Charitable Gift Annuities
Enjoy Fixed Payments For Life 7.3% - 7.9% - 8.5% - 11%

Are you receiving these rates of return from your savings/investments?

You probably are not, but you could be through the Masonic Homes Gift Annuity Program. When you take out a Charitable Gift Annuity with Masonic Homes you receive a guaranteed return for as long as you live and that rate will never fluctuate. The rate of return is based on your age; at the time you take out the annuity. Examples of returns are: 5.7% for someone age 50 to 111 for someone 90 or older.

To summarize, you receive:
1. The satisfaction of making a gift.
2. Annual payments you cannot outlive.
3. Tax benefits, such as a contribution deduction, delayed capital gains tax, and annual payments that are partially tax-free for a period of time.
4. Fewer worries about investments or money management matters.
5. Payments that don't penalize age - the older you are, the larger your payments.
6. Flexibility types and amounts to fit your needs and means.
7. A unique way to give while you live.

Benefits include:
1. A significant immediate charitable deduction.
2. A guaranteed lifetime return.
3. Income which is partially tax free.
4. Capital gains savings if annuity is funded with appreciated assets.
5. Personal satisfaction in the knowledge that your thoughtfulness will make an important difference in the lives of others.

Enjoy the Beautiful "Friend to Friend" Painting!
One Size: Available: 12" x 23.75" Only $19 or 23" x 36" Only $39
Order Today!

For more information on any of the topics listed below, or which are provided in accordance with school obligations, please call the Development Office at 1-800-594-0135 or mail the coupon.

For Updates on future programs and offers, please visit Masonic Homes website.

Brother Edward O. Weisser, Newtovn Lodge No. 427, Woodside, was elected the 111th Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania at the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge on December 6 and installed in that office at the Annual Grand Communication on December 27.

Elected and installed at the same time to serve with the Grand Master are:

Bro. Robert L. Ng, Jr., Elsby Lodge No. 414, R.W. Senior Warden;
Bro. Marvin A. Spencer, Sr., Warren Lodge No. 310, Collegville, R.W. Junior Warden;
Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, Cumberland Valley Lodge No. 315, Shippenville, R.W. Grand Secretary.

Grand Master Weisser was born in Lancaster when he was two years old. He is married to the former Sonja Howes and has two sons, Jim and Paul. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Collegeville, a member of the Broomall Unitarian Church, and a member of the Pennsylvania York Rite Consistory of the Valley of Allentown. He is a Shriner in the Temple, Philadelphia.

Bro. Cunningham was born in Batavia, Iowa, September 1, 1933. Educated in public schools there and in Muncie, Indiana. He was graduated from United Township High School in 1951. In 1952 after graduation, he was employed by International Harvester in East St. Louis, Illinois, where he worked as a master machinist and as a Boy Scout leader. He was a Korean War and Vietnam conflict veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy for more than 20 years, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in 1977. Bro. Cunningham began working for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections managing a 54-bench dental laboratory at the State Correctional Institutional Complex at Graterford. At his retirement last October he was the Manager of Correctional Industries at Graterford and occasionally comecomes a 1,000-acre farm and dairy.

Bro. Cunningham is married to the former Sarah D. Bowers, who is a daughter of a young man who looked into my eyes and said, "Ed, why did my mother love me?"
“Friend to Friend” Program Continues With More Awards
R.W. Grand Master Weisser announced that the regular Friend to Friend awards program not only will be continued, but also will be expanded. Successful petitions presented since the Friend to Friend program began will be counted towards additional awards. The Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards for first-line signers of one, two and three successful petitions for membership, respectively, will be awarded in the lodge. First-line signers of six successful petitions will receive a Lucite Friend to Friend desk award presented by the Grand Master at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge. The Friend to Friend Throat Medallion for a first-line signer of 12 successful petitions will also be awarded by the Grand Master at a Quarterly Communication.

A special Friend to Friend Masonic Apron is a new award for a Pennsylvania Mason who becomes the first-line signer of 25 successful petitions. For a first-line signer of 50 successful petitions, a Pennsylvania Mason will be awarded a voucher for a trip for one person on the R.W. Grand Master’s 1997 trip to Alaska. Those special awards will be presented by the Grand Master at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Brethren qualifying for the first three awards should confirm their eligibility with their lodge and be sure that they are awarded. Supplies of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards have been sent to the lodges. Secretaries should contact the Masonic Education Office for additional supplies. All of the succeeding awards require certification by the lodge presentation for the Grand Master.

“Banking On You, Brother”
R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser says that the Fraternity is “Banking On You, Brother,” to be an active Freemason and participate in Masonic activities. The Fraternity will award any Brother who establishes and verifies an exemplary Masonic record during 1996 and 1997 with a unique replica of an antique model bank that was in the shape of the Masonic Temple of Pennsylvania.

More than a century ago, iron workers made toy banks in the shapes of buildings, many of them for small town banking institutions. Early Masons, who were also foundry men, produced a bank in the shape of the Masonic Temple at One North Broad Street, Philadelphia, which became an unusual and desirable toy bank and subsequently a collector’s item. On July 21, 1874, an application for a United States patent was made in order to protect the special toy bank from unwanted reproduction. That date is imprinted on the bottom of the bank. Today, it is believed there are six original Masonic Temple banks existing. The Masonic Library and Museum now owns one of the original small banks.

Grand Master’s Team to Earn “Friend to Friend” Jackets
R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser would like to see all Pennsylvania Masons become members of the Grand Master’s Friend to Friend Team. Those who earn their way onto the team will be awarded a special Masonic apron jackets with a Friend to Friend logo, like the one Past Grand Master George H. Hohenhildt (right) is modeling for Grand Master Weisser.

Any Pennsylvania Mason can become part of the team by being a first-line signer of a petition to secure a new member. The jacket will be awarded after the Entered Apprentice Mason’s Degree has been conferred upon the candidate. The jackets will be available either at a Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication or during one of the Visitation by the Grand Master throughout the Jurisdiction.

How To Qualify For a Bank
During 1996 and 1997, the award will be given to any Pennsylvania Mason who completes ten of fifteen fraternal activities. Every Pennsylvania Mason will receive a card on which to track his progress toward earning a bank. When he has ten tasks accomplished, either the Secretary or the Type of his Lodge will initial the card to verify their achievement. Ten of the following fifteen tasks must be accomplished, but the first five are required to be part of the ten:

• Sign a new petition.
• Attend your Lodge at least six times.
• Visit a lodge at the Masonic Temple.
• Visit a youth group or work as a youth leader.
• Attend one Grand Lodge function, i.e., Quarterly, Convention-Gearing, a Lodge Room Dedication. (Grand Lodge Tyde will validate this.)
• Serve as an Elder or Appointed Officer in your home Lodge.
• Sign for a young person to join a PA youth group.
• Volunteer to work in the Masonic Library.

• Become a Masonic Library Fellow.
• Visit a Veteran’s Hospital to meet Masonic Brothers.
• Get a child for the Shriners Hospital.
• Visit a Masonic School of Instruction at Grand Lodge.
• Become a Big Brother through your Lodge.
• Volunteer to work with the Pennsylvania Youth Corps.
• Give a least $15 to your Grand Lodge Masonic Charities.

Masonic Family Picnic Day
You can mark your calendar now: Saturday, June 8, will be Masonic Family Picnic Day in Pennsylvania. Masonic Family picnics are planned for six major amusement parks across the State:

Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom, Rts. 309 and 222, Allentown; Hershey Park, 100 W. Hershey Drive, Hershey; Idlewild Park, Rts. 30 and 711, Litigier; Kennywood, 4800 Konneywood Blvd., West Mifflin; Sandcastle, 1000 Sandcastle Dr., West Homestead; Kneebolts, Rts. 487, Elysburg; and Waldemore Park and WaterWorld, Erie.

There will be detailed information in the May issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason.
Concordia Lodge Caps Bicentennial Year

At its annual holiday party in December, Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, capped a year-long 200th anniversary celebration.

Bicentennial events began in January 1995 with an Informal Visitations by then-R.W. Grand Master George H. Hokevshildt who presented one of Concordia’s Past Masters, Bro. Dale H. Fera, Sr., as the District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District “E.” There was a second Informal Visitations by the Grand Master in September, the month in which Concordia Lodge was Warranted in 1795. The Grand Master presented Fifty-Year Emblems of Gold and, at the banquet, the Lodge Treasurer presented him with a $25,000 check for Grand Lodge charitable works.

On the evening of its anniversary date, September 12, the lodge conducted a Special Meeting at the site of its Constitution, the Free Quaker Meeting House in Philadelphia.

Throughout the Bicentennial Year, Friend to Friend was prevalent, with Concordia Lodge showing an increase in initiations.

Pine Grove's Charity

A Year-Long Activity

Masons of Pine Grove Lodge No. 409 keep “Charity and Help to Mankind” in mind every time they come to the lodge hall. They are asked to bring with them canned goods or other non-perishable food items. Worshipful Master Harry J. Gensamer, Jr. said that for the third year the foodstuffs will be distributed during the holiday seasons by the area’s Council of Churches to needy families.

Masons To Help Big Brothers/Big Sisters

R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisser has asked Masons in Pennsylvania to give of themselves, Friend to Friend, as active Brethren in support of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program in their counties.

He explained clearly in a letter for Lodge notices: “Masons always have been vitally interested in the improvement of mankind. Many have asked... What can I do, as a Mason, to help mankind?” Brethren, you can help support the Grand Master’s program of Masonic volunteers to work with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization in your county.”

He continued, “We have good men in Freemasonry, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters have the needy children.... The only thing the children need is you, a Master Mason volunteering a small portion of your time.

Outstanding P.M. Night for Lodge No. 582

It was an outstanding Past Masters’ Night at Homestead-Amyit-Mccandless Lodge No. 582, Dravosburg. There were 68 Past Masters present, 21 of them Past Masters of Lodge No. 582, and 47 visiting Past Masters. Past Masters made up half of the 135 Brethren who attended the meeting. In addition, there were nine visiting Worshipful Masters from the 49th Masonic District. Dinner, attended by 125 Brethren, preceded the meeting.

Bro. Jay E. McElravy, D.D.G.M., of the 49th Masonic District and a Past Master of Youghiohenny Lodge No. 583, McKeenbour, hailed the response of the members as “...a further sign of the renewed interest and growth in the organization.”

The lodge is the result of a merger of three lodges: McCandless Lodge founded in 1867; Homestead Lodge founded in 1890; and Amity Lodge founded in 1916.

New Mason Confers Two Degrees Same Night

Bro. Patrick M. Toomey, 26, has been a member of Cumberland Star Lodge No. 197, Towanda, since 1920, was presented with a Grand Lodge 75-Year Certificate of Recognition by Bro. James A. Proune, D.D.G.M., 16th Masonic District. Bro. Coddington, now residing in Concord, Mass., visited his family home in Bradford County, where the certificate was presented.

Administrative, Location Changes Effective at Grand Lodge in Philadelphia

A series of administrative changes has been enacted throughout Grand Lodge at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia.

The business office of the Grand Master has been relocated from the first floor to the fourth floor. The Grand Master’s personal office and conference room remain at the northwest corner of the first floor.

On December 27, Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, the R.W. Grand Secretary, also became the Executive Director of Grand Lodge Operations. On February 1, Bro. Robert G. Boone took over full responsibility for AutoMasonry, the project to computerize and interconnect Grand Lodge and Blue Lodges in the Jurisdiction.


The Masonic Museum and Library of Pennsylvania is being expanded at its location on the first floor, taking over space vacated when the Office of the Grand Master was moved to the fourth floor. The remodeled space will provide more resource and reference space for the Library, a Library-Museum gift shop and office space for the Library and staff.

Dr. Glenys A. Waldman, formerly the Assistant Librarian and Curator, is now the Librarian.

Joanne Ford is the Executive Secretary to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of the Pennsylvania Masonic Museum and Library.

New Mason Confers Two Degrees Same Night

Bro. Patrick M. Toomey, 26, has been a member of Cumberland Star Lodge No. 197 for less than a year. Just six weeks after he began learning the Entered Apprentice Mason’s Degree, he not only conferred that degree, but he also conferred the Master Mason’s Degree -- both in the long form on the same night.

According to Bro. Toomey, “I began learning the First Degree to earn the right to be appointed an officer. Then, I decided to learn the Third Degree at the same time because I really wanted to confer the Master Mason’s Degree for my brother, Ron. It was the chance of a lifetime and I’m sure glad I did it!”

Bro. Toomey was taught the degrees by his recommender, Bro. Dean E. Vaughn, P.M. of Cumberland Star Lodge, and used Bro. Vaughin’s learning system to master both degrees after a total of only 35 hours of instruction.
Cornerstone Laid for the $10-Million Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center

The new Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, expected to be occupied this spring, will house seven Blue Lodges, the offices of the 15,000-member Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh, the York Rite Bodies, Islam Grotto, a 500-seat theater, and a 500-seat banquet facility. The center replaces the old Masonic Temple in Oakland, which was sold to the University of Pittsburgh.

A full complement of the Grand Lodge Elected and Appointed Officers and four Past Grand Masters participated in the ceremonies, as well as 12 District Deputy Grand Masters. Also participating were the seven Blue Lodges that will meet in the center, the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Pittsburgh, the York Rite Bodies, the Grotto and the Shrine.

A dinner hosted by Bro. George H. Holt, Jr., the 55th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master, was held at the Holiday Inn in Ross Township. Remarks of achievement were offered by Bro. David S. Kielman, 47th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master, who is President of the Masonic Fund Society of Allegheny County, builder of the center. The historic event for Pittsburgh area Freemasons concluded with the address by R.W. Grand Master Hohenshildt.

NORTH TO ALASKA

The Grand Lodge Of Free And Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania Presents

Alaska Glacier Route Cruise Tour

(First Week of August 1997)

Plus Pre-Cruise Options

This trip is open to Masons and Friends (Non-Masons). There will be four options available:

1. Fly to Seattle from either Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or Harrisburg, your trip to Vancouver to board the ship and then cruise the inland waters to Seward, Alaska. Their fly directly home.

2. Same as #1 above except spend two extra days in Anchorage then fly directly home.

3. Same as #1 above except spend four to seven days on a land tour and then fly directly home.

4. Same as #1 above except spend two days in Anchorage, four to seven days on a land tour and then fly directly home.

Your Trip To Alaska Will include:

- All transportation - Cabins per grade selected
- All meals, vacation toll, taxes, port fees, etc.
- First class entertainment
- Captain’s Welcome Aboard Party

Choose from one of the above options.

The cruise fee is $1000.00 for each person. This fee has been guaranteed as of 1994 prices.

Booked is ask any payable to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in the amount of $300.00 for each reservation. Receipt of deposit will be made up to May 1, 1997, on all reservations except for those.

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip Code:
Home phone:
Business:
Masonic Affiliation (if any):
Send to: David Jacobs 20 Rain Lily Road Levittown, PA 19056-2392

For Additional Information call: 215-946-7464

Library and Museum Gift Shop

There’s a “little store” in The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. Since last August, the “little store” has been only a catalog outlet; but now it is acquiring display and sales space in the expansion of the Library and Museum on the first floor of Grand Lodge.

The attractive first catalog of Masonic items and supplies (with cover picture of Ben Franklin, the Craftsman, is shown here) made its debut last August at Grand Master’s Day. If you would like a catalog, contact the Library and Museum at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. The catalog will be revised as necessary to add new items.

Response to the catalog has been enthusiastic; e.g., Item ML12b, “Benjamin Franklin Craftsman Coin,” sold out quickly. If you are interested in that item, let the Library and Museum personnel know. Consideration will be given to having the coin restruck if there are sufficient requests.

Talking About Bro. Franklin

At the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library and Museum, Bro. and Dr. Whitfield J. Bell, one of the leading authorities on Benjamin Franklin, presented a paper on the famous American who also was an early Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania (1734 and 1749). At the same October 14 meeting, there was a fascinating interaction between two excited visitors, “Bro. Ben Franklin” portrayed by Bro. Dean Briet (left in photo) spoke of some of the interesting events of “his” life. Bro. Carl W. Homan, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Temple, who portrayed “Bro. and President George Washington,” also spoke. At right is Bro. John H. Platt, Jr., of the Library and Museum.

Bro. Bell, then a member of the Board of Directors of The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, was for some time the Editor of The Franklin Papers. He also held the position of Executive Officer of the American Philosophical Society, founded by Bro. Franklin in Philadelphia. During the meeting, the Friends also hosted ladies who had accompanied Brethren to Philadelphia for the York Rite Festival being held in the Masonic Temple.

Regional Schools of Instruction

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Bro. Joseph W. Witte is New Drug & Alcohol Director


The new director has seen first-hand the effects that drug and alcohol abuse have on society. Through more than a quarter of a century of police work, he has not only worked in crime prevention, detection and apprehension, but also has participated in numerous community policing programs. He has been a speaker for the D.A.R.E. Foundation and has dealt extensively with the media. Bro. Witte is Senior Warden of Richard Vauxvianhe Lodge No. 384, Philadelphia. He is a member of the Scottish Rite Bodies of the Valley of Philadelphia, and a Shriner of L.U.L.U.
Patient Self-Determination

What is Patient Self-Determination? It is the principle that an individual has the right and ability to make choices about their own health and beliefs while taking into consideration the consequences of those choices. Many people realize, when they take time to think about it, that they have feelings about quality of life and the quality of care they receive. Patient self-determination is taking those feelings to the point of medical care and/or the right to refuse treatment means that the choices one makes regarding medical care and refusal of medical treatment are now protected by law.

For a significant percentage of Americans, the passage of this Act was a great relief. It is a comfort to know that what one has chosen regarding care is legally protected. Advanced directives can be many things, among which it can be a Power of Attorney or creating a Living Will. It is important to inform close to you the choices you have made. Talk to your physician, your family members, or close friends. It is only by writing these wishes formally as well as informing those around you that you can feel the freedom that this Act allows.

Not only should you make these around you aware of your wishes concerning advanced directives, but also you should be aware of the loved-one’s wishes as well, so that you can be instrumental in fulfilling their needs. Opening a dialogue with someone you love or other loved-one may be difficult, but it can be done gently and with great respect for his wishes. Advanced directives may only be one of many issues you should be discussing with your loved-one. USA Today in a special report on aging issues in July, 1995 provided the following tips on how to talk to your loved-ones about aging issues. The copyrighted article, reprinted below with permission, is geared toward talking with parents and friends, the points made are applicable to many situations.

Ask Advice—A good way to open the dialogue is to seek your parents’ counsel: “I’m getting around to making a Will; how did you go about this?” And, “I always admired the way you planned for retirement. How did you do it?”

Plan Ahead—Prepare your parents ahead of time so they can give you their full attention. “It’d be a chance to talk to you about anything (whatev­­er). What is the best time to talk?”

How to a Good—Decide what you want to leave the conversation with—permission to get your affairs in a Living Will, for example. Know how to get one and steer the conversation to this one, specific goal.

Ease Into The Conversation—The more relaxed you are, the better. Again, present only one idea at a time. Conversations need a clear focus.

Listen* Carefully—if your parents perceive you are really listening, they may give you important information, and they may be more willing to compromise during the more emotional conversations that lie ahead.

Offer Limited Assistance—Offer your opinion, don’t give “advice.” Acknowledge their competence. Ask questions like, “Given what we already know, what is your next step?”

Use “I” Statements—they are not judgmental, while “you” statements are. For example, “I am worried about you when you drive late at night” is more effective than, “You are not a good enough night driver.”

Don’t Interrupt—Ours your need to argue, express your opinions, or offer solutions. Explain why you think the conversation they should be on track for the decisions they make for themselves. Ask questions that help your parents consider the choices you believe they should make. If their plan doesn’t work, what else might you do?

Separate Your Issues From Your Parents—If you are the one having the problem, say so. Your parents may feel fine about night driv- ing, you are the one who worries. Don’t try to shift the concern.

Step Back If ‘There’s a Fight’—Take a deep breath and realize you don’t have to respond immediately to every objection or view it as an attack. Nod your head and listen. This provides validation. Or try saying, “Where do you think we should go from here?” And, “We may disagree, but I will listen and I will offer an opinion if you need it.”

Allow Time—Let them react and adjust to the content of your conversation. Issues are merely raised at a single sitting.

Masonic Homes Opens New Transitional Unit

The Masonic Homes of Elizabethtown is pleased to announce the Opening of a Transitional Unit in early 1996. The Transitional Unit will be located in the Masonic Health Care Center and will offer care to individuals during their transition from the hospital to a nursing care facility, residential, or independent living setting.

Individuals today are being discharged earlier from hospitals and frequently requested to decide if their plans are realistic. Clinicians and procedures we will be offering in this unit. The Transitional Unit will provide specialized care through a well-qualified care team under the direction of a Transitional Unit Manager.

The unit will be placed emphasis on rehabilitation and recovery. The Transitional Unit will provide a positive environment for individuals with the primary goal of attaining the most independent living situation possible.

For more information on the Transitional Unit of the Masonic Homes, please contact:

Administrator, Health Care Services
Masonic Homes, One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(717)-367-1121 Ext. 33117

Masonic Homes

Free Tables, Chairs Available

As a result of renovations to Masonic Homes’ Grand Lodge Hall Dining Room in Elizabethtown, approximately 40 round wood tables, 58 inches in diameter, as well as approximately 300 wooden chairs are available. These items are available for Masonic Homes, as well as for events in the community, and are available for free on a first-come, basis. Interested lodges should contact Gentry Ray, Director of Environmental Services at Masonic Homes, (717)-367-1121 Ext. 33104. Lodges will be responsible for picking up and transporting.

Masonic Homes

Construction Update Site Plan

Unveiled Cottage Expansion

Plans have been announced for the new Independent Living cottages at the Masonic Homes’ Transitio nal Unit. The site plan shows the potential for developing up to a total of 100 cottages. Phase I, which consists of 18 cottages each, are estimated to be completed in Spring and Summer of 1987. These cottages include three basic floor plans. Some of these plans have basements available for those who desire extra room for entertaining or to pursue hobbies. Many of the cottages in the phase two are still being reserved, but there are several cottage plans from which to choose. Four of the cottage floor plans include skylights and vaulted ceilings. For more information, contact Pat Gibble or Hollie Smith at Masonic Homes’ Independent Living at 1-800-676-0452.

Though the seasons change, work continues at a feverish pace on the new apartments project. The Brown Apartments are now finished, and many residents have moved in. The bright and colorful atrium has become a focal point in the new building.

The Eisenlohr Projects are now well under way. The Eisenhower Commons Dining Facility is completed and serving residents of the Brown and Charles Eisenlohr Apartments. Eventually, the residents of the Louis Eisenlohr and Smith Apartments also will be served at Eisenhower Commons.

Volunteers Needed in Elizabethtown

“Most of us will never do great things, but we can do small things in a great way.”

The 1990’s and the turn of this century will be remembered as the decade of service, and so we continue to rely on volunteerism as a support to supplement and further enhance the well-being and the meaning of life for our residents. The Masonic Health Care Center in Elizabethtown, a 430-bed facility, is seeking volunteers to join its Volunteer Services program. A commitment of three to four hours weekly in a chosen area is requested, and a complimentary meal is offered to all volunteers.

Volunteer opportunities are available in these areas: escorts are needed in the Physical Therapy Department to transport wheelchair residents back to their rooms after treatment; the beauty shop requests volunteers to escort residents to and from their areas; hosts/hostesses are needed to take the snack cart through the Masonic Health Care Center and pass out candy and cards to residents. The newly-constructed gift shop/boutique is seeking assistance; and volunteers are sought for Sundays to escort residents to and from church services. Most shifts are during the day. Monday through Friday, with several additional opportunities available in the evenings and weekends.

(717)-367-1121 ext. 33175 today for additional information and to see what small things you can do in a great way.

Ladies Pin

A wreath surrounds a key to the symbol of the Masonic Lodge, upon which is superimposed the figures of the Compasses and “G” on a blue enamel background.
Eight New District Deputy Grand Masters

Bro. Edward O. Weisser, R.W. Grand Master, has appointed eight new District Deputy Grand Masters as follows:

Masonic District C
Joseph DiPiano, Jr.  ...  St. Alonzo-Swift Lodge No. 529  ...  3730 Rittenhouse Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-1672

For Lodges Nos. 59, 135, 328, 509, 723 and 782

Masonic District D
Kenneth W. Bleiler  ...  Franklinford Lodge No. 292  ...  615 Browning Street Philadelphia, PA 19134-0240

For Lodges Nos. 2, 5, 21, 202, 306, 401, 117 and 751

Masonic District F
Hal E. Zverblad  ...  Fryd Lodge No. 420  ...  412 West Twenty-fifth Avenue Conshohocken, PA 19428-1416

For Lodges Nos. 190, 275, 330, 316, 520, 581, 624 and 780

Aquid to Grand Master
Bro. Horace Jones, Lodge No. 181
Bro. Elvin A. Warfel, Newtown Lodge No. 427
Bro. J. Water Potts, Pembroke Lodge No. 712
Bro. Harry P. Wallace, Newtown Lodge No. 427
Bro. Lynn B. Gerber, Williamston Masonic Center Lodge No. 368
Bro. Gary T. Montgomery, Masonic District D
Bro. Terry D. Best, Masonic Temple No. 602
Bro. William C. McCracken, McKee’s Lodge No. 597
Bro. William E. Wenner, Southbound-Red Star Lodge No. 609
Bro. F. Richard Kuecker, Cranwell Lodge No. 572

Eight Created New District Deputy Grand Masters
Bro. Gary L. Wains, Masonic Grand Master, Washington-Canonsburg Lodge No. 368
Bro. Gary T. Montgomery, Masonic District D
Bro. Terry D. Best, Masonic Temple No. 602
Bro. William C. McCracken, McKee’s Lodge No. 597
Bro. William E. Wenner, Southbound-Red Star Lodge No. 609
Bro. F. Richard Kuecker, Cranwell Lodge No. 572

Friend to Friend Committee on Membership Development
Bro. George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master
Bro. Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Master


Committee on Finance
Bro. Gary L. Wains, Masonic Grand Master, Washington-Canonsburg Lodge No. 368
Bro. Gary T. Montgomery, Masonic District D
Bro. Terry D. Best, Masonic Temple No. 602
Bro. William C. McCracken, McKee’s Lodge No. 597
Bro. William E. Wenner, Southbound-Red Star Lodge No. 609
Bro. F. Richard Kuecker, Cranwell Lodge No. 572

Bro. Green Jones, Masonic District D

Bro. Joseph E. Murphy

Bro. William H. Kommer

Bro. David E. Vaughn

Bro. Armand T. Glavo

Bro. Homer Jones

Committee on Building and Grounds Subcommittees
Bro. Carl A. Fichter, Chairman
Bro. Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Junior Grand Warden
Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary
Bro. Thomas W. Jackson
Bro. Robert L. Engel
Bro. Homer Jones
Bro. F. Richard Tourney
Bro. John J. Hoffman

Home Masonic Homes Subcommittees: Home Admission, Home Assistance and Resident Service Subcommittees
Bro. George H. Hohenshildt, R.W. Grand Master
Bro. Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Master

Bro. John L. McCoy, R.W. Past Grand Master
Bro. Robert L. Engel
Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary
Bro. Gary T. Montgomery
Bro. Drew W. Washabaugh
Bro. Roy M. Emerick

Bro. Joseph E. Murphy

Bro. William H. Kommer

Bro. David E. Vaughn

Bro. Armand T. Glavo

Bro. Homer Jones

Bro. Joseph E. Murphy

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The Order of DeMolay is in a real position to help secure the future of all organizations within Masonry. Why? Because DeMolay members know Masons. They look up to them. They appreciate the time Masons spend with them and they are already familiar with much of the nonconclave, symbols, philanthropies, morals and values of the Craft.

DeMolays usually meet in Masonic buildings. Often they are involved in, or working for, one or more Masonic philanthropies. Many DeMolays have Masonic employers for after-school jobs. In some cases, the Masons who are DeMolay advisors are the only consistent and reliable role models these young men have in their lives.

Even though only 1 out of every 1,000 young men in the United States age 12 to 21 years becomes a DeMolay, many of the nation’s leaders in local business, religion, and politics were DeMolays in their teens. These men remember that their DeMolay experiences shaped the men they are today.

DeMolay members have good opinions of Masonry. Many DeMolay members join Masonry in later life. Freemasonry’s support of DeMolay today is a guaranteed investment to produce more Masons tomorrow!

Just as DeMolay can help secure the future of Masonry, Masonry can help firm up the foundation of today’s DeMolay— the next generation of Masons. By collectively working on membership, together we can grow!
Four Lodges in Williamsport Sponsor Successful Blood Drive

Four lodges in Williamsport sponsored a Red Cross Bloodmobile donation day at the First Baptist Church, when 86 pints of blood were collected — six more than the goal set for the day. One Mason, Bro. Bruce L. Frimyer, is shown becoming a ten-gallon donor that day; but still has a way to go to catch up to Bro. Robert O. Fries, (standing right) a 10-gallon contributor, and Bro. Robert L. Miller, (center) a 16-gallon donor.

The Williamsport lodges that sponsored the Bloodmobile were Lodge No. 106, (left) Lodge No. 397 of the First Baptist Church, Bro. and Rev. Allen H. Goss, a Grand Lodge Chaplain.

Why I Joined Masonry!

Following are excerpts from a talk given at Past Masters' Night of Sunset Lodge No. 623, Washington, PA, by Bro. William R. Smock, Chaplain.

When I became interested in the Masonic Fraternity, I was not quite sure what to expect. So I did a little research. I found that 14 of our nation's presidents were Masons (as were) many of the world's top industrialists — astronauts, athletes, doctors, lawyers, entertainers and clergymen. I saw teachers, salesmen, laborers, police officers — all Masons ... gathered together in brotherhood.

I discovered that Masonic organizations (give) literally millions of dollars per year (which are) donated to charitable causes.

Most important, all Freemasons have a firm belief in one God. When put together, these three distinct Masonic characteristics — brotherhood, philanthropy and belief in one God — it is easy to see why anyone would want to belong to this Fraternity.

I now call men "Brother" whom I used to call "Sir," or "mister." When a man comes to me as a Master Mason ... it (is) a motivation, (because) it is our Masonic leaders of the past who paved the way for a man of my youth hopefully to become a leader in the future.

It is truly a great privilege ... to be a Mason, for a man with a Brother — or better yet, Brethren — is never alone. From the Book of Psalms 133:3 comes this verse: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" ... The friendships I have formed with my Brethren through Degree Work, conversation in Lodge or (fraternal) recreation are extremely valuable to me.... I am truly thankful.

Visit to a Centenarian

Eight brethren from Howell Lodge No. 405, Honey Brook, traveled in cars to visit their Masonic Brother Rodney George Clingaman (center in photo), who was 100 years old on August 30. He noted that their travel was far different from the way he traveled to Lodge 78 years ago to become a Mason. In 1917, the principal mode of travel in Chester County was horse and buggy. Bro. Russell W. Baker, D.D.G.M., left, Fifth Masonic District and Howell Lodge Worshipful Master Philip B. DeMarra (right) presented Bro. Clingaman with a letter of 100th birthday congratulations from R.W. Bro. George H. Hohenstidt and a Masonic Service Certificate recognizing his 78 years of good Masonic standing.

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Collectible Nutcracker

Newly Installed R.W. Grand Master Edward O. Weisserhead lined up the installation celebration with a "High Hat Gala," and dedicated a specially designed nutcracker in the garb of a Wonderful Master and decorative centerpiece for each table at the dinner.

According to German folklore, nutcrackers were used to keep household items in good order, to bring good luck to the family and protect the home. This collector's item wears the frame of a Worthy Master of a Fallen Magnitude. It is intended to celebrate the virtues of Freemasonry and underscore the attributes of leadership as personified by the Master of the Lodge.

This symbol was created by Steinbach Collectibles in Hohenheim in the northern region of Germany. Each collectible is hand-crafted and hand-painted by skilled artisans. While the supply of the limited edition lasts, they are available for purchase in the gift shop of The Masonic Library and Museum in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

Eighth Friend to Friend

Throat Medallion Awarded

Prior to concluding his term as R.W. Grand Master during the Annual General Communication on December 27, Bro. George H. Hohenshmidt presented the most recent Outstanding Achievement Throat Medallion Award of the Friend to Friend Program. The award is presented to those Brethren who have first-time signers of the petitions of 12 or more initiates.

The eighth award was presented in Grand Lodge to Bro. David R. Allman of Crescent Lodge No. 576, Pittsburgh. Bro. Allman, who has been a Mason since 1983, served as Worshipful Master of Lodge this past year.

Several weeks earlier, the Grand Master had presented Throat Medallion Awards to: Bro. James A. O'Connor, State College Lodge No. 700, a Mason since 1989 and was serving his Lodge as Junior Warden. Bro. Frank F. E. Schneider, Avalon Lodge No. 657, Bellevue, a Mason for seven years, and Bro. John Viersfl, Centennial Lodge No. 544, Carnegie, a Mason for two years.

In the Spring, the Grand Master had presented Throat Medallions to: Bro. Robert P. Parosetti, Sr., Barger Lodge No. 325, Stroudsburg, and Bro. William A. Bailey, Sr., Christiana Lodge No. 417.

The first Outstanding Achievement Throat Medallion was presented in 1964 to Bro. Peter Spock, Reading Lodge No. 549, who became a Mason in 1953 and was serving his Lodge as Senior Master of Ceremonies at the time.

Bro. Joseph W. Capone, P.M., from Philadelphia Potter Lodge No. 72 (third from right) is seen presenting a check to Miss Miriam Lopez, President of the D.E. A. Law Enforcement Explorer Troop stationed in Philadelphia. Brothers Capone is a Philadelphia Police Detective and one of the moderators of this Explorer group. Philadelphia Potter Lodge is the main sponsor for this Explorer group. Also seen in picture are from left to right: Special Agent Tony Turner, Special Agent James Farnsworth, Miss. Ellen Williams, Coordinator of Explorer groups for the Boy Scouts of America and Special Agent Bro. Henry Vinson, moderator and is a Prince Hall Mason.

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Freemasonry is Primary...

By Bro. Thomas W. Jackson
R.W. Grand Secretary

In recent years I have become more of a student of Freemasonry than I was in the past, although I still hold the firm belief that to think of myself as a Masonic scholar, there are those who tend to look to me as such in that category. Whether I have become a student or a scholar of the Craft is not as significant as my recognition of the great dearth of Masonic students and scholars in present-day Freemasonry as compared with the past. I do not believe that one of the greatest problems facing Freemasonry today is the lack of knowledge of what it truly is, and this includes both the Mason as well as the non-Mason. We simply have far too great a percentage of our Membership unwilling to make the effort to understand the true philosophy and meaning of our Fraternity.

A story is told of an old French doctor who devoted his life to curing his patients going much of himself and requiring little in return. If they could not pay, he did not charge. When the day approached that the old doctor could no longer continue in his profession, his patients wanted to give something to the old man in return for the devotion and selfless contributions he made to their lives. However, they were too poor to give the old doctor the type of recognition which they felt he deserved. Each, however, presented what they were able to give; and each decided that each would make a contribution of one pitcher of wine and they would present the doctor with a barrel of wine from which he could draw as he relaxed following retirement.

When the inevitable day came and the speeches of recognition and gratitude were completed, the old doctor accepted the wine from the jars and served it so long and so well, he returned to his home. He drew a glass from the vat of wine and sat down in a chair to relax. When he tasted the wine, however, it tasted sour. Thinking that something must be wrong, he took a second glass, but it also tasted like water, and sadly the truth was revealed.

Each one of his patients felt that he had too little for his own use and that he therefore could not properly give that which he felt he deserved. Each reasoned that since so many others were giving, his small contribution would not be missed.

How sad, and yet how true, that this analogy can also be applied to our Fraternity today. So many feel that their little contribution will not be missed, and as a result Freemasonry, like the old doctor, moves far too much to so many, experiences the disappointment.

The more familiar we become with this organization, the more impressed we become with the magnitude of the impact that it has made on the world as we know it today.

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