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Eastern Pennsylvania
(610) 825-6100, ext. 1348

Out-of-State
(800) 599-6454

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One-Life		Two-Life	
Age	Rate	Age	Rate
65	6.0%	60 & 65	5.5%
70	6.5%	65 & 70	5.7%
75	7.1%	70 & 75	6.1%
80	8.0%	75 & 80	6.6%
85	9.5%	80 & 85	7.3%
90+	11.3%	85 & 90	8.4%

**Rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, effective July 1, 2004. Two-life rates are less due to added life expectancy.*

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Office of Gift Planning, Masonic Charities,
One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

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*If you are considering a gift of appreciated stock, please estimate your cost basis:

\$ _____

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- ☐ Send me information about the Franklin Legacy Society.
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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____



The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

Volume LIII

May 2006

Number 2



Celebrating
One of Our
Most
Influential
Founding
Fathers

Showing
Our Masonic
Pride

Wherever
You Go... Be

Masons Helping Masons
— Across the State and
Around the World

PROUD TO BE
A FREEMASON

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Celebrates 275 Years!



The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

May 2006

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Inside this issue...



A Message from the Grand Master.....	1
Struttin' our Stuff - a Commemorative March; Meet the New Executive Director of the Masonic Library & Museum.....	2
News Across the Commonwealth	4
Annual Eastern PA Masonic Family Picnic; Masonic CHIP Program	6
Grand Master's 2006 Charity Golf Tournaments.....	7
Meet Some of our Youngest Worshipful Masters	8
The Many Meeting Places of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania	10
Plan to Attend the June Quarterly Communication	12
Masonic Book Reviews.....	13
Highlights from the Annual Grand Communication.....	14
In Memoriam: Winfield Scott Stoner, R.W.P.G.M.....	16
Masonic Blood & Organ Donor Programs; Lodge of Research Meeting....	17
Tour Ireland with the Grand Master.....	18
Masons Helping Masons - One Member's Story	19
Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation News	20
Online Member Services; Widows Programs to Consider	22
Check Out These NEW Items Available in the Gift Shop!	23
Masonic Villages News	24
Florida Masonic Reunions Highlights	27

The Pennsylvania FREEMASON

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Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., Editor

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

Brethren:

The first few months of my term as your Grand Master have been extraordinary. Norma and I sincerely and greatly appreciate the support and dedication of the Grand Lodge Officers and their wives as we traveled together across the state to the public presentations of our 12 new District Deputy Grand Masters and three new Grand Lodge Officers. These events were an excellent opportunity to involve our Brethren's families and friends in the celebration and recognition of their accomplishments and commitment to the Craft we love. The turnouts at these events were exceptional; nearly every Lodge room was filled to capacity, with the need to set up extra chairs to accommodate additional guests. We received warm welcomes from the many Brethren and their families, who appreciate the opportunity to be involved and learn more about the fraternity and our heritage. It is encouraging to realize that our fraternity means so much to so many non-members who have been touched by Freemasonry in one way or another.

On January 17, the 300th Anniversary of Bro. Benjamin Franklin's birth, I was proud to lead the more than 100 Brethren and their ladies who joined in the march to his grave in Philadelphia. We had the largest contingency within the parade, which was organized by the American Philosophical Society and the Friends of Franklin.

In February, we traveled south to bring a touch of home to our Brethren and Ladies in Florida. This year, we had the highest attendance at our Florida Masonic Reunions since they began nine years ago.

On March 1, we sadly said "good-bye" to one of our finest, devoted leaders when Winfield Scott Stoner, R.W.P.G.M., left this world to go be with the Great Architect. Our loss is heaven's gain. We will remember him warmly, with appreciation for his distinguished service to the Craft.

The March 18 Academy of Masonic Knowledge program for members initiated during the one day classes was outstanding! More than 400 Brethren attended, and it is my hope that the success of this program will encourage all Brethren to attend future Academy meetings and further their knowledge about Freemasonry. The exceptional presentations provided throughout the day proved that we do not have to go outside our very own jurisdiction to find knowledgeable Masonic scholars capable of articulating interesting, exciting and entertaining educational programs.

Many districts have achieved great success through the development of membership maintenance committees. They are focusing on increasing members' involvement in their Lodges and contacting those Brethren at risk for having their membership suspended. District 21, specifically, has reported a reduction in suspensions of 75 percent! District Deputy Grand Masters from Districts A and C have written a personal letter to every Brother within their district with the potential of being suspended for nonpayment of dues, explaining the benefits of belonging to our organization and encouraging

them to retain their membership. Their efforts have yielded positive outcomes, and I know there are many more that I haven't heard from personally who are also doing an excellent job on this initiative. The more we reach out to our Brethren and encourage them to experience the many benefits of membership, the stronger our fraternity will become.

In the coming months, our Grand Lodge will see some significant changes. We will begin to share our magnificent treasure with outside organizations who wish to hold meetings and social and cultural events within the Masonic Temple. In doing so, we will maintain the integrity of our home, not losing focus on the original purpose of the Masonic Temple as a meeting place for our Lodges. This is just the beginning of a strategic approach to preserve our Masonic Temple. Taking the lead on these initiatives will be our new Executive Director of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, Andrew Zellers-Frederick (see p. 3).

Since I took office and made the urgent appeal for funds to restore and preserve our Masonic Temple, our Brethren and Lodges have responded generously. Just from meeting visits, I have received more than \$100,000 toward our goal. This is a tremendous start! Whether the donations come in increments of \$5 or \$5,000, each contribution is significant and brings us closer to fulfilling our great need.

I encourage you to get involved in the social fundraisers coming up in the next few months, such as the Mini Grand Prix at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown and the Charity Golf Tournaments being held at three locations across the Commonwealth. Also, if you haven't done so already, remember to include our widows in one of your Lodge programs during the months of May or June.

For the first time in many years, our entire membership is invited to participate in the June Quarterly Communication, during which we will celebrate our Grand Lodge's 275th Anniversary. Our earliest evidence indicates that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania met in Philadelphia as early as June 24, 1731. This special event will commemorate the growth and strength our forefathers and Brethren of today have worked so hard to foster and sustain throughout the years. I have chosen to host this event at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown because I believe it is a wonderful testament to what our visionaries created and our membership has grown - a superb community to serve our Family of Freemasonry. All our Masonic Villages are a great source of pride within the fraternity for the exceptional work the staff performs each day on behalf of our loved ones.

Brethren, if we take to heart the oath and obligation we accepted at the altar and if we work from that premise, we will respond accordingly to the needs of our membership and our Masonic Charities and will treat one another as *Masons Helping Masons*.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.
Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.



Struttin'

Over 100 Pennsylvania Freemasons and their Ladies joined the Philadelphia community in commemorating the 300th Anniversary of the Birth of Bro. Benjamin Franklin

It was a perfect winter day: mild, mostly sunny, with just enough breeze to keep the flags waving merrily. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, among other organizations either founded by or closely related to Bro. Benjamin Franklin, assembled for a parade outside his American Philosophical Society (still at its original site at 5th and Library Streets, across from Independence Hall).

With R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., and First Lady Norma leading, just behind the Grand Lodge banner, the procession moved north on 5th Street past the east end of Independence Hall (completed 1756, originally called the State House) and the Free Quaker Meeting House (built 1783) – two of the former meeting places of Grand Lodge still standing. The parade rounded the corner from 5th onto Arch Street, because at that intersection is Christ Church burial ground, where Bro. Franklin rests. Once there, B. Franklin Reinauer II, an entrepreneur and an originator of "Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder," gave a brief speech as a wreath was laid on the grave. The Masonic marchers returned to the Masonic Temple for lunch; Bro. Benjamin Franklin (played by Ralph Archbold) and the Grand Master's party joined other Franklin-related organizations (among them Fireman's Hall, Franklin Institute, Independence National Historical Park, Friends of Franklin, Library Company of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Hospital and the University of Pennsylvania) for a Birthday luncheon. Bro. and Governor Edward G. Rendell made brief remarks, and Grand Master Aungst read Philadelphia Mayor John Street's Proclamation of Benjamin Franklin Day.

Grand Master Aungst seemingly goes back in time to enjoy some fellowship with an 18th century gentleman, played by Christian Johnson.

Grand Master Aungst is interviewed by Karin Phillips, KYW Newsradio's community affairs reporter. The parade also was covered by KYW TV Channel 3.

Grand Master Aungst presents Bro. and Governor Ed Rendell with the Grand Master's pin.



Article by Glenys Waldman, Librarian, and photographs by Dennis P. Buttleman, Curator of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

our Stuff!



Andrew Zellers-Frederick Appointed Executive Director for The Masonic Library and Museum of PA

Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick of Warminster, Pa., was recently appointed to the position of Executive Director of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, located within the Masonic Temple at One North Broad Street in Philadelphia, Pa.



This expanded position came out of a study commissioned by Grand Lodge with Portfolio Associates, Inc., to determine the best way to showcase and protect the Masonic Temple into the future.

"We appreciate the dedicated fraternal service of Bro. Ken McCarty (P.M., Doylestown Lodge No. 245) as Director of the Library and Museum for the past five years and wish him well in his retirement," said R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.

As Executive Director, Zellers-Frederick's responsibilities will include implementing a strategic marketing, public relations and community outreach plan to promote the Masonic Temple as a valued cultural, architectural and historical asset, thereby providing additional opportunities to share its educational resources and facilities. He will manage the staff and daily operations of The Masonic Library and Museum, oversee events and tours and assist in fundraising efforts to secure the long-term preservation of the Masonic Temple and its collections.

Zellers-Frederick brings with him an extensive background of involvement with historical organizations. He most recently served as Executive Director of Historic RittenhouseTown Inc., and has worked for The Franklin Mint, the National Park Service and Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association, Philadelphia.

Zellers-Frederick earned a bachelor's degree in history from Temple University and the Certificate for Historic Preservation from Bucks County Community College. While working toward a master's degree in history from LaSalle University, he also serves as an adjunct professor for the historic preservation program at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa. He has written for various publications, including The American Revolution-An Encyclopedia, 1993; Military History Magazine; and Journal of Historic RittenhouseTown.

In 2003, Zellers-Frederick received the Individual Achievement Award for Historic Site Development from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations.



A True Testimony to the Members and Officers of Lodge No. 143

by Bro. Gene Herritt, D.D.G.M., Masonic District 3

When most people discover they have terminal cancer, they reflect on the things they had always wanted to do in life but had not. For some, it is sky diving or bungee jumping. But for Leonard Auchenbaugh, who was diagnosed with brain cancer in November 2005, it was to become a Mason.

His friend, Bro. Lee Depuy, with the help of two other Brethren, John Cook and the Rev. Robert Cook, assisted him in petitioning Lodge No. 143 in Chambersburg. At the time it was felt that he had about six months to live. In February, after his petition was published in the Lodge notice, it was discovered he had only weeks to live and a dispensation was requested by Lodge No. 143's Worshipful Master, Tim McCarl, to confer all three degrees in one day. The request was granted by R.W. Grand Master Aungst.

The degrees were conferred in Bro. Auchenbaugh's home on March 12, 2006. The officers brought everything necessary for the gentleman's room to be converted into a Lodge room. The family left the home, which was tiled during the conferral of the degrees.

The officers did a good job under difficult circumstances. The candidate had been given morphine earlier in the day but was conscious of what was happening as the degrees were conferred. Between degrees I indicated to him that he was now an Entered Apprentice Mason, a Fellow Craft Mason, and finally I told him he was a Master Mason. He responded to that knowledge with as good a smile as he could muster under the circumstances. A friend of his had asked me to present a Masonic Pin to the newly made Brother when the degrees were conferred, and I did that. He was awake for the presentation and was appreciative.

When we were finished, I explained to the officers that they had participated in a unique Masonic experience and it would be a comfort to the family, as well as a peaceful pleasure to the new Brother. It was an inspiring afternoon and sad at the same time, in that this Brother appears to have been a man who could have both contributed to and gained from a full Masonic experience.

Bro. Auchenbaugh's wife, Patricia, has indicated that she feels he was just hanging on until he could be made a Mason. If so, his wish was granted. Bro. Auchenbaugh passed away at 5:30 a.m. on March 14, and a Masonic Service was performed on March 17.

District 24 Extends a Masonic Holiday Greeting

On Dec. 10, 2005, several Brethren from Masonic District 24 acted as "greeters" for a full house at the Warner Theatre in Erie for the presentation of "Home for the Holidays," a festive evening of holiday music presented by the Erie Philharmonic Orchestra and featuring local TV newscaster, Amanda Post. Other "greeting" events are being planned for the District to show Masons' involvement in the community and to promote the Arts.



Left side, bottom to top: Bro. Walter Wimmer, Bro. Michael Forbes and Bro. Michael Von Volkenberg, Lodge No. 362; Bro. Herbert McCandless, Lodge No. 708; and Bro. David Schapter, P.M., Lodge No. 392
Right side, bottom to top: Bro. Richard N. Fitzsimmons, D.D.G.M.; Bro. Ishwer L. Bharwani, Lodge No. 708; Bro. David P. Cassell, P.M., Lodge No. 347; Bro. Harvey E. Lindy, Lodge No. 362; Bro. Richard B. Wheeler, P.M., Lodge No. 347; and Bro. Richard K. Hiles, P.M., Lodge No. 362

Flags Flown in Iraq Honor Masons

At the January Stated Meeting of Frankford Lodge No. 292, Lieutenant Colonel and Bro. Christopher R. Zelez, U.S.M.C., presented an American Flag to his Lodge, accompanied by an official certificate which proclaims: "This flag was flown by Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775 over the Al Anbar Province, Iraq, on September 11, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom in honor of the Brethren of Frankford Lodge No. 292, F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania."



Bro. Zelez, (center) a Huey HMLA-775 Pilot, made the presentation to Bro. Steven R. Ley, Sr., Worshipful Master (right), and Bro. Charles T. Graham, D.D.G.M. (left)

In the Fall of 2005, the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, based at Harrisburg International Airport, was deployed to the Middle East in support of the upcoming Iraqi elections.

At a stated meeting of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464 of Harrisburg, Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe asked members to write notes of encouragement to the nine Brethren who were among the deployed, which he sent to the Brethren in Iraq.

Upon his return, Bro. and Sgt. Vaughn Schwalm, a member of Lowther Manor Lodge No. 781 of Camp Hill, presented Bro. Steven Ogden, Worshipful Master of Robert Burns Lodge, with an American flag which Bro. Schwalm, a flight engineer, had carried on a combat mission over Iraq, along with a certificate of appreciation. The EC-130 aircraft flown by the 193rd are flying TV and radio stations. During their missions, they broadcast news and messages urging the Iraqi people to vote. Bro. Schwalm said that their efforts led to a 1,000 percent increase in voter turnout!



Left to right: Bro. Steven Ogden, W.M., Bro. and Sgt. Vaughn Schwalm and Bro. Glenn Kurzenknabe

Brethren Attend Canadian Installation

On Sept. 8, 2005, four Pennsylvania Masons traveled to Scarborough, Canada, to witness the installation of Bro. Ervin Aspiras to the chair of Worshipful Master of Coronati Lodge No. 520 A.F.&A.M. GRC. Bros. Charles S. Dudgeon, Edwin C. Farrington, Jr., Barry G. Minnicks, Sr., and Joseph Gray, all Past Masters of Duquesne-McKeesport Lodge No. 731, made the trip.

Bro. Dudgeon was sent to the Philippines Islands in 1985 to help in the building of a rolling mill. It was there that he became friends with Bro. Aspiras, who is a Past Master and Past Member of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. They have communicated ever since. Bro. Aspiras and his family are now citizens of Canada. The four Pennsylvania Masons agree that the Lodge meeting was very enlightening and enjoyable.



Left to right: Edwin C. Farrington, P.M.; Barry G. Minnicks, Sr., P.M.; Ervin Aspiras, W.M. of Coronati Lodge No. 520 in Canada; Charles S. Dudgeon, P.M.; and Joseph Gray, P.M.

Annual Eastern Pennsylvania Masonic Family Picnic at

**Dorney Park &
Wildwater Kingdom**
(10 a.m. - 10 p.m.)
(10 a.m. - 7 p.m.)

Saturday, June 10, 2006

Rain or Shine



"ALL YOU CAN EAT" MENU

Served 1 p.m. - 6 p.m. in a covered pavilion:
Fried chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans,
potato salad, soda, ice cream, condiments and more!

Adults: \$30.00

Age 3 years to 48" tall: \$23.00

Children ages 2 years & under are free.

Admission price pays for both parks.

Parking - \$8.00

*****ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS -
MONDAY, MAY 29, 2006*****

Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom!

Mail your ticket requests to: Guy T. Matthews,
139 W. Richardson Ave., Langhorne, PA 19047-2827

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "MASONIC PICNIC"

No. of Adult Tickets @ \$30.00 \$

No. of Child Tickets @ \$23.00 \$

(Do Not Send Money For Parking)

Total Amount Enclosed \$

Name

Address

Taking the Safety of Our Communities' Children into our Own Hands

The Masonic CHIP Program
is Expanding Across the State

The Masonic CHIP Program has continued its success across the state, and numerous lodges have CHIP'd away at crime by identifying more children in their communities and providing the critical information to their parents for safekeeping.

Members of Lodge No. 9, Philadelphia, celebrated their 225th Anniversary last year and presented R.W.P.G.M William Slater II with a generous \$100,000 donation: \$32,000 of which was given to sponsor the Masonic CHIP Gala, \$68,000 to purchase two vans for the Masonic Children's Home and more than \$17,000 in scholarships.

While some lodges are providing financial support, others are lending their time. Of course, both are vital to maintaining and growing the program.

St. John's Lodge No. 260, Carlisle, got involved almost 20 months ago.

"The response to the program started out slowly, but with perseverance, interest in the program gathered steam and moved ahead," said Bro. Chester Raudabaugh, CHIP Coordinator for District 3. "Our Brothers and some of their wives assisted in the program. We worked with day care centers, church schools, public schools, at church festivals and during the Yellow Breeches EMS program for the community."

In June 2005, during Jubilee Day in Mechanicsburg, members of St. John's Lodge taught Brethren of Eureka Lodge No. 302, Mechanicsburg, how to run the program and process the paperwork. Together, with two cameras and seven hours of dedicated teamwork, the Brethren processed about 325 children. As of February 2006, St. John's Lodge had CHIP'd 2,253 children, not including the Mechanicsburg event.

If you or your Lodge would like to get involved, please contact the District Deputy Grand Master of your Masonic District. In order to provide the program materials and cameras to the scheduled sites as needed, it is essential that all requests for CHIP Program dates be submitted through the local District Deputy Grand Master.

The CHIP Team will coordinate the gathering of people, materials, supplies and cameras to be sent to each CHIP event to maximize the number of events that can be supported. They will also arrange for training of key local volunteers, press releases, internet promotion, the creation of customized posters and flyers, and may also assist in locating volunteers

to work with multilingual populations.



Grand Master's 2006 Western PA Charity Golf Tournament - Sept. 25 Shannopin Country Club Benefits the Masonic Village at Sewickley



Registration begins: 9:30 a.m.
Shotgun start: 11:30 a.m.
Boxed Lunch
Social Hour: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner & Awards: 6:00 p.m.
Fee: \$175.00 per golfer
Includes golfer gift, bag drop, greens fees, cart, use of practice ranges, lunch, social hour, dinner, skill prizes and door prizes.

Mail Reservation Form by Aug. 11, 2006, with check, to: Richard Stemmler, 1315 Trent Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650. (724) 537-7940

Reservation Form

Grand Master's Charity Golf Outing

Enclosed is my check payable to Masonic Charity Golf Tournament in the amount of \$_____ for the following golfers:

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grand Master's 2006 Eastern PA Charity Golf Tournament - Sept. 26 Lulu Country Club - North Hills, PA Benefits the PA Masonic CHIP Program (Child Identification Program)



Practice Range Opens: 10:30 a.m.
Registration Begins: 10:30 a.m.
Buffet Lunch: 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun start: Noon
Social Hour: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner and Awards: 6:00 p.m.
Fee: \$160 per golfer. Includes bag drop, greens fees, cart, use of practice ranges, lunch, dinner, skill prizes and door prizes.

Mail Reservation Form below by Sept. 12, 2005, with check to: Joyce Michelfelder, Masonic Charities, 801 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 (610) 825-6100, ext. 1348

Reservation Form

Grand Master's Charity Golf Outing

Enclosed is my check payable to Grand Master's Charities- CHIP in the amount of \$_____ for the following golfers:

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Grand Master's 2006 Central PA Charity Golf Tournament - Oct. 6 Irem Shriners Country Club Benefits 50% Masonic Children's Home & 50% Grand Master's Charity of Choice



Lunch: 11:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: Noon
Social Hour: 5:00 p.m.
Dinner & Awards: 6:30 p.m.
Fee: \$110.00 per golfer. Includes greens fees, cart, lunch, social hour, dinner and door prizes.

Mail Reservation Form by Sept. 1, 2006, with check, to: Irem Country Club, 397 Country Club Road, P.O. Box 307, Dallas, PA 18612 (570) 675-4465, Ext. 223

Reservation Form

Grand Master's Charity Golf Outing

Enclosed is my check payable to Irem Country Club in the amount of \$_____ for the following golfers:

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Lodge No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Meet Some of our Youngest Worshipful Masters...



Bro. William G. Johnston, Worshipful Master of Crafton Lodge No. 653, with his father, Bro. William D. Johnston, P.M.

William G. Johnston of Pittsburgh, Pa., was Raised on March 21, 2003, at the age of 18 by his father, William D. Johnston, P.M., and three uncles, James, Robert and Dwain. Today, at age 21, he is Worshipful Master of Crafton Lodge No. 653.

"I joined as soon as I was eligible, because I had been around Freemasonry all of my life," Bro. Bill said. "I enjoyed DeMolay and wanted to continue my family tradition."

After having served as Master Councilor of Fidelity Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and earning the Representative DeMolay Award and the Degree of Chevalier, he knew that he would come in onto the Lodge floor as he did in DeMolay, utilizing his experience in running and leading programs. His Lodge's Senior Warden, Jonathan D. Ballinger, is a friend of his from DeMolay.

Bro. Bill lost no time in becoming adept at conferring degrees. The memory work came easily to him. Still, he was surprised at how quickly he rose through the chairs.

"I didn't expect to do it this fast, but I was qualified and my Lodge brothers thought it was a good time to let the 'young blood' take over," he stated. "I have adapted the same skills I learned in DeMolay to lead an organization; this is just a different phase."

The Lodge, he noted, needed a spark that the younger guys could provide. "A lot of people came out at first, probably because they were interested to see if we would make it or break it," Bro. Bill said, "but they discovered we can do a good job." As a result, attendance has stayed up.

"Something you hear all the time in DeMolay is, 'our youth is the future,'" he added. "It's a shame there are not more men joining at a young age."

In addition to his Master's duties, Bro. Bill also serves as Orator of Gourgas Lodge of Perfection, Valley of Pittsburgh, and will become Senior Warden in June. He works for Simpson Express, a family-owned trucking company.

Bro. Gregory K. McKnight, Worshipful Master of Sharpsville Lodge No. 517, with his father, Keith A. McKnight, P.D.D.G.M.



Gregory K. McKnight, 27, of Transfer, Pa., was Raised on November 10, 2001, at age 22. As a teenager, he remembers not understanding why his father, Keith A. McKnight, P.D.D.G.M. of Masonic District 53, spent so much time in the Craft. But now, as Worshipful Master of Sharpsville Lodge No. 517, he realizes the motivation for his father's commitment.

A few incidents endeared Bro. Greg to Freemasonry. He recalls a trip to Hershey, Pa., in 1995, when their old conversion van lost its brakes around Latrobe, Pa. Not knowing anything about dealerships in the area, his dad pulled his Gold Book out and called Bro. Dick Stemmler, then District Deputy for District 30, to ask him for recommendations for a local motel and a dealership. But Bro. Dick went one step further.

"His (Bro. Dick's) wife insisted that we stay at their house. It may have been the first time they ever met each other, but they knew they could trust each other because they were both Masons," Greg recalls.

"The thing that really got me was my dad's retirement party from his District Deputy position in Spring 2001 near Greenville, Pa. People came from all over the state and Canada, and it hit me - this must be what Freemasonry is all about," he said. Where else would you meet all of these nice people? he thought.

In addition to his father, Greg's brother, Jared J. McKnight of Columbus, Ohio, joined the Craft in 2000 and his late grandfather, Clarence A. McKnight, was a member, too.

Bro. Greg also credits mentors in his Lodge who taught him the degrees and encouraged him to go through the chairs. "The story lines of all the degree work seemed very interesting, and I enjoyed doing them. I thought I could serve my Lodge as best as I could by going through the chairs, and that it would help me grow more as a man. Freemasonry has done a lot of that for me," he noted.

Bro. Greg also cherishes the friends he makes everywhere he goes. "There are so many friends we've made ever since my dad joined in 1983," Bro. Greg said. "He and my mom both say that if they knew they would get out of it (Freemasonry) what they have, he would've joined much earlier than he did."



Justin Craig, Worshipful Master of Valley Lodge No. 459 in Maserstown, Pa., with his brother, Justin Craig, his father, William F. Craig, Jr., P.M., and Bro. Christopher Madapp, P.M. (author of "Freemasons for Dummies" (he was the speaker at Bro. Jason's first stated meeting))

Jason F. Craig of Bobtown, Pa., was Raised on May 21, 2002, at age 23.

"As far back as I can remember, there were plaques, pictures and other items around the house displaying the Square and Compasses, but I didn't know what they were," he remarked. "My (paternal) grandfather, William F. Craig Sr., would also bring my brother and me T-shirts that said 'My Grandpa is a Shriner' when he came to visit. Eventually, my dad sat down and began discussing the fraternity with me. The rest is history."

While Bro. Jason would have been interested in DeMolay during his youth, the closest chapter was 45 miles away.

"I have a fairly large Masonic group in my family. My brother, father, both grandfathers, an uncle and about a half dozen cousins are all members of the fraternity," he said.

When Bro. Jason joined, the minimum age was still 21. Shortly after he joined, however, the age limit was lowered to 18, which immediately made his brother and one of his cousins eligible to join. "Since my father sat as Worshipful Master for my 3rd degree, I assumed (correctly) that he would do the same for my brother. I wanted to take part in the ceremony, so I decided to learn to confer the first and second degrees over the summer. That fall, I presided over my brother's Initiation and my cousin's Passing. Then I served as the guide for my brother's Raising. After putting that much effort forth, I decided to continue serving the fraternity by going through the chairs," he recalls.

"Without a doubt, what I enjoy about Freemasonry the most is the fellowship. I have met so many people I would have otherwise never had contact with," he stated. "Taking advantage of the opportunities to travel to other jurisdictions and learn about different customs and rituals has also been very enlightening."

Jesse A. Strausberger, Worshipful Master of Leighton Lodge No. 621, with his father, Bro. Bruce A. Strausberger, P.M.



Jesse A. Strausberger, age 22, of Leighton, Pa., is the 106th consecutive Worshipful Master of Leighton Lodge No. 621; significant, he says, because since its establishment in 1900, there has never been a repeating Master.

Bro. Jesse petitioned the Lodge when he was 18 years old with a friend of his whose father was also a member of the Lodge - right after the age requirement was lowered from 21. His first degree was conferred by his father, Bro. Bruce A. Strausberger, P.M. Jesse considers that to be one of the most important highlights of his Masonic experience.

About a year prior to joining, Bro. Jesse became intrigued by his father's commitment to working on a project to help a family in the local community. "It impressed me that an organization would make such an effort to help others without benefit to itself, or ever asking for recognition; just having helped was reward enough," he stated. "They were the kind of men I wanted to be associated with."

In addition to his father, he has three uncles and a cousin who are also members of his Lodge.

Since he was Raised on December 12, 2002, he sat on the sidelines for just one meeting. Then he began working in the chairs; first as Senior Decon, then Junior Warden (while his father was Worshipful Master), Senior Warden and now Worshipful Master.

"I was amazed at the degree work that was done by the members of my Lodge and had to be a part of it," he remarked. "Besides, you always hear that you get out of Freemasonry what you put into it. However, I feel that you get more out than you put in."

Being Worshipful Master is definitely a learning experience, he says, but it has helped him to become a better public speaker, learn to organize events, plan programs and budgets and to gather input from several sources and combine that information into a useful, effective plan of operation. He appreciates all the help he has received from Past Masters and Officers of his Lodge.

Bro. Jesse enjoys doing ritualistic work and mentoring new candidates. "I remember how astonished I was when I received my degrees, and I enjoy passing that onto others," he said. He also cherishes the friendships he has made.

An automotive mechanic, Bro. Jesse makes time to also be involved in the Valley of Allentown, Tamaqua Chapter No. 177 of Royal Arch Masons, Anthracite Council No. 62 of Royal & Select Master Masons, Commandery No. 23 of Knights Templar and Rajah Shrine.

The Many Meeting Places of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania



Tun Tavern, 1732-1734



Indian King Tavern, 1735-1748 & the Royal Standard Tavern, 1749-1754



The Freemasons' Lodge, 1755-1768; 1778-1785



The City Tavern, 1777-1778

Under I-95 as it rushes along the Philadelphia Delaware Riverfront is the site of a wonderful old tavern that figured prominently in America's early history. Tun Tavern was Pennsylvania Freemasonry's first home, as it was for what became the U.S. Marine Corps, among other groups. The Indian King and Royal Standard taverns had also served as meeting places. In addition to providing support and encouraging a love of learning, a large part of Masonic life was social – eating, drinking and making merry. In those days, there were few places other than taverns that an organization could call home. The Tun was built in 1685, and when our story begins, owned by Bro. John Hobart, it was a natural place for the founding of the first Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The first known evidence of a Pennsylvania Grand Lodge is found in *Liber B*, the ledger of St. John's Lodge, on the first page "... 1731 June 24 To Wm Allen, Esq., Grandmaster £2 -6." Then, as follows from "the *Pennsylvania Gazette* No. 187, from Monday, June 19 to Monday June 26, 1732. Philadelphia, printed by B. Franklin, at the new printing-office, near the market: ... 'Philadelphia, June 26. Saturday last being St. John's day, a Grand Lodge of the ancient and honorable Society of FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS was held at the Sun* Tavern in Water street, when, after a handsome entertainment, the Worshipful W. Allen, Esq., was unanimously chosen Grand Master of this Province for the year ensuing, who was pleased to appoint Mr. William Pringle Deputy Master. Wardens chosen for the ensuing year were Thomas Boude and Benjamin Franklin.'" [* Misprint; should be "Tun."] *Proceedings*, vol. 1, xi-xii.

In 1755 with great ceremony, Deputy Grand Master Benjamin Franklin, PGM, dedicated the first building erected solely for Masonic use: Freemasons' Lodge. After a year's stay in City Tavern during the British Occupation (1777-1778) in the Revolutionary War, Grand Lodge returned to the Freemasons' Lodge.

Grand Lodge also met sporadically from 1769 to 1790 in a building in Videll's (or Lodge) Alley. It was probably here, on Sept. 25, 1786, that the colonial Grand Lodge voted to close, and reopen the next day as the independent Grand Lodge F.& A.M. of Pennsylvania and Jurisdiction Thereunto Pertaining, as it is known today.

In 1790 Grand Lodge moved to the Free Quaker Meetinghouse, which was deemed "a more convenient place to meet" (*Proceedings* Aug. 16, 1790), where they stayed until 1799. Built in 1783, the Meetinghouse still stands at the corner of 5th and Arch streets, just across from Bro. Franklin's grave in Christ Church burial ground.

1799 January 21 *Proceedings*: "A Plan referred to this R.W.G.L. for erecting a structure wherein the different Lodges in this city may perform their labors was received and read...[then] referred to the Officers of the Grand Lodge and the Masters of the several Lodges..."

From 1800 until 1802, Grand Lodge met in the State House (Independence Hall, completed in 1756). It is thus the oldest still-standing meeting place of Grand Lodge, on Chestnut Street between 5th and 6th.



Building in Videll's Alley, 1769-1790



Free Quaker Meeting House, 1790-1799



The State House (Independence Hall), 1800-1802



Pennsylvania Freemasons Hall, 1802-1810 & 1819-1820



Masonic Hall, 1811-1819

A building farther west, which was named Pennsylvania Freemasons Hall, and dedicated Dec. 27, 1802, became the home of Grand Lodge for the next eight years.

Finally, the original desire expressed in those Minutes of 1799 was fulfilled. A beautiful Masonic Hall with a tower was built and dedicated June 24, 1811. Unfortunately, it was gutted by fire on March 9, 1819, taking with it many records except the membership books (1789-1911). A five-octave melodeon and a bench, now in the Museum, were also saved. Grand Lodge moved back to Pennsylvania Freemasons Hall until the "Chestnut Street" Masonic Hall was rebuilt, without the tower. Grand Lodge rededicated the building Nov. 1, 1820, and stayed there until 1835.

After a 20-year stay in Washington Hall (1835-1935), Grand Lodge completed a stunning "New" Masonic Hall on the site of the older burnt one. There Grand Lodge stayed until 1873. However, this building became too complicated and costly to care for (constant basement flooding, inadequate rooms, etc.), so the decision was made to construct another hall. "The Hall Committee" had said, among many other things in its long, detailed report, "The Committee believe that no building can be erected suited in detail to all the wants of the Society, without having every part of it 'from turret to foundation stone,' appropriated to the distinctive purposes of the Order...They believe that the practical wants of the age demand that a temple...should not only have lodge-rooms properly constructed, ornamented and ventilated, with all the necessary chambers for its various officers and committees, but that it should have conversation, library and lecture rooms..." (*Proceedings*, Dec. 18, 1865).

The population of the city and membership in the Fraternity had grown after the Civil War. By Dec. 17, 1866 (*Proceedings* of that date), the choice of the location at Broad and Filbert streets had been made. The Grand Lodge Officers probably had no idea that it would soon be prime center-city real estate! On St. John's Day, June 24, 1868, the cornerstone was laid. Completed in 1873 and dedicated in a huge ceremony on Sept. 26th of that year, the Masonic Temple has remained the magnificent headquarters of our Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. As Grand Master Vaux said when called for the work to begin (*Proceedings*, Dec. 27, 1867): "Let us have then a new Temple for Pennsylvania, which expresses in the language of architecture, the historic origin of our Order. Let it be in entire harmony with its hoary antiquity. Make it the ark of safety for our esoteric mysteries, which, since the earliest of days have proved the fraternity to be their only custodian, preserver, protector and teacher. Let us have a Temple on which the student, the scholar, and the craftsman from all nations and of all tongues may look and learn its purpose, and understand its origin, proclaimed by every word of its architectural language, from porch to pinnacle!"

His order was fulfilled in what has continued to be our beloved Masonic Temple, displayed on the cover.



New Masonic Hall, 1855-1873



Washington Hall, 1835-1855



Masonic Hall, 1820-1835

Article by Glenys Waldman, Librarian, and Dennis Buttleman, Curator, The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Photographs were provided courtesy of The Masonic Library and Museum Of Pennsylvania.

Celebrate our Grand Lodge's 275th Anniversary

The June Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown on June 17, 2006, at 10 a.m. in the Freemasons Cultural Center, followed by lunch.

At 6 p.m., there will be a social hour, banquet and musical entertainment by 13-year-old Aaron Kelly, a real "legend-in-the-works." A former patient of the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, Aaron holds the titles of Entertainer of the Year 2005 & 2006, Vocalist of the Year 2005 and 1st runner up Vocalist of the Year 2006 from the North American Country Music Association International competition.

Due to early interest, space will be limited. The cost is \$50.00 per person. Paid reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

To make your reservation or inquiries, call Bro. Russ Combs at (215) 988-1912 or e-mail rcombs@pagrandlodge.org. Groups are encouraged to make their reservations in tables of eight.



**Be part of this special celebration
of a tremendous milestone in
Pennsylvania Masonic history!**

Want Your Very Own Piece of Pennsylvania Masonic History?

Own your very own miniature version of the first meeting place of Pennsylvania Freemasons, complete with miniature figures of Bro. Ben Franklin and the Grand Master standing on the front steps of the Tun Tavern. The base is handcrafted by the Brethren of the Rooster's Corner woodshop at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.

You can purchase your Tun Tavern Commemorative Sculpture through the Grand Lodge Gift Shop for \$69.95.

Introducing...

**the Tun Tavern
Commemorative Sculpture!**



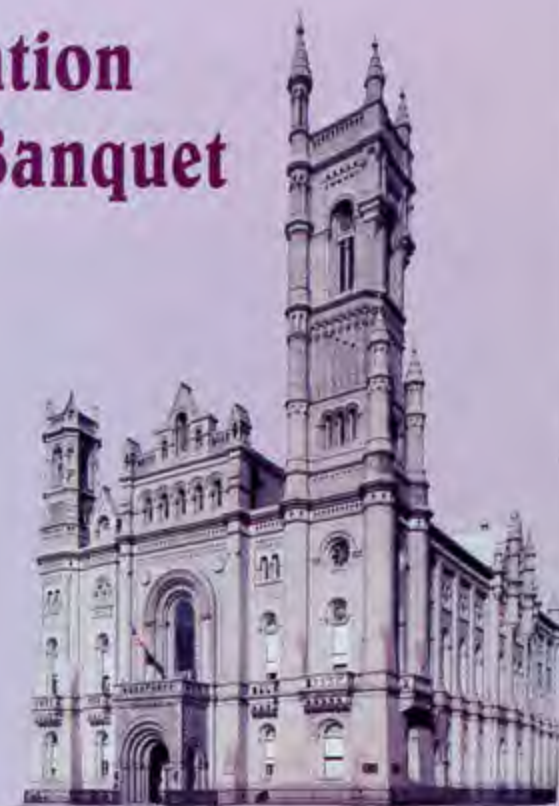
At the
June Quarterly
ONLY, a limited
quantity of Tun Tavern
Commemorative Sculptures
will be available
at a special reduced
price of \$50.00
(plus, avoid shipping costs!)

at the June Quarterly Communication & Banquet

Dinner Menu

Fruit cup
Filet mignon and broiled crabcake
Twice-baked potato
Broiled tomato stuffed with bread crumbs,
Parmesan cheese and light Italian seasoning
Steamed chef-cut fresh vegetables
Dinner rolls & butter
Fruit of the forest pie, strawberries, raspberries,
pears, blueberries, with vanilla ice cream

*A social hour will precede the banquet in the
Atrium of the Freemasons Cultural Center.



Masonic Book Reviews

by Cathy Giaimo, Assistant Librarian,
The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania

As most Masons are aware, one can never get too much information about Freemasonry, but the trick is getting the correct information. The Library recently acquired two new books that should be helpful to all interested in the "how" and "why" of the fraternity.

With the popularity of the "Dummies" books, it was only a matter of time before someone wrote one in that familiar format on Freemasonry. Hence the book, "Freemasons for Dummies," written by Christopher Hodapp, Past Master and Knight Templar, as noted on the cover. Bro. Hodapp does a commendable job of explaining the many facets of Freemasonry and its history and answers questions that people have asked in an easy-to-read format, with a touch of humor.

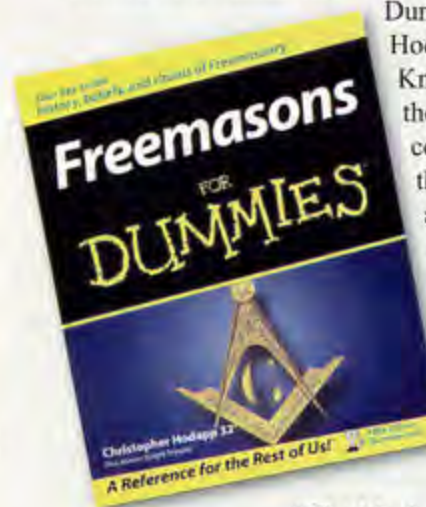
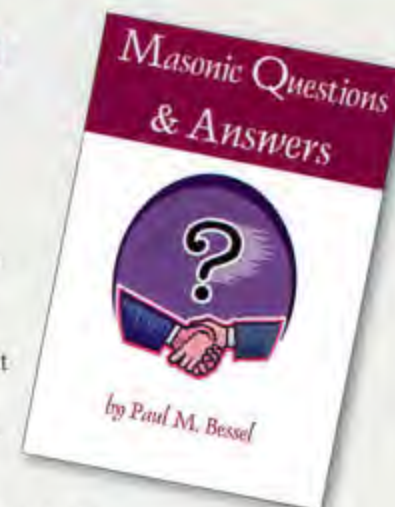
Bro. Hodapp has divided the book into six parts, such as "What is Freemasonry?,"

"The Mechanics of Freemasonry" and "Freemasonry Today and Tomorrow," among other subject headings. Each chapter includes bullet points, illustrations and interesting side stories relative to the chapter. The best

part about "Freemasons for Dummies" is that the reader can pick out a chapter of interest, such as "The Ceremonies of Freemasons," and read it without feeling they missed something by skipping the earlier chapters. It is an easy reference book to use that most Masons and their family members would find most helpful.

The second book, "Masonic Questions and Answers" by Bro. Paul M. Bessel, has been adapted from three booklets from the Grand Lodge of Virginia and may be of interest to anyone curious about rituals outside Pennsylvania's jurisdiction. Bro. Bessel has included a chapter for each degree (Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason), with questions and answers that are appropriate for Virginia ritual. This book can be used in a group, with the answers as starting points for discussion. The book also contains helpful information in the appendixes, such as Masonic e-groups and lists available on the Internet, Masonic abbreviations, Masonic book publishers and sellers and a list of U.S. national appendant Masonic bodies, among others.

To check out these books and many others available from the Circulating Library, go to www.pagrandlodge.org and make a request, or call 1-800-462-0430, Ext. 1933, to answer any of your questions.



Highlights from the Annual Grand Communication in Hershey, Pa.



◀ R.W. Grand Master Aungst leaves his Installation, flanked by his sons, Ryan, Grand Sword Bearer, and Ron Jr., Junior Grand Deacon.

Snippets from Grand Master Aungst's Banquet Speech

Ladies, Brethren, Family and Friends:

"Our Family of Freemasonry is not only 125,000 strong, but is multiplied many times over when we count those special loved ones in each of our lives who share our bond and love for this great fraternity.

"Throughout my term, we will have many open presentations, events and programs so that our loved ones can join in and participate in these meaningful events. Masons have long been elusive to the public and even to those who are closest to us, creating misunderstandings about who we are and what we value and represent. The stronger our families are, the stronger Freemasonry becomes and the better we can become *Masons Helping Masons*.

"This is a term you will hear over and over, because it is my passion and my charge. We have lost focus on what's most important in our commitment to one another. The more we support and care for one another, the stronger our unity, the better equipped we are to reach out and help others. We are a charitable fraternity, one that is matchless in its history and philanthropy. Let's show the world that we also are unparalleled in our solidarity and Brotherly love, toward one another and in our devotion to helping those who need our charitable works.

"I have learned that life is a series of opportunities. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as your Grand Master, and in that role, I intend to be just that – a servant to my Brethren, to my family, to my community and to my God. It is my goal to use the blessings and gifts that have been given to me, along with the guidance of Brethren and friends whom I am so thankful for, to lead this fraternity as *Masons Helping Masons*."

Showing Support for our Veterans and Brethren in Need

R.W.P.G.M. William Slater II presented Bro. Richard E. Fletcher, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association (MSA) and R.W.P.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Vermont, with a \$20,000 check for the MSA's hospital visitation program to continue its mission to care for our veterans who served this great country. He also presented a check from the Masonic Charities Fund to MSA in the amount of \$79,500 to be divided equally among the Grand Lodges in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to assist Brethren affected by Hurricane Katrina. During the ceremony, Bro. Fletcher also recognized Bro. Slater with a plaque for his assistance, cooperation and contribution to support the MSA and its hospital visitation program.



Brother Jay G. Brossman traveled from Colorado to present a check to R.W. Grand Master Aungst, and to demonstrate his continued support of the Grand Master's Masonic Temple Initiative.



R.W. Grand Treasurer, Jeffrey W. Coy; R.W. Senior Grand Warden, Thomas K. Sturgeon; R.W. Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr.; and R.W. Deputy Grand Master, Stephen Gardner, prepare for the ceremonies.



◀ R.W. Grand Master Aungst kneels with his sons, Ron Jr. and Ryan, and his brother, Sam R. Aungst, Grand Steward, during a special prayer given by Rev. Dr. Charles H. Lacquement.



R.W. Grand Master Aungst greets ▶ his friend, Ronald L. Mitchum, Grand Master of Masons in South Carolina, who spoke on behalf of the visiting dignitaries.

2005 Pennsylvania Franklin Medal Recipients

The Pennsylvania Franklin Medal was created in 1979 to honor distinguished Master Masons for their outstanding service to the Craft in general and Pennsylvania in particular. It has been awarded sparingly since then, maintaining very high standards for its presentation, and including among its recipients some of the most renowned Freemasons of our time. It is worn with Masonic regalia on formal occasions.

The medal bears the likeness of Bro. Benjamin Franklin, Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1734 and in 1749. The work of sculptor Donald DeLue, this rendition appears on the front of the solid gold medal, which is suitably engraved for the recipient on the reverse side and attached to a purple neck ribbon.



Pictured clockwise from top:

William Slater II, R.W.P.G.M.; Joseph E. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, Masonic Villages; and Donald L. Albert, R.W.P.G.S., were presented with their medals during the Annual Grand Communication.

Dr. Elvin G. Warfel, Educator, and the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Lacquement, Grand Chaplain, Retired Director of Pastoral Services for the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, were awarded their medals during the Grand Master's Banquet.



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In Memoriam

WINFIELD SCOTT STONER

100TH RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER, 1990-1991

JULY 15, 1939-MARCH 1, 2006

It is with deep sadness that the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania announces the loss of one of its distinguished members. Winfield Scott Stoner, R.W.P.G.M. Bro. Stoner passed away March 1, 2006.

He was born July 15, 1939, the son of the late Haines Gilbert Stoner and Ruth Murray Stoner Rineer. Married to Phyllis Lamson Stoner since Oct. 23, 1965, they are the parents of two daughters, Karen Elizabeth and Cheryl Lynn, and have three grandchildren.

A lifelong resident of Lancaster, Pa., Bro. Stoner graduated from Hempfield High School in 1957 and Penn State University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served in the U.S. Army as a specialist fourth class, 1963-1965. A certified public accountant, Bro. Stoner joined the accounting firm of Dorwart, Andrew and Co., in 1966. He was admitted to the partnership of that firm in 1973, and after retiring in 1997, he became a consultant with the firm.

Bro. Stoner received his Blue Lodge Degrees in 1966. He served as Master of Casiphia Lodge No. 551 in Mount Joy, 1973-1974; as Treasurer, 1976-1977; and as Representative in the Grand Lodge, 1978-1983. He was appointed District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District No. 1 in 1977 and assumed the station of Junior Grand Warden in 1983. Bro. Stoner served on the Committee on Masonic Homes and the Consolidated Fund Committee, 1984-1992. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the former Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the former Pennsylvania Youth Foundation (these two charities have since merged).

In York Rite Masonry, he was a member of Royal Arch Chapter No. 43, Goodwin Council No. 19, Royal and Select Master Masons and Past Commander of Lancaster Commandery No. 13, Knights Templar. He was appointed to the Knights Templar Educational Foundation as a Consultant and was made an Honorary Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania.

In the Scottish Rite, Bro. Stoner was a member of the Valley of Lancaster and was a Past Thrice Potent Master and Trustee of the Lancaster Lodge of Perfection. He was also a member of the Harrisburg Council, of Princes of Jerusalem, Harrisburg Chapter of Rose Croix and Harrisburg Consistory. He was coroneted an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, 33rd, in Boston in 1984.

Bro. Stoner's other Masonic affiliations include membership in Zembo Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, High Twelve Club, Lancaster County Shrine Club, York Conclave and Red Cross of Constantine.

Active in the International Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, he received both the Legion and the Cross of Honor. He was a former chapter advisor and council chairman for the Lancaster Chapter.

He was the recipient of the Grand Cross of Color from the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, the Benjamin Franklin Medal from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Bronze Medallion from the Chapel of Four Chaplains, the Charles H. Johnson Medal from the Grand Lodge of New York, the Josiah Hayden Drummond Medal from the Grand Lodge of Maine and the Knight Commander of the Temple Award from the Grand Encampment Knights Templar.

He served as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the 32nd Masonic Learning Centers for Children, Inc. He also served as President of the board of directors and Executive Committee for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in Alexandria, Va., and formerly served as Treasurer of the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America.

In the community, Bro. Stoner was a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Lancaster and was board member of Lutheran Social Services, East Region. He was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Lancaster and a former long-time member of Zion Lutheran Church in Landisville, where he sang in the choir and served on the Finance Committee and Church Council.



Masonic Blood Donor Club



Pennsylvania Masonic Organ Donor Program

The Masonic Blood Donor Club is part of the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Committee of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Though not a blood bank, we do protect our members by replacing blood when needed. Our main focus is to encourage blood donations by Masons, their friends and families for the good of their community.

Membership is open to Pennsylvania Masons and members of our ladies' and our youth organizations. Membership protects a Brother, his wife and dependent children (IRS rules). If a Brother dies, his wife retains his membership. Widows of Pennsylvania Masons are encouraged to join without the usual blood donation. No proof of donation is necessary; a Brother's word will suffice.

To join, simply donate a unit of blood to the American Red Cross or any of the many blood collection centers in Pennsylvania or out of state. Donations given at work or church qualify as well. After a donation - fill in a NEW MEMBER FORM (available on the Grand Lodge web site at: www.pagrandlodge.org/programs/donor/formnewm.pdf). A membership card will be mailed. There is no cost to join, and yearly dues have been waived for the past 16 years because of the generosity of our members and their lodges.

Someone who donates on a regular basis, or anyone, Mason or not, may be a substitute donor for someone eligible for membership who cannot give.

If your Lodge, Valley or Shrine wants to set up a Bloodmobile or participate in a Bloodmobile with your local church, school or business, please contact Norman A. Fox at normfox@aol.com for information on who to contact.

If you were hospitalized and needed a transfusion, you would certainly expect the blood to be available. But, did you ever stop to think about who is responsible for supplying blood for you? The Red Cross does not supply blood - nor do hospitals. Only people can produce and supply blood for other people. Giving blood is a simple thing to do. It takes about 30 minutes and is no big deal for the donor. But it is a very big deal for the person on the receiving end of the transfusion.

The Pennsylvania Masonic Organ Donor Program is an example of R.W. Grand Master Aungst's theme of Masons helping their fellow man. This program is an extension of the Masons' history of helping others. The Masonic Organ Donor program is designed for a two-fold purpose:

1. To provide educational materials about the need for organ donation
2. To enlist Masons and their families to become organ donors

Over 80,000 Americans are currently waiting for an organ transplant. The need far surpasses the available supply of organs. Many people will die this year simply because an organ was not available for them.

How do we help?

We, as Masons, should consider the opportunity to help our fellow man. Each donor can save the lives of several individuals. Think of the possibilities if each of us would sign an organ donor card!

How do we accomplish this?

The procedure is very simple. Sign an organ donor card! In addition, it is imperative that your next of kin knows of your wishes. When we pass from this earth, our next of kin must give permission for us to donate our organs. By becoming an organ donor, even in our death we are able to give life to others.

Organ donor cards should be available at each Lodge meeting, banquet, etc. Invite a guest speaker to talk about organ donation. Encourage all members to sign the organ donor card.

Please consider this worthy program. If you need additional information or materials, please contact:

Rick Knepper
1461 Hospitality Drive
Chambersburg, PA 17201
Phone: (717) 263-1189

PENNSYLVANIA LODGE OF RESEARCH SLATES MEETING

The Pennsylvania Lodge of Research will meet at Shidle Lodge No. 601, 415 Main Street, Irwin, Pa., on Saturday, June 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Papers will be presented by Dr. Richard P. Mulcahy, "To Advance the Race: Prince Hall Freemasonry and the Founding of the Niagara Movement," and by Kenneth Faub, "The Silver Wreath on the Wall: George W. Guthrie, Mayor, Past Grand Master and Ambassador." All Master Masons are welcome.

For more information, contact Bro. Chuck Canning at can2938@aol.com



Tour Ireland

August 9 - 18, 2007

from \$1,645 pp/dbl

from \$2,044 pp/sgl

Your Itinerary

- Day 1 - USA - Ireland: Overnight flight to Ireland. Dinner is served on board.
- Day 2 - Shannon - Galway: Friendly Celtic Tours driver/guide. Dinner and overnight at your Galway hotel.
- Day 3 - Galway - Connemara - Galway: Dinner and overnight at your Galway hotel.
- Day 4 - Galway - Donegal: On to Donegal town where you'll enjoy dinner and overnight at your hotel.
- Day 5 - Donegal - Dublin: Overnight at your Dublin hotel.
- Day 6 - Dublin: Dinner on your own. Overnight at your Dublin hotel.
- Day 7 - Dublin - Kilkenny - Waterford - Cork: On to Cork for dinner and overnight.
- Day 8 - Cork - Killarney: Dinner and overnight at your Killarney hotel.
- Day 9 - Dingle Peninsula: Return to Killarney in the late afternoon for dinner and overnight.
- Day 10 - Killarney - Shannon Airport - Home: We arrive back in the U.S. the same day.

Your Tour Includes:

- ✦ 8 Nights First Class and Superior First Class hotels throughout
- ✦ Full Irish breakfast daily, except day of arrival
- ✦ 6 hotel dinners. Dinner is on your own while in Dublin
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- ✦ Portage of one (1) suitcase per person
- ✦ Tips and taxes in Ireland
- ✦ Celtic Tours flight bag and portfolio of travel documents

*An additional \$100.00 per person departure tax is not included in the rates.

*Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum of 10 passengers travelling. If the required number of passengers is not met, the rates will increase.

For more information or reservations, contact Linda Welshans at (800) 377-4222, ext. 268



Not Included:

- ✦ Airfare
- ✦ Gratuities to drivers and guides
- ✦ Meals not mentioned in the inclusions
- ✦ Items of a personal nature
- ✦ Trip cancellation insurance



Masonic Ireland Tour

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

MASONS HELPING MASONS



HOW A NATURAL DISASTER AND A SHARED DESIRE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED BROUGHT TWO BRETHREN TOGETHER.

It was 100° in the shade on that hot September afternoon in Welsh, La., and Sgt. Ryan Nyswaner had just about enough. After spending two weeks outside of New Orleans, his Pennsylvania Army National Guard unit was moved six hours west to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

Running a traffic point in an effort to bring some order to the area, Sgt. Nyswaner soon tired of redirecting people who kept pulling in the wrong way. He jumped in front of one car, commanding the driver to turn around, when the man inside rolled down his window to say, "Sergeant, I really don't need anything; I just stopped by to offer you some good Louisiana coffee on behalf of Masonic Lodge No. 232."

Well, that broke the ice, and soon the two Brethren were shaking hands and making plans for Bro. Ryan to visit Bro. Greg Lyons, his new-found friend and Brother, at the next stated meeting of Welsh Lodge No. 232.

Soon after, while distributing food at a local grocery store, the Brethren met up again. Bro. Greg offered Bro. Ryan's unit the use of his father's air strip as a food distribution site for the local community. He also asked Bro. Ryan if he still was interested in coming to Lodge, to which he responded, "I'd love to!"

Fortunately, Bro. Ryan's Commander was understanding of his desire to attend Lodge and agreed to let him go. But the Lodge had even bigger plans: they invited the entire troop for dinner, of which about half were able to go. To their surprise, the Lodge cooked up a homemade jambalaya meal – a far cry from the MREs that had become their staple. This hospitality caused many of the men in his troop to take an interest and ask questions about Freemasonry.

Bro. Ryan's next concern was that he did not have a suit to wear for the meeting, to which Bro. Greg responded, "So what?" In Louisiana, Brethren come as they are, Bro. Ryan said, and they also open their Lodge differently. So, dressed in his camouflage, Bro. Ryan, along with Bro. and Sgt. Brian

O'Donnell, a fellow guardsman and Senior Warden of Ryan's hometown lodge, Orrstown Lodge No. 262, joined their Louisiana Brethren for a taste of home away from home.

To Bro. Ryan, home is in Fairfield, Pa., where he lives with his wife, Amy, a registered nurse who manages research projects for the Army. He was Raised a Mason in November 2004 at the age of 30 and is "on the fast track" as Junior Warden of Orrstown Lodge No. 262. He had intended to join the fraternity since he was 21, having seen his father's commitment to his Lodge in Bealsville, Pa., and to the Scottish Rite, but his job and military commitments took him in different directions. But when, by chance, he was assigned to a room with Bro. O'Donnell, (their names fit together alphabetically) he asked for a petition and, between deployments, went through the degrees. He is so glad he did.

"When I met Greg (in Louisiana), there was an instant connection, just like when I meet any Mason – I know I've found someone I can put my trust in and someone who I can rely on," Bro. Ryan said. "I've experienced the brotherhood of union members and am part of the brotherhood within the Army, but there's nothing like the Brotherhood of Freemasons."

Brothers Ryan and Greg continue to keep in touch via e-mail. In fact, knowing that Bro. Greg is a Masonic history buff, Bro. Ryan recently sent him the book, "Famous Freemasons at Gettysburg" (which is 10 miles from his home).



Members of Welsh Lodge No. 232 welcome members of the Higher Headquarters Troop with fellowship and hospitality.

One of the best parts of his service in the South came upon Bro. Ryan's return home, when six men from his unit petitioned his Lodge: Brothers Tim Berklite, Mike Brinley, Jim Flannery, Ronald Hopkins, Dennis Layton and Shawn Spidell.

Now they, too, are *Masons Helping Masons*.

We want to hear how our Brethren are going out of their way to exemplify the true spirit of Freemasonry. If you have any stories to share, please forward them to your District Deputy Grand Master, and you may read about them in future issues of *The Pennsylvania Freemason*!

Youth Foundation

Who Cares? DeMolays Do!

Anyone who has been a DeMolay can tell you, DeMolay is a lot of fun. But it's not just about having a good time, it's also about making a difference. Here are just a few ways PA DeMolay makes a difference through serving others:

DeMolay Chapters serve their local communities.

Community service projects such as trash pick-up, washing police and emergency vehicles and participating in the set-up and tear-down of community events have already been an important part of the program for one of PA's newest Chapters: Freedom Chapter, serving Christiana and Quarryville.

DeMolay service extends beyond the local community.

DeMolays in New Castle Builders Chapter were among the first to respond to the Hurricane Katrina relief effort, joining their community in packing up relief supplies for affected areas. To date, PA DeMolay Chapters have contributed over \$5,000 to the effort, through the Masonic Service Association. New Castle Builders Chapter is also a newly-instituted Chapter.

DeMolays give within the Masonic family as well.

During their trip to the 2005 Inaugural festivities, PA DeMolay presented a check for \$1,000 to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in honor of the late Association President W. Scott Stoner, R.W.P.G.M. and former DeMolay Advisor. They made the presentation in front of the statue of Washington originally donated by DeMolay International.



Members of New Castle Builders Chapter, along with members of New Castle Rainbow Assembly, helped gather relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

DeMolays "chip in" on existing Masonic projects.

Members of Somerton Chapter (Woodside) are just a few of the DeMolays who have helped to staff Child Identification Program (CHIP) events. CHIP trainings are frequently held at PA DeMolay events, and fully 1/3 of PA Chapters have already volunteered their time for this important program. CHIP coordinators will tell you that youth involvement is a tremendous asset to the program.

DeMolays are committed to planned charitable giving.

Since 1999, Elizabethtown Chapter has been a generous supporter of a local 32° Masonic Learning Center for Children, the official charity of PA DeMolay, hosting major fundraisers each year to support the cause. They're not the only ones; since 1999, PA Chapters have given more than \$35,000 to local centers and the national program helping children with dyslexia.

DeMolays comfort with their presence, not just money.

Members of Friendship-Bray Chapter (Jenkintown) brightened the day of some Masonic Village residents with an impromptu visit during the holiday season. Throughout the year, many Chapters make similar visits to the Masonic Villages of Pennsylvania and to various other retirement communities, homes and hospitals.

So, with all the needs in the world around us, who cares? Isn't it obvious? DeMolays do!



Members of Elizabethtown Chapter prepare a spaghetti dinner held to raise funds for the Lancaster Valley A.S.S.R. Masonic Learning Center.



Members of Freedom Chapter participate in a local highway clean-up project.



Get Involved with Your Local Youth Group TODAY!

Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation 1244 Bainbridge Road Elizabethtown, PA 17022-9423 (717) 367-1536

DeMolay Grand Commander's Class

Pennsylvania DeMolay members, Advisors and new candidates gathered on the weekend of Dec. 3, 2005, to honor one of their own.

Brother and "Dad" Kenneth J. Faub, Senior DeMolay of the former North Boroughs Chapter (Pittsburgh), is currently serving as the Right Eminent Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and was the honored guest for the weekend. Sir Knight Faub spent the whole weekend with PA DeMolay, enjoying the quality degree work along with fun and fellowship with those who attended.

In addition to welcoming 18 new members with top-notch degree conferrals, the weekend included a "Winter Wonderland" themed dance and plenty of video gaming competition. Big screen and networked video gaming is "all the rage" in PA DeMolay at the moment, as they continue a video game-themed membership recruitment competition and incentive program called "Brotherhood Evolved."

Also during the weekend, PA DeMolay presented Sir Knight Faub with a check in support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, representing a contribution to the Templar's official charity made in his honor.

Congratulations to Sir Knight Faub, the degree teams and all of PA DeMolay's newest members on a fantastic weekend!

S.K. Kenneth J. Faub, R.E. Grand Commander, (center, wearing red cordon) with Alex Fizz, State Master Councilor, on his left, Thomas R. Labagh, Executive Director, on his right, and surrounded by the newest members of Pennsylvania DeMolay.

Exclusive! ^{online} Member Services are a Real "Hit!"

The new Member Services module at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania website is an outstanding example of *Masons Helping Masons*. The current member services consist of an Online Masonic Business Directory and an Employment Center.



In the Business Directory, members can post a small description of their business, service, hobby or personal expertise that they can offer to their Brothers. This is an excellent example of the networking available to our members, and we have already heard of business relationships that have been established through this outlet. As of this writing, the Online Masonic Business Directory includes 338 listings from all across the state. Over 1,000 new members have registered for this free service.

The Employment Center provides an opportunity for Masons to advertise job opportunities inside their businesses to fellow Masons. It also allows a member to post a resumé of his qualifications and experience, to make himself available to a potential employer. The unique aspect of this Employment Center is that it is possible for both parties to remain anonymous in the early stages of an inquiry and to communicate through the Employment Center both anonymously and discretely until such time as the parties choose to set up an interview. As of this writing, there are 273 resúmes and 38 job listings posted in the system.

These opportunities are made available exclusively to Pennsylvania Masons. When a Brother registers for these programs, his membership is verified and, indeed, the database is regularly checked, so that only active members in good standing in Pennsylvania Lodges are listed. While we cannot guarantee that your business transaction will be exactly as you want it, we can guarantee that it will be with a Pennsylvania Mason. Having that common bond does NOT guarantee a "Masonic Discount" for services rendered or products purchased. Rather, it suggests that your Brother will treat you fairly and squarely. To register for these exclusive member benefits, go to www.pagrandlodge.org and click on the Member Services panel.

Has YOUR Lodge Planned a Widows Program Yet?

If not, check out these great programs some fellow Brethren have implemented ...

A Valentine's Wish...

On Feb. 12, four members of the Zembo Shrine Clown Unit delivered silk roses to every female resident in the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown's assisted living and nursing areas to celebrate Valentine's Day. That's over 400 silk roses! While not all the women were widows, all of them enjoyed the antics and well wishes the Brethren brought them that day. This is the third year that the unit has remembered the women in this fashion.



Dear R.W. Grand Master Aungst:
I was reading the January 2006 issue of *The Pennsylvania Freemason* and noticed the article titled, "Remember Our Widows." I want to tell you that Melita Lodge No. 295 in Philadelphia is doing just that. My husband, Douglas C. Schaefer, was killed in an accident last summer, leaving behind our two daughters and myself. Melita is not close enough for the members to physically help, but they sent me a generous check to help with chores Doug would be doing himself.
I want you to know that there are many caring Masons in Pennsylvania.
Sincerely,
Alison Schaefer
Swiftwater, PA



Get Ready for Spring!

...with this *Blue Generation*, 100% cotton maize-colored golf shirt, displaying the Grand Master's *Masons Helping Masons* logo. It is available through the Grand Lodge Gift Shop for \$34.95 in the following sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL sizes are an additional \$2.00.



Bro. Timothy A. Krimmel, of Lamberton Lodge No. 476, Lancaster, proudly displays the Grand Master's new *Masons Helping Masons* golf shirt.

NEW!
ITEMS AVAILABLE
THROUGH THE GRAND
LODGE GIFT SHOP!

Grand Master Makes Special License Plate Available



The new "PROUD TO BE A FREEMASON" cast license plate is already a popular and desired item. And now anyone can receive it!

For those Brethren who are first-line signers on a petition for initiation and membership, you will receive this as a special gift. Each new member will also receive one at the next Lodge meeting he attends after the conferral of his Master Mason's Degree, so he, too, may display his pride in being a Freemason.

In announcing this special opportunity, the Grand Master said: "My mother told me as a child that she would never pick my friends – that I am who my friends are. If you surround yourself with good people, you only elevate yourself. That has been the basis for my desire to share Freemasonry with my friends, and I hope all of our Brethren will do the same, for that reason. This license plate is a gift for those Brethren who demonstrate their pride in Freemasonry by either sponsoring a quality candidate or entering into our fraternity."

Any member may get his own through the Grand Lodge Gift Shop, so he, too, can share his pride in being a Freemason. The cost is \$50.00, proceeds to benefit the Temple Initiative.

All Dressed Up with Somewhere Important to Go?

Display your pride in Freemasonry by sporting this brand new Masonic tie! 100% silk, this burgundy tie, adorned with gold and royal blue Square and Compasses, will be a classy new addition to your wardrobe.

You can get yours today through the Grand Lodge Gift Shop for \$24.95.



Call toll-free 1-800-336-7317 or visit us online at www.pagrandlodge.org

Health Fair!

Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill
Thursday, June 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Open to all ages 50 & better & their friends
Admission is FREE!
Representatives from Area Aging Service agencies, free health screenings, healthy snack sale, resource tables, door prizes, giveaways & more!

Open for the Season!

Masonic Village Farm Market



Fresh Asparagus!
Scrumptious Strawberries!
Bedding Plants! Hanging Baskets!
Juicy Apples!

Open Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays, June - September, 12 - 4 p.m.
Call for directions - (717) 361-4520.
Orders can be shipped anywhere in the United States.
<http://pagrandlodge.org/villages/elizabethtown/orchard.html>



AUTUMN DAY 2006!
Saturday, Sept. 30
Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

Reserve your NEW Home TODAY at Lafayette Hill!

If you act now, you can take advantage of the opportunity to reserve a **brand new** apartment as we begin Phase 2 of our construction and renovation efforts. With completion and occupancy of these apartments scheduled to occur in spring 2007, these 21 new accommodations will compliment the already existing 77 retirement living apartments.

As a resident, you will have an opportunity to enjoy a variety of on-campus activities, including billiards, a bowling alley, ceramic and art classes, computer classes, putting green, shuffleboard, a walking trail, wellness center, woodworking shop, and the list goes on. We are also excited that the renovations will include a new country kitchen and private dining area.

While continuing to lead an active lifestyle, you will enjoy added peace of mind and security in knowing health care services are available on campus, should you ever need them in the future.

Monthly presentations and tours are being held, and we invite you to attend an informative seminar and tour the retirement community. For more information on upcoming presentations on retirement living at its finest in beautiful Montgomery County, please call the Marketing office at (610) 828-5760 or complete and mail the coupon below. Personal tours are also available; however, we encourage you to call **TODAY** before the new apartments are all reserved!

I want to learn more about retirement living at Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

☐ Send me a Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill brochure.

☐ Call me to arrange a personal tour.

Please complete coupon and return to: Marketing Office, Masonic Village, 801 Ridge Pike, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

Our Advisory Councils Need YOU!

Interested in making a difference in the lives of others? Our Masonic Villages offer many opportunities, such as serving on an advisory council at Lafayette Hill, Sewickley or Warminster.

The advisory councils are comprised of up to 21 members, who each serve a term of three years. Their purpose is to serve as the community liaison body between the Masonic Village and the community served and provide recommendations regarding program concerns and development to the executive director or administrator. The council should promote quality services, assist in assuring the facilities' financial development and promote the mission of the Masonic Villages. They provide wonderful services and benefits to our residents, including planning fundraisers and resident activities and managing the gift shops and library at some of the locations.

The advisory council at the Masonic Village at Warminster was formed in 1998 and meets the third Wednesday of every odd-numbered month at 7 p.m., with the exception of January and March when they meet on the third Saturday at 10 a.m. For information, please contact Anne Maher at (215) 672-2500.

The Masonic Village at Sewickley's advisory council formed in January 1998. Although the council membership is currently full, please call Cindy Stefl at (412) 741-1400 if you have an interest in serving in the future.

Admissions Policy

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

The Committee on Masonic Homes has approved the following service levels for admission to the Masonic Villages in Dallas, Elizabethtown, Lafayette Hill, Sewickley and Warminster:

Service Level 1:

PA Master Mason
 PA Eastern Star
 Wife of PA Master Mason
 Spouse of PA Eastern Star
 Widow of PA Master Mason
 Mother of PA Master Mason
 Daughter of PA Master Mason
 Sister of PA Master Mason

Service Level 2:

Grandmother of PA Master Mason
 Grandfather of PA Master Mason
 Father of PA Master Mason
 Mother-in-law of PA Master Mason
 Father-in-law of PA Master Mason
 Son of PA Master Mason
 Spouse of PA Eastern Star who is not a Mason
 Service Level 1 & 2 with less than 5 years' membership

Service Level 3:

Other PA Masonic Relatives
 Master Mason of Other Jurisdictions

Service Level 4:

Others on behalf of Pennsylvania Freemasonry



On Your Mark... Get Set... Join in the Fun!

Grand Master's Charity Mini Grand Prix



Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

Our newest advisory council at the Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill was formed in January 2005 and meets on a Wednesday evening quarterly. If you are interested in serving, please call Adrienne Staudenmayer at (610) 825-6100.

Plans for the Masonic Village at Dallas Advance

2006 welcomes the development of the Masonic Villages' newest active adult retirement community on the golf course at the Irem Country Club

On Dec. 10, members of the Irem Shrine Country Club voted overwhelmingly to proceed with plans for the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to move forward with development of the area's newest active adult retirement community, Masonic Village at Dallas.

According to Colleen Burns, NHA, Administrator of Masonic Village at Dallas, the level of interest and acceptance of the community has been phenomenal among the potential new residents of the Masonic Village at Dallas.

Pre-marketing efforts have been extremely successful.

On Dec. 16, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved moving forward with the first phase of development of the Masonic Village at Dallas. The first phase will consist of 45 apartments and 38 cottages featuring various floor plans. The Shrine approved a Master Plan which consists of possible future development of over 300 retirement living accommodations, based on demand. Enhancements to the country club buildings and grounds are planned as development of the new community moves forward.

Residents will not only gain access to the area's premier retirement community, but they will also have preferred access to designated health care facilities, as well as any

have the opportunity to choose the right accommodation to suit their carefree lifestyle.

Masonic Village at Dallas is collaborating with area businesses and

Clubhouse



Apartment Building

of the Masonic Village health care facilities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Retirement living residents will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle within a secure environment without all the worries of home maintenance responsibilities. There are various floor plans available, including one- and two-bedroom apartments with a balcony and a variety of two-bedroom cottages featuring one- and two-car garages.

Residents of the community will

professionals to establish relationships to ensure residents are afforded every opportunity for recreational, wellness, cultural, educational and social outreach.

"We look forward to the partnerships and feeling of community spirit that will develop out of these relationships for the betterment of our residents and Back Mountain Area at large," Burns said.

To learn more about Masonic Village at Dallas, contact our Administrative Office at (866) 851-4243 or complete and mail the coupon.

*Join us at an
Open House!*

May 18, June 29, July 19 or Aug. 10

*Presentations begin at 10 a.m.
at the Irem Clubhouse.*

For additional information, please call:

(866) 851-4243

**I want to learn more about Retirement
Living at Masonic Village at Dallas!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

☐ Send me a Masonic Village at Dallas brochure

☐ Call me to arrange a personal tour

Please complete coupon and return to:
Masonic Village, P.O. Box 429, Dallas, PA 18612

Elizabethtown Snowbirds



Birds of a feather... flock to Elizabethtown? Well, apparently so! We find that many of our residents at Elizabethtown are "snowbirds," having a home at the Masonic Village as well as a home in Florida.

One such couple is Bro. Charles (Wils) and Patty Kile, who live in a new cottage home at Elizabethtown and maintain their Florida home at Nokomis. Recently, they attended one of the Pennsylvania Masonic Reunions in Sarasota, assisting Masonic Village staff members in answering questions about the "good life" at Elizabethtown.

Patty suggests that one of the tremendous advantages of living at Elizabethtown is the ability to simply lock your door behind you whenever you feel like traveling and never worry about anything back home. The staff makes certain that every detail is attended to, including maintenance and security. If there is any downside to being a snowbird, "It's missing our new friends at the village," Patty says.

Another "snowbird" couple is Bro. Richard (Dick) and Theresa Cherry, who also live in a new cottage home at Elizabethtown. Their Florida home is located in Hobe Sound, and they recently attended the Palm Beach Garden's reunion.

The Cherrys love the peace of mind living at Elizabethtown, knowing that health care services are available should they ever need them; however, they also love the freedom to travel to Florida during the winter months without worrying about their home at Elizabethtown.

You don't need to be a "snowbird" when you move to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, but it's certainly an option being enjoyed by many residents. For more information on Retirement Living at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, call 1-800-676-6452 or complete and mail the coupon below.

**I want to learn more about Retirement Living
at Masonic Village at Elizabethtown!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

☐ Contact me to schedule a personal tour.

☐ Send me a Masonic Village at Elizabethtown brochure.

Please complete coupon and return to: Marketing Office,
Masonic Village, One Masonic Dr., Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Florida Masonic Reunions

More than 1,000 Pennsylvania Masons and their loved ones residing in Florida attended the Florida Masonic Reunions in February, where they were greeted by the Grand Master, Grand Lodge representatives and members of the Masonic Villages staff in Sarasota, Palm Beach Gardens and Tampa. The Grand Master handed out 50-year Emblems of Gold to 29 Brethren, and Masonic Villages staff provided the latest information about the five Masonic retirement communities in Pennsylvania. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship. It was the largest turnout since the reunions began nine years ago.



Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., makes some new friends during the reunions.



Emblem of Gold Recipients pose with the Grand Master and Grand Lodge Officers.



Bro. Joseph E. Murphy, C.E.O. of the Masonic Villages (right), greets guests in Florida.



LEADERSHIP CHANGES



After 13 years as Executive Director of the Masonic Village at Sewickley, beginning when the facility was a nursing home owned by the Valley Care Association before becoming part of the Masonic Villages, B.J. Franks is ready to take on a new role. She has transitioned to Director of Organizational Planning, a position in which she will elevate the community's gift planning efforts and work toward potential growth opportunities to achieve organizational goals. "I feel as if this community has been my 'baby,' so to speak, and now that it has matured, it's my goal to help it to continue to grow and prosper," she said.

Robert W. Kocent has been promoted to Executive Director for the Masonic Village at Sewickley, taking over for Mrs. Franks. Bro. Kocent, a member of Lodge No. 45, Pittsburgh, joined the Masonic Village as Assistant Executive Director in March 2005. He is now responsible for all facets of operation for the community, including the implementation of the strategic plan for the Masonic Village at Sewickley and providing leadership to staff in service enhancement, quality improvement and regulatory compliance.

Bro. Kocent earned his master's degrees in both social work and health administration from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a certified healthcare executive and licensed nursing home administrator.

"The Masonic Village at Sewickley is an exceptional lifecare community, with so much to offer and a limitless potential," Bro. Kocent said.

Home of Dick and Sally Brown

If you buy into the adage that you get out of life what you put into it, you understand why Bro. Dick and Sally Brown are living life to its fullest. Since moving here from Titusville, Pa., in September 2005, the Browns have filled their calendar with the numerous activities and events taking place at the Village. According to Bro. Dick, "We didn't look at other options; there was no point to it. We immediately knew that Masonic Village at Sewickley was the type of quality community that we were looking for."

Bro. Dick is a native of Titusville, where he is Past Master of Lodge 754. He worked in management for a steel company and was quite active in various civic organizations. Sally is originally from New York and stayed busy raising their three children. She also held a variety of part-time positions, specializing in payroll and finance. After retiring, the Browns started a second career in the antique business, filling their large, 13-room home with beautiful collectibles.

"You can accumulate a lot of memories and possessions during 52 years of marriage," Sally said. After much measuring and planning, and with the skepticism of professional movers, the Browns were able to fit much of their furniture and cherished keepsakes into their lovely and spacious apartment.

Now that the Browns have settled into their new home, Sally shares, "I would advise people to make this move, the sooner the better. The lifestyle is so carefree... there are no worries and it is a very relaxing life." Bro. Dick added, "We could have stayed in our own home, but as happens in many situations, our social opportunities were becoming more limited." Bro. Dick and Sally jumped right in and have become active in swimming and working out, bridge group, woodworking and volunteering as open house tour guides and at the information desk.

Now that Masonic Village is nearly 90 percent full, the Browns are thankful they moved in before a waiting list is established. They are also thankful for the financial benefits that the lifecare concept at Sewickley provides. If you would like to attend the May 25 or June 27 open houses, please call 1-866-872-0664 to register. The presentation begins at 10 a.m. Personal tours are also provided Monday through Friday.

ALOHA!

The love of cheerleading took one Masonic Children's Home resident all the way to *Hula Bowl 2006!*

Masonic Children's Home resident

Dana Balmer was nominated at cheerleading camp this summer to try out for the All American Cheer Team and was chosen to participate in the halftime show at this year's Hula Bowl in Honolulu.

On Jan. 15, Dana set off on a week-long adventure, accompanied by her coach and three fellow Elizabethtown Bears cheerleaders. The girls stayed at the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa in O'ahu, where they had their daily practices in preparation for the Hula Bowl show on Jan. 21.

Dana was one of nearly 200 cheerleaders chosen to participate in the Hula Bowl halftime show. According to Dana, participating in this year's Hula Bowl was a great experience. During her free time, she was able to do some sightseeing and take in the Hawaiian culture, such as horseback riding along the beach and visiting Pearl Harbor.



Dana Balmer (right) gets ready for the half-time show with friend Kaitlyn Kunkle.



"Dad" Retires... Masonic Children's Home Debuts New Director

For more than 11 years, Bro. Buz Cash has been like a Dad to dozens of youth who may not have had much of a father figure to look up to. As Director of Children's Services at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, he was responsible not only for the 40 kids residing at the Masonic Children's Home, but also for the Bleiler Caring Cottage, home to eight adults with developmental challenges.

Upon his retirement in March, Bro. Buz was delighted to hand over the reins to the capable hands of Ms. Virginia Migrala, who has worked at the Masonic Children's Home in various capacities over the past 27 years, most recently as Assistant Director for the past five years. Her love of the Masonic Children's Home was shared for 22 years with her late husband, Bro. Jerry Migrala, who passed away suddenly in June 2000 after serving as Assistant Director of Children's Services for 11 years.

"While the job has been challenging, it has been rewarding as well. As I sadly leave the employment at the Children's Home, I have every confidence it will not only survive, but also will flourish," Bro. Buz said.

"I know I have big shoes to fill; however, Buz has been a great mentor, and I am confident and excited to take on the challenge," Ms. Migrala said. "Our priorities will continue to be education, wellness and bullying prevention programs."

Do you Care for an Adult Relative with Mental Challenges?

If you feel he or she would benefit from the social interaction, care and opportunities offered in a residential cottage, the Bleiler Caring Cottage at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown may be the perfect home for your loved one.

Established in 1998, the Bleiler Caring Cottage provides a nurturing environment for eight adults with mild to moderate mental challenges. The cottage lifestyle allows each individual to grow and function as independently as possible, which in turn provides peace of mind to their families. Each resident is involved in a day program, some have jobs and all have access to the many amenities and services on the Masonic Village campus.

For more information or an application, call (717) 361-5080 or toll-free 1-800-462-7664.

