Ten Sectional Meetings Of School Of Instruction Scheduled For Brethren

Ten Sectional Meetings of the School of Instruction will be held in 1975. Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, has urged all interested Masons to attend at least one of the meetings.

He pointed out that it is a Masonic responsibility for the officers of the Lodges to attend. The ten meetings include:

March 8: Chambersburg
March 15: New Castle
March 22: Pittsburgh
March 29: Harrisburg
April 5: Altoona
April 19: Kane
April 20: Somerset
May 10: Williamsport
September 13: Middletown
October 4: Philadelphia

Sectional Meetings are open to all Lodges, but it is important that all elected and appointed officers make a special effort to attend.

Last year, 2,200 Brethren from 535 Lodges, attended the Sectional Meetings.

Grand Master Received New Hampshire Honor

Bro. Rochester B. Woodall, R. W. Grand Master, was presented the "Fifty Ladd Cross" Medal of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.

The presentation was made by Bro. Ellis W. Howard, M. W. Grand Master of New Hampshire, during the Annual Grand Communication of Grand Lodge on December 27, 1974.

Grand Lodge Museum, Grand Staircase, Grand Entrance Gate, Masonic Temple, One N. Broad St., Philadelphia.

The seven Masonic Lodge Rooms are all included, Corinthian, Renaissance, Gothic, Norman, Egyptian, Ionic and Oriental.

As an added feature, the Album contains the 15 buildings in which Grand Lodge met before moving to present Masonic Temple, including:


Grand Lodge has been meeting in its present Masonic Temple since its dedication in 1873.

Those desiring copies of the Album can obtain them in the Museum of Masonic Temple for $1.00 plus 6 cents tax.

If you want a copy mailed, please send a check or money order for $1.25 made payable to Committee on Masonic Culture, Masonic Temple, One N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. This covers the price of the book, tax and mailing.

Proper Attendance A Responsibility

Representatives Urged To Attend Grand Lodge

By Bro. Rochester B. Woodall

Article III, Section 5, of the Ahiman Rezon provides that a Representative in Grand Lodge is to be elected by each Lodge in this jurisdiction to serve for the ensuing Masonic year.

Apparently, many Lodge Representatives do not attend the Grand Lodge Communications as required and therefore, are not fulfilling their responsibilities to their respective Lodges.

Every Lodge should be represented at each Grand Lodge Communication if possible, but particularly at the December Quarterly Communication when annual reports are read, finances and budgets approved, amendments to the Ahiman Rezon acted upon, and Grand Lodge officers and members of the Committee on Masonic Homes are elected.

The current report of the Grand Secretary indicates that one hundred and ninety-five (195) Lodge Representatives were not registered at the December Quarterly Communication held on December 4, 1974.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge should discuss with the Lodge Representative, his responsibilities and required duties to the Lodge and make certain that he realizes the importance of proper attendance.
New District Deputies

Grand Master Appoints In Districts

There are nine new District Deputy Grand Masters appointed by the Grand Master on December 27, 1974. They are:

"B" Masonic District

10th Masonic District
Bro. C. DeForest Tredler is Past Master of Barger Lodge No. 335, Allen-town. He is an attorney. Bro. Tredler succeeded Bro. Paul F. Kandel who was a Past District Deputy Grand Master.

12th Masonic District
Bro. Donald N. Stevick is a Past Master of Kingston Lodge No 393, Kingston. He is a real estate company. Bro. Stevick succeeded Bro. John J. Kopp who was a Past District Deputy Grand Master.

14th Masonic District

15th Masonic District
Bro. Edward Y. Given is a Worshipful Master for the 4th Masonic District.

16th Masonic District

50th Masonic District
Bro. William J. Kulps succeeded Bro. John H. Parker who had a five year service of past District Deputy Grand Master.

Grand Lodge Re-elected Committee On Homes

The elected Grand Lodge Officers serve as members of the Committee on Masonic Homes which operates Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Those elected to the Committee by Grand Lodge include: Bro. Robert E. Woodall, Jr. of Harrisburg; Bro. Ellis E. S. Keene, of State College; Bro. Milton Frische, of Douglassville; Bro. Theodore K. Warner, Jr. of Downingtown; Bro. William J. Pinto of Pittsburgh; Bro. Walter J. Heim, of Moutonville; and Bro. Walter B. Wilson of Carlisle.

--- ATTEND YOUR LODGE ---
"How can you be a Brother to someone you don't even know?"
Bro. Gilbert Motier de Lafayette

Made A Member Of Grand Lodge Of Pennsylvania

Bro. Gilbert Motier de Lafayette, the Revolutionary War hero, was made a member of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania 100 years after meeting his last visit to the United States.

It happened when he came to the United States in 1825 on the invitation of President James Monroe.

It was the most remarkable invitation ever presented to a revivalist from this country. Congress had passed a resolution inviting the French General of the Revolution to accept the hospitality of a grateful nation.

President and Bro. James Monroe, a member of Williamsburg Lodge No. 4, Williamsburg, Va., offered to send a new U.S. frigate to bring him to the United States. Lafayette accepted the invitation, but declined the frigate.

His arrival in New York on August 15, 1824, aboard the Cadmus accompanied by his son, Bro. George Washington Lafayette.

Hundreds of invitations poured in for Lafayette to appear before an adoring populace. Banquets, receptions, and parades became each day's order of business. It was like a triumphant tour which took him to towns and cities throughout the country.

Everywhere this confidant of Bro. George Washington appeared, he was received by troops, many of them Revolutionary veterans, expecting to be reviewed. And this he did.

Philadelphia was his host from September 27 to October 5, and gave him every honor it could bestow. He met the reception of all his Masonic Brethren was naturally excited at having so distinguished a Mason among them as Lafayette and if he be so, to adopt such measures, as in their judgment will best influence the affection and gratitude of his Masonic Brethren, to his friend and benefactor of the United States.*

At an adjourned Quarterly Communication held Monday, September 26, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was determined that Lafayette has long been an Antient York Mason and has honored the institution by his patronage.

On Saturday, October 2, Bro. Lafayette visited the Navy Yard, then on the Delaware River at the foot of Federal Street, attended by Governor John A. Shulme and escorted by the United States Marines, a regiment of militia, several independent companies, and a long civic procession.

After leaving the Navy Yard, he was escorted by a committee of the Grand Lodge from his lodgings at the house of Nicholas Biddle to the Masonic Hall on the north side of Chestnut Street between Seventh and Eighth Streets, where he attended an Extra Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Bro. R. B. Gilpin, R. W. Grand Master, was away from the city on official duties as Judge of the Supreme Court, and Bro. Jesse Harper, R. W. Deputy Grand Master, officiated.

Representatives and Past Masters from nearly every Lodge in the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge were visiting Brethren in attendance. Also present were Bro. George Washington Lafayette, Maj. R. M. Varner (Lafayette's secretary), and Col. Victor Du Peit of Delaware. The Montgomery Chapter of the Ancient and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania presented a letter to the Grand Lodge, which had been unanimously adopted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1825.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania glorifying in the honor this day conferring on Lafayette, the son of a Mason and by the French General the foundation of the Revolutionary War, having long been an Antient York Master Mason and if he be a Masonic Brethren, to his friend and benefactor of the United States.

Bro. Lafayette

In accepting membership, Bro. Lafayette said:

"Thank you for the honor you have just conferred on me, and assure you that I shall never forget this mark of kindness which has been made a member of a body of which Franklin was the father and Washington the announcement of.

A banquet followed in the Grand Saloon. The decorations were designed by John Haviland, the distinguished architect and artist, and appropriate music was provided by the Marine band attached to the Navy Yard. The day was a memorable Masonic occasion.

Among the rare Lafayette items on display in the Grand Lodge Museum in Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, is "St. Louis Book," containing a note written by Bro. Lafayette (May 10, 1854) under the copy of the patent for the Lafayette paper known as the "33° in Scotch Rite Masonry.

Also on exhibit is a letter from Lafayette dated December 16, 1832, thanking the Hatters Committee of Philadelphia for a fine hat he ordered for his "car" in the centennial procession on February 22 commemorating Washington's birthday. The letter states the "Monarch of Masons" was the first in the 33rd in Scotch Rite Masonry.

In the lower office, a letter from Lafayette dated August 1, 1825, is on display. The letter to President John Quincy Adams assured him that the Lafayette family was in good health and that Lafayette was planning his return to France.

Washington Apron

The Washington apron is one of the thousands of Masonic items on display in the Museum of Grand Lodge in Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

This apron was hand embroidered by Madame Lafayette. It was presented to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania by Bro. Lafayette in August 1784.

"The Legates of Gen. Washington, impressed with the most profound sentiments of respect and friendship for the nation which they have the honor to address, beg leave to present to them the enclosed relic of the revered and lamented Father of his country.

"They are persuaded that the Washington apron, which was once possessed by the man whom the Philadelphians always delighted to honor, will be considered most precious to the Society distinguished by his name and by the benevolent and grateful feelings to which it owes its foundation.

"That this perishable memento of a hero whose fame is more durable than the emblems by which it may be consecrated, will be received by the Washington Lodge with the highest respect and the warmest praise."
Grand Warden; and Edward A. Hagel, Past District Deputy, acting Junior Grand Warden.

F. Ashford, president; Rochester B. Woodall, Grand Master; Joseph E. Trate, Junior Grand Master of Lodge No. 163.

celebrated their 100th year on January 1975.

Bro. James A. McWilliams, Mahoning Valley merchant, was made a Mason on December 7, 1974 and was also elected Senior Warden.

Two Pennsylvania Masons recently celebrated their 100th birthdays. Bro. William L. Graham, Union Lodge No. 334, Bradford, was born on December 7, 1974 and Bro. James A. McWilliams, Mahoning Lodge No. 243, New Castle, on January 12, 1975. Graham was made a Mason on December 19, 1895, and Bro. McWilliams was elected Grand Master on February 14, 1907.

Robinson Brothers

Bro. Richard M. Robinson, District Deputy Grand Master, 16th Masonic District; Past Master of Evergreen Lodge No. 163, McMurray, after having sustained his illness, brother, Bro. Robert K. Robinson, on December 26 as Worshipful Master of Lodge No. 163.

Veteran Secretaries Retire

After years of dedication to Freemasonry, many veteran Secretaries have retired. For instance, Bro. David J. Cruse, Hamilton Lodge No. 274, Philadelphia, after 40 years; Bro. Walter G. Dimmig, Perkussions Lodge No. 595, East Greenville, 40 years; Bro. John H. Pendleton, Crawford Lodge No. 234, Millcreek, 30 years; and Bro. Richard F. Williams, Diertick Lamade Lodge No. 735, Williamsport, 22 years.

Masonic Ring Found

An antique Masonic ring, inscribed inside, “To Dad from Mother and the Boys 10-27-64” was found on a lawn on Owen Ave., Lansdowne. See the Grand Secretary.

Follow the Lawsons

It was brought to light when Bro. Edward F. Lawson, Jr., Past Master of William B. Schneider Lodge No. 419, Philadelphia, conferred the first degree on his second cousin, Bro. Frank E. Lawson III on December 10, 1974. This happenings marked the fourth member of the fourth generation of Lawsons to be made a Mason. Bro. Oliver Lawrence, deceased, grandfather of Bro. Edward I. Lawson, Jr., was one of the first to be raised in Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Since then his four sons, Bro. Edward I., Jr., Frank, Kendall and Raymond; four grandsons, Bro. Edward, Jr., Oliver, Jr., George F. Foulke, Jr., and six great-grandsons, Bro. Edward III, Oliver, Jr., Robert and Frank III, have been made Masons. Of the 13 Masons, all but two stayed with Lodge No. 419.

Long Line of Secretaries

Bro. Harry S. Elwell, Past Master of Davage Lodge No. 374, Pittsburgh, has served his Lodge as Secretary for the past 36 years. He succeeded his father, Bro. George Elwell, Past Master, who served the Lodge as Secretary for 40 years.

Was Shakespeare a Mason?

William Shakespeare wrote like a Mason, but there is no proof of membership. For instance: “Both are at the Lodge” (Titus Andronicus, act 2, scene 4); “you have made good work, you and your apron men.” (Coriolanus, act 4, scene 5); “I will write a brother of your order.” (Measure for Measure, act 1, scene 4); “where is thy leather apron and thy rule?” (Julius Caesar, act 1, scene 1); “What, my old worshipful master!” (Taming of the Shrew, act 3, scene 1).

Holy Bible Saved

The Holy Bible and Warrant of Charter of Shadyk Hill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, were the only things not consumed by a destructive fire on December 22, 1974. The Bible, slightly singed, was on the altar. The Warrant was in a vault. The building was a total loss.

Dedicated Employee

Bro. John S. Twin retired after 50 years of service to the Grand Lodge. During this time he processed 175,000 Monthly Returns and approximately 255,000 names of petitioners for initiation and membership. He is a Past Master of St. Alben-Swain Lodge No. 529, Philadelphia.

20 Years of Age

Avalon Lodge No. 657, Belleville, is consistent on agnos. Bro. John W. Root, Worshipful Master, was installed at age 26, as was the immediate Past Master, Bro. Donald T. Dudley.

Family Affair

It was a family affair in McMurray Lodge, No. 807, McMurray, when Bro. Walter F. Long, Jr., Worshipful Master, conferred the three Degrees on his son, Bro. Walter F. Long, III. Helping out was Bro. George F. Long, Sr., grandfather of our newly Raised Mason, who served as Guide.

Bro. William A. Carpenter R. W. Grand Secretary

Visitors from many Grand Lodges joined with Pennsylvania Brethren and ladies for an enjoyable evening at Grand Master's Banquet.

Grand Master's Letter To Lodges - Brethren

The Grand Master sent the following information to all Masonic Lodges in this jurisdiction:

“Members of Grand Lodge rejected a proposed amendment to the Ahiman Rezon to permit Concurrent Territorial Jurisdiction state-wide, at the Quarterly Communication on Wednesday, December 4, 1974.

There were 13,747 ballots cast, 6,211 in favor of the amendment and 7,536 against.

The members of Grand Lodge by majority vote have now decided that all Lodges in this Jurisdiction are subject to the same basic law as stated in Article XXI of the Ahiman Rezon.

Any directives, dispensations, decisions or understandings issued, approved or practiced in prior years, contrary to this law, were automatically revoked by the Grand Master on December 4.

Therefore, effective December 27, 1974, all new petitions must be processed in accordance with Article XXI of the Ahiman Rezon.”

Masonic Fraternity Prohibits Gambling

“No member of the Masonic Fraternity in this Jurisdiction shall alone or with others, promote, assist in or be a party to any lottery, game, device of chance, or other activity, wherein any individual participating may be able, through the element of luck or chance, to win, be awarded or receive a greater value than any other like participant, arranged, devised or intended to raise money which shall either directly or indirectly, inure to the benefit of any Masonic Lodge, body, association, or organization, or to any body, club, committee or other organization in Pennsylvania whose members are required to have membership in the Masonic Fraternity.”

Decision XL, Par. 1, Digest of Decisions.