Masonic Homes Committee

The following were re-elected members of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes during the December Quarterly Communication held at Philadelphia on Wednesday, December 1, 1982:

- Bro. Walter B. Wilson, Eureka Lodge No. 302, Mechanicsburg.
- Bro. Kenneth E. Thompson, Wilmington Lodge No. 804, New Wilmington.

The other members of the Committee on Masonic Homes, the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, Junior Grand Warden, Grand Treasurer, and Grand Secretary, serve by virtue of their offices as dictated by Masonic law as evidenced in the Ahiman Rezon.

Bro. Warner was elected to a second consecutive term as chairman during the meeting of the committee held at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown on December 3, 1982.

The Committee on Masonic Homes is the only elected committee under the constitution of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. All other committee members serve, by appointment, at the pleasure of the Grand Master.

Itinerary Through April

(Continued from page 2)

The special youth program was presented by Samuel C. Williamson to highlight the presentation of a 50-year DeMolay membership pin to Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson.

Another pleasant surprise during the youth program was the presentation to the Grand Master of contributions to the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation from the Northwestern and Erie chapters of DeMolay.

Bro. Thomas R. Labagh, Executive Director of the foundation and Executive Secretary for DeMolay in Pennsylvania, was present along with Dennis C. Ricker, District 12 Deputy; Dennis W. Wood, District 13 Deputy; Jon L. DePoe, District 16 Deputy, and John R. Ralston, District 42 Deputy for DeMolay.

THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON

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Concerning the cover...

The helicopter view of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown that is featured on the cover of this issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason is one of 78 views contained in a new slide presentation concerning the Homes that will soon be made available to the lodges and other interested groups.

A montage of other views within the presentation is contained in the centerfold on pages six and seven.

Professionally prepared, the slide presentation from first view to last covers a period of just eight minutes, 57 seconds.

Narrated by the Assistant to the Grand Master, Bro. Melvin S. Mundie, the script was prepared as an independent part of the total production as was the photography itself and the background music.

The cassette tape contains an electronic pulse to move the slides automatically during the narrative.

The slide presentation was commissioned by the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes to give the viewer a sense of the philosophy behind the operation of these greatest of masonic charities while projecting the feeling of care and protection provided its guests.

It is designed to stimulate discussion and provide support for the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

The means to distribute 150 kits of the slide presentation is now being prepared.

The kits contain a slide carousel, cassette tape narrative and script, as well as a list of equipment needs and instructions for their use.

Who the persons who present the program should be well versed in the rules, regulations and procedures concerning application and admission to the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown.

The program is also suitable for non-masonic audiences.

Questions concerning the program can be addressed to the office of the Grand Master at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

June Quarterly Communication to be Held in Pittsburgh

The June Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held in Pittsburgh using the facilities of three neighboring buildings in the Oakland section of the city — the Masonic Temple, Syira Mosque and Soldiers and Sailors Hall.

The actual Grand Lodge communication will take place at 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, June 1 in Soldiers and Sailors Hall.

The hall is being used in order to increase the seating capacity for the meeting and to eliminate a number of problems in the movement of people when the Grand Lodge last met in Pittsburgh in June of 1977.

Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson has asked the Senior Grand Warden, Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., to serve as general chairman for the event.

Bro. Stenberg is already well into the planning for a 5:00 p.m. dinner for masons, their families and friends, as well as a program for entertaining the ladies while the Grand Lodge is in session.

A later program, featuring name entertainers, is being planned following the Grand Lodge communication. The evening will conclude with dancing.

The Grand Master has a specific entertainment in mind, but the entertainers are reluctant to commit themselves at this early date. The exact program will be announced as soon as it is completed.

The day's activities will be scheduled as follows:

5:00 p.m. — Grand Masters Dinner
Tickets will be sold in the dining rooms in the lower level of Syria Mosque as well as in the dining areas of the Masonic Temple.

Tickets, at $12.50 per person, will be made available on a first request basis with the Mosque dining rooms being filled first. Syria Mosque will seat 1,500 persons comfortably and the Masonic Temple will seat 900. A total of 2,400 tickets will be distributed through the District Deputy Grand Masters and the lodges in western Pennsylvania. A number of tickets will also be available through the office of the Grand Master in Philadelphia.

7:00 p.m. — Grand Lodge convenes in Soldiers and Sailors Hall
7:00 p.m. — Ladies' entertainment in the Temple.

Scottish Rite auditorium of the Masonic Temple
9:00 p.m. — Entertainment for all in attendance in the Syria Mosque auditorium
10:30 p.m. — Dancing in the lower level of Syria Mosque

Those who are unable to attend dinner at the early hour are welcome to attend Grand Lodge and the entertainment following the communication.

If you fall into that category, you may wish to have your lady join the others for the entertainment in the Masonic Temple while you attend Grand Lodge.

Bro. Stenberg is gathering a number of committees to handle the distribution of tickets; to arrange parking; to handle traffic control and security; guest services, and other needs as required.

DeMolay Program Highlights Quarterly

Randy Rigg, a member of Joppa Chapter, International Order of DeMolay, presented the Flower Talk to those attending the December Quarterly Communication in a special youth program immediately preceding the Grand Lodge meeting.

Corinthian Hall in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, was filled to capacity with several hundred guests, including students of nearby Renaissance Hall through closed circuit, color television as the top DeMolay ritualist in Pennsylvania gave a flawless performance.

Syria Mosque was set to 1,500 persons comfortably and the Masonic Temple will seat 900. A total of 2,400 tickets will be distributed through the District Deputy Grand Masters and the lodges in western Pennsylvania. A number of tickets will also be available through the office of the Grand Master in Philadelphia.

The special youth program was the second arranged by the R.W. Grand Master this year as a means to showcase the members of our youth organizations while providing the opportunity for increased understanding of their activities by the members of the fraternity.

The first program preceded the September Quarterly Communication and marked the first time in the history of the Grand Lodge that non-masons, in this case mothers and leaders of all three youth organizations, were invited to Corinthian Hall prior to a meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The DeMolay Flower Talk is a good example of the type of information the youth organization can share with others.

It is designed as a public ceremony, not a part of DeMolay ritual, and while its origin is lost in obscurity, it presents a most impressive message, particularly to mothers and to DeMolay Initiates.

The Flower Talk has been described as DeMolay's best means to teach the lesson of honor and true respect for womanhood.

Randy Rigg is considered the top ritualist in the state, having won the State Flower Talk Championship during competition at a DeMolay Conclave held at the Patton Complex in Elizabethtown last June.

(Continued on page 12)
Samuel C. Williamson Begins Second Year as Grand Master

Bro. Samuel C. Williamson has been elected and installed to a second term as Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Pennsylvania.

Elected to the highest office in Freemasonry during the December Quarterly Communication, Bro. Williamson was duly installed during the Annual Grand Communication held in Philadelphia on Monday, December 27, 1983.

Grand Master Williamson, a resident of Pittsburgh, east of Pittsburgh, is an executive of U.S. Steel currently serving as superintendent of the Chemicals Department at the Clairton Works.

The Grand Master's executive ability has been very evident in his first year as Grand Master. He has authorized many decisions that have served to increase the involvement of family members in masonic activity while making the fraternity in general more visible to the public.

His program has been and will continue to be dedicated to the youth organizations as evidenced by the establishment of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation.

He has made good his early promise to improve the relationship of the Grand Lodge to all other masonic bodies as evidenced by the highly successful Patriotic Pilgrimage involvement of all segments of the masonic family. The following is the entire text of the Grand Master's state of the craft address as given during the Annual Grand Communication:

Brethren, I deeply appreciate the honor you have again conferred upon me — the opportunity to serve this Grand Lodge for another year as your Grand Master.

It is customary to give the first year accounting of his stewardship, a sort of State-of-the-Craft message to relate some of the highlights of the year.

One year ago I said, "Nothing is as permanent as change". Following that theme, your Grand Lodge Line Officers, working as a team, have made many changes which have been well received by the members of the Craft. This team effort by your Grand Lodge Line Officers assures a continuity of programs and decisions.

The major thrust of the changes may be divided into three groups:

First — Our Lodge meetings — which for too long have been bogged down with custom and to a large degree excluded our families and our Masonic related youth groups.

Decisions have been made permitting the elimination of the reading of the minutes, which at times may be present at the social activities on the night of any meeting of the lodge. Also, our Masonic related youth groups (DeMolay — Rainbow and Job's Daughters) may be present on the night of the meeting of the lodge.

Reports indicate many lodges are having family nights and entertainments on their stated meeting nights. Our Masonic youth groups have participated in many lodge programs. Several lodges have expressed a desire to sponsor youth activities.

I am certain these changes, along with others, will be beneficial to our lodges and ultimately result in more membership participation.

Second — Lodges have been authorized to participate in Masonic dress, in any appropriate public ceremony, with the approval of the Grand Master. This Grand Master has been pleased to approve several such appearances. The posting of signs at the entrance to communities showing the name, location of the lodge and carrying an approved square and compass symbol has been authorized to let those entering the community know that Masons are present.

Advertisements and notices in newspapers, publications, radio and television stations of the time and place of meetings of the lodge has been permitted.

I have already indicated my belief that we must now, as before, conduct ourselves visibly as Freemasons; that we ought to increase our exposure to the community, thereby letting our friends and neighbors know that we are Masons and give the community the opportunity to learn what we stand for.

On Saturday, June 26, your Grand Lodge sponsored a Patriotic Pilgrimage to Gettysburg when over 5000 Masons and Masonic related youth groups, representing the entire Masonic family, paraded in that community.

Saturday, July 31, your Grand Lodge sponsored a large display at the Three Rivers Regatta in Pittsburgh to again let the public see and learn about our great fraternity. This activity also included all the Masonic family working together.

The brochures, Should I Ask and Freemasonry — A Way of Life, have been made available to each subordinate lodge and the members have been encouraged to give them to their non-Mason friends and associates who should know the story of our fraternal organization.

Remember, what is important to our communities is what Masonry appears to be. We must become visible in our communities.

Samuel C. Williamson, R.W. Grand Master

Third — An active youth program has been established with the formation of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation under the direction of Bro. Thomas R. Labagh. Representatives from all the Masonic Bodies are active on its board. This organization is staffed by Masonic related youth groups and their advisors have made extensive use of this facility.

I am happy to report to you that we are seeing concrete results from this effort.

Our DeMolay membership is showing a gain of 29% over last year.

We expect to constitute a new chapter in March of 1983 under the sponsorship of State College Lodge No. 700. Several chapters have been reactivated and DeMolay is hoping to move the Electing Officer chair from Rainbows to Job's Daughters.

Rainbow and Job's Daughters report increased activity and interest in new assemblies andbethels. Job's Daughters will constitute a new bethel in Camp Hill on January 22, 1983.

Many Lodges have had youth programs this year and have invited our young people to provide programs. This activity is again recommended for the coming year.

At the September Quarterly Communication of your Grand Lodge, an historical first occurred. The presiding officer of our youth groups, along with their adult advisors, were part of the procession prior to opening the Grand Lodge. Each of the young people then addressed the Brethren.

Prior to the opening of the Grand Lodge for the December Quarterly, the DeMolay Flower Talk was presented by DeMolay Randy Riggle, the State Flower Talk Champion. I am pleased to report to you that this young man has just petitioned for membership in the Masonic Lodge in his community.

The renovations to the Patton facility are moving on schedule; the anticipated completion date remains June 1, 1983. Upon its completion, we hope that we will have one of the finest Masonic Centers in these United States. This youth activity program is receiving wide acclaim; we have received inquiries from many Grand jurisdictions requesting information regarding its activities.

This year over 1400 young people have attended a program at this facility.

To date, a large number of lodges and other Masonic Bodies have contributed to the Masonic Lodge Endowment Fund. While we have not reached our goal of $500,000.00, we are approaching it and currently have received $307,887.00.

Favorable comments have been received from Juvenile Authorities including Judges and Social Workers throughout the country, regarding our sponsorship of Today's Delinquent, the digest which is published jointly by the Grand Lodge and the National Center for Juvenile Justice. This activity will be continued and expanded during the coming year.

Quarterly Communications

Attendance has steadily increased at our Quarterly Communications. The June Quarterly held at Harrisburg was the largest ever with over 2300 brethren in attendance.

The March and September 1983 Quarterlies will be held in Philadelphia and the June Quarterly in Pittsburgh. The Annual Grand Communication, will be held in Hershey.

Your Grand Lodge officers participated in laying the cornerstone and dedicated the lodge rooms of Elk Lodge No. 379 in Ridgeway on May 22, Cromwell Lodge No. 572 in Dubois on April 24 and Summit Lodge No. 312 in Ebensburg on September 25.

It is with sorrow that I recall the loss of two Past Grand Masters, Bro. Richard A. Kern on July 26 and Bro. W. LeRoy McKinley on October 5.

On a personal note, your Grand Master made one hundred eleven trips to Philadelphia to conduct Grand Lodge business; visited 44 lodges; made 19 trips to the Masonic Homes; 39 trips to various Masonic organizations (York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrines, Grottos and Tall Cedars); and 13 trips outside of the jurisdiction.

In addition, I attended 16 DeMolay functions, 4 Rainbow and Job's Daughters meetings, and 5 meetings of the Pennsylvania Grand Lodge's Board of Directors, having traveled over 90,000 miles.

At the February meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters' of Masonic Bodies, Bro. Riggle, our District Deputy Grand Master, was re-elected as the chairman of that Conference and will preside until February of 1983. This activity required an additional six trips outside our jurisdiction.

Although this report, I have not particularly thanked the Grand Lodge team for their hard work and dedication. The many activities and programs could not have been completed without the dedication of the Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters and District Deputy Grand Masters.

In addition, the appointed Grand Lodge officers, Committees on Masonic Homes, Finance, Culture, By-Laws, Trustees; the Assistant to the Grand Master, and the employees of the Grand Lodge have given everything they have been asked for and more.

No man can hope to carry out the responsibilities of Grand Master alone. I have been fortunate to have a dedicated team to carry out the work assigned to me.

As we face the new year, it is my hope that we can continue to move our Grand Lodge ahead. I must admit, however, that I do have some concern.

I am sad to report to you that we have had a large number of our members, our families, who have left the Craft this year, a number of whom have set out for themselves.

Recently, many of you concluded long election procedures in your lodge. Effective today, the following decisions are issued:

1. For those offices that are uncontested, the Lodge may elect by voice vote.

2. Officers elected need not be installed as long as they continue in that office.

An Amendment will be presented at the June 1983 Quarterly Communication to eliminate the installation of the R.W. Grand Secretary and Treasurer.

I have today signed five new Decisions — each designed to prepare the way for constructive change or to clarify existing procedure.

A new section will be added to the Digest of Decisions under the general title, Youth. The first decision in that new section is one that authorizes the Worshipful Master "to appoint a Past Master, as a representative to the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation."

The second decision permits the name of the lodge representative to the foundation to be listed on the back page of the lodge notice, if room permits. The notice must not be available in the last page, any other convenient space in the notice can be used.

Also in keeping with our stated obligation to our young men and women as the future of this fraternity, I have added the

(Continued on page 5)
Freemason Mailed from Philadelphia

With the advent of computerized mailing and the five and nine-digit zip code systems, it follows that the old, tried and true pigeon hole method of separating mail would fade away.

Fortunately for Bro. John Bittner, who has traveled from his home in Lemoyne to Elizabethtown to apply his sorting expertise to the mailing of every issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason since 1974, the eventual automation of the magazine's mailing process coincided with his own decision it was time to retire. Bro. John has retired before, several times, and at the age of 82 he figures he has the right to do so again.

He was a mail clerk for the Railway Mail Service for 40 years, from 1922 to 1962.

Ten Brethren are Created Past District Deputy Grand Masters

During the Ahimaon R exon, in Article XII, Section 13, provides that "A District Deputy Grand Master, having served as such for a period of five years or more, may retire from that office as a Past District Deputy Grand Master."

Ten Brethren have qualified for that distinction under Masonic law and have been created Past District Deputy Grand Masters. They are:


A man who knows every zip code in the country has little trouble finding gainful employment so he spent the next 11 years sorting mail for the Department of Revenue in Harrisburg, from 1962 to 1973, before deciding to give his fraternity a hand.

Mrs. Vera Greiner, who served as the manager of the Distribution Office at the Masonic Home at Elizabethtown until the mailing operation was recently moved to the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, describes John Bittner as "faithful, dedicated, a humorist and humanitarian who was an inspiration to know and work with."

A warrant member who remains active in Lower Loiter Masonic Lodge No. 781. Bro. John is also active in Cumberland Lodge No. 270.


Bro. Lloyd A. Border, 42nd Masonic District. Bro. Border, a Past Master of York Lodge No. 266 in York, served as District Deputy Grand Master for 10 years.

Bro. David R. Benjamin, 45th Masonic District. Bro. Benjamin, a Past Master of Fellowship Lodge No. 771 in Hazleton, served as District Deputy Grand Master for 5 years.

Bro. Wesley E. Smith, Sr., 47th Masonic District. Bro. Smith, a Past Master of Coraopolis Lodge No. 674 in Coraopolis, served as District Deputy Grand Master for 10 years.


New District Deputy Grand Masters

Bro. Samuel C. Williamson, R.W. Grand Master, has appointed ten new District Deputy Grand Masters for 1983 as follows:

29th Masonic District — Bro. Thomas E. Westfall, Sr., a Past Master of Clayville Lodge No. 447 meeting in Clayville.

38th Masonic District — Bro. William C. Mumaw, a Past Master of Apollo Lodge No. 437 meeting in Apollo.

42nd Masonic District — Bro. Terry D. Bennett, a Past Master of York Lodge No. 266 meeting in York.

45th Masonic District — Bro. Irving W. Bachman, a Past Master of Azalea Lodge No. 687 meeting in Hazleton.

47th Masonic District — Bro. Thomas K. Sturgeon, a Past Master of Oakdale Lodge No. 609 meeting in Oakdale.

59th Masonic District — Bro. Clinton E. Shrieve, a Past Master of Mosaic Lodge No. 664 meeting in Mosaic.

Grand Master Issues Five Additions to Digest of Decisions

The R.W. Grand Master issued five additions to the Digest of Decisions during the Annual Grand Communication on October 31.

4. Bro. Samuel C. Williamson said in his state of the craft message that each of the decisions was "designed to prepare the way for constructive change or to clarify existing procedure."

5. Noting the commitment of the Grand Lodge to the promotion of the youth organizations (as evidenced by the establishment of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation), the first decision adds Article 309 to page 141 of the digest.

Designed to help maintain the spirit of participation and dedication to youth activities, the new amendments to the Digest of Decisions, the new article provides:

1. The Worshipful Master is authorized to appoint a worthy member, not necessarily a Past Master, as a representative to the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation.

2. The members of the Youth Foundation to the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation may be listed on the back page of the lodge notice, if possible, in any other convenient space in the notice.

3. The appointee will serve as liaison between the foundation and the lodge and will issue regular reports of foundation activities to the lodge.

4. The second new decision continues the previous decision and adds item 15 has been added to Section 13 of Article 57 of the Digest.

5. The third new decision continues the previous decision and adds item 16 has been added to Section 13 of Article 57 of the Digest.

The changes in the Digest of Decisions have already been sent to the Worshipful Masters of the lodges. Individual pages of the digest will be reprinted in the near future to reflect the changes.

Begin Second Year as Grand Master

Pennsylvania Youth Foundation to the list of those youth organizations whose activities can be noted in the lodge notice. According to the new decision, item 15 has been added to Section 13 of Article 57 of the Digest.

(Continued on page 6)

Another change in the Digest of Decisions will help to increase the visibility of the fraternity — to allow the public display of fraternal membership. A section has been added to Article 61 that allows for the use of masonic emblems by allowing them to be displayed on items of clothing such as windbreakers, jackets, etc.

The changes in the Digest of Decisions have already been sent to the Worshipful Masters of the lodges. Individual pages of the digest will be reprinted in the near future to reflect the changes.

On February 19, 1982, Decision 61, Masonic Emblems and Signs, Section 8, page 87 was issued granting to the lodge the ability to use the masonic emblems on signs at the entrance to their communities.

On July 16, 1982, the decision was modified as the result of repeated requests to use the masonic emblems (the square and compass), the design for which can be obtained from the office of the Grand Master.

The Grand Master has received numerous requests in recent months to expand the use of masonic emblems by allowing them to be displayed on items of clothing such as windbreakers, jackets, etc.

On April 27, 1983, the Grand Master issued five additions to the Digest of Decisions to allow the use of masonic emblems by allowing them to be displayed on items of clothing such as windbreakers, jackets, etc.

The changes in the Digest of Decisions have already been sent to the Worshipful Masters of the lodges. Individual pages of the digest will be reprinted in the near future to reflect the changes.

(Continued on page 10)
The Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Culture, will be renamed the Grand Lodge on Masonic Education, if the Grand Lodge adopts the resolution.

Looking ahead, a Masonic Congress will be held April 16, 1983 at Elizabethtown to include the entire Masonic Family. Having sponsored successful public information programs recently, we can be when working together through our cooperative effort at the Patriotic Day at Gettysburg. This Congress will discuss our mutual problems and hopefully will result in a resolution of them.

Grand Master’s Days will be held at the Masonic Homes each of six Saturdays commencing on July 16. This will be a family affair and will include the family of our Lodge officers and families with the facility house we have at Elizabethtown.

In September or October we will have an Open House at our Potomac facility to show the finest training center in the United States. It is hoped that Lodge Districts will schedule meetings at this facility along with other bodies in the Masonic Family.

Effective today, I have appointed a Public Information Committee as a standing Committee of the Grand Lodge which has submitted a preliminary public information program.

1. Produce a Public Television Network Documentary
2. Advertise with support messages to provide its viewing throughout the state.
3. Prepare pamphlets and offer them to the public.

4. Prepare a series of radio messages on the “Pennsylvania Reports” program throughout the state.

This long range public information program will enlighten the members of our fraternity, address all youth, not just our own young people and the Pennsylvania public in general.

In closing, let me assure you that your Grand Lodge team will continue to do its best to produce a year-week Masonic Congress with progressive leadership to this Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master is a Past Master of Tyrone Lodge No. 612, Lewistown, served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 54th Masonic District from 1962 to 1971, and has been a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes since 1971.

He is a Past High Priest of Valley Royal Arch Chapter No. 289, is a member of the Liberty Valley Council No. 50, and Duquesne Commandery No. 72. A member of the Valley of Pittsburgh, A.A.S.R., Bro. Williamson was coroneted by Encampment 33rd Degree in 1937. He currently serves as 2nd Lieutenant Commander of Pennsylvania Consistory.

Grand Master Williamson holds the Active Legion of Honor as bestowed by the International Supreme Council Order of DeMolay and the Grand Cross of the International Order of Rainbow for Girls.

His other masonic affiliations include membership in Syria Shriners Temple, U.S. Premier Conclave, Red Cross of Constantine; Royal and Masonic Degrees, Center Forest No. 129, Tali Cedars of Lebanon and Illini Groutto.

The Travel Program provides a wide variety of destinations throughout the year including tours of Hawaii, Switzerland and the British Isles.

Despite the value of the travel program as a fund raiser for youth foundation, the Grand Lodge, because of ongoing concerns about whether or not the Grand Lodge should be involved in travel, has decided to not sponsor a travel program for 1983.

It has been stated that sufficient opportunities exist for group travel at reduced rates through programs offered by many appendant bodies.