The Masons of Pennsylvania contributed $25,535 to the Masonic Veterans’ Fund during 1977-78, once again meeting the continuing financial need of the hospital visitation program.

The goal for the 1978-79 fund drive that begins August 1 has again been established at $25,000.

Bro. Walter P. Wells, R. W. Grand Master, said in announcing the new campaign, “The hospital visitation program is conducted through the Masonic Service Association at a cost of approximately $25,000 per year to Pennsylvania.

The principal objectives of this great fraternity demand we recognize the human needs of our hospitalized veterans as well as their physical needs,” he said, adding, “I know the Masons of Pennsylvania will more than meet this responsibility.”

The Masonic Service Association carefully trains the field agents who visit veterans hospitals at Aspinwall, Butler, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Coatesville, Erie, Lebanon and Wilkes-Barre.

In addition to the visitations, the field agents provide a host of services to the hospitalized. For example, they are called upon to run errands for those who cannot leave the hospital, arrange entertainment, and accompany those who are able to make brief trips outside the hospital.

The June newsletter of the Masonic Service Association contains the following information concerning the hospital visitation program:

Freemasonry can stand tall! The dedicated field agents who represent the fraternity in the V.A. hospitals are absolutely fantastic! It’s a constant source of inspiration to see the reports of their activities.

Where else can you find men who put in so many hours of service to their fellow men and settle for a monthly expense account of $257? Many of them do just that!”

“Talk about ‘symbolic wages’! Volunteers do make a difference. How else could M.S.A. conduct a million-dollar hospital visitation program for just a fraction of the visitation program? Grand Lodge had been financing the program in Pennsylvania veterans’ hospital through use of about $150,000 left over from the Masonic Veterans’ Fund of World War II.

When the funds dwindled to about $5,000 in 1976, the Grand Lodge appealed for assistance to the symbolic lodges and authorized contributions from lodge charity funds.

The lodge, and individual contributors, supported the program with more than $30,000 in 1976-77 and with more than $25,000 in 1977-78.

The Grand Master has again authorized the lodges to utilize charity funds for the current campaign and urges individual Masons to contribute when possible.

Since the hospital visitation program is a recognized Masonic charity, all contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

Checks from lodges and individuals may be made payable to the Masonic Veterans’ Fund and mailed to:

Grand Master’s Office, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19107.
Preliminary Membership Report for 1977

Number of Lodges, December 27, 1976

- 596

Number of Mergers, 1977

- 0

Number of Lodges Constituted during 1977

- 596

Membership as shown in 1976 Proceedings

Corrected Membership, December 27, 1976

- 237,665

Admitted during 1977

- 684

Initiated during 1977

- 4,046

Suspended during 1977

- 1,200

Resigned during 1977

- 652

Deceased during 1977

- 7,820

Decrease (net) 1977

- 2,836

Membership, December 27, 1977

- 244,799

Grand Lodge Officers’ Schedule

The schedule for Grand Lodge Officers for the remainder of the year includes:

August 4 Grand Lodge Officers meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

August 12 Grand Lodge Officers, Special Communication, Cornerstone Laying and Dedication of Lodge Room, John E. McCloskey Lodge No. 729, Mars.


August 19 Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ohio, Special Visitation to commemorate Pennsylvania chartering a Lodge in existence when Ohio gained statehood in 1803.

August 25 Grand Lodge Officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

August 28 Grand Lodge Officers, Special Communication, Dedication of Lodge Room, Blyth Lodge No. 593, West Newton.

September 6 Grand Lodge Officers, Quarterly Communication, Scottish Rite Cathedral, East Lincoln Avenue, New Castle.

September 9 Education Conference, 9:30 a.m.,Scranton Masonic Temple, Scranton.

September 9 Grand Lodge Officers, Special Communication, Dedication of Lodge Room, Pocono Lodge No. 760, Swiftwater.

September 11 Education Conference, 1:30 p.m., Montville Area Senior High School, North Street, Montville.

September 23 Grand Lodge Officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

September 24-28 Grand Lodge Officers, Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Cincinnati, Ohio.

September 30 Education Conference, 12:00 noon, Pittsburgh Masonic Temple, Fifth, Lyon and Thirteenth Avenues, Pittsburgh.

October 9 Deputy Grand Master, 50th Anniversary, Joseph H. Brown Lodge No. 751, Philadelphia.

October 13 Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Columbus Lodge No. 278, Johnstown.

October 14 Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Butler Lodge No. 272, Butler.

October 21 Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Mountain Lodge No. 281, Altoona.

October 27 Grand Lodge Officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

November 3 Grand Master, 50th Anniversary, Jeannette Lodge No. 750, Jeannette.

November 10 Grand Lodge Officers, Special Communication, Dedication of Lodge Room, Schuylkill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg.

December 6 Grand Lodge Officers, Quarterly Communication, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia.

December 10 Grand Lodge Officers, Quarterly Communication, Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania.

December 8 Grand Lodge Officers, meeting, Committee on Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown.

December 9 Grand Master, 125th Anniversary, Juniata Lodge No. 282, Hollidaysburg.

December 27 Grand Lodge Officers, Annual Grand Communication, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia.

Masonic Temple Restoration Project

The Committee on Temple had the east gallery in the upper floor refurbished during the month of January, 1978. The area encompassed the eastern end of the second floor corridor (or hall), including the two stairways along the north and south walls that lead to the third floor where Gothic Hall is located.

The corridor outside Gothic Hall has numerous panels representing varied types of ancient architecture and decoration, as well as copies of celebrated masterpieces depicting ancient Egypt, 2000 B.C.; Assyria, 900 B.C.; Athens, 700-470 B.C.; Rome, 500 B.C.; Jerusalem, 700 A.D.; Versailles, 1700 A.D.; Reims Cathedral, 1200 A.D.; Temple of Dons, 450 B.C.; and Temple of Venus.

The work was done by Adolph Frei and Sons, noted ecclesiastical restorers, and included painting, restoration, and gold leafing. It required 167 days to complete the work.

The accompanying photographs show some of the completed scaffolding necessary to accomplish the intricate restoration. The slate structure filled an area 26 feet wide, 38 feet deep and 53 feet high.

Above photo shows the pulley mechanism used to place scaffolding.
Retirement Community Survey Requested of Grand Lodge

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has received inquiries from time to time about providing a retirement facility for Masons who are able to buy an interest in such a center and who are willing to pay a monthly charge for meals, maintenance and service.

For example, such a retirement community could be created in Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, near the present Masonic Homes' complex.

It would be separate and apart from the Masonic Homes which is supported as a charity by the Masons of Pennsylvania.

In an effort to learn if there is genuine interest in the creation of a retirement community, the following survey has been prepared to enable you to register your opinion.

You are invited to fill out the accompanying form and mail it to: The Office of the Grand Master, Masonic Temple, One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107. This is a survey only. There is no guarantee that a retirement complex will be constructed and your reply does not constitute a commitment on your part. All replies will be held in the strictest confidence.

SURVEY

Would you be interested in purchasing a unit and paying a monthly charge to cover costs in a retirement community to be established near the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania?

Yes  
No  

Present Age Bracket
40-49  
50-59  
60-69  
Over 70  

Present Health Status
Excellent  
Good  
Fair  
Poor  

Marital Status
Married  
Widowed  

Occupied by:
Myself  
Myself & Wife  

Size of Unit Preferred:
Efficiency (Studio)  
Small One bedroom  
Large One bedroom  
Two bedroom  

Type of Building Preferred
One Story  
Two Story  
Three Story or more  

Would you have your own automobile
Yes  
No  
Hope to  

what number of meals per day would you prefer to have supplied
Breakfast  
Lunch  
Dinner  

In the event you could no longer pay the monthly charge, would you and/or your wife be willing to be transferred to the Masonic Homes, at Elizabethtown?
Yes  
No  

What facilities would you expect as part of the retirement community

Lounges: Yes  
No  

Theatre & Auditorium: Yes  
No  

Swimming Pool: Yes  
No  

Planned Activities: Yes  
No  

Medical Care: Complete  
Partial  

Laundry Service: Complete  
Partial  

General Comments:

Name:  
Address:  
Telephone No.:  

Lodge No.  

Comments as to additional facilities you would like to see included:

Swimming Pool: Yes  
No  

Laundry Service: Complete  
Partial  

Medical Care: Complete  
Partial  

Planned Activities: Yes  
No  

General Comments:

Name:  
Address:  
Telephone No.:  

Lodge No.  

Comments as to additional facilities you would like to see included:

Swimming Pool: Yes  
No  

Laundry Service: Complete  
Partial  

Medical Care: Complete  
Partial  

Planned Activities: Yes  
No  

General Comments:
**BRETHREN**

*What You Do Speaks So Loudly I Cannot Hear...*

On the other hand, when belief and love do not square with each other, then that well-known remark we have heard countless times shall be recalled: "What you do speaks so loudly I cannot hear what you say."

**Meet the Jones Boys**

Bro. William J. Jones, Past Master of Belle Vernon Lodge No. 643, Fayette County, writes to inform us that his father, Bro. Samuel J. Jones, was the Warrant Worshipful Master of Belle Vernon Lodge No. 643, serving in 1854 and 1855. That year, Bro. George W. Jones, is serving as Worshipful Master of Belle Vernon Lodge this year.

**A Past Master 50 Years.**

Thomas R. Patton Lodge No. 659 set aside a portion of a recent stated meeting to pay its oldest living Past Master, Bro. Edwin H. Skivington, Jr., Homestead.

Bro. Skivington, now in his 82nd year, has been a Mason for 50 years and a Past Master for 50 years, having served as Worshipful Master in 1928.

He is one of three members of the Skivington family to serve as Worshipful Master of Thomas R. Patton Lodge. His cousin, Bro. Harold L. Skivington, served in 1915. His uncle, Bro. James W. Skivington, served in 1923.

Still active in his retirement, Bro. Skivington resides at the Bydel Park Retirement Community at Bydel, Pa.

He is secretary of the masonic community of the community and also serves as chairman of the landscape committee.

**$50.00 for 50 Years.**

At the stated meeting of Welcome Lodge No. 453, Philadelphia, on the evening of May 18, 1978 when Bro. Walter K. Speer, Past Master, received his Grand Lodge 50-year masonic service emblem, he reciprocated by contributing a personal check in the amount of $5000 to the Guest and Building Fund for the Masonic Homes.

Bro. Speer declared that he was so happy and thankful for the 50 years afforded him as a Master Mason that he just had to express himself with the contribution.

MASONIC HOMES
Elizabethown, Pa.

Due to continuing expansion of our operations, facilities, and nursing personnel are needed. Announcing the opening of new units, June, 1978 (full-time/round) employees.

Nursing Assistant

- $3.89
- $4.25
- $5.39

We are also offering an expanded fringe benefit package. For application, contact Masonic Homes, Elizabethown, Pa. 17022. Phone 367-1123 ext. 223 Personnel Office.

MacCalla Lodge No. 596, held at Sunbury, Montgomery County, celebrated its 50th annual Shad Night at its stated meeting on April 19, 1978. Left to right are Bro. Dwight K. Kleist, Jr., Worshipful Master; Bro. Henry Van Ommen, a Past Master who originated the idea 50 years ago, and Bro. Leon R. Cope, Past Master who was Master in 1955. Over 200 members and invited guests attended lodge that evening. Bro. David C. Adams, of the Grand Secretary's staff, was the guest speaker.

REMINDER

**LET'S BE MASONIC - NOT JUST MEMBERS**

**ANNUAL SHAD NIGHT**

The Shad Night, held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, will be the site of the September Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the cathedral, constructed in 1936, is a prominent part of the landscape of the City of New Castle.

New Castle To Host September Quarterly

The September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will take place in the Scottish Rite Cathedral at New Castle on Wednesday, September 6, 1978. The event will mark the second communication to be held outside Philadelphia this year in keeping with the Grand Master's desire to enable Masons throughout Pennsylvania to conveniently witness a meeting of their Grand Lodge.

The Shad Night Committee is preparing three parking lots and additional parking space provided on the streets in the surrounding residential area.

For those requiring hotel accommodations, it is suggested they make reservations at the Sheraton Inn or Holiday Inn in West Mifflin, New Jersey, or the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge off Exit 2 of the interstate highway at Mercer. The Grand Master urges every Master Mason to take this opportunity to attend the quarterly communication. It is not necessary that you be a member of Grand Lodge.

The cathedral, constructed in 1936, is a prominent part of the landscape of the City of New Castle.

**New Castle**

New Castle was founded by Lord Baltimore, the first English proprietor of Pennsylvania, in 1768. The town is located on the Ohio River, one of the largest in the east and can accommodate 4,000 persons.

**June Quarterly Report**

More than 600 Masons attended the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Homestead on June 6. Those present represented 209 lodges and included seven R. W. Past Grand Masters; 62 District Deputy Grand Masters, and 23 Past District Deputy Grand Masters.

The Grand Lodge approved the merger of Justice Lodge No. 735 with Penn Lodge No. 766, to be known as Penn Lodge No. 766 effective June 12, 1978.

Also approved was the merger of James L. Buchanan Lodge No. 757 with Col. Henry Bouquet Lodge No. 787 into Lodge No. 45, to be known as O'Connell Lodge No. 45 effective November 1, 1978.

Three proposed amendments to the Grand Constitution were introduced and, in accordance with Masonic law, held over for action at the Quarterly Communication in December.

The first amendment concerns changing the Grand Lodge fiscal year from July 1 to December 31, to coincide with the Masonic year; the second calls for an increase in the mileage allowance paid to Representatives of the Grand Lodge visiting the various committees because the great majority of lodges limit their meetings during the summer months.

The third amendment requires the Grand Master use his personal Masonic service emblems to the Office of the Grand Master no later than August 27.

The usual method of individually contacting the lodges will be discontinued and the Grand Master urges every Master Mason to take this opportunity to attend the quarterly communication. It is not necessary that you be a member of Grand Lodge.

COMMUNICATION, PAGE 2

To that end, this issue contains a coupon that individual Masons are urged to return to the Office of the Grand Lodge no later than August 27.

The usual method of individually contacting the lodges will be discontinued and the Grand Master urges every Master Mason to take this opportunity to attend the quarterly communication. It is not necessary that you be a member of Grand Lodge.

**LET'S BE MASONIC - NOT JUST MEMBERS**

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