 776. His father, Thomas W. Drake, Jr., and grandfather, the late Leslie J. Beaupre, served as Worshipful Masters of the Lodge. After the degree was conferred, the new Master Mason was presented with the Masonic ring that both his father and grandfather had worn when they served as the Master. Pictured are (l-r): Mark Shapcott, S.W., Bristol Lodge No. 25, the Conferring Master; Walter S. Carpenter, S.W., Southampton-Radiant Star Lodge No. 806, Hatboro, who delivered the charge; Thomas R. Eynon, D.D.G.M.; Thomas W. Drake, Jr.; Thomas W. Drake, III; and Gerald Campbell, W.M., Fairless Hills Lodge.

Golfers, Mark Your Calendars

The Grand Master's three charity golf tournaments in 1999 will be held:

Western, Monday, Aug. 16, at Quicksilver Country Club, Midway, Washington County, south of Pittsburgh.

Central, Monday, Aug. 23, at the Golf Club at Felicita, north of Harrisburg.

Eastern, Monday, Aug. 30 at Lulu Country Club, Plymouth Meeting, west of Philadelphia.

Details will be in the May issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason*.

Masonic Education MOVING FORWARD

The Masonic Education Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge OVERTURE program, recently completed a comprehensive survey of newly made Master Masons in Pennsylvania. The survey will be used by the Committee to determine the pre-initiation experience with the Masonic education process currently being used by lodges.

In December, approximately 5,000 Masons initiated between January 1, 1997 and July 31, 1998 were contacted by personal letters from R. W. Grand Master James L. Ernette, requesting their cooperation with the survey should they be called upon to participate. Of the nearly 5,000 brethren, a sample was selected randomly and strategically throughout the Commonwealth to represent the entire membership. Davis Consulting Group, hired by the Grand Lodge in connection with a nationally recognized survey firm, conducted a six to eight minute phone survey with these new members selected.

The results of the survey will provide a foundation upon which decisions related to Masonic education, leadership, training, and membership might be based. One of the new educational tools being considered for development by the Committee is a set of three videos relating to candidate instruction. Once the results of the survey are completed, the Committee will be able to better determine if videotapes will improve new member interest and commitment to Freemasonry.

The Masonic Education Committee has also finalized the dates and places for the 1999 Masonic Education Seminars to be attended by regional, district, and lodge chairmen on Masonic Education. All the seminars are scheduled on Saturdays with lunch included. The seminars are all scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The committee is requesting that all district and lodge chairmen attend a seminar in either their region or in an adjoining region. Those who do attend should advise their regional chairman in advance to assure that necessary arrangements have been made. If unable to attend, each district and lodge chairman must obtain an alternate who will attend a seminar. All D.D.G.M.'s are also encouraged to attend.

Region 1 - March 13, Philadelphia, Districts A, B, C, D, E, 5, 6, 8, 36, and 40.

Region 3 - March 27, Bedford, Districts 19, 20, 34, 39, and 41.

Region 6 - April 10, Williamsport, Districts 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 33, 46, and 58.

Region 5 - April 24, Oil City, Districts 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 37, 52, 53, and 56.

Region 4 - May 8, Pittsburgh, Districts 29, 30, 31, 38, 47, 49, 54, 55, and 57.

Region 2 - May 15, Grantville, Districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 42, and 60.

Region 7 - May 29, Lake Harmony, Districts 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 35, 45, 50, and 59.

TWELFTH D.A.R.E. CLASS GRADUATED

Thirty-three law enforcement officers in the class (pictured right) were graduated in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) training program at the Masonic Conference Center on the Patton Campus, Elizabethtown. That was the twelfth class to complete the training and brings the total to 421 officers trained at the Center. Three classes are planned for 1999, along with middle school mentor training that will expand the education program into the upper grades. The support of Pennsylvania Masons makes it possible for more schools and smaller communities of the Commonwealth to have the vital educational program.



I've Heard The Name, What Does It Mean?

The videotape, *I've Heard the Name, What Does it Mean?* is an excellent tool to introduce Freemasonry to a prospective applicant and his family inquiring about becoming a Freemason. It explains what the Fraternity stands for, what Masons do, who Masons are, and what being a Freemason means.



The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Committee on Masonic Education adopted this fine educational tool, produced by the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, for use by lodges. The Committee on Masonic Education provided each District Deputy Grand Master with two copies of the video per lodge in May 1998 to be personally delivered to each lodge in his district. The video is to be used by Committees of Inquiry when visiting a prospective applicant and his family.

I've Heard the Name, What Does it Mean? will leave prospective applicants and their families with answers! Is your lodge using it? If not, please contact your D.D.G.M. or the Masonic Education Office at 215-988-1919.

R.W.G.M., D.D.G.M. Installed in Royal Order



During sessions of the Royal Order of Scotland held Sept. 30 in Cincinnati, the Provincial Grand Master Edward H. Fowler, Jr., (center), who is a R.W. Past Grand Master in Pennsylvania, installed R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette of Pennsylvania (left) as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Order and William M. Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 36th Masonic District (right), as the Provincial Grand Secretary.



Volunteers Support Caring Community

Many volunteer residents at the Masonic Homes continue the hobbies they've enjoyed all of their lives. Others find new interests that provide exciting and rewarding opportunities. And, fortunately for the Masonic Homes, a large number of individuals share their time and talents volunteering!

A recognition party for resident volunteers in the Village Green Area, Freemasons Building, and the Masonic Health Care Center was held on Nov. 19 in the Roosevelt Building Assembly Room. The theme for the afternoon was "Thanks for Giving," as resident volunteers joined for a celebration with wine, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, entertainment, recognition, and socialization. This event is held annually to thank the resident volunteers for generously and graciously giving their time and energy to provide services for their fellow residents. Independent Living resident volunteers are honored for their services in the spring.

From Oct. 1, 1997, through Sept. 30, 1998, 162 residents from the three areas contributed 41,788 hours of volunteer service, in the following areas: post office,

library, information desk, general store, museum, reception areas, gift shop, hope chest, card shop, welcome table, dining rooms, and the Adult Daily Living Center. They also served as part of the MerryMakers choral group or on committees; with visitation therapy, clerical functions, bulk mailings, flowers and meal delivery, clocks, flags, and umbrellas; and as pastoral assistants, therapeutic recreation assistants, musicians, new resident guides, and tour guides.

This caring community commitment to helping one another is just one of the many reasons why residents enjoy living at the Masonic Homes.

The Masonic Homes have **immediate availability** in the Village Green Area (residential living) and in the Masonic Health Care Center. There currently are waiting lists for the Freemasons Building (assisted living) and the Lafayette Special Care Unit (dementia care); so if you're making long-term plans, you may want to consider talking to one of the Admissions representatives **now**.

The Village Green Area comprises eight buildings and 270 residential accommodations for residents who live independently. Residents' accommodations include a bedroom, sitting area, and bathroom. Three meals daily, organized activities, and religious programs are provided to meet the daily needs of residents. Many recreational facilities are located within walking distance, such as the Deike Auditorium, ballroom, Masonic Lodge building, ice cream parlor, chapel, museum, and the Grand Lodge Hall dining room. Regularly scheduled transportation is provided for on-campus appointments and activities as well as community outings.

The Masonic Health Care Center is Medicare/Medicaid licensed to provide nursing accommodations for 453 residents and provides outpatient, physician, and ancillary services to residents throughout the campus. Daily therapeutic recreation activities are offered and implemented by a staff of certified personnel, such as: aquatic therapy, bowling, ceramics, fishing, pet therapy, religious programs, seasonal crafts, shopping trips, and socials.



Mrs. Ethel Miller, a resident volunteer in the Village Green area, does clerical work and has worked in the Gift Shop.

A full complement of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants help the physician staff in the provision of round-the-clock care. Dietary services, housekeeping, social services, pastoral care services, and support staff create an environment that enhances the well-being of each resident. Every resident room is designed to feel like home.

For more information or an application to the Masonic Homes' Village Green Area or the Masonic Health Care Center, return the coupon or call 1-800-422-1207. The staff will be happy to schedule a tour. Start planning your future today!

Masonic Homes Rated "A+"

In a special report issued by *Standard & Poor's CreditWeek Municipal* last Oct. 26, the Masonic Homes was given an A+ rating. The report "reviews the broader trends impacting the long-term care industry with a focus on capital financing and credit-related issues."

The A+ rating indicates financial security and strong credit characteristics, such as strong management structures, solid demand for services, strong financial performance, and ample liquidity with moderate debt levels.

Masonic Homes' "Senior" and "Junior" Residents Share Interests

The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown serves a wide range of individuals. Some need services; others share their gifts with those who can benefit from their benevolence.

Mrs. Martha "Mimi" Lawton, widow of Bro. William E. Lawton, Prince Edwin Lodge No. 486, Middletown, is a retired Elizabethtown elementary school teacher who resides in the Smith North Building. Formerly the Boys' Home, the Smith Building is a newly renovated independent living apartment building. As a teacher, Mrs. Lawton was a tutor to children who lived in the Smith Building. Now she lives there and volunteers to read to elementary school children who live in Smith Cottage of the Masonic Children's Home.

Bro. Bill Lauder Milch, Washington Lodge No. 265, Bloomsburg, another independent living resident, donated a Macintosh computer to the Masonic Children's Home. The children will be able to use the computer for homework.

Bro. Herman Fixman, Lansdowne Lodge No. 711, a resident in the Village Green Area, began a ceramics program once a week with the school girls who live in the Baehr Cottage of the Masonic Children's Home.

Bro. Walter Weidner, Ephrata Lodge No. 665, an independent living resident and second vice president of the Masonic Homes and Elizabethtown Model Railroad Club, invited the children from the Masonic Children's Home to visit the "R.R. Depot" on Oct. 12.



Mrs. "Mimi" Lawton, center, reads to the children at Smith Cottage, left to right: Antonio Arroyo, Cynthia Balmer, Melissa Baler, and Malcolm Smith.

The Recreation Services Department invited the elementary school children in Smith Cottage to share a special program for Masonic Health Care Center residents in the Assembly Room in November, which included a visit from live deer!

Masonic Homes Achieves JCAHO Accreditation

The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown has received a three-year accreditation for its long term care, dementia, subacute, outpatient, and laboratory services from the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). That independent review agency is highly respected by health care insurers and providers.

The agency's survey in November evaluated the Masonic Homes' compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. Scores ranged from 92% to 98%, which is quite extraordinary for an initial survey.

The surveyors said they were very impressed with the facility and staff. They were pleased with the care provided to residents, the staff's knowledge of their responsibilities, and the quality improvement efforts that the organization has embraced.

The JCAHO team and the involvement of the staff in preparing for this accreditation survey began in June 1997. Teams of employees were established to review policies, procedures, how care is provided for residents, and how employees perform their jobs.

Renaissance Unit Helps to Rehabilitate Patients



Mrs. Jean Johnson has returned to her volunteer work at the Masonic Homes' post office in the Village Green Area — happy and healthy!

The Renaissance Unit at the Masonic Homes provides subacute care with one thing in mind: getting you home healthy! The Unit offers short-term services to anyone, as well as a valuable choice to those who are eligible and require subacute care.

The 51-bed Unit in the Ben Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center is designed with subacute care services for persons who may require complex medical management following, or instead of, acute hospitalization care. An individual can receive a full array of active, comprehensive medical treatments until stabilization occurs. Services and programs are designed to meet the individual needs of each patient for recovery, with the goal of promoting discharge to a more independent environment.

The staff of this Unit receives special training and helps patients to get better and reach their highest level of independence. The Unit currently provides all of the services available at a hospital subacute unit and in a more homelike environment. Often, the services are covered by Medicare, Medicaid, or other insurers.

Mrs. Jean Johnson, wife of Bro. Jack Johnson, Goddard Lodge No. 383, Coatesville, recently spent 10 days in the Renaissance Unit following surgery. "I made out beautifully!" Johnson declares. "The people in the Renaissance Unit spend their time trying to get you ready to go some place else . . . home. I had therapy to help strengthen my eyes and my walking. After the surgery, I couldn't see on my right side, and I had some trouble walking. Within one month after my stay in the Renaissance Unit, I went back to volunteering in the Masonic Homes post office, and I actually walked into town last week! I could not ask for anything more . . . the people in the Renaissance Unit got me where I needed to go!"

If you need to go somewhere for subacute care . . . a place that will help you get back home, call the Masonic Homes' Admissions Office at 1-800-422-1207 for more information.

Send me more information about:

☐ **Masonic Homes' Village Green Area.**

☐ **Masonic Health Care Center.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Complete coupon and return to:

Admissions Office

Masonic Homes

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

OUTREACH Sponsors "Community Health Night"

Part of the Masonic Homes' Outreach Program's mission is education and support. In meeting that charge, the staff has provided various programs at lodge meetings and other Masonic functions across the Commonwealth throughout the four years of its existence. Last November, the Masonic Homes Outreach Program hosted a "Community Health Night" as part of an evening program offered by the Abraham C. Treichler Lodge, No. 682, Elizabethtown. The event offered education and information to the members of the Lodge and to those in the local communities who accepted the open invitation to attend.

Coordinating the efforts of Masonic Homes' employees and representatives from local service providers, the Outreach Program sponsored the evening's program. The Alzheimer's Association, Hospice of Lancaster County, the Central Pennsylvania Oncology Group, and the Lancaster County Office of Aging joined the Masonic Health

Care Center representatives in a common effort to meet the needs of those in attendance. Nursing, physical and occupational therapy, social work, volunteer services, the Masonic Homes' Alzheimer's Unit, Adult Daily Living Center, and the new Respite Cottage were all represented. Blood pressure screenings were provided throughout the evening. Video presentations on depression and caregiving were shown, and the Central Pennsylvania Oncology Group provided self-breast examination education to the ladies in attendance.

The evening served as an opportunity to bring many persons together with the goal of sharing information. It is hoped that those who attended left the Masonic Homes better informed and confident about where they would turn for help should the need arise. It was an informative evening. A similar event could be presented in your own community or lodge. If interested, call the Masonic Outreach Program at 1-800-462-7664.

Go Ahead, Take a Vacation... and Let Us Care for Your Loved One

Sometimes a vacation means a break from our daily schedules; a time to sit back and relax, free from worries. For others, a vacation is a chance to do things you normally don't have the time or resources to experience. The Respite Cottage staff at the Masonic Homes understands the many different needs you and your loved one may have.

If you are a caregiver of an adult with mild to moderate mental retardation or similar developmental disabilities and are planning a vacation or other personal time, the Masonic Homes can help. The Respite Cottage offers a safe, nurturing environment with 24-hour personalized care in a comfortable home environment.

Within the beauty of the Masonic Homes, guests enjoy nutritious meals, social and recreational activities, and assistance with daily living routines. All of this is offered at a very reasonable cost.

This program is open to all Pennsylvania residents who can benefit from its services. For further information and scheduling, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33751.

CORRECTIONS

With the picture of the Ritualistic Instructors on Page 7 of the November issue, Bro. Richard L. Tubo was identified as an Instructor for Region 4. He is the Instructor for Region 6. Thanks to Joe H. Stormer of Saint Mary's for calling it to our attention.

In the article on Page 15 of the November issue by Donald B. Morgan, P.M., taken from the history of Perseverance Lodge No. 21, Harrisburg, the name of "William Maclay, who was the first U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania," was misspelled. (It is "Maclay, not "McClay.")

In the article on Page 12 about the opening of the Masonic Homes Gallery, both Edward Praediger and Ralph Barisci are members of Harmony Lodge No. 52, Philadelphia.

01-01-00

Masonic Homes is on the Way to Y2K!

The Masonic Homes realizes the importance of the year 2000 and the implications it has in caring for our residents.

What does Y2K mean? Y2K is a term that is short for Year 2000. It will be a very significant year for computers and those systems and products that use computers to service consumers. In the 1960's and 1970's, computer memory was scarce and very expensive. Computer programmers typically referred to dates as two-digit years instead of four (e.g., 98 instead of 1998). This shortcut saved millions of dollars. Now, as the year 2000 fast approaches, the cost of fixing this problem universally will be astronomical.

So what really is the problem? Computers, machinery, equipment, and systems which depend on computers to monitor or even control how they operate rely on a two-digit date field. By not correcting this problem before the year 2000 rolls around, the computer could read the date 01/01/00 as Jan. 1, 1900 and not Jan. 1, 2000! This could potentially cause problems and failure of computers, equipment, or systems which are run by computers or monitored by computers.

The Masonic Homes has created a Y2K Task Force to prepare for that fast approaching date. Rebecca Roush of Information Technologies at the Masonic Homes is heading the Task Force. The goal of this Task Force is to resolve all issues pertaining to the Year 2000 problem by July 1999. Each department at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, as well as the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, has a representative on the Task Force.

For our residents, employees, and as a business, the Masonic Homes want to make sure that we are doing everything possible to meet the deadline that can't be missed!

NEWS from the East and West Homes

The Masonic Eastern Star Home-East in Warminster and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, North of Pittsburgh provide quality skilled nursing and assisted living services. Each home offers personalized care services and amenities to serve residents, including a cozy dining room, barber shop, and beauty salon, a chapel, recreational and fraternal activities, and planned trips.

Both homes have received Medicare certification. However, through negotiations with the PA Department of Welfare, the Masonic Homes only received approval for Medicaid certification for the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East. Therefore, the Masonic Homes began searching for alternate ways to continue to provide cost-effective nursing services for members in the western part of the state.

Negotiations with Valley Care Nursing Home in Sewickley, PA., a quality 128-bed facility located within eight miles of the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, began this fall. Since Valley Care shares the Masonic Homes' values and mission, the two organizations have been exploring the possibility of continuing to provide assisted living services at the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, and providing nursing home services for the residents currently residing at the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, at the Valley Care facility.

With approval from the Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes began negotiating a purchase agreement with Valley Care Nursing Home to acquire that facility. The Homes hope to finalize the agreement by March 31. Since Valley Care currently serves many of our members, the organization has agreed to abide by the Masonic Homes admissions policy; however, the Homes may opt to continue to serve members of the local community as availability permits.

To determine the direction of possible future growth and expansion of services in Sewickley, the Masonic Homes will conduct a market research study of the local community. Valley Care's 40 acres of land could provide many possibilities for expanding the level of care provided at the facility.

This opportunity would allow the Masonic Homes to meet the goal of providing Medicaid and Medicare services to members in areas conveniently located throughout the Commonwealth.

For more information about the assisted living and/or nursing services provided at these Homes, call: **Masonic Eastern Star Home-East: (215) 672-2500 or Masonic Eastern Star Home-West: (412) 931-8300.**

Independent Living at Elizabethtown is a Well Planned Community

At a time when many retirement communities across the country are increasing entrance fees and/or monthly service fees, Independent Living at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown has announced there will be no rate increases for 1999. Independent Living at the Masonic Homes continues to provide residents with peace of mind in knowing that quality accommodations and services are available within a financially stable environment.

Furthermore, additional plans for Independent Living for 1999 include renovations for an expanded community meeting room, lounge, and coffee shop along with

enhancements to the library located in the clubhouse area. The planned renovations come on the heels of 1998 additions which included a new art studio, model railroad club, and finishing room addition to the woodworking shop.

Maintaining rates while improving services in a retirement community generally is an indication of well planned growth. While Independent Living at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown is in a position to reap the rewards of such planning, not all retirement communities can make the same claim. In fact, the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown was recognized as the first continuing care retirement community in the nation to receive top ratings from both the Standard and Poor's and Moody's rating organizations.

If you've been "shopping around" for a retirement community, look no more! By February, there will be 450 Independent Living units at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown with a variety of apartments and cottages from which to choose. Whether your choice is an efficiency, a one bedroom apartment, or a two bedroom plus den cottage with basement, porch and garage, now is the time to apply. Not only will



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mingle and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Horan dine in the Independent Living Dining Room.

you enjoy your accommodations, but also the peace of mind that comes with a financially sound Masonic community.

For more information on Independent Living at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, simply call 1-800-676-6452 or complete and mail the attached coupon. Staff members are eager to assist you.

Send me more information about Independent Living at Masonic Homes!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Complete coupon and return to:

Marketing Office

Masonic Homes

One Masonic Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

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 15, 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 8 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.

Funds from Eastern Star Festivals and Auxiliary to Benefit Three Masonic Homes

The funds raised by the Eastern Star festivals at all of the Masonic Homes, along with the monies raised by the Homes Auxiliary Committee of Eastern Star, will be divided among the three Homes. Mrs. Judy Rutter, Worthy Grand Matron, has designated the funds to be donated to fulfill "wish lists" of items desired by each of the three Homes, to directly benefit the residents, and enhance their quality of life.

Through the leadership of Mrs. Rutter, the Eastern Star Festival which is planned to be an annual event, was held at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. Hundreds of Eastern Star members from across the Commonwealth enjoyed lunch in the Roosevelt Building Assembly Room, took tours of the Masonic Homes and received information about the facility. Prior to the festival, Mrs. Rutter held a visitation at the Masonic Homes with Eastern Star members, who shared refreshments, fellowship and entertainment.



Nancy Hornberger, Chapter No. 499, looks to purchase an item from Lillian Wolfe, Chapter No. 190, at the Eastern Star Festival at the Masonic Homes.

500-Plus At Dedicatory Recital; 3 Recitals Announced for 1999

More than 500 persons enjoyed an outstanding Dedicatory Recital on Sunday, Nov. 7, by the renowned concert organist, Dr. John Weaver, on the new three-manual Rodgers organ in Corinthian Hall at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Dr. Weaver has been head of the Organ Department at Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia since 1972, and Chair of the Organ Department of the Julliard School in New York City since 1987. He also has been Director of Music at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City, since 1970.



Renowned organist, Dr. John Weaver, at the new Rodgers three-manual organ in Corinthian Hall, acknowledges applause during the Dedicatory Recital Nov. 7.

Activities on the memorable day of music, held in honor of the 125th Anniversary of the dedication of the Masonic Temple, began with tours scheduled for 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. So many persons attended that Daniel J. Hinds, Superintendent of the Masonic Temple arranged and conducted a third tour group.

John H. Platt, Jr., the Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, welcomed the large audience and introduced Dr. Weaver. Grand Chaplain, the Rev. Harold J. Schieck, offered a Prayer of Dedication.

RECITALS IN 1999

Bro. Platt announced that this was the first in a series of recitals planned to be held at the Temple in 1999 under the sponsorship of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

March 21 - Gordon Turk, Organist/Choir Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA, Organist for Ocean Grove Auditorium, Ocean Grove, NJ, and professor of music at West Chester University.

August 1 - Marc Cheban, Organist/Music Director for St. Andrew's School, Middletown, DE. He will play a program of Pops/Theatre favorites. In addition to his duties at St. Andrew's, where he has served for 24 years, Cheban is a regular performer at Longwood Gardens as well as a popular recitalist and silent film

accompanist throughout the Delaware Valley. He is a graduate of West Chester University and the Eastman School of Music.

November 7 - Monty Maxwell, Organist for the Chapel of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music. His program may include an organ duo if his partner is available for the date, otherwise, he will perform solo.

Tours of the Masonic Temple are planned each of the days at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. and the recital at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Grand Banquet Hall after each recital. The nearby Parkway Corp. parking lot at Juniper and Arch Sts. will be available at the usual public rates.

Proper attire is requested.

Friends of Library & Museum Meet



The Friends of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania (MLMP) held their annual meeting October 15 in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, and were joined for dinner in the Grand Banquet Hall of the Grand Lodge by the delegates attending the Masonic Library and Museum Association sessions that began the same day. Later, all assembled in Ionic Hall to hear a talk about Bro. and President Theodore Roosevelt by Edward Voves of The Philadelphia Inquirer. John H. Platt, Jr. (left), Executive Director of MLMP, introduced Voves, whose presentation was in commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the birth of Bro. Roosevelt.

Ionic Hall Organ Memorialized

Philadelphia Potter Lodge No. 72 leads the way in donating funds to cover the cost of one of the eight new two-manual and one new three-manual Rodgers organs in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. This two-manual organ, which is in Ionic Hall, has been presented in memory of Alfred R. Potter, R.W.P.G.M., by the members on the occasion of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. The Rodgers model 950 (three-manual) and 751 - I (two-manual) are on the cutting edge of electronic organs and will most certainly add to the dignity of the meetings of those lodges meeting in the Temple.



Lodges desiring to help by funding any of the remaining organs should contact John H. Platt, Jr., Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Phone: (215) 988-1932.

At the new organ in Ionic Hall are (l-r): G. Kent Hackney, P.D.D.G.M.; John W. Woodcock, W.M.; and Ronald O. Pratt, P.M. Chairman of the 200th Anniversary Committee.

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for all rides from
noon to 8 p.m.,
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(Children 4 & Under Free
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DEADLINE: MAY 8

Name: _____

Lodge No. _____ District No. _____

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____ No. of Package #1 x \$28 each = _____

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Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

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

Thomas R. Reich
35 S. Market St.
Elysburg, PA 17824
(570) 672-9069

The Grand Master's Itinerary

Feb. 2	John W. Jenks Lodge No. 534, Punxsutawney, Ground Hog Day Community Presentation. Stated Meeting 5 p.m.; Public banquet 6:30 p.m.	Mar. 21	Organ Recital, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	Open Presentation of Todd F. Weiland, 56th D.D.G.M., John Warren Lodge No. 726, Warren. 8 p.m.	Mar. 25-27	Florida Masonic Reunion.
Feb. 4	Open Presentation of William Weichsel, 37th D.D.G.M., Woodlawn Lodge No. 672, Aliquippa.	Mar. 25	Florida Reunion at Araba Shrine, Fort Myers, FL.
Feb. 5	Open Presentation of Harland Tarr, Jr., 31st D.D.G.M., Blyth Lodge No. 593, West Newton. 7 p.m.	Mar. 26	Florida Reunion at Egypt Shrine, Tampa, FL.
Feb. 6	"Partners for Progress" Seminar, Williamson Multimedia Conference Center, Patton Campus, Elizabethtown. 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Mar. 27	Florida Reunion at Scottish Rite Masonic Center, Winter Park, FL.
Feb. 8	Open Presentation of Jeffrey Greene, D.D.G.M., District C, William B. Hackenburg-Mi Mariah Lodge No. 155, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. 7:30 p.m.	Apr. 10	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Pittsburgh (South). 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Feb. 9	PA State Police Degree Team Conferment of Master Mason's Degree on Major Robert Wertz, Barger Lodge No. 325, Cresco.		Constans Conclave, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Conferring of Appendant Orders, Johnstown.
Feb. 12	Open Presentation of Donald A. Snyder, 24th D.D.G.M., Eureka Lodge No. 366, Erie. 7 p.m.	Apr. 11	Order of the Amaranth, Informal Opening of the Grand Court, Radisson Penn Harris Hotel, Camp Hill. 7 p.m.
Feb. 13	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Philadelphia. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apr. 15-18	Royal Order of Jesters, National Book of the Play, Reno NV.
Feb. 15	Philanthropy Lodge No. 225, Greensburg, Conferment of Fellowcraft and Master Mason's Degree on John Bushwack.	Apr. 19	Informal Visitation, Shekinah Lodge No. 246, Chestnut Hill, District E.
Feb. 17-Mar. 2	Grand Master's Trip to Hawaii.	Apr. 21	100th Anniversary, Middleburg Lodge No. 619, District 46.
Feb. 21-23	Conference of Grand Masters, Honolulu, Hawaii	Apr. 22	Retiring D.D.G.M. Dinner, Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
Mar. 6	OVERTURE Series Seminar, State College, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Apr. 24	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Pittsburgh (North). 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Mar. 10	150th Anniversary, Chester Lodge No. 236, 36th District.		Mid-Atlantic Clown Association "Clown-A-Rama," Langhorne.
Mar. 11	125th Anniversary, St. Alban-Swain Lodge No. 529, District C, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.	Apr. 26	Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons, Sheraton Inn, Greensburg.
Mar. 11	Meetings at Masonic Temple, Philadelphia: 9 a.m.-M. & R Presentation; 9:30 a.m.-Consolidated Fund; 11 a.m.- Administrators of the Pension Plan; 1 p.m.-Finance Committee; 2:30 p.m.-Landmarks.	Apr. 27-29	Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Atlantic City.
Mar. 13	125th Anniversary, Stephen Bayard Lodge No. 526, Elizabeth, 49th District.	Apr. 30	Valley of Bloomsburg Spring Reunion.
Mar. 15	Ionic Lodge "Pennsylvania Night in New Jersey," Cherry Hill, NJ. Dinner- 6:30 p.m.; Meeting- 7:30 p.m.	May 1	50th Anniversary of Pleasant Hill-Guthrie Lodge No. 759, 57th District.
Mar. 18	Staff Meeting, Grand Lodge Elected Officers, Harrisburg Marriott. 7-9 p.m.	May 7	Valley of Altoona Spring Reunion Dinner.
Mar. 19	Meetings at Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown: 8 a.m.- Buildings and Grounds Sub-Committee; 10 a.m.- Financial Sub-Committee; 1 p.m.- Committee on Masonic Homes.	May 8	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Harrisburg. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mar. 20	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Oil City-Titusville - 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.	May 15	150th Anniversary of Tamaqua Lodge No. 238, 45th District.
	Society of Rosicrucians Convocation, Embers Restaurant, Carlisle. 3 p.m.	May 20	Dedication of Freemason Pavilion at VA Hospital, Pittsburgh.
		May 21	Central PA Masonic Family Picnic, Knoebels Park, Elysburg.
		May 21	Staff Meeting, Grand Lodge Elected Officers, Harrisburg Marriott. 7-9 p.m.
		May 21	Meetings at Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown: 8 a.m.- Building and Grounds Sub-Committee; 10 a.m.- Committee on Masonic Homes; Noon- Youth Appreciation Luncheon and Awards Program.
		May 22	OVERTURE Series Seminar, Bethlehem.
		May 24	Western Pennsylvania Scottish Rite and Shrine One-Day Class, Scottish Rite Cathedral, New Castle.
		May 25	PIN Club Golf Outing, Pittsburgh.
		May 25	Meetings at Masonic Temple, Philadelphia: 9 a.m.-M. & R Presentation; 9:30 a.m.-Consolidated Fund; 11 a.m.- Administrators of the Pension Plan; 1 p.m.-Finance Committee.

Pennsylvania Hosts Masonic Library & Museum Association

The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania was host to the three-day sixth annual Masonic Library and Museum Association meeting on Oct. 15 to 18. John H. Platt, Jr., the host Executive Director, is President of the Association, which is an international group of Masonic librarians, archivists, curators, and directors.

The visitors were welcomed by Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W.S.G.W., Chairman of the Board of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, and Anthony J. Garvey, Chief of Staff of the Grand Lodge. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, spoke about the Masonic Information Center and its programs to respond to attacks on the Fraternity and the information it disseminates to the public about Freemasonry.

The first day's program included the introduction of a directory of Masonic libraries in the U. S., Canada, and Great Britain that was compiled by the Association and published by the Masonic Service Association, and a presentation by an appraiser, detailing his work and what librarians and curators should know about appraisals. After a talk about Masonic Research Lodges, G. Kent Hackney, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, spoke on "Managing Change," especially recommending Spencer Johnson's little book, *Who Moved My Cheese?* (The book, No. 102D, is available from our Circulation Library.)

Presentations the second day addressed the usefulness of the Internet and web pages; obtaining grants from philan-

thropic foundations; preservation of paper items, preserving and making available collections, record-keeping; and the image-building and public relations impact of children's story hours as held in the Library of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction. John H. C. Minott, Curator of the Pennsylvania Library and Museum, discussed new museum software.

In the evening, R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette and Mrs. Ernette hosted the participants and guests in the reconstructed historic City Tavern, a place where the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania once met.

A business session concluded the meeting on Saturday.

Conductor Series Completes OVERTURE'S First Year; 1,400 Leaders at Fall seminars on Lodge Management



Masons from hundreds of Lodges in Pennsylvania came together in a series of eight Lodge leadership and management seminars held during the Fall throughout the state. "In the Fall Series, we met with more than 1,400 Masons, representing 92% of all Lodges in our state," said G. Kent Hackney, Deputy Chief of Staff and Coordinator for the OVERTURE Program.

According to Hackney, the seminars built upon the success of the OVERTURE Series in the Spring and were aimed at those who participated in the first series of seminars. The emphasis of the Fall series, however, was aimed at the more practical help for the attendees and were more focused on lodge management than on leadership.

CONDUCTOR SERIES BENEFITS

The Conductor Series included significant discussions on the difference between being lodge leaders and the Worshipful Master or manager of lodge activities, events, procedures, and protocol. Hackney explained, "We were really very interested in giving participants help in the day-to-day concerns of being a lodge officer and being responsible for a wide range of activities and events associated with the Lodge. At the same time, we did not want them to lose sight of the fact that, as the leaders, they also were going to have special concerns with membership, community, family, and planning for the future."

R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette spoke positively about the Conductor Series, saying, "It has had a dramatic effect on the leaders of our lodges in ways that we in Grand Lodge can recognize and appreciate. As much as anything, we believe that they now understand that their Grand Lodge is a partner in their growth, a resource of people for them to turn to in times of need, and a source for information systems, and products that can be helpful in their responsibilities in their lodge."

COMMUNICATIONS STRESSED

Among the highlights of the seminar were the discussions and presentations of ways in which more effective communications could help the lodge not only to increase the likelihood of member satisfaction and involvement, but also to stem the losses of members who do not remain active after becoming a Master Mason. Hackney explained, "The intent is to provide each lodge with a series of letters — correspondence, reminders, thank you notes and other ideas — on disk that can be used with new members, with members who appear to have lost interest, with members who are about to be suspended for not paying dues, and current active members."

This program, which will be sent to all participating lodges, will include a disk with the letters that have places for the writer to add the Mason's name, address, and other important information. With the program, the secretary of a lodge, the membership chairman, or other interested members, can easily create customized correspondence for members, thank spouses who have helped, welcome a member into the Lodge, and encourage his pursuit of the degrees, all using a program that will print on lodge letterhead.

The program, tentatively called "ComPak" will be sent free to all lodges who sent at least one representative to the Fall Conductor Series, and will be available to other lodges that request it.

"CHANGE MANAGEMENT" STRESSED

Participants were excited — and a bit surprised — to receive a copy of a neat little book filled with helpful ideas for them on change. "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson, MD, was

distributed to each Lodge. This new book, which became a best seller on the *Wall Street Journal's* "Best Seller List" the first week it was released, was used in Pennsylvania for the Conductor Series before it had been released nationally. Dr. Johnson had visited Grand Lodge during a recent trip to Philadelphia and was impressed and amazed at what he discovered there. "His book," Hackney said, "has delighted every Mason we know who has read it, and many have said, 'This must have been written about us.'"

SUCCESS STORIES ENCOURAGED

Each Conductor Series seminar was opened with success stories from participants. During that brief but exciting period, Masons told of things they had tried in their lodges, of things that had worked as a result of the OVERTURE Series, and of the materials they had been using. One theme that came across often was the need for planning. In fact, many attendees said that it was the help they received in planning that was a determining factor in their successes.

SPRING '99 OVERTURE DEVELOPED

In 1999, lodge leaders, including new Junior Wardens, will be invited to return to a new series of seminars designed to improve lodge leadership. The focus of these seminars, however, will be programmatic in nature, and more of a workshop than before. Masons who attend will be given practical suggestions and real help in designing, implementing, and maintaining two or three programs in their lodge, all aimed at creating a more interesting, vibrant, and relevant organization. The 1999 OVERTURE Program will be new and not a repeat of last year's program.

THE DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR THE SPRING SEMINARS ARE:

Feb. 13 Philadelphia	Apr. 24 Pittsburgh (North)
Mar. 6 State College	May 8 Harrisburg
Mar. 20 Titusville/New Castle	May 22 Bethlehem
Apr. 10 Pittsburgh (South)	June 5 Wilkes-Barre

Again in 1999, Grand Master Ernette is offering an opportunity for lodges whose representatives attend both the OVERTURE and Conductor Series to earn \$500 for their Lodge.

Grand Master Ernette, the elected officers of the Grand Lodge, and everyone involved in the OVERTURE Program, thank those who attended the seminars and those in their lodges who made it possible. It is sincerely hoped that the skills and techniques offered will be used in the lodges and will help Masonry in Pennsylvania reach the goal of zero net losses.



Setting up the audio-visual equipment for a seminar is the OVERTURE Chairman, G. Kent Hackney (right), Deputy Chief of Staff, and co-workers David O. Meachen (left) and Trish M. Oakley.

Officers of the Grand Lodge

The elected and appointed officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for 1999 are (l-r): Front - James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master; and Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Deputy Grand Master. Second row - Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; William Slater II, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; and Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer. Third row - S. Robert Marziano, Jr., Grand Steward; Trevor K. Frederick, Junior Grand Deacon; G. Joseph Frederick, Grand Sword Bearer; Jon Fair, Senior Grand Deacon; and Steven E. Buerlein, Grand Steward. Back row - Robert Robbins, Grand Pursuivant; Donald L. Albert, Grand Marshal; and G. Richard McLucas, Grand Tyler.



New District Deputy Grand Masters



Masonic District C
Jeffrey S. Greene
of Joseph H. Brown Lodge
No. 751, Philadelphia



3rd Masonic District
John L. Stains
of Acacia Lodge No. 586,
Waynesboro



7th Masonic District
Mark A. Haines
of Reading Lodge No. 549,
Reading



10th Masonic District
Robert W. Steckel
of Edwin G. Martin Lodge
No. 689, Allentown



11th Masonic District
Jeffrey S. Hentz
of Valley Lodge No. 797,
Valley View



15th Masonic District
Martin W. Migliori
of Factoryville Lodge No. 341,
Factoryville



20th Masonic District
Dale A. DeLozier
of Juniata Lodge No. 282,
Hollidaysburg



24th Masonic District
Donald A. Snyder
of Eureka Lodge No. 366,
Union City



27th Masonic District
David A. Teorsky
of Armstrong Lodge No. 239,
Freeport



31st Masonic District
Harland W. Tarr, Jr.
of Blyth Lodge No. 593,
West Newton



37th Masonic District
William H. Weichsel
of Woodlawn Lodge No. 672,
Aliquippa



39th Masonic District
Harvey Fishel
of Kiskiminetas Lodge
No. 617, Vandergrift



41st Masonic District
Jerry L. Lyons
of Somerset Lodge No. 358,
Somerset



46th Masonic District
William A. Swinehart
of Herndon Lodge No. 702,
Herndon



47th Masonic District
D. William Roberts
of Avalon Lodge No. 657,
Bellevue



56th Masonic District
Todd F. Weiland
of Joseph Warren Lodge
No. 726, Warren



60th Masonic District
Joseph W. Dows
of Spring Creek Lodge
No. 802, Hershey



The Masonic Spirit Must Live On

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

My Brothers:

I have recently read a book entitled *Voltaries of Honor* ("voltaries" meaning devoted or ardent persons to a cause or ideal), which is essentially a history of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. I have been aware of the major influence of Freemasonry through our early leaders in the development of the United States of America and assumed that no other country has been impacted by Masonic precepts any more than has our country. When reading this book, however, I became more acutely aware of the magnitude of the influence of the Craft in the development of the Philippines. I also became more aware of how much Freemasonry meant to those men influenced by its ideals.

Complacency and ignorance unfortunately have dulled much of the respect for the Craft that it justly deserves in North America. This is probably the result of most of the present generations having lost the need to struggle to have what we have. For the Filipino, the time span is not that great when they were still struggling to gain the freedoms which we take for granted — practicing Freemasonry being one of those freedoms.

We point with pride to our past brothers who played an integral role in creating this magnificent country of ours, but let me quote the first president of the Philippines, Emilio Aguinaldo, to show how much the Craft meant to them: "The successful Revolution of 1886 was Masonically inspired, Masonically led, and Masonically executed. And I venture to say, that the first Philippine Republic of which I was the humble president, was an achievement we owe largely to Masonry and the Masons." Speaking of the revolutionists, he added, "With God to illumine them, and Masonry to inspire them, they fought the battle of emancipation and won." What an inspirational statement from one who should know.

There were two observations I made from this book amongst many which should be foundation stones for the Craft wherever it exists. The first referencing of the Craft is: "Peace and harmony prevailed in the Fraternity. Men of different races, nationalities, religions, and political beliefs mingled together in the spirit of true brotherhood." The second relating to the occupation during the war stated: "It was only the outward manifestations of Masonry — the conduct of meetings and the holding of ceremonies — which the Japanese succeeded in disrupting. The Masonic spirit, the very essence of Masonry continued to live on in the hearts and minds of Masons."

Freemasonry in the world today has its greatest appreciation where struggle is continuing; i.e., the emerging former communist-dominated and third world countries. It always has been at its strongest when adversity has been at its strongest. Perhaps the strength lies in direct proportion to the challenges. Perhaps this is what is needed in North American lodges to strengthen it today. If complacency can weaken it, challenge should strengthen it. If the challenge does not come from without, then it must be provided from within, and realistically, it is already here. Apathy is just as prevalent within the Craft as it is outside of it. We are as guilty of taking Freemasonry for granted as are those outside of it in taking for granted all that we do for serving mankind. Indeed, that attitude may be the major cause of our decline in numbers.

Those of us who are leaders must shoulder the responsibility to accept the challenge, to strengthen the Craft, to regain its influence, to retain its quality, and to destroy the apathy. We owe it to our past brethren and to the world. Our goal must be to reinforce those two foundation stones observed in *Voltaries of Honor*. Peace and harmony must prevail, and the Masonic spirit must live on.

Two Honors for Bro. Jackson

Twice during the concluding months of 1998, Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary, was honored for his services to Freemasonry and humanity.

During the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Richard R. Schanda, M.W. Grand Master of New Hampshire, presented the Jeremy Ladd Cross to Bro. Jackson (pictured in his breast pocket). Named for one of the most influential writers and ritualists of early America, the medal is the highest honor that the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire can confer. It was presented to Bro. Jackson for his outstanding and significant contributions to Freemasonry throughout the world and to humanity.

On Oct. 25, Bro. Jackson was awarded the Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains (the throat medallion pictured). It is the highest recognition presented by that organization which was established to honor the four chaplains who sacrificed their lives when they voluntarily gave up their lives to four seamen on the torpedoed USS Dorchester.



Grand Lodge Officers Return To Florida to Host PA Brethren

Due to the success of last year's program, R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette and other officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will return to Florida to meet and greet Pennsylvania Masons now residing there. The Executive Director/CEO of the Masonic Homes, accompanied by the Admissions, Development, Marketing and Outreach staff will be part of the group.

The informational meetings will be held on Thursday, Mar. 25, in Araba Temple, Fort Myers; Friday, Mar. 26, in Egypt Temple, Tampa; and Saturday, Mar. 27 in the new Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Winter Park near Orlando.

The purpose of this year's reunions is to share the benefits of membership and to increase awareness about the expansion of services and opportunities provided through the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East at Warminster, and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West at Pittsburgh.

If you are a Pennsylvania Mason residing in Florida and have not received an invitation to attend one of these reunions, call 1-800-462-7664.