Proposed Amendments To The Ahiman Rezon

The proposed Amendments to the Ahiman Rezon which were presented at Grand Lodge in June will be acted upon at the December Quarterly.

Article XIII, Section 9 now provides that the Grand Lodge Charity Fund be used for Master Phantom children of worthy deceased Master Masons, provided that this Fund be restricted to the female relatives and children of deceased worthy Masons. This limitation is still in effect.

The Fund now used only for the relief of Master Masons is much smaller than the Grand Lodge Charity Fund and is not large enough to meet the requests for this assistance.

The proposed amendment would eliminate the present exclusion of Master Masons, and would permit the Grand Lodge Charity Fund to be used as required to meet the needs that exist at any particular time.

The other proposal would amend Article III, Section 4 and Article XVII, Section 39 now opened on the altar of a Masonic Lodge and all those who petition a Lodge for admission to the degrees of Freemasonry.

The proposed Amendments to the Articles of the Grand Lodge have been adopted, and the amended articles are as follows:

Article III, Section 4 and Article XVII, Section 39 now.provide that the Grand Lodge Charity Fund be used for Master Phantom children of worthy deceased Master Masons, provided that this Fund be restricted to the female relatives and children of deceased worthy Masons. This limitation is still in effect.

If you have missed your self-addressed envelope for the Guest Fund at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, make your checks payable to and mail to Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa. 17022.

Questions & Answers

Question: Is Freemasonry a religion?

Answer: No. Freemasonry is not a religion.

Freemasonry should not be thought of as a Church, but as a Lodge, the specified size of four and one-half feet by five and one-half feet. The Master is the head of the Grand Lodge, with the election of the same Grand Lodge, to be accomplished in cold colored silk on government flag silk, purple in color, and the Latin motto reads Virtue, Liberum and Are.

The above proposed amendments have been thoroughly reviewed and are believed to warrant favorable consideration.

An exact reproduction of the standard, or banner, adopted by Grand Lodge on December 6, 1929, more frequently known as the Grand Lodge Logo, is the specified size of four and one-half feet by five and one-half feet. The Master is the head of the Grand Lodge, where the same Grand Lodge is in existence.

The proposed amendments to the Articles of the Grand Lodge have been adopted, and the amended articles are as follows:

Article XIII, Section 39 now provided that the Grand Lodge Charity Fund be restricted to the female relatives and children of deceased worthy Masons. This limitation is still in effect.

In 1847 when another Fund be established on the Children's Home, Pennsylvania becomes a Member of the Lodge.

This is a great pleasure to serve with them.

I also thank the thousands of dedicated Lodge Officers for their devotion and service to Freemasonry. Without this dedication, the Grand Master could not have carried out his program.

I am sure that every Mason in this Jurisdiction did not fully agree with all my ideas. If I erred, it was an error of the mind and not the heart.

Looking to the future, I am very much concerned about the apathy and indifference that exists in some of our Lodges. Too many of us are satisfied to continue the same old ideas-offering nothing new, following the same old path again, and giving little or nothing in the way of progress.

At high noon on December 27, I will have joined the ranks of Past Grand Masters. In this position, my services will always be available to my successors so long as the Grand Master of the Universe sees fit.

With a great deal of pride, I look upon the improvement of the Masonic Lodges. Many DeMolay Chaplains are now meeting in Masonic Lodge Rooms. My Brethren, assisting the DeMolay, is a great project and I urge an all-out effort to improve the image of Freemasonry.

I am very happy to report that in the past two years great strides have been made toward this goal. However, this is a never ending project. We must continue to build our image with humility and pride.

Many of our Lodges have sponsored special church programs. These have been increasing, and I pray will continue to increase in the future. Lodges attending divine services in a Masonic Church, have a great bear testimony to our common belief and faith in God. The DeMolay work in the Jurisdiction has been receiving Masonic Lodge assistance. Many DeMolay Chaplains are now meeting in Masonic Lodge Rooms. My Brethren, assisting the DeMolay, is a great project and I urge an all-out effort to improve the image of Freemasonry.

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The above portrait of Rev. Earl F. Hensley, R. W. Grand Master, was painted by Ralph Fellen Colman, a Jewettown artist. On December 27, the painting will be hung in the Grand Master's Reception Room in Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, with the portraits of other living Past Grand Masters.
Four Dedications Held, Three Cornersones Laid During Recent Months

In the past three months, Special Communications of Grand Lodge were held to dedicate four Masonic Lodges Rooms and to lay three cornerstones.

On September 18, the cornerstone was laid at the Lodge Room dedicated for the Tacony Masonic Temple, 4400 Magee Avenue, Tacony, Philadelphia.

This is the new home of Tacony Lodge, No. 600. It marks the first construction of a Masonic Lodge facility in Philadelphia since 1870 when Grand Lodge built Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street.

On October 20, the cornerstone was laid and the Lodge Room dedicated at the Masonic Temple, First Street, Media, Delaware County.

On November 20, the Lodge Room at the Irwin Masonic Hall, Main Street, Irwin, Westmoreland County, was dedicated. This is the home of Shidle Lodge, No. 601.

The new Masonic Hall in Irwin was formerly a movie picture theater. The Brethren completed extensive remodeling and have incorporated in the building a limited amount of commercial space.

On November 27 the cornerstone was laid and the Lodge Room dedicated for the new Oxford Masonic Temple, located in Oxford, Chester County.

Lodges Urged to Make All-out Effort In Reducing Suspensions for N-D-P

The Grand Master has urged Masonic Lodges to start an all-out effort to reduce suspensions for Non-Payment of Dues.

In recent years, more than 11,000 Masonic members have been suspended. Bro. Earl F. Herold, Grand Master, has directed that no Masonic Lodge in this Jurisdiction can suspend a 50-Year Member without the approval of the General Grand Historian.

He also urged Lodges not to suspend other Members until every possible effort has been made to bring the Brother back into good standing.

Worshipful Masters can assist Lodge Secretaries by appointing a committee to call personally those Members whom Herold said:

"We all have a responsibility to reduce the large loss of Members through suspensions. The loss is needless. If we do not correct this serious problem, Masonry cannot go forward."

Bro. Herold also requested District Deputy Grand Masters to take a personal interest in Lodge suspensions. He urged all District Deputies to examine possible suspensions to be sure every effort is exhausted before a suspension is made.

While not much time remains be-fore the night of the Annual Election, when action on suspensions will be taken, a telephone call, a short personal note or a visit to these Brethren by the Worshipful Master, other officers, Past Masters or close Masonic friends, will undoubtedly reduce the number of suspensions.

In cases where loss of income or unusual financial burdens make payments for dues almost impossible, a thorough investigation should be made. If finances prove to be the problem, consideration should be given for Lodge assistance. The Grand Master said:

"No Mason facing financial burdens should be dropped from membership. This Brother needs our assistance, not our suspicion."

The Grand Master also pointed out that many Members who have been suspended would welcome an opportunity to be restored to good Masonic standing.

If a suspended Brother pays the delinquent dues within eleven months of the date of suspension, he can be re-instated by a majority vote of the Members present at the stated meeting at which action is had on the motion to restore him.

Such restoration to membership must be consummated by vote of the Members before the end of the Masonic year of the date of suspension.

A suspended Member, who has not been restored to membership within the year, must first pay the delinquent dues owed at the time of his suspension. Then he may be restored to good Masonic standing by a majority vote of the Lodge.

After being restored to good Masonic standing, the Member then may apply for reinstatement to the Lodge from which he was suspended, or to any other Lodge of his choice in this or any other Jurisdiction. A unanimous ballot is necessary for his election to membership in any Lodge.

The Committee on Masonic Culture and Education is holding Workshops throughout the Jurisdiction.

Progress continues to be made in erecting new Masonic Temples and improving Lodge Rooms and associated quarters under the guidance of the Committee on Masonic Temples, Halls and Lodge Rooms.

If any area desires such a meeting get in touch with your District Deputy Grand Master or a Member of the Grand Lodge Committee. We will be glad to assist in any way possible.

From Our Grand Secretary's Office

The September Quarterly Communication was well attended despite an unusually hot and humid night. Bro. Earl F. Herold, R. W. Grand Master, expressed his deep appreciation for the fine attendance and now that most of the vacations were over he hoped that the Brothers would renew their Masonic activities.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on By-Laws, Grand Lodge approved the full code of By-Laws of one Lodge and the proposed amendments of nine Lodges. The amendments submitted by two Lodges were not approved.

The report of the Committee on Finance indicated receipts of slightly over $1,261,000, and expenditures of $1,170,000, for the third fiscal quarter. Upon the recommendation of this Committee, Grand Lodge authorized the Committee on Masonic Homes to proceed with the following projects:

1. To erect a new poultry house at a total cost not to exceed $19,500.
2. To install a buzzer and fire alarm system in the Guests’ bedrooms at a cost not to exceed $27,500.

The Committee on Masonic Culture is continuing its various activities and has already held Workshops in all areas of Pennsylvania.

Similar ceremonies are scheduled for October 30th for George W. Bart­den Lodge, No. 298, at Media. On November 20th, the Shidle Lodge Room at Irwin, will be dedicated, while the cornerstone and Lodge Room dedication ceremonies for the new Oxford Masonic Temple will be held on November 27th.

The Trustees of the Patton School announced the Fall Semester has opened and urged all Members to visit the School at Elizabethtown.

The Committee on Temporary Buildings reported expenditures of slightly over $40,000 for the third fiscal quarter.

The Committee on Printing and Publishing has awarded the contract for printing the 1965 Annual Proceedings.

Grand Lodge was saddened by the sudden death of two of its officers. Bro. Arthur C. Van Nort, District Deputy Grand Master of the 56th District, died on August 13th, and Bro. Reverend A. Culmer Schults, Grand Chaplain, succumbed on August 21st. Both were dedicated and devoted Masons.

Grand Lodge closed at 8:30 P.M. Fraternally,

R. W. Grand Secretary

District Deputy Grand Master Made a Royal Arch Mason at Sight

The September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania was held September 11, 1965, in the Masonic Temple in Altoona with 185 in attendance.

The three Capitular Degrees were conferred upon each of the following: Bro. Theodore R. Bolger, District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th Masonic District, was made a Royal Arch Master at Sight in the presence of Companion W. Irene Winters, Most Excell­ent Grand High Priest.

A number of amendments to the Constitution of Grand Chapter, having to do with ballotin of candidates, district meetings, transfer of membership and other matters were introduced. They will be voted upon at the December Quarterly Communication December 2 in Philadelphia.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

If Your Dues have not been paid, please mail a check NOW to the Secretary of your Lodge.

If your 1964 Dues are unpaid, please prompt payment should be made to avoid any embar­rassment.

We hope you will always maintain your interest in Free­masonry.
The John S. Sell Memorial Chapel is a sacred retreat for the Guests at the Masonic Homes. Here they have the opportunity to continue their worship of Almighty God under the leadership of many outstanding guest pastors.

A view of the sanctuary of the John S. Sell Chapel at the Masonic Homes. The furnishings include a four-manual pipe organ and a ten-bell chime. The woodwork is of solid oak and the sanctuary has a seating capacity of 400.

Grand Master Stresses Ideals and Image Needed For Freemasonry's Future
(Continued from Page 1)

majority of our Lodges have at least adopted the minimum requirement. There are still a few Lodges that have not complied, I hope this will be corrected in the future.

New Masonic Lodges in new and expanding communities are really the life-blood of Freemasonry. Five new Lodges have been Constituted during my term, with a sixth to be Constituted on December 11 at Kittanning.

There are many communities in Pennsylvania where the only Masonic Lodge in the area has more than 500 Members. Brethren, these communities should look to the advancement of Freemasonry and not selfish interests. I have advocated the formation of the second Lodge in such communities, with both Lodges working in complete harmony.

In the next two years, the Grand Lodge should have at least 10 new Lodges. I know your new Grand Master would welcome this opportunity.

One of our great concerns is finding capable men to assume Masonic leadership. This is not true in all our Lodges, but I know of several large Lodges that are currently faced with this problem. I am firmly convinced that a Masonic Lodge is only as progressive as the capabilities of its leaders.

During the past two years, I have been concerned with the finances of your Grand Lodge. I have appointed progressive trustees who are familiar with investments and market trends. Perhaps adjustments will not show up this year, but in the future our investments will be on a sound and logical pattern.

As we look forward to 1966, we must keep in mind that we are in an area of enrollment. In building our Temple for the future, we must continue to improve the image of Freemasonry. I have instructed my Grand Lodge to continue their work in improving the Masonic way of life.

Circling Library Provides Wealth of Masonic Information

Pennsylvania Masons are again reminded of the special service provided by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture whereby Masonic books may be borrowed from the Grand Lodge Circulating Library free of charge except for a few cents required for return postage.

Five books recently added to the Circulating Library are:

SWORD and SHOVEL—A story of Travel and Military Lodges compiled by John Black Freeman and Allen E. Roberts.

HOUSE UNDIVIDED—The story of Freemasonry and the Civil War by Allen E. Roberts.

THE SECRET TEACHING of ALL AGES—An encyclopedic outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Gnostical and Rosicrucian philosophy. This book gives an interpretation of the mystical teachings concealed within the rituals, allegories and mysteries of all ages by Master P. Hall.

A HANDBOOK FOR ROYAL ARCH MASONIC—A book including some of the requisites for building a fine, aggressive Chapter and for creating esprit de corps and pride of membership in Royal Arch Masonry by Ray V. Donnell.

HISTORY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLAR OF PENNSYLVANIA—An account of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania from 1799 to 1949 by George Hoy Kain.

Supreme Council, NMJ, Honors Two of Our Past Grand Masters

Two Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania have been honored by the Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-third and Last Degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

Bro. Richard A. Kern, Grand Master in 1946-47, was appointed to serve as Grand Lieutenant Commander, Bro. Scott S. Leiby, Grand Master in 1944-45, was appointed to serve as Grand Minister of State.

The appointments were made by Bro. George A. Newbury, former Grand Lieutenant Commander, who succeeded to the responsibilities of Sovereign Grand Commander and who will serve in that capacity until the next annual meeting in September, 1966.

Seneca Lodge, No. 805, Held at Kittanning, Pa. Is Our Newest Lodge

A new Masonic Lodge will be Constituted on Saturday, December 11, in Kittanning, at a Special Communication of Grand Lodge.

It will be known as Seneca Lodge, No. 805 and will meet in the home of Kittanning Lodge, No. 244, Masonic Hall, Market and McKean Streets, Kittanning.

The formation of the new Lodge is under the direction of Bro. Harry F. Smith, District Deputy Grand Master for the 27th Masonic District. Lodge No. 805 will be the ninth Lodge in the 27th Masonic District and the sixth Lodge constituted during the term of Bro. Earl F. Hrdlick, Grand Master.

The Officers elect include:


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A view of an area of our Distribution Office for The Pennsylvania Freemason, located in the McKee Cottage, Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa. Here you see Mrs. Betty J. Shaas, (standing center, in blue) Manager of the office, surrounded by her staff and several of the Guests who assist daily in the many tasks between issues and during mailing time. An average of 19,000 new name and address spreads are processed here between issues of our quarterly publication. At mailing time, copies of The Pennsylvania Freemason are addressed at the rate of 120 a minute. Over 500 mail sacks are required to carry our average mailing of 253,000.

In addition to Mrs. Shaas, one full-time employee, one part-time employee and nearly thirty Guests work daily to keep this general mailing list current and accurate so that you will receive your copy of The Pennsylvania Freemason.

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Two Lodges Improve Facilities
With Major Remodeling Projects

Many Masonic Lodges throughout Pennsylvania have accepted the Grand Master’s challenge to improve meeting facilities.

Some Lodges have erected new buildings, while others have completed major remodeling projects.

Two good examples of remodeling old facilities are Sharon Lodge No. 598 at Shippensburg, and Ambridge Lodge No. 701 at Ambridge. The Brethren in Sharon Lodge donated money and free labor to complete the following over the past summer:

- Repaired and painted Lodge building
- Put on a new roof
- Leveled and braced floor of Lodge Room
- Purchased a new rug for Lodge Room
- New Washroom facilities

Funds to defray the cost of the entire project were raised through donations of members. As of December 27, 1964, Sharon Lodge had 122 members.

Bro. Lowell S. Carpenter, District Deputy Grand Master for the 44th Masonic District, highly commended the work of Sharon Lodge. He said:

"Many of the Brethren worked evenings and Saturdays to complete the work. Sharon Lodge is to be congratulated on its fine achievements."

Ambridge Lodge also completed major restoration and revision of its meeting facilities. It completed the following:

- Lowered the Lodge ceiling and installed recessed lighting and ventilating ducts
- Panelled the Lodge Room, Ante Room, Examining Room, and Preparing Room with walnut siding
- Erected a storage area for officers’ clothing

Provision was made to install air-conditioning at a later date, if needed.

Within the past several years, the Lodge also installed a new rug in the Lodge Room and completely remodeled the social room and kitchen.

Bro. Robert Batty, District Deputy Grand Master for the 37th Masonic District, cited the Brethren of Ambridge Lodge for their dedication. He said:

"This Lodge has had progressive leadership and the Temple Association deserves much credit for its concern down through the years."

With the approach of the Holiday Season, I am reminded of the passage in the Holy Bible:

"And now abideth faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity."

Last year, 18 per cent of the Masons in Pennsylvania contributed to the Guest Fund at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. However, this small percentage contributed $253,000, a total equal to $1 for every Mason in this Jurisdiction. This year I have urged for a greater participation.

I am hoping to at least double the number of donors.

A Grand Master hesitates to place himself in a position of soliciting or constantly talking about the great need at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. However, we must realize that each year our Committee on Masonic Homes is faced with the problem of maintaining an adequate standard in an inflationary economy.

In the past twelve years the budget at the Masonic Homes has soared from $750,000 to more than $2,000,000 annually.

It is interesting to note that twelve years ago you had 623 guests at the Masonic Homes. As of this date, the total number of Guests is 780, an increase of more than 50 in twelve years.

Monies received as contributions for the Guest Fund are not included in the budget figures. This is necessary money, far and beyond the budget.

I have constantly stated that the Guest Fund makes it possible for you to operate your Masonic Homes as a "home" and not just another institution.

For example, each guest at the Homes is given $10 a month spending money.

It is not possible to list all the expenditures from the Fund, but in general it pays for religious services, hearing aids, radios and televisions, entertainments, Christmas gifts and parties, and many other projects.

This year, each guest will be given an extra $10 to purchase a Christmas present from the Masonic Homes in Pennsylvania.

I am sure that many of the contributions the Brethren have made to this Fund, and I personally thank you for your dedication.

NOTE 1: The Testator may, at his pleasure, provide that the gift be held in perpetuity, and the income therefrom be used for the upkeep, maintenance, and operation of the Masonic Homes owned by and under the control of the said Grand Lodge.

NOTE 2: Although subscribing witnesses are no longer required under Pennsylvania Law on a Will containing a charitable gift, such witnesses are required in many other States and, since a Testator may desire a gift to be held in perpetuity, it is recommended that subscribers sign the Will in all cases that the Will be signed in the presence of three credible witnesses when ever possible, and that they subscribe their names and addresses to the Will in the presence of the Testator.

NOTE 3: The death of the Testator within thirty days after executing his Will may, under certain circumstances make the charitable gift void. It is therefore recommended that if an older Will, containing a charitable gift, be in existence when the new Will is executed, the old Will be preserved for a period of thirty days after the execution of the new Will.