Three Things That May Surprise You

You may be worth more than you think. At least that's what many people discover when they take the time to add up their assets. Retirement funds have grown, real estate values have increased, investments have multiplied, insurance policies have expanded, and things of value have accumulated over the years.

First, have you checked your financial worth lately? Chances are you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Second, if you find yourself above the $600,000 level, another surprise may await you - the high estate taxes due after you die. For example, if you have assets worth $1.4 million, it is possible your estate will have to pay taxes of nearly $320,000. And, if that part of your estate includes a qualified retirement fund and the named beneficiary is someone other than your spouse, did you know that the recipient will have to pay the IRS the deferred income tax on that entire retirement account? And, yes, this is in addition to the estate tax.

For estates in excess of $3,000,000, the estate tax rate is 55 percent. Consequently, it's not unusual for a person with a larger estate to discover, sadly, that more than half of his or her hard-earned money will eventually wind up in the hands of Uncle Sam — even though the person had previously paid income tax on much of this wealth.

Now here's the third surprise: a little planning can make an enormous difference. For example, did you know that you can actually redirect money that is headed for Uncle Sam by earmarking it to a charity of your choice? Did you know that estate gifts to qualified charities are 100 percent deductible?

Gift and estate planning are well worth the investment of your time — even if your estate is modest and taxes are not an issue. Planning allows you to make the decisions about your estate, not the government.

A good place to begin is to contact the Development Department for our free brochure on estate planning. It's a good introduction to this area and can help you get started.

Contact Bro. Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development or Bro. John R. McFadden, Planned Giving Officer. They will be happy to assist you through the gift planning process in complete confidence and at no cost or obligation. You can reach them at (800) 599-6454 or (717) 367-1121, ext. 33311.

THE GRAND LODGE F.&A.M. OF PENNSYLVANIA
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022-2199

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Elizabethtown, PA and Additional Mailing Offices

Return Service Requested
Forty-eight weeks ago, I said that I had no doubt that together, we could move forward with unity in the best interest of our Fraternity. In my vision, I saw “The Perfect Match” for achievement in the philosophy of Freemasonry that I defined as “Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community.”

It begins with Faith, because Faith is our strength — ever important in the life of a Mason.

“Family” in our philosophy represents the esteem with which we hold our family, whether our family is the family of the Craft or family in Cyberspace... (and) have reached out in new endeavors of caring, such as opening the Respite Care Center and having a letter of intent for another... (dedicated Dec. 12).

Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children, each for four-year terms, for sons, daughters, and dependents of Masons who plan to enter college to study Administration of Justice.

Our commitment to youth continues to be substantial through the services of... The Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children. Our commitment enables the PTF to support and enhance its leadership of DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls, Job’s Daughters and Knights of Pythias.

The Masonic Conference Center offers... seminars in the... Partners for Progress Seminar” at the Masonic Conference Center on Feb. 6.

The highly successful OVERTURE Program is fostering a fraternity with better trained leaders... Ninety-two percent of our Masonic Lodges have participated in the Seminars and 35% of the Lodges qualified to receive the $500 incentive payment for maximum participation... It is incumbent upon us to support... the Overture Program, that our Lodges will continue to host the... “Partners for Progress” or similar programs to provide leadership and new members for the Fraternity and to keep Masonry strong.

This is the 125th Anniversary of this magnificent Masonic Temple. It is well known that in too many cases, there are Brethren who have labored hand-in-hand with unkindness... the staff of the Grand Lodge, who adopted customer service as their hallmark and put meaning into the charge, “It’s not what you can do for Grand Lodge; but what Grand Lodge can do for you.”

Brehren, the stage is set for 1999 — a promising year to close out the Twenty-First Century as a partner to a dynamic start to the new millennium. Abiding in the philosophy of Faith, Family, Fraternity and Community, we are a brotherhood of men... Thank you, Brother, one and all.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master

[VISIT US ON THE INTERNET: pagrlandodge.org]

For us to continue to do our good works, we must sustain a stable membership in all of our bodies. Therefore, Membership Development and Retention remains a high priority. As a result of community involvement, family partnership, communication, and greater visibility, we have seen an increase in petitions to a point where new members just about replace the deaths. I think we can look forward to a stable membership in 1999.

The story of suspicions is disappearing. I fear that in too many cases, there are Brethren who leave Masonry when they are not concerned enough to find out why. If a Brother is having problems, the Lodge should be there to help. Grand Lodge is offering personal contact with everyone... I asked you to resolve to do so now.

Every Pennsylvania Mason should have received his 1999 Masonic Calendar... with a blank petition and another personal letter asking you again to REPLACE YOURSELF. Your assignment is one of dedication and solicitation... As a man of quality yourself, it is enjoyable to introduce others to the Masonic Fraternity... like you, men of quality whom you would...

Debra Molloy, Executive Director of the Westmoreland Council, Girl Scouts of America, will address the seminar to define successful leadership programs.

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A basis for discussions will be the results of a recently completed survey of new members to determine what attracts new Lodge members. Coordinated by an independent survey organization, the poll represents a group of men who joined the Fraternity between Jan. 1, 1997, and Aug. 31, 1999.

Each leader attending will receive a leadership handbook offering “75 Ways to Attract and Retain Members.” The seminar will include a workshop on how to create what will be attractive to new members.

The Grand Master’s Medalion: A Symbol of Philosophy and Vision

Brotherhood Serving Menkind隶属于儿童和少年的《Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children》。我们准备迎接这个新的 millennium.

The Grand Master’s Message continued from page 1

THE GRAND MASTER’S MEDAILION:

A Symbol of Philosophy and Vision

"Brotherhood Serving Menkind" enervating an adult and children on the 1999 Grand Master’s Medalion, entitled "Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community." James L. Ernette’s expression of Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation’s "Faithful dedication to caring for the Family, Fraternity, and Community." The Medalion is a bronze token designed at the direction of the Grand Master to identify his administration on one side and reflect his philosophy for the Fraternity on the reverse. "Faith, Family, Fraternity, and Community." For us to continue to do our good works, we must sustain a stable membership in all of our bodies. Therefore, Membership Development and Retention remains a high priority. As a result of community involvement, family partnership, communication, and greater visibility, we have seen an increase in petitions to a point where new members just about replace the deaths. I think we can look forward to a stable membership in 1999.

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"If You Believe
... Dream a Dream"

To a musical background of "If You Believe," Thomas R. Labagh set the stage eloquently for Grand Master Ernette to proclaim that the new facility will be known as the "Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center" and for the unveiling of a portrait of Bro. Williamson that hang in the lobby. He said:

"Listen!
Do you hear your dreams?
Do you dare to have dreams?
If YOU BELIEVE it will happen — IT CAN HAPPEN!
Bro. Thomas Ranken Patton dreamed of a school for orphans of Masons, to give them a chance at success in life. He BELIEVED in his dream, and it was realized.
Bro. Samuel C. Williamson dreamed of establishing a foundation to support his vision. He wanted to build a new facility, which had closed its doors after 50 years of faithful service. He BELIEVED in his dream, and it was realized.

In 1997, Bro. James L. Ernette, then R.W. Deputy Grand Master, began to drive a state-of-the-art center for Masonic Homes — and it is, as you will soon see. He dreamed of a facility for Masons, for youth, for D.A.R.E., for G.R.E.A.T., and for all who would serve the youth of Pennsylvania. He not only dreamed — as any great leader and dreamer — but led his dream with those on his team who could help him achieve it. HE BELIEVED IN HIS DREAM — HE BELIEVED IN HIS TEAM. They all believed in their dream and shared human.

From the Grand Master’s Dedication Oration

“This Masonic Conference Center now combines a youthful environment with a high-tech, comfortable adult training center. In its own right, the new Masonic Conference Center is like the magnificent and historic Masonic Temple in Philadelphia, and the building is a document of Masonic Homes across the road. It is unrivaled by any other Masonic facility in the world.

“We are on the road to the Twenty-First Century. But, let us not be mistaken about our purpose. We did not build this Multimedia Center merely for the technology or comfort it offers. We did not establish this facility solely to improve services to adult or youth programs. And, we did not erect this structure to make history for ourselves, or to preserve a tradition.

“We have constructed and dedicated this Multimedia Center as a better means for training young people to assume useful roles in society. We have established this Masonic Conference Center to provide more opportunities for training adults, with or without Masonic affiliation, to better serve and guide young people through the pitfalls of adolescence — the, all too common, drug and alcohol abuse — the tragedy of teenage suicide --- the destruction of abuse and neglect.

"Let there be no misunderstanding. Masons build for the future. Masons build to the Glory of God! Masons build their own character, while constantly improving and enhancing the quality of life for others. Whether here at the Masonic Conference Center, or across Boonsboro Road at the magnificent Masonic Homes complex, these guiding principles of Freemasonry are acted upon daily.”

Thomas R. Labagh and Grand Master Ernette congratulate Past Grand Master Williamson in front of the copy of the portrait that will hang in the new Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center.
Masonic Matching Charity Grants

The impact of the Masonic Matching Charity Grants Program in communities throughout the Commonwealth is immeasurable. When R.G. Grand Master James L. Ernette launched the Program to the brethren in his inaugural remarks after his installation as Grand Master, he knew it was a "Perfect Match" for Freemasonry. Here is the success of the Program has exceeded what anyone could have imagined in just one year since its inception.

The Masonic Matching Charity Grants Program has become so much more than a dollar for dollar matching gift from the Grand Lodge. It is more than providing financial support to charitable causes. It is more than making Masonry more noticeable throughout Pennsylvania. It is an integral part in the lives of so many people who have benefited and participated in what has truly become "The Perfect Match!"

More than 600 applications for matching grants were submitted last year from more than 300 lodges that participated in the program. Where there was need for support, Masons were out there supporting it. At the Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, Past Grand Master Samuel C. Williamson, Chairman of the Matching Grants Committee, spoke of what he recognized as "one very successful program" by a lodge through the Matching Charity Grants. The program he mentioned was the establishment of a partnership with local elementary school called Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, Reading. When the Lodge decided to participate in the program, the idea of starting an elementary school was conceived. The members chose to adopt Jacksonwald Elementary School based on the majority of the Lodge's members live in the area. They then met with the school board, principal, and teachers, and were given a green light to assist in the school's needs. The Lodge asked the principal and teachers to develop a wish list of what they felt the school needed, and the members of Isaac Hiester Lodge began to implement their plans.

The Lodge committed $20,000 to school improvements over two years and has already donated half through the maximum matching grant. But, it was not only money that the Lodge has committed themselves to donating, but their time as well. The members of Isaac Hiester Lodge physically landscaped the entire school, refurbished the playground, and even built a pavilion near the school's soccer field. While some members were digging holes to plant shrubs, other brethren assisted the school secretaries in writing bus-passes for the children and stocking the bookshelves in the library. The program grew to become so much more than a matching gift, it became a part of the community. They involved local businesses and services to complete the work and donate some of the materials, making it a community project.

As a result, newspapers and TV news stations have been covering the progress of the program, members of the Lodge who have not attended a lodge meeting in years began attending, and more than 18 members have volunteered to be made to be approved as Masons.

The successes of the Isaac Hiester Lodge's program are largely due to the motivation of the brethren to become more actively involved in their community. When people feel as if they are part of Masons do care, Masons will shine and good men will ask to join. The members of Isaac Hiester Lodge No. 660, have accomplished thus far as only mere begins of a bright future. Their program has only begun.

Schuylkill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, conducted another very successful program through the Matching Charity Grants. The Lodge sponsored a delmonico steak dinner when it learned that one of its members had a 4-year old grandson who was struck with Arnold-Chiari Malformation, a rare structural condition which affects the cerebellum, and needed financial support to help defray medical costs associated with the boy's rehabilitation.

The advertised fund raising dinner sparked a light in the community. Every ticket for the steak dinner held at the Masonic Temple was purchased, helping raise approximately $5,000. From the amount of attention that was being focused on helping the young boy, other community groups came forth to give their support. The fire company, Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 424, a Girl Scout and Boy Scouting Troop, Lions Club, and many more local organizations and businesses supported the dinner and sent donations into a special charity fund established in the boy's name by the Lodge.

After days of organization and hours of grilling steaks, the brethren of Schuylkill Lodge presented a check to the boy's family for more than $16,000. The Masons of Orwigsburg began a project that became a community effort and was truly a Perfect Match!

Types of Lodge Matching Charity Grants can be found on the Grand Lodge website at <www.pagrandlodge.org>

Providing More Than Financial Support

Orwigsburg child, Patrick Tripp, receives a donation from Schuylkill Lodge No. 138. Making the presentation are (l-r): Front - R. Richard Gipe, W.M.; Patrick Tripp; and Earl Deibert, P.M. - Center - Henry Lesher, D.D.G.M., Masonic District 11; and Dale Hine, J.W. - Back - Richard Bigg, Sr. Treasurer; Jim Turner, Sr. Secretary; and James Whalen, S.W. To raise the funds, members of Schuylkill Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, grilled several hundred steaks to benefit the Orwigsburg child suffering with Arnold-Chiari Malformation.

Lodge Cites Three for Bravery

St. John's Hospice, a shelter for homeless men in Philadelphia, received $4,000 from Thomas R. Patton Lodge No. 659, Philadelphia. The money will be used to purchase food, clothing and provide medical services to the needy.

St. John's Lodge No. 233, Jenkins Twp., honored three members (front, l-r): James V. Swansbury, Sr. Chaplain; the Gerald Rivello, and Joseph J. Barrett, for their bravery in saving the life of another brother, Benjamin Accardi (rear, right), Chaplain. Accardi, a contractor, was building a garage when a gas line exploded and he was thrown from his equipment. The three came to his rescue while others fled for safety. Framed citations were presented to the three by Gerard N. Venetz, N.W.; Norman J. Caldwell, J.W.; and Angelo A. Solerno, S.W.

C. David Smith (center) was a recipient of one of the 1998 Law Enforcement Scholarships. Presenting the scholarship in Cromwell Lodge No. 572, Orbinsia, are (l-r): George Sarra, W.M.; Evan R. Watters, D.D.G.M.; David P. Salerno, Pot and Bro. David Smith; and F. Rick Knepper, P.M. and D.D.G.M.

Found

A Masonic ring was found in front of the portable lavatories on Columbus Blvd. on Nov. 1, 1998 during the Toys for Tots drive in Philadelphia. Please call Beverly at 610-284-0997. Submitted by Bro. Tony Groesse, whose telephone number is 215-724-0397.

March 29 is Deadline For Law Enforcement Scholarships

March 29 is the deadline for applications for the Grand Master’s 1999 Law Enforcement Scholarship. Instituted Dec. 27, 1997, by James L. Ernette, R.W. Grand Master, the scholarship is designed to help children and grandchildren of Pennsylvania Masons. It provides $2,500 per year for up to four years toward the expense of college for those who major in Criminal Justice.

The program has gained great support from the lodges and the community. During 1998, donations of more than $10,000 were designated toward this scholarship. Also this year, the two full four-year awards and two partial awards were granted to one senior and two junior and senior years, respectively.

All lodge secretaries, D.D.G.M.’s, and district chairmen for the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children have applications. For information, interested brethren may contact any of the above, or call the Foundation office at (215) 988-1978 or (215) 988-1923.
Masons of Note

At the 79th Anniversary banquet of Euclid Lodge No. 698, Harrisburg, Elmer W. Herman, the senior Past Master, was honored for his 45 years of service as Secretary. John D. Wilmer, J. D.D.G.M., 2nd Masonic District, presented Bro. Herman with a plaque of recognition and Donald L. Allier, Grand Marshal and Acting Deputy Grand Secretary. Bro. Herman is Secretary, a member of the Lodge, presented a letter to W. Herman, Grand Master and Acting Deputy Grand Secretary. Bro. Herman is Secretary, a member of the Lodge, presented a letter to W. Herman, Grand Master and Acting Deputy Grand Secretary. Bro. Herman with a plaque of commendation from Thomas W. Jackson, the R.W. Grand Secretary. Bro. Herman is only the third Secretary in the history of the Lodge and has served in that office for more than half of the years that the Lodge has existed.

Congratulations came from a cadre of Past District Deputy Grand Masters and visiting District Deputy Grand Masters when Keith A. McKnight, D.D.G.M., 3rd Masonic District, assisted District Deputy Grand Master when Keith G. Johnson, P. D.D.G.M., presented the congratulatory plaque.

The Senior Wardens of the 8th Masonic District conferred the Master Mason's Degree on Thomas W. Drake, Ill., the third generation of his family to be a member of Fairless Hills Lodge No. 776. His father, Thomas W. Drake, Jr., and grandfather, the late Leslie J. Beazer, served as Worshipful Masters of the Lodge. After the degree was conferred, the new Master Mason was presented with the Masonic ring that both his father and grandfather had worn when they served as the Master. The ring is of yellow gold with a square and compass design.

When George Middleton of Chester Lodge No. 236, celebrated his 100th birthday, Dean Smith, R.D.D.G.M., 36th Masonic District, and Warren F. Schuler, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, visited to offer congratulations. Bro. Middleton has been a Mason for 79 years.

"Brother Teddy Roosevelt" attended Friends Night at Armstrong Lodge No. 239, Freeland. After the meeting, friends and family were invited into the lodge room when professional speaker Keith McGough portrayed the 26th President, Bro. Theodore Roosevelt. "Teddy" delivered a warm program detailing the life of the President, mixed with messages of spirit and values.

When Howard W. (Mike) Brannan, P.M., raised Edward D. Gnoth in Harmony Lodge No. 429, Zelienople, on June 18, it was the 100th degree he conferred. The Lodge's Mason is the son of the Lodge's J.M.C., Edward L. Gnoth. His grandfather, Edward J. Gnoth, served as the Guide.

Masonic Education MOVING FORWARD

The Masonic Education Steering Committee, in conjunction with the Grand Lodge Council of Prussianic Rite, recently completed a comprehensive survey of newly master Masons in Pennsylvania. The survey will be used by the Committee to determine the pre-initiation experience with the Masonic education process currently being used by lodges.

In December, approximately 5,000 Masons initiated between January 1, 1997 and July 31, 1998 were contacted by personal letters from R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette, requesting their cooperation with the survey should they be called upon to participate. Of the 5,000 brethren, a sample was selected randomly and stratified throughout the Commonwealth to represent the entire membership. Davis Consulting Group, hired by the Grand Lodge in connection with a nationally recognized survey firm, conducted a six to eight minute phone survey with those new members selected.

The results of the survey will provide a foundation upon which decisions related to Masonic education, leadership, training, and membership might be based. One of the new educational tools being considered for development by the Committee is a set of three videos relating to candidate instruction. Once the results of the survey are completed, the Committee will be able to better determine if videotapes will improve member interest and commitment to Freemasonry.

The Masonic Education Committee has also finalized the dates and places for the 1999 Masonic Education Seminars to be attended by regional, district, and lodge chairmen on Masonic Education. The seminars will be scheduled on Saturdays with lunch included. The seminars are all scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The committee is looking at the idea of having a regional seminar that all district and lodge chairmen attend a given year in either their region or in an adjoining region. Those who do attend should advise their regional chairman in advance to assure that necessary arrangements have been made. If unable to attend, each district and lodge chairman must obtain an alternate who will attend a seminar. All D.D.G.M.'s are also encouraged to attend.

Region 2 - March 27, Bedford, Districts 19, 20, 34, 39, and 41
Region 3 - April 6, Williamsport, Districts 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 33, 46, and 58
Region 4 - April 24, Oil City, Districts 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 37, 52, 53, and 56
Region 5 - May 8, Pittsburgh, Districts 29, 30, 31, 38, 47, 49, 54, 55, and 57
Region 6 - May 15, Granville, Districts 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, and 42, and 60.
Region 7 - May 29, Lake Harmony, Districts 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 35, 45, 50, and 59.

TWELFTH D.A.R.E. CLASS GRADUATED

Thirty-three law enforcement officers in the Class (right) were graduated in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) training program at the Masonic Conference Center on the Patton Campus, Elizabeth Township. That was the twelfth class to complete the training and brings the total to 421 officers trained at the Commodore Campus since 1990, along with middle school mentor training that will expand the education program into the upper grades. The support of Pennsylvania Masons makes it possible for more schools and smaller communities of the Commonwealth to have the vital educational program.

Golfers, Mark Your Calendars

The Grand Master's three charity golf tournaments in 1999 will be held:

Western, Monday, Aug. 16, at Quicksilver Country Club, Midway, Washington County, south of Pittsburgh.
Central, Monday, Aug. 23, at the Golf Club at Felicita, north of Harrisburg.
Eastern, Monday, Aug. 30 at Lulu Country Club, Plymouth Meeting, west of Philadelphia.

Details will be in the May issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason.

I've Heard The Name, What Does It Mean?
The videotape, I've Heard The Name, What Does It Mean?, is an excellent tool to introduce Freemasonry to a prospective applicant and his family inquiring about a new way of life. It explains what the Fraternity stands for, what Masons do, who Masons are, and what being a Freemason means.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Committee on Masonic Education adopted this fine educational tool, produced by the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America, for use by lodges. The Committee on Masonic Education provided each District Deputy Grand Master with two copies of the video per lodge in May 1998 to be personally delivered to each lodge in district. The video is to be used by Committees of Inquiry when visiting a prospective applicant and his family.

I've Heard the Name, What Does It Mean? will leave prospective applicants and their families with answers! Is your lodge using it? If not, please contact your D.D.G.M. or the Masonic Education Office at 215-988-1919.

R.W.G.M., D.D.G.M. Installed in Royal Order

During sessions of the Royal Order of Scotland held Sept. 30 in Cincinnati, the Provincial Grand Master Edward H. Fowler, Jr., (center), who is a R.W. Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania, installed R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette of Pennsylvania (left) as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Order and William M. Kratzenberg, D.D.G.M., 30th Masonic District (right), as the Provincial Grand Secretary.

The Pennsylvania Freemason / February 1999
Masonic Homes’ “Senior” and “Junior” Residents Share Interests

The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown serve a wide range of individuals. Some need services; others share their gifts with those who can benefit from their benevolence.

Mrs. Martha “Mimi” Lawton, widow of Bro. William E. Lawton, Prince John Lodge No. 482, Middletown, donated a Macintosh computer to the Masonic Children’s Home. Mrs. Lawton was a teacher and a volunteer who resides in the Smith North Building. Formerly the Boys’ Home, the Smith Building is a newly renovated independent living apartment building. As a teacher, Mrs. Lawton was a teacher and a volunteer who lives there and volunteers to read to elementary school children who live in Smith Cottage of the Masonic Children’s Home.

Bro. Bill Lautermilch, Washington Lodge No. 265, Bloomburg, another independent living resident, donated a Macintosh computer to the Masonic Children’s Home. The children will be able to use the computer for homework.

The Recreation Services Department invited the elementary school children in Smith Cottage to share a special program for Masonic Homes. The Recreation Services Department invited the elementary school children in Smith Cottage to share a special program in Smith Cottage to share a special program. The children will be able to use the computer for homework.

Masonic Homes Achieves JCAHO Accreditation

The Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown has received a three-year accreditation for its long term care, dementia, subacute, outpatient, and laboratory services by the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). That independent review agency is highly respected by health care providers and insurers.

The agency’s survey in November evaluated the Masonic Homes’ compliance with nationally established Joint Commission standards. Scores ranged from 92% to 98%, which is quite extraordinary for an initial survey.

The surveyors said they were very impressed with the facility and its staff. They were pleased with the care provided to residents, the staff’s knowledge of their responsibilities, and the quality improvement efforts that the organization has embraced.

The JCAHO team and the involvement of the staff in preparing for this accreditation survey began in June 1997. Teams of employees were established to review policies, procedures, how care is provided for residents, and how employees perform their jobs.

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OUTREACH Sponsors “Community Health Night”

Part of the Masonic Homes’ Outreach Program’s mission is education and support. In meeting that charge, the staff has provided various programs at lodge meetings and other Masonic functions across the Commonwealth throughout the four years of its existence. Last November, the Masonic Homes Outreach Program hosted a “Community Health Night” as part of an evening program offered by the Abraham C. Tiefichler Lodge, No. 682, Elizabethtown. The event offered education and information to the members of the Lodge and to those in the local communities who accepted the open invitation to attend.

Coordinating the efforts of Masonic Homes’ employees and representatives from local service providers, the Outreach Program sponsored the evening’s program. The Alzheimer’s Association, Hospice of Lancaster County, the Central Pennsylvania Oncology Group, and the Lancaster County Office of Aging joined the Masonic Health Care Center representatives in a common effort to meet the needs of those in attendance. Nursing, physical and occupational therapy, social work, volunteer services, the Masonic Homes’ Alzheimer’s Unit, Adult Day Living Center, and the new Respite Cottage were all represented. Blood pressure screenings were provided throughout the evening. Video presentations on depression and caregiving were shown, and the Central Pennsylvania Oncology Group provided self-taught examination education to the ladies in attendance.

The evening served as an opportunity to bring many persons together under one roof. The event was planned so that those who attended left the Masonic Homes better informed and confident about where they would turn for help should the need arise. It was an informative evening. A similar event could be presented to your own community or lodge. If interested, call the Masonic Outreach Program at 1-800-462-7664.

Go Ahead, Take a Vacation... and Let Us Care for Your Loved One

Sometimes a vacation means a break from our daily schedules; a time to sit back and relax, free from worries. For others, a vacation is a chance to do things you normally don’t have the time or means to experience. The Respite Cottage staff at the Masonic Homes understands the many different needs you and your loved one may have.

If you are a caregiver of an adult with mild to moderate mental retardation or similar developmental disabilities and are planning a vacation, or if you wish to offer your adult a break, the Masonic Homes can help. The Respite Cottage offers a safe, nurturing environment with 24-hour personalized care in a comfortable home environment.

Within the beauty of the Masonic Homes, guests enjoy nutritious meals, social and recreational activities, and assistance with daily activities. All this is provided on a no-cost basis.

This program is open to all Pennsylvania residents who can benefit from its services. For further information and scheduling, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33751.

CORRECTIONS

With the picture of the Ritualistic Instructors on Page 7 of the November issue, Bro. Richard I. Tubo was identified as an instructor for Region 4. He is the Instructor for Region 6. Thanks to Joe H. Stormer of Saint Mary’s for calling to our attention.

In the article on Page 15 of the November issue by Donald D. Morgan, PA., taken from the history of Pennsylvania Lodge No. 21, Pittsburgh, the name of “William Macdon” who was the first U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania,” was misspelled. It is “Macdy” not “MacClay.”

In the article on Page 12 about the opening of the Masonic Homes Gallery, both Edward Burtnick and Ralph Borrani were members of Harmony Lodge No. 52, Philadelphia.

The Masonic Eastern Star Home-East in Warrington and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, North of Pittsburgh provide quality skilled nursing and assisted living services. Each home offers personalized care services and amenities to serve residents, including a cozy dining room, barber shop, and beauty salon, a chapel, recreational and fraternal activities, and planned trips.

Both homes have received Medicare certification. However, through negotiations with the PA Department of Welfare, the Masonic Homes only recently received approval for Medicaid certification for the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East. Therefore, the Masonic Homes began searching for alternate ways to continue their cost-effective nursing services for members in the western part of the state.

Negotiations with Valley Care Nursing Home in Sewickley, PA., a quality 128-bed facility located within eight miles of the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, began this fall. Since Valley Care shares the Masonic Homes’ values and mission, the two organizations have been exploring the possibility of continuing to provide assisted living services at the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, and providing nursing home services for the residents currently residing at the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West at the Valley Care facility.

Independent Living at Elizabethtown is a Well Planned Community

At a time when many retirement communities across the country are increasing entrance fees and/or monthly service fees, Independent Living at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown has announced there will be no rate increases for 1999. Independent Living at the Masonic Homes continues to provide residents with peace of mind in knowing that quality accommodations and services are available within a financially stable environment.

Furthermore, additional plans for Independent Living for 1999 include renovations for an expanded community meeting room, lounge, and coffee shop area along with enhancements to the library located in the clubhouse. The community plans to place the expansion of services in Elizabethtown in a position to receive top ratings from both the Standard and Poor’s and Moody’s rating organizations.

If you’ve been “shopping around” for a retirement community, look no more! By February, there will be 450 Independent Living units at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown with a variety of apartments and cottages from which to choose. Whether your choice is efficiency, a one bedroom apartment, or a two bedroom plus den cottage with basement, porch and garage, now is the time to apply. Not only will the Masonic Homes want to make sure that we are doing everything possible to meet the deadline that can’t be missed, but the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, as the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West, has a representative on the task force.

For our residents, employees, and as a business, the Masonic Homes want to make sure that we are doing everything possible to meet the deadline that can’t be missed!
It's Time To Think Picnic

It is still winter, but it is time to think Picnic for Masons, their families, and friends. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 15, for the Central Pennsylvania Masonic Picnic at Knoebels Park, Elysburg. Be sure to save the accompanying coupon; even send in your reservations early. (The next issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason is likely to arrive in the mail too late for you to meet the May 8 deadline.)

Knoebels Park, located on Rt. 487 between Elysburg and Catawissa, will be open from noon to 8 p.m. There are three packages from which to choose: No. 1, the combination of food and rides for $28 per person; No. 2, rides only for $14 per person; and No. 3, food only for $14 per person. (No. 3 package only, is free for children under 4 years of age.) For those ordering food, there will be lunch at noon (hamburger BBQ and hot dogs with sourkraut) and dinner at 5 p.m. (BBQ chicken, baked beans, cole slow, chips, ice cream, coffee, and iced tea). For tickets, use accompanying coupon.

When ordering, be sure to include a stamped, self-addressed No. 10 envelope for the return of your tickets. Tickets that are ordered on, or near, the May 10 deadline will not be mailed, but will be distributed at the picnic.

Only one package per person, please.

KNOEBELS PICNIC IN ELYSBURG, PA
Pavilion "E"
Saturday, May 15 - Noon - 8 p.m.

Package #1: Food and Rides
Price: $28/Person
Hand stamp good for all rides from noon to 8 p.m.

Package #2: Rides Only
Price: $14/Person
Hand stamp good for all rides from noon to 8 p.m.

Package #3: Food Only

Lunch and dinner (Children 4 & Under Free; This Package Only)

Parking Included With All Packages
DEADLINE: MAY 8

Funds from Eastern Star Festivals and Auxiliary to Benefit Three Masonic Homes

The funds raised by the Eastern Star festivals at all of the Masonic Homes, along with the monies raised by the Home Auxiliary Committee of Eastern Star, will be divided among the three homes. Mrs. Judy Rutter, Worthy Grand Matron, has designated the funds to be donated to "wish lists" of items desired by each of the three homes, to directly benefit the residents, and enhance their quality of life.

Through the leadership of Mrs. Rutter, the Eastern Star Festival which is planned to be an annual event, was held at the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown. Hundreds of Eastern Star members from across the Commonwealth enjoyed lunch in the Roosevelt Building Assembly Room, took tours of the Masonic Homes and received information about the facility. Prior to the festival, Mrs. Rutter held a visitation at the Masonic Home with Eastern Star members, who shared refreshments, fellowship and entertainment.

500-Plus At Dedication Recital; 3 Recitals Announced for 1999

More than 500 persons enjoyed an outstanding Dedication Recital on Sunday, Nov. 7, at the renovated concert organ, Dr. John Weaver, on the new three-manual Rodgers organ in Conshohocken Hall at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Dr. Weaver has been head of the Organ Department at Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia since 1972, and Chair of the Organ Department of the Julliard School in New York City since 1987. He also has been Director of Music at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City since 1970.

RECITALS IN 1999

Bro. Platt announced that this was the first in a series of recitals planned to be held at the Temple in 1999 under the sponsorship of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania.

March 21 - Gordon Turk, Organist/Choir Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA, Organist for Ocean Grove Auditorium, Ocean Grove, NJ, and professor of music at West Chester University.

August 1 - Marc Cheban, Organist/Music Director for St. Andrew's School, Middletown, DE. He will play a program of Pops/Theatre favorites. In addition to his duties at St. Andrew's, where he has served for 24 years, Cheban is a regular performer at Longwood Gardens as well as a popular recitalist and silent film accompanist throughout the Delaware Valley. He is a graduate of West Chester University and the Eastern School of Music.

November 7 - Monty Maxwell, Organist for the Chapel of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music. His program may include an organ duo if his partner is available for the date, otherwise, he will perform solo.

Tours of the Masonic Temple are planned each of the days at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. and the recital at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Grand Banquet Hall after each recital. The nearby Parkway Corp. parking lot at Juniper and Arch Sts. will be available at the usual public rates.

Ionic Hall Organ Memorialized

Philadelphia Potter Lodge No. 72 leads the way in donating funds to cover the cost of one of the eight new two-manual and one new three-manual Rodgers organs in the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia. This two-manual organ, which is in Ionic Hall, has been presented in memory of Alfred R. Potter, R.W.P.G.M., by the members on the occasion of the Lodge's 200th Anniversary. The Rodgers model 950 (three-manual) and 751 - 1 (two-manual) are on the cutting edge of electronic organs and will most certainly add to the dignity of the meetings of those lodges meeting in the temple.

The Friends of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania (MLMP) held their annual meeting October 15 in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, and were joined for dinner in the Grand Banquet Hall of the Grand Lodge by the delegates attending the Masonic Library and Museum Association sessions that began the same day. Later, all assembled in Ionic Hall to hear a talk about Bro. and President Theodore Roosevelt by Edward Woves of The Philadelphia Inquirer. John H. Platt, Jr. (left), Executive Director of MLMP, introduced Woves, whose presentation was in commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the birth of Bro. Roosevelt.

For more information, please contact Nancy Hornberger, Chapter No. 499, looks to purchase an item from Lillian Wolfe, Chapter No. 190, at the Eastern Star Festival at the Masonic Homes.
The Grand Master's Itinerary

Feb. 2 John W. Jenkins Lodge No. 334, Pennsylvania, Grand High Day Community Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
Feb. 2 Florida Province, Stated Lodge, 6:00 p.m.
Feb. 3 Open DGMR of Todd H. Nicksher, 5th D.D.G.M., John Warren Lodge No. 580, West Newton, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 5 Open Preservation of Highland Ter. 31st D.D.G.M., Mylo Lodge No. 595, West Newton, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 6 "Partners for Progress" Seminar, Williamson Mahanfied Center, Patton Campus, Ohsenham, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Feb. 8 Preservation of Jeffrey Green, D.D.G.M., District 1, William H. Fowchuck Lodge No. 155, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9 PA State Police Degree Team Council of Masons Degree on Major Robert Hertz, Burger Lodge No. 325, Consho.
Feb. 10 Open Preservation of Donald A. Snyder, 34th D.D.G.M., Corland Lodge No. 366, Etna, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 12 OVERTURE Series Seminar, Philadelphia.
Feb. 17 10 a.m. - Finance Committee; 11:00 a.m. - Presentation of Jeffrey Greene, D.D.G.M., District 24.
Mar. 1 4 p.m. - OVERTURE Series Seminar, Philadelphia.
Mar. 2 John R. Dentz, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, 4:30 p.m.
Mar. 2 Florida Province, Stated Lodge, 6:00 p.m.
Mar. 5 Florida Reception at Arnold Shiner, East Manna, Fl.
Mar. 6 Florida Reception at Geysh Shiner, Yelica, FL
Mar. 20 PIN Club Golf Outing, Pensburgh.
Apr. 10 OVERTURE Series Seminar, Philadelphia (South), 9:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 10 Order of the Amaranth, Inaugural Opening of the Grand Court, Reform Pawn Hall, Trenton, N.J.
Apr. 15-18 Royal Order of Jocund, National Bank of the Play, MA.
Apr. 19 Inverness Rigney, Sheikh Lodge No. 249, Getzian District, E.
Apr. 21 100th Anniversary, Mid-Atlantic Lodge No. 698, Lincoln, PA.
Apr. 21 Rating D.B.G.M. Elloen, Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center
Apr. 24 OVERTURE Series Seminar, Philadelphia (North), 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Apr. 25 Open Association "Great-Brothers, Longtimes,"
Apr. 26 Grand Council of Royal and Select Master Masons, Sheraton Inn, Greensburg.
Apr. 27-29 Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Atlantic City.
Apr. 30 Valley of Roxbury Sunny Noon Society
May 5 150th Anniversary of Mason Hall-Chester Lodge No. 795, 4:30 p.m.
May 7 Valley of Amboss Spring Noon Society
May 15 Delegation of Grand Commandery of HI, Philadelphia.
May 15 150th Anniversary of Miriam Lodge No. 228, 454 District.
May 17 Dedication of Freemasonry Village at HI., Philadelphia.
May 20 Staff Meeting, Grand Lodge Elaborate Officers, Harrisburg March 7-9 p.m.
May 20 Meetings at Masonic Home, Elizabethtown: 8 a.m. - Holding and Ground Sub-Committee; 10 a.m. - Committee on Masons Care; Noon: Staff Appreciation Luncheon, and Awards Program.
May 24 Meetings at Masonic Home, Bethlehem: 8 a.m. - Publishing and Grounds Sub-Committee; 11 a.m. - Committee on Masons Care; 1 p.m. - Finance Committee.
May 20 OVERTURE Series Seminar, Off-Circle Picnic - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Pennsylvania Hosts Masonic Library & Museum Association
The Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania was host to the 36th annual Masonic Library and Museum Association meeting on Oct. 15-16 at John H. Plot, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Pennsylvania Governor's Office, is President of the Association, which is an international group of Masonic librarians, archivists, curators, and directors.

The visitors were welcomed by Marvin A. Connington, Sr., R.W.G.O.S.W., Chairman of the Board of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania, and Anthony C. Curry, Chief of Staff of the Grand Lodge. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W.G. Grand Secretary, spoke about the Masonic Information Center and its plans to respond to attacks on the Freemasonry and its dissemination to the public about Freemasonry.

The first day's program included the introduction of a directory of Masonic libraries in the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain that was compiled by the Association and published by the Masonic Service Association, and a presentation by an appraiser, detailing his work and what librarians and archivists should know about appraisals. After a talk about Masonic Research Lodges, G. Kent Hackney, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, presented a "Managing Change," especially recommended Spencer Johnson's little book, "Who Moved My Cheese?" (a book, No. 1020D, is available from our Circulation Department).

Presentations the second day addressed the usefulness of the Internet and web pages, obtaining grants from philanthropists, preservation of paper materials and making available collections, record-keeping, and the image-building and public relations impact of children's story houses as held in the Library of the Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction, John H. C. Minott, Curator of the Masonic Library and Museum, discussed new museum software.

In the evening, R.W. Grand Master James L. Erneste and Mrs. Erneste hosted the participants and guests in the restaurant and tour of the new Pennsylvania Masonic Library and Museum, and discussed new museum software.

The next day's program included a "Compil"k will be sent free to all lodges which meet at least one requirement to the Grand Conductor Series and will be available to other lodges that request it.

COMMUNICATIONS STRESSED
Among the speakers, the emphasis of the discussions and presentations of ways in which more effective communications could help the lodge not only to increase the likelihood of member satisfaction and engagement, but also to help keep a lodge going. Those who do not remain active after becoming a Master Mason, Hackney said, "It has had a dramatic effect on the way our leaders and members see our leaders and their concerns of being a Master Mason. The Masonic Library and Museum Association meeting on Oct. 15-16 at John H. Plot, Jr., Chief of Staff of the Pennsylvania Governor's Office, is President of the Association, which is an international group of Masonic librarians, archivists, curators, and directors.

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"CHANGE MANAGEMENT" STRESSED
Participants were encouraged to change — and a bit wary — to receive a copy of a neat little book filled with helpful ideas for them on change. "Who Moved My Cheese?" by Spencer Johnson, MD, was distributed to each Lodge. This new book, which became a best-seller on the Wall Street Journal's "Best Seller List" the first week it was released, was used in Pennsylvania for the Conductor Series because it had been released nationally. Dr. Johnson had visited Grand Lodge during a recent trip to Philadelphia and was impressed and amazed at what he discovered there. "This book," Hackney said, "has delighted everyone we have talked to and many have said, 'This must have been written about us.'"

SUCCESS STORIES ENcouraged
Each Conductor Series seminar was opened with success stories from participants. During that brief but exciting period, Masons told of their most successful projects, of things that had worked well, of a result of the OVERTURE Series, and of the materials they had been using. One theme that came across often was the need for planning. In fact, many attendees said that the help they received in planning that was a determining factor in their success.

SPRING 99 OVERTURE DEVELOPED
In 1999, lodge leaders, including new Junior Wardens, will be invited to return to a new series of seminars designed to improve leadership. The focus of these seminars, however, will be programmatic in nature, and none of a workshop than before. Masons who attend will be given practical suggestions and help in developing, implementing, and maintaining two or three programs in their lodge, all aimed at creating a more interesting, vibrant, and relevant organization. The 1999 OVERTURE Program will be new and a repeat of last year's program.

THE DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR THE SPRING SEMINARS ARE:
Feb. 13 Philadelphia Apr. 24 Pittsburgh (North)
Mar. 6 Harrisburg Apr. 28 Pittsburgh (South)
Mar. 20 Tinwall/New Castle May 22 Bethlehem
Apr. 10 Pittsburgh (South) June 5 Wilkes-Barre

Again in 1999, Grand Master Erneste offers an opportunity for licensing purposes to attend both the OVERTURE Series and The Conductor Series to earn $500 for their Lodge. Grand Master Erneste, the elected officers of the Grand Lodge, and the elected officers of the OVERTURE Program, thank those who attended the seminars and those in their lodges who made it possible. It is sincerely hoped that the skills and techniques offered will be used by those who attended to improve Masonry in Pennsylvania across the goal of zero net losses.

Setting up the audio-visual equipment for a seminar is the OVERTURE Series (Hodge) of the Grand Board of Trustees, and staff coordinators David O. Meachen (left) and Travis M. Oakley.

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The Masonic Spirit Must Live On

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

My Brothers:

I have recently read a book entitled "Holibies of Honor" ("volatiles" meaning devoted or ardent persons to a cause or ideal), which is essentially a history of Freemasonry. The book has been written by Mr. E.R. Stimson, author of "The History of Freemasonry in the World," and it has been reviewed favorably by many authorities in the field of Freemasonry. The book is well-written and well-researched, and I am confident that it will be of great interest to anyone who is interested in the history of Freemasonry.

The book includes many biographies of notable Freemasons, and it provides a wealth of information about the history of Freemasonry in various countries around the world. It is a valuable resource for anyone who is interested in learning more about the history of Freemasonry.

One of the biographies in the book is that of Mr. Robert W. Jackson, who is the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. Mr. Jackson is a well-respected Freemason, and he has served the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania with distinction for many years.

The book is available online, and I encourage anyone who is interested in the history of Freemasonry to read it. It is a valuable resource that will help to educate and inspire us all.

S. Robert Marziano, Jr., Grand Steward; Grand Martin Factoryville of Kiskiminetos Lodge No. 617, Vandergrift, Trevor K. Frederick, junior Grand Deacon; G. Joseph Frederick, Grand Sword Bearer; Jon Fair, Senior Grand Deacon; and Steven E. Row-Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; William Slater II, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; and Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer. Third row - S. Robert Marziano, Jr., Grand Steward; Trevor K. Frederick, Grand Warden; G. Joseph Frederick, Grand Sword Bearer; Jon Fair, Junior Grand Warden; and Steven E. Row-Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Grand Secretary; Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden; William Slater II, R.W. Junior Grand Warden; and Marvin G. Speicher, R.W. Grand Treasurer.