The Annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America was convened in the City of Washington, D.C. on February 20 and 21, 1956 with 33 registered from 36 member and seven foreign jurisdictions. All 49 Grand Masters of the United States were present. The District of Columbia has its own Grand Lodge, thus 49 Grand Masters of the United States.

The Conference has no legislative function since each Grand Lodge is sovereign in its own Jurisdiction. It meets to exchange views and to discuss mutual problems.

The response to the address of welcome was delivered by Brother Joseph A. Batchelor, Grand Master of Indiana, who said:

“Yes, we are different in our practices. During the life span of our respective jurisdictions we have each developed some of our own forms, observances and methods of procedure. In many ways these constitute interesting variations that add richness to our traditions.

“However, but we differ in external forms or in methods of operation, we have always the unifying influence of common allegiance to the same basic principles. So long as we are cosmopolitans in our thinking and have such opportunities for the free communication of our ideas as are afforded in this great Conference and in our inter-jurisdictional visitations, then I can truly expect we never will quarrel over anything. I would like to discuss some very interesting questions, but I think they would be too unusual and probably unhealthful if we all agreed on all of them. But the important thing is the manner of our approach or disagreement, for here it becomes a matter of mutual growth in the solution of common problems. We are grateful for that free exchange of ideas.”

Five topics were discussed, one Grand Master taking the affirmative, one the negative. After each topic an hour had been thoroughly discussed, a vote was taken and the respective Grand Masters present. Only Grand Masters were permitted to vote.

Should We Change Our Theory of Non-Solicitation For the Degrees?
39 voted “Yes” - 5 voted “No”

Is DeMolay a Proper Activity for Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge?
23 voted “Yes” - 13 voted “No”

Should a Numerical Limit Be Placed on the Membership of Our Lodges?
23 voted “Yes” - 23 voted “No”

(Continued on page 2)
Development of Capitular Masonry in Pennsylvania

By William E. Montgomery

The basis for the ritualistic work of the present three Symbolic Degrees was evolved between 1717 and 1723 through the efforts of Dr. Anderson, the historian; and Payne, the law-giver of the American Century. The skeins of the Early Mysteries, according to the early American tradition, were the warp of the First Degree, and the woof of the Second Degree, with the Third Degree acting as a combination of both. From the standpoint of ritual, the Mysteries, therefore, continued to be important, as evidenced by the fact that the early Grand Lodges were organized under the name of the Mystic or Mysterious Lodge, rather than the Freemasons or Masons.

The first Masonic Lodge in Pennsylvania was established in Philadelphia on October 10, 1730, under the title of the Masonic Lodge of Pennsylvania. This Lodge was organized under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and its first officers were Joseph Bache, Senior Warden; William Valentine, Junior Warden; and Matthias Neave, Master. The Lodge met on the second Monday of each month, and its members were required to observe the first, 10th, and 21st of each month. The Lodge was dissolved in 1731, and a new Lodge was organized in 1732, under the name of the Lodge of Perfection.

By 1735, five Lodges had been established in Pennsylvania, and the first Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was organized on June 6, 1737, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into five districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1742, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on June 5, 1743, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1754, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on July 13, 1755, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into six districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1766, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on July 2, 1767, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1779, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on December 15, 1784, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into four districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1809, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on June 28, 1810, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1838, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on June 15, 1839, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into five districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1861, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on January 27, 1862, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 1919, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on June 25, 1920, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into ten districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2001, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on June 26, 2002, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2010, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on August 10, 2011, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into seven districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2020, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on August 11, 2021, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2030, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on August 12, 2031, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into five districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2040, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on August 13, 2041, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was dissolved in 2050, and a new Grand Lodge was organized on August 14, 2051, under the name of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The Grand Lodge was divided into ten districts, and each district was governed by a District Deputy Grand Master.