THREE YEAR-END QUESTIONS

As you tidy up your financial affairs for 1999, you will likely be thinking about your charitable giving goals and aspirations. Here are a few questions to help you plan.

1. Am I able to make a charitable gift to the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1999, on the doorstep of a new millennium?

As the year closes, you will likely receive mail from various charities requesting your financial assistance. The close of the millennium may bring even more appeals. During this period, we hope you will remember the Masonic Charities and our ongoing financial needs. We are eager to conclude this year in good financial shape so we can confidently face the opportunities and challenges of the future. Your special year-end gift will strengthen us considerably.

A gift may be unrestricted, to be used where most needed. Or, it could be earmarked for a specific purpose. For example, you could designate your gift for capital expenses, such as new construction or remodeling projects. You also could establish an endowment fund to create a legacy or to honor someone you admire.

2. What are my tax obligations for 1999?

Many taxpayers consult with their accountants before the end of the year to determine tax liability. Perhaps you've done that already or maybe you simply have a good idea where you stand. In any case, we encourage you to take advantage of the tax benefits offered by the government. The income tax charitable deduction can allow you to give more than you might otherwise be able to give.

Are your taxes likely to be high this year? Then it may be a good time to increase your giving. You might even consider moving forward some of next year's giving into 1999 so you can utilize the tax benefits this year.

3. Do I have appreciated stock or real estate I could use to fund an income-for-life gift arrangement?

You may find yourself in a situation where you want to give more to the Masonic Charities of the Grand Lodge but cannot afford to decrease your annual income. Consider our gift annuity program. You can obtain one of these with a gift of stock and in many cases receive more income than you are currently receiving from the stock. Your annuity payments from The Masonic Charities Fund would continue for the rest of your life.

For example, a 75-year-old person currently qualifies for a gift annuity rate of 8.2 percent. A gift of $25,000 would "yield" quarterly payments of $512.50 for the rest of his or her life and for income tax itemizers, there is a charitable tax deduction of $10,817.

Start Now

Perhaps the most important thing about year-end giving is to start early, especially if you are planning to use stock or real estate. Life-income gift arrangements and consultations with your professional advisor(s) also take time. The sooner you begin the process, the less hurried you will feel.

To help you to prepare further for a year-end gift, we want to send you a free brochure. Use the handy coupon below, or call the Development Office at 1-800-599-6454. We are available to assist you on a complimentary basis.

(Check this box if you would like to hear about other possible gifts)

[ ] Please send me the free brochures about gifts of stocks and real estate.
[ ] I am interested in obtaining a Masonic Charities gift annuity.
[ ] Please send me information about remembering Masonic Charities in my will.
[ ] Please contact me by phone. The best time to reach me is:
[ ] Please send me the free Personal Financial Affairs Record.

[ ] Please return this coupon.

Name
Address
City
State, Zip
Phone

PLACE THE COMPLETED FORM IN AN ENVELOPE AND MAIL TO:

Fred D. Rissinger, Director of Development
John McFadden, Planned Giving Officer
Masonic Charities Fund
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
The Grand Master's Message

Thank You, One and All!

Brethren,

In less than two months, we will install our next Grand Master, so this is my last opportunity to "talk to" every Pennsylvania Freemason that has graced our tables and bestowed support and gratitude for the dedication, teamwork, and accomplishments of the countless brethren across the state who served our great Fraternity.

Twenty-two months ago, I concluded my first address as Grand Master confidently facing the challenges of the times, saying:

"I have no doubt that together, we want to -- we must and we will do it the right way in the best interest of the Fraternity."

As I reflect on what has been accomplished in our Fraternity since then, it is quite evident that the most important word in that statement was "together." It's a tribute to all of the brethren that the words and phrases that are used so frequently in our speaking and writing sound "hand-in-hand with unanimity," and "the Family of Freemasonry." 

I wish I could show my appreciation in person to each brother who added to the successes throughout the Freemasonry in 1998 and 1999, but I wouldn't know where to start or which task to start upon first. The several successes reflected in this issue are just a hint of Pennsylvania Masons' present achievements.

A herculean task was accomplished by the Committee on Temple and the Grand Lodge staff, inside and outside, of our beautiful Masonic Temple in Philadelphia -- a registered national historic site and architectural wonder that has been in its original grandeur restored and refurbished to upgrade and modernize facilities and services, carefully adapting to the modern environment. Continental Hall has a new three-manual organ, new lighting and stained glass windows, the altar restored to its beautiful walnut finish, and improved sound system and lighting.

New organs were installed in all of the Masonic Lodges. Improvements were made in just about every area of the Temple, including the addition of the John Wanamaker Room.

So much has been accomplished by the Committee on Masonic Homes, the Masonic Home staff, the Family of Freemasonry, these brethren and friends, not just at Elizabethtown, but across the state. The Masonic Homes' Mission of "Love" caring is now conveniently available from west to east, from the northern operations of the two Masonic Eastern Star Homes, then the purchase of Valley Care Masonic Center at Sewickley.

Meanwhile, on the Elizabethtown campus, we completed the last construction project of the Health Care Center utilizing a team effort that spanned most of the decade.

The teamwork of the Masonic Homes and the Youth Pennsylvania Foundation endorsed the construction of the new Samuel C. Williamson Memorial Library at the Masonic Youth Conference Center on the Campus, Cumru Township in Elizabethtown. The new facility and the improved accommodations at Pennsylvania Masonic Homes, have afforded the young shoulders of tomorrow a first look at Pennsylvania Freemasonry. The dedication was a high point in reawakening the vision of Past Grand Master Sam Williamson. I am personally delighted that it was named in his honor, below me, one of the most dedicated journalists in the project was keeping the naming a secret from him.

Masons working together, along with the Veterans Administration, honored America's veterans of all times with the Concerned Veterans Foundation. In record time, a committee led by Bill Kratzenberg designed and constructed the Freemasons Presbyterian Pavilion at the VA Center near Pittsburgh.

Looking from one generation to another, Pennsylvania Freemasonry welcomes a new potential leader of tomorrow by bringing young men of the Aces Fraternity to the Family of Freemasonry, providing fraternal encouragement and financial aid to chances on campuses of colleges and universities in Pennsylvania.

Teamwork in cyberspace has put Freemasonry in tune with the modern times, putting the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on the Internet. The newly created Internet Committee developed one of the most outstanding and most active websites the state ever had.

Perhaps nothing emphasizes Masons working together more dramatically than the "service to mankind" of the Grand Lodge Matchless Charity Grants Program. Masons are uniting in their lodges, and lodge members joining together in this endeavor to serve the needs of their communities.

Brethren across the Commonwealth are demonstrating the principles of Freemasonry and showing why friends and neighborhoods who we are, what we do, and what we believe. Again, I thank each of you for that.

I suggest a hardy round of applause for the leaders of lodges across the state who are orchestrating new enlargements among their members as a result of their networking and learning experiences in last year's Overture seminars and this year's Conductor's series of leadership management and training sessions. The very high percentage of lodge participants in the programs and the local involvement of lodge leaders underscores the progressive attitude for meeting the fraternity's challenges of the times.

Thanks, also, to the Masonic Education Committee's development of the innovative program just introduced. Our newest Masons will be gaining a better understanding of Pennsylvania Freemasonry. A three-part video series called "Tools of the Craft" is coming to all lodges this month. It is an effective audiovisual aid to be used with the new handout for Candidate Instruction for quality orientation of candidates as they travel through their degrees.

I cherish the wonderful times and fraternal experiences over these 22 months, all the result of many brethren with unique talents and dedication working together. Continental and Renaissance halls were both filled to capacity when three State Police Officers -- the Commissioner, a Deputy Commissioner, and a Trooper -- were made Masons-at-Sight.

Pennsylvania was the focal point of Masonry when this Grand Lodge hosted the Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Philadelphia. There have been accomplishable, consciousness-raising ceremonies, dedications, special communications, and visioning "together." Everything in the state with corps of ritualistic instructors are always involved and quietly do a yoman's job in conjunction with the district deputies, "to lodge officers and committees."

Their work is greatly appreciated.

The Masonic Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children is a clear-cut example of teamwork. Consider the good work done through the Student Assistance Program. The Albertsons Scholarship, D.A.R.E. training, law enforcement scholarships, and grants for drug and alcohol addiction prevention educational programs. Again I say, "Thank you to all of you.

You can add to all that I've mentioned, special activities such as Charity Golf Tournament, family picnics, reunions with Masons in Florida, and Mason's rights at baseball games. In addition, there are the Student Assistance Program and bequests with responsibilities that keep Freemasonry alive and well in Pennsylvania.

I was not exaggerating when I said there are countless brethren involved across the Commonwealth who are serving and serving mankind. Undoubtedly, the figure would be the thousands.

That's why it is important to me to take this last opportunity to say in print: "Thank you, one and all!"

Sincerely,

James L. Enrette,
R.W. Grand Master

COVER STORY

Highlights of achievements for Freemasonry in Pennsylvania during 1998 and 1999 are depicted on the cover of this issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason, many of them referenced in the Grand Master's Message on Page 2. Surrounding R.W. Grand Master James L. Enrette in front of the refurbished Masonic Temple are pictures of some notable events (clockwise from top left): Acquisition of Valley Care Masonic Center; dedication of the Samuel C. Williamson Multimedia Center; dedication of the Freemasons Pavilion at the Pittsburgh Veterans Administration Hospital; the Matching Charity Grants Program; making Masons-at-sight; and the Overture Program.

Grand Secretary of Vermont Presents 50-Year Emblem to Pennsylvania Mason As a fraternal courtesy to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Cederic L. Smith (right), a Past Grand Master and the R.W. Gr. Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Vermont presented a 50-Year Emblem of Gold to Walter T. Hempel (front), a member of Hiram Lodge No. 81, Chestnut Hill. The presentation was made to Bro. Hempel during a special program July 15, the day before his 80th birthday, in the Mayo Assisted Living Home, Northfield, VT. Harmony Blend, a lady barbershop quartet, accompanied Bro. Hempel with two songs, "Thank You Lord for Music" and "I Believe" and led all attending in singing his favorite hymn, "In the Garden." The quartet (l to r) are: Kathy Rodnuski, her daughter, Bonnie (Hempel) Rinehart; Ann Winter; and Mary Slator. The Grand Secretary also presented Bro. Hempel with his 50-year pin from Scottish Rite.

The Committee on the Pennsylvania Freemasonry Certificate and the R.W. Grand Master are aware. Last Spring, the Committee discussed the commented dilemma that the universal misinterpretation of time has taken place in order to announce and report the events of these times, we have to agree with the world-view of the march of time and rush the coming of the 21st century. So, crowning "With My Eyes Wide Open," the Editor presents this流畅 forward toward a new century that will be here before its time.

21st Century Isn't Till Next Year, But Everybody Wants it in 2000

How many people will be singing "It Takes Two to Tango," and "What Day It Was" when they wake up on New Year's Day and admit that really aren't in the 21st century yet? It seems like we've already known this statement, but everybody wants to get the 21st century underway. Oh well, we can have another "Next Millennium" New Year's Eve party on December 31, 2000. At least it'll be great for the economy!

There was a year numbered "1" but there never was a year "0". It was not until the first time a zero occurred was in the year "19" and then it came it up again at the end of the 1999 year. The year 2000 is actually the end of a decade and the end of this century. The next century actually will begin when the calendar goes from 2000 to 2001.

In an e-mail from his Floridita residence, Bob Rodgers of Joseph H. Brown Lodge No. 751, Philadelphia, noted that in each of the last two issues of The Pennsylvania Freemason there were references to the ending of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century. He r thundered, "Surely you must be aware the 21st century begins on January 1, 2001, NOT on January 1, 2000."
High Twelve: A Place for Fellowship, Fun, Food And Service to Others

High Twelve clubs are active in Pennsylvania, providing Masonic fellowship at refreshment as well as important support for youth and youth education programs.

"What is High Twelve?" is probably the question asked most often of the members of list Masonic affiliated club. The simplest answer is that it is a social extension of the Masonic experience.

In days long gone, noon and midnight were known as "high twelve" and "low twelve." "High twelve" is the time when people call off from labor to refreshment, or as so many call it today, "hunch." Most High Twelve clubs meet during the call-off from labor for the dual purposes of refreshment and Masonic fellowship.

High Twelve is not a lodge; it's a club. It does not hold forth with the Masonic ritual of a Blue Lodge; but strongly encourages active participation of its members in its lodges. At the same time, it promotes the philanthropic objectives of High Twelve.

In August 1920, E.C. (Wallie) Wolcott, a former minister who was the YMCA's General Secretary at the time, met with eight prominent friends at the YMCA in Sioux City, Iowa, for fellowship and camaraderie as business associates who were Master Masons. Thus was born the idea of having Master Masons meet in just such conditions and it was named "High Twelve." Their underlying principle was to bring their respective lodges and the Order of DeMolay together. The concept was well received and soon High Twelve clubs began to form, first in the surrounding areas, then in other states, and finally into other countries. The parent organization today is called High Twelve International with its headquarters in St. Louis, MO.

The first club in Pennsylvania, which is still active, is High Twelve Club No. 56 in Philadelphia, chartered May 5, 1925. Twenty-seven High Twelve clubs have been chartered in Pennsylvania and 25 of them remain active today. They operate as part of the Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs, which is the state organization under High Twelve International. Each club decides how often and when to meet (at high twelve or at dinner time), and the order of its business.

The leadership of High Twelve Clubs in Pennsylvania are (I-R): Front - David Jacob, President of High Twelve International; William Heckman, 3rd V.P., PA Association; and Grant Roth, Secretary, PA Association. Rear - Phillip Garrett, 1st V.P., PA Association; Robert Francis, President, PA Association; Warren Bolton, Trustee of the Wolcott Fund; Richard Showalter, Treasurer, PA Association; and Fred Engel, 2nd V.P., PA Association.

High Twelve clubs are encouraged to get involved with meeting the needs of their communities by whatever means the club can muster. This can be assisting youth, elderly, needy, or the community, itself.

High Twelve has two philanthropic objectives, youth and education, and strongly supports the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Job's Daughters. Support includes presence at youth meetings and events, as well as financial gifts. In addition to individual club efforts, the Pennsylvania Association provides financially for the groups through scholarships, awards, and general services.

The Wolcott Foundation is its most important educational objective. It provides scholarships to students at George Washington University who seek public service careers in government. In addition to having been accepted by George Washington University, a candidate must undertake High Twelve scrutiny of his values and moral values akin to those required to become a Mason. After graduation from George Washington, he or she must serve in a government or international affairs position for four years for the scholarship to be considered a grant; otherwise, only the portion served is considered a grant and the remainder is a loan which must be repaid. The objective, which is being met quite well, is to get persons in highly responsible positions who will provide the moral leadership in solving the many complex problems of the world. During the 1968-69 school year, there were 21 fellows at a cost of $218,397. Over the past ten years, the Foundation has invested approximately $8 million in educating 60 fellows (which includes females). Overall, it has assisted 330 students since its founding.

For information about High Twelve, whether it is to learn about clubs in your area, to seek information about joining, or to investigate forming a new club, contact the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs, Grant Roth, 152 N. Whitfield St., Nazareth, PA 18064 (Phone: 610-759-5031).

Master Plan for Expansion of Valley Care Masonic Center Approved

On Sept, 24, the Committee on Masonic Homes approved a master plan for the construction of a continuing care retirement community on 47 acres of land adjacent to the Valley Care Masonic Center in Sewickley, PA.

The Committee on Masonic Homes has given authorization to the architectural firm, Perkins Eastman, to proceed with the development of a more detailed design from which the community can be built. During the time of development, the plans will be presented to various governmental officials for approval.

The master plan, shown below, adds 60 assisted living accommodations and, depending on interest, up to 235 independent living options to the existing 129 nursing accommodations currently available at the beautiful Sewickley site. The plans also have potential for a wellness center, day care area, clinics, a pool, and a clubhouse, among other convenient features.

The assisted living area is expected to open for residents in the summer of 2001, and the independent living areas are expected to open in the late summer or early fall of 2002. Reservations for the independent living areas will be accepted as of January 2000; however, individuals interested in having their name placed on a Priority List for independent living accommodations may contact:

Marketing Manager
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
(717) 361-6514 or 1-800-476-6452
or Executive Director
Valley Care Masonic Center
110 Merriman Road
Sewickley, PA 15146
(412) 741-1460

For information about High Twelve, whether it is to learn about clubs in your area, to seek information about joining, or to investigate forming a new club, contact the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association of High Twelve Clubs, Grant Roth, 152 N. Whitfield St., Nazareth, PA 18064 (Phone: 610-759-5031).
Matching
MASONIC CHARITY GRANTS
Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania

Being Visible Through

As the Masonic Matching Charity Grants program nears the climax of another successful year, Pennsylvania Freemasons can be proud that the Brotherhood has touched thousands of lives since the program's inception.

This year, as of Sept. 10, the Program has assisted lodges in providing more than $800,000 to charitable causes throughout the Commonwealth. The program has matched approximately 655 grant requests from nearly 300 lodges. There have been 41 Masonic districts with at least 50% participation from lodges and the 11 lodges of the 1st Masonic District can be proud to be the only District with 100% participation at this time.

PARTICIPATION in the key for making your lodge more visible in the community, lodge members more involved in the affairs of the lodge, and Freemasonry known throughout the Commonwealth as a fraternity that truly takes good men and makes them better.

PHILADELPHIA LODGES SUPPORT YOUTH TEAM

Five lodges of Masonic District D in Philadelphia joined to support a state champion “Ten-Year-Old” baseball team in its quest to attend the AABC World Series in Olive Branch, Mississippi in August. Together with matching grants, they contributed $4,116 to the cause.

Although the team had established an exemplary record over the past three years of 75 wins, seven losses, and three state championships, the boys were defeated on the way to the World Series.

The team contacted Kenneth W. Bledler, D.G.O.M. (shown right rear presenting the contribution to the team), District D lodge, that contributed to the support were: Lodge No. 2, Lodge No. 9, Frankford Lodge No. 253, Tacony Lodge No. 600, and Joseph H. Brown Lodge No. 753.

Involvement In Our Communities

SUPPORTING CAMP CADET

A spaghetti dinner, onion sale, and donations by members of Washington Lodge No. 164 resulted in sufficient proceeds to contribute $4,116 to the Camp Cadet Program of the Pennsylvania State Police and municipal police officers for boys and girls of ages 12 through 14.

Presentation of the contribution was made by David L. Richards, W.M. (second from left in photo above), to the Camp Director, Trooper Roger Summerville (center), and Rainey Sethman (second from right), Cadet of the Year. At left is Wilbur E. Meeks, Secretary, and at right is D. Everett Plance, Treasurer.

In Grove City, $200 was contributed by Cedar Lodge No. 800 to support the Camp Cadet Program in Mercer and Butler Counties. David A. McCalla (left in photo at left) presented the contribution to Trooper Joseph Katavich while Keith A. McKnight, D.D.G.M., 3rd Masonic District looks on.

Cassia – Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 273 Sends Boy Scout To Japan

Eagle Scout, Jai Sujan has been challenged all his life with cerebral palsy and his mobility is possible only with the use of a wheelchair. When the Boy Scouts of America’s Cradle of Liberty Council, which serves Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Delaware Counties, learned that they were selected to participate in a Boy Scout Exchange in Matsumura, Ehime, Japan, they chose Scout Sujan to represent them. The event will focus on what young people with disabilities can accomplish. However, the Council needed a sponsor. When Cassia-Mt. Horeb Lodge No. 273, Ardsboro, learned about the Eagle Scout’s need, the brethren quickly came forward, donating $750.

Eagle Scout, Jai Sujan visited Cassia-Mt. Horeb Lodge to meet his sponsors. He is pictured with Bros. Winton E. Hewitt, W.M., and William C. Diesinger, Jr., Chaplain.

Lodge Helps Make Easter Seals Big Winner.

Reading Lodge No. 549 contributed $1,500 to make those served by Easter Seals the real winner of the successful Office Olympix competition held June 21 in Reading and the Lehigh Valley.

Easter Seals Representative Patrick McCollough (front left), son of Joseph and Carol McCollough, is shown accepting the presentation check that’s almost as big as he is from Peter Szpak, W.M. (left). Another Easter Seals Representative, Logan Rhoads, daughter of Ray and Susan Rhoads, is on the other end of the check. At right is Crystal Selsitz, Co-Chairperson of Office Olympix and Community Relations Manager for GPU Energy.

17th Masonic District Raises Funds For New School

The Northern Tier Children’s Home in Harrison benefitted because of the brethren of the 17th Masonic District having raised $12,000 to expand the Home’s learning center which provides home schooling for children. This is the second year for the brethren of the District’s nine lodges to donate their time and effort to an auction selling such items as antiques, used furniture and appliances, tools, lawn equipment, and more at the Northern Tier Children’s Home. The brethren also helped with the pickups, delivery, set up and clean up that made the event successful. The auction raised more than $6,500 for the school and the lodges contributed an additional $5,800.

The school’s Learning Center opened its doors in August 1998. Not long after the school opened, a need to expand was realized. Executive Director for the Northern Tier Children’s Home, Bro. J. Merle Herr, said “The support and encouragement of our Masonic friends and others has made this dream come true...the school is expanding from one classroom to five.”

The lodges in the 17th Masonic District that made this project possible were: Friendship Lodge No. 247, Mansfield; Osage Lodge No. 317, Weisboro; Bloss Lodge No. 350, Blossburg; Cowansesque Lodge No. 355, Knoxville; Toga Lodge No. 373; Gaceola Lodge No. 421, Elkland; Westfield Lodge No. 477, Lewisville Lodge No. 556, Ulysses; and Galetton Lodge No. 602.

Receiving the proceeds from the benefit auction are (l-r): Front - Bro. William Faughnan, W.M., Bloss Lodge No. 350; Jerry McCaslin, V.P. of NTCH Board of Directors; Warren White, President of NTCH Board; Bro. Gary B. Stahley, D.D.G.M., 17th Masonic District, Rear - Bros. Butch Camp, Tom Hoppe, NTCH Director of Finance; and J. Merle Herr, NTCH Executive Director, Lewisville Lodge No. 556; Ed Bally, Secretary; Frank Everett, S.W.; Rudy Cole; and Harold Ross, Treasurer, Galetton Lodge No. 602.

For the fourth consecutive year, the 55th Masonic District Race Team participated in the West Penn Arthritis Mini-Grand Prix and again came away with honors. Most exemplary, the team won the “Highest Contribution” plaque. The sleek mini-racer, with “55” and the square and compasses on its hood, had “55th Masonic District” and “Masonic Charities” embossed on its sides. The racing team, all dressed in two-tone purple outfits and caps, captured a second place award for their striking uniforms. More than $13,000 has been contributed for arthritis research through the support of nine of the lodges of the District and the Matching Charity Grants Program. All of the lodges meet in the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center.

55th District Races for Arthritis Research
Masonic leaders from lodges throughout Pennsylvania are attending a series of Conductor seminars again this fall. The seminars are a part of the Overture series for “Membership Development Through Excellence in Leadership.”

The seminars this fall are aimed at helping lodge leaders understand the importance of enrolling their new members and stemming losses from suspension and resignations — a recurring problem in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

“We believe that our newest members are our customers, too, and we must give them the same care and attention any new customer deserves in order to reinforce and support their decision to join,” said G. Kent Hackney, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Conductor Seminars are based on the results of a 1998 survey among recent new members.

**Special Programs Help**

The participants in the fall seminars have three new programs available to help them and their lodge. One of the most interesting is called “ComPak,” a selection of 20 of the most frequently used correspondence from a lodge to a member for most occasions from the first time he hears from the lodge to special holiday greetings and other communications he would receive as a Master Mason. Every lodge in Pennsylvania will receive “ComPak” letters and instructions on how to use it.

“ProjectPak” is another helpful package for lodge leaders. “ProjectPak” includes information and step-by-step directions on how to complete a project successfully in the lodge using traditional project management skills and procedures. “Project management as a methodology has been around for years and we felt that Masons could benefit from understanding it,” said Bro. Hackney.

“MemberPak” is a guide for lodge leaders designed to help them plan, design, and develop strategies for new members to increase satisfaction and reduce losses due to suspension and other factors.

According to R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette, “We feel that the second fall Conductor Seminar on Lodge Management really rounds out the leadership and management development skills of the leaders of lodges participating. As a result, I feel we have in place a core group of nearly 1,200 men who know what’s right, know what to do, have the materials, and have been exposed to ways to use them more effectively.”

Grand Master Ernette concluded, “From here we must move to emphasize behavior and performance in every lodge. Because the leaders do change every year, we must continue this initiative until such time as we have ‘institutionalized’ effective leadership in our lodges to the point that a man who becomes a Mason in Pennsylvania not only sees quality leadership first-hand, but also has the opportunity to learn these skills for himself as a benefit of joining.”

There are two Conductor Seminars remaining in Pennsylvania at the dates and places below. Any interested leaders of one of the Conductor Seminars may do by contacting David McNeish in the Office of the Grand Master in Philadelphia.

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<td>Nov. 13</td>
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R.W. Grand Master Ernette and M.W. Grand Master Harris affirm their commitment to Pennsylvania’s youth as they discuss the “Every 30 Minutes” program with Bro. and Col. Avanko.

**Law Enforcement Scholarship Awarded**

William Baily, D.D.G.M., 29th Masonic District (second from left) presented Ryan J. Thomas (center), a graduate of Waynesburg Central High School, with one of the Law Enforcement Scholarship Awards this fall by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. He will receive $10,000 over the four years while attending Shippensburg University to study Criminal Justice. He is the son of Robin S. Thomas (left) and Mary Thomas and grandson of Dennis Thomas (second from right). Both are members of Waynesburg Lodge No. 153. At right is his uncle, Richard Thomas, District Lamade Lodge No. 755, Williamsport.

Ryan Thomas has attended the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet, is an instructor in C.P.R. and first aid, is E.M.T. certified, a volunteer fireman in Waynesburg, and active in numerous community endeavors.

The Law Enforcement Scholarship program was developed and implemented by R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette, a retired Pennsylvania State Trooper, to recognize and help young men and women whose goals are to serve others and keep their communities safe.
Dear Grand Master Ernette:

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you of a deed by one of your members from Lancaster County, Brian Rote.

I was on my way to work in Hershey...[left a paragraph cut off, presumably due to space constraints]. I was a clear, cool morning...my car went out of control trying to avoid something in the road. By the time I realized what was happening, it was too late...I went [across] the left lane, hitting a concrete culvert....The next thing I remember was being upside-down and lying in the quiet air. I was bleating to myself, "Lord, what have I done? Please don't let me die this way." I saw smoke in my car, maybe from the air bags. I was afraid that my car found something to wrap my foot in to stop the bleeding. He covered his member of Manheim Lodge No. 587. I didn't get out until he was sure no other man was in the car. My left foot was caught in the dash. Brian managed to get one of the doors open and pulled the seat loose from the car [which he did not do until he was certain of no other man].

Roté who helped me to safety while risking his own life. The following excerpted letter of gratitude sent by e-mail

Brian....had a first-aid kit in his car and...some kind of blanket. He went along with me to the spot where my accident happened, I can't help but think of Brian Rote during the cold night. I kept saying to myself, "What have I done?"

Anyone with information as to its whereabouts since. The Great American Hall can seat 2,200 for dinner, but reservations will go fast. The cost is $30 per person for dinner and a show, and there is a time limit for the show. For information, contact the Grand Lodge of Arizona at 199170-2586. 

Brian had a first-aid kit in his car and...some kind of blanket. He found something to wrap my foot in to stop the bleeding. He covered me with the blanket to stay warm. Every day now, when I drive past that spot, my accident happened, I can't help but think of Brian Rote who helped me to safety while risking his own life. Who knows what could have happened if he hadn't stopped to help...One thing is for sure: One never knows when a guardian angel will appear. The day of my accident, Brian Rote was that guardian angel!

Sincerely,

Brian Hadley
(Mrs. Bruce Hadley)

There was an addendum to the letter from Bruce Hadley:

...I am very grateful for the quick thinking and the preparedness of your organization's member, Brian Rote. I was truly thankful that not only did he rescue my wife, but that he was equipped with a blanket, a first aid kit, and a cell phone. He was able to summon help right away and call me to let me know where the ambulance was taking her. He made a very difficult judgment to remove my injured wife from the car [which he did not do until he was certain of no other serious injuries].

A Fraternal Request for a "Diligent Guide"

The Grand Lodge of Arizona needs to locate a traveling Bible that began its journey in Gettysburg in 1864. In 1865, it was reported to have traveled to Florida, but there has been no word of its whereabouts since.

In 1864, it was donated by Robert Conrad, then Master of Tucson Lodge No. 4 and now, the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Arizona. It bears his name, address, and that of Tucson Lodge No. 4. It is a "Family Edition" Bible measuring 8 by 11 inches and travels with a blue booklet that contains the instructions for its travels and its permanent address.

The Grand Lodge of Arizona very much would like to have it back in time for Bro. Conrad's installation as Grand Master in June 2000.

Anyone with information as to its location, is asked to write to the Grand Lodge of Arizona at 341 W. Main, Phoenix, AZ 85003-1694, or e-mail the Grand Lodge at azgmdlg@azwest.net.

Fife & Drum Corps Masons Confer Degree

By virtue of a dispensation, a degree team of Masons dressed in their uniforms of the uniform Fife and Drum Corps conferred the Master Mason's Degree upon one of its members, Charles Lewis Heiple II in Meyersdale Lodge No. 554. Members of the degree team were from Meyersdale Lodge and Somerset Lodge No. 356.

The members of the Fife and Drum Corps and the stations or places in which they served are [list]. The Fife and Drum Corps conferred the Master Mason's Degree upon one of its members, Charles Lewis Heiple II in Meyersdale Lodge No. 554. Members of the degree team were from Meyersdale Lodge and Somerset Lodge No. 356.

HONORED FOR 75 YEARS

S. John; Sherman (seatd), of Clarion Lodge No. 277, was honored when Clyde P. Minos, P.M., (left) Secretary of the Lodge, and William A. McLachlin (right), Chairman of the Visititation Committee, presented him with a certificate in recognition of his 75 years as a Freemason. He was initiated June 4, 1923. The recipient's son, James Sherman (standing behind his father), was present for the recognition at Seneca-Manor in Smethport, where Bro. Sherman resides.

Early Reservations Recommended — Next Grand Master's Banquet and Show Will Be A Dynamic Warm-Up For the 21st Century

Plan now to join the next Grand Master and his lady on Dec. 27 to enjoy the glamour, fun, and excitement of Pennsylvania's last big Masonic social event before the year 2000 and be part of an early welcome for the twenty-first century.

The Grand Master's Banquet and Gala will be held in the new ballrooms of the Great American Hall, a new Hershey Convention Center. There will be a reception at 6 p.m. and banquet at 7 p.m. followed by a spectacular show. It takes Two! starring Brent McColloch and Billy Davis. The founding headliners of the Original 5th Dimension will perform songs from the 60s, 70s, and 80s. It Takes Two is a celebration of love - theirs and the love the public has for their music.

Make your reservations early. The Great American Hall can seat 2,200 for dinner, but reservations will go fast. The cost is $30 per person for dinner and a show, and there is a time limit for the show. For information, contact the Grand Lodge of Arizona at 199170-2586.

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IN MEMORIAM

Hiram Price Ball,
Right Worshipful Grand Master 1970-1971
July 13, 1913 - September 10, 1999

Hiram P. Ball was the son of George Loyal Ball, founder of three Pittsburgh chemical companies, and Lillian William Ball. He was educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh and the University School of Pittsburgh, from which he was graduated in 1932. He then attended Lehigh University, but transferred to Franklin and Marshall College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1937. He attended Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1937 and 1938. In 1940, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Thiel College in 1940.

On Oct. 16, 1943, in Covington, KY, Bro. Ball married Florence H. Campbell of Indianapolis, IN. They had one son and two daughters. The Balls have been members of the Glade Run United Presbyterian Church, Cooperstown, PA.

Bro. Ball's first job (1938-1940) was as a laboratory technician with a small company in New York City that manufactured paint and industrial coatings. He then joined his father's Ball Chemical Co. as secretary-treasurer and director (1940-1958) and later became president and chairman of the board (1959-1984). Bro. Ball also was secretary-treasurer of the family-owned Cleonola Co. (1940-1986). During the same period, he was secretary, director and later president of the family-held Pittsburgh Insulating Co. Later, he also was president and director of B.B.I., Inc. (1957-1981), a company he established and developed a system of mechanicals to pull fiberglass and resins through heated molds into various shapes used by the electric industry. His memberships in professional organizations were numerous and he held leadership offices in most of them.

In addition to his industrial interests, Bro. Ball was a partner with his two brothers in Ball Associates (1941-1959), which ran the largest purebred Hereford breeding farm in the East and was the first in Pennsylvania to develop polled (hornless) cattle. He belonged to a number of livestock and breeders associations and served leadership roles in most of them.

He was a trustee of Franklin and Marshall College (1952-1972), a member of the advisory board of the Allegheny Center Branch of the Pittsburgh National Bank (1960-1968), on the board of trustees of the Union Dale Cemetery Co., and president (1984-1985) of the Middlesex Twp. School Authority.

Hiram P. Ball became a Mason in Harmony Lodge No. 429, Butler County, in 1941 and served as its Worshipful Master in 1944. He resigned in 1947 to become a member of his father's lodge, Corinthian Lodge No. 573, Allegheny County, from which he resigned in 1959 to become Warrant Master and trustee of Col. Henry Bouquet Lodge No. 787. In 1978, that lodge merged with Lodge No.45 in Pittsburgh.

In Grand Lodge, Bro. Ball served as the 48th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master from 1961 to 1963, and was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1964. He served as R.W. Grand Master in 1970 and 1971. Grand Master Ball advocated stronger administration and increased interest in the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown and toward those ends held the first "Grand Master's Day." The existing Pennsylvania Freemasons' Hospital was extensively renovated and plans were approved in 1971 for a multimillion dollar medical facility to be called the "Masons Care Building."

Bro. Ball was a York Rite member of Chapter, Council, Commandery, and Red Cross of Constantine in Pittsburgh. He received the Scottish Rite degrees in the Valley of Pittsburgh and also maintained membership in the Valley of New Castle. He was coroneted a Sovereign Grand Inspector General, 33°, in Detroit in 1964. He was a member of Syria Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Pittsburgh, and served as Illustrious Potentate in 1957. He was a member of the Royal Order of Jester, Islam Grotto, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, the National Sojourners, and the High Twelve Club.

Bro. Ball's Masonic honors included the Pennsylvania Franklin Medal from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Henry Price Medal from the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, the Enamass James Filings Medal from the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, the Honorary Legion of Honor Degree from the International Supreme Council of the Order of DeMoy, and the Grand Cross of Color from the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Pennsylvania Freemasons lead the way! In a first-ever attempt in Freemasonry, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has produced a three-part video series in response to an overwhelming demand from lodges for more effective tools in candidate instruction. "Tools of the Craft" will be used to supplement and enhance the new Masonic Education Handbook for Candidate Instruction developed and forwarded to each lodge earlier this year. Everyone, Masons and non-Masons alike, who see these videos will be impressed with the proud tradition of Freemasonry, the high ideals and beliefs of the Craft, and how Pennsylvania Freemasons work together to help each other and make our communities a better place in which to live. These videos will lead the way in creating "Masonic Ambassadors" out of newly made Master Masons.

Video 1: What It Means To Be A Pennsylvania Mason
Video 2: Position On Religion And Secrecy Issues
Video 3: Responsibilities And Benefits Of Membership

These approximately 15-minute videos will bring to life who we are, what we believe, and what we do. Through vivid, memorable images, and sound, it will help inspire active participation in your lodge and help express the pride of being a Pennsylvania Freemason to candidates.

Look for Tools of the Craft...coming to your lodge in November!
More than 350 golfers thoroughly enjoyed the competition, fun, food, and fellowship of the Grand Master’s three Charity Golf Outings from west to east across the state on Aug. 16, 23, and 30. The events netted approximately $25,000 to benefit the Masonic Children’s Home at Ellinwoodton. R.W. Grand Master James L. Ermette attended all three events to thank the participants for supporting the charity and the sponsors for making it possible.

Bros. Joseph E. Murphy, Executive Director/CEO, and William C. Davis, Jr., Administrator/COO, of the Masonic Homes, attended the Western and Eastern events and Bro. Gilson “Buzz” Cheadle, Director of the Masonic Children’s Home, attended the Central event to thank the participants and the sponsors for their support. Smith Barney Capital Management was the primary sponsor for all three outings.

Some of the winners at the Western Outing are (L-R): Mike Wichterman; Jim Bole; Ross Clyde; John Fair; Straightest Drive - Doug Miller; Bob Hopkinson; Longest Drive - Bill Hassinger; and John Marquardt. R.W.G.W. J. Slater; Grand Master Ermette; Rusty Lauffer; and Gary Canong.

Some of the winners at the Central Outing are (L-R): Tom Leonard; Mike Wichterman; Mike Evans; Ross Clyde; championship winner, Bob Hopkinson; and Birdie; Bill Hassinger; and John Marquardt.

After the round played by 108 golfers in ideal weather on Aug. 16 at Quicksilver Country Club west of Pittsburg, Richard L. Rovanik, D.D.G.M., 33rd Masonic District and Chairman of the Western Region Outing, along with Grand Master Ermette and the Honorary Regional Chairman, William S. Miller, Jr., R.W. Junior Grand Warden, awarded golf prizes to: Low gross - first, Ross Clyde, 76; second, Gary Canong, 80; and third, Steve Carson, 81. Low net - first, Bill Hassinger, 72; second, Rusty Lauffer, 73; and third, Don Miller, Jr., 73. Longest drive - under 60 years old, Rusty Lauffer; over 60, Bob Hopkinson. Straightest drive - Doug Miller. Closest to the pin - on No. 6, John Farb; No. 4, Bob Nemchik; No. 11, James Hawk; and No. 14, Gary Solody. Longest putt - on No. 9, Mike Crosby; and No. 18, Tom Leonard.

Eighty-eight golfers played in the outing at Pelicota Resort east of Harrisburg on Aug. 23. Russell W. Bauer, D.D.G.M., 5th Masonic District and Chairman of the Central Region Outing, along with Grand Master Ermette and the Honorary Regional Chairman, Robert L. Doughten, Jr., R.W. Deputy Grand Master, awarded golf prizes to: Low gross - Jim Smith, 77; John Weibley, 76; Tony Bole, 76; Larry Bauer, 78. Low net - Bill Bauer, 72; Larry Miller, 72; and Alvin Skinner, 72. Closest to the pin - on No. 3, Bill Greet; on No. 7, Bill Hauber; on No. 17, Preston Van Deusen. Lowest drive - under 60 years old, Bill Hassinger; and over 60, C. Dakin.

Again the weather was excellent, though somewhat cooler for the 108 golfers playing in the sold-out Charity Golf Outing at Lula Country Club near Philadelphia on Aug. 30. After the round, Dale R. Fera, D.D.G.M., Masonic District E and Chairman of the Eastern Region Outing, along with Grand Master Ermette and the Honorary Regional Chairman, Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden, awarded golf prizes to: Low gross - first, Ross Clyde, 76; second, Rovnak Mark, 79; and Mike Evangelista, 81. Low net - first, Jeff Krenchary; second, Bob Hopkinson; third, John Sunday; fourth, Ed Miller; and fifth, Fred Wichterman.

Closest to the pin - on No. 4, Dave Zimman; No. 6, John Carey; No. 12, Bill Haas; and No. 15, Ralph Watson. Lowest drive - under 60 years old, Jeff Walters; and over 60, Dave Wilson. Straightest Drive - Doug Miller. Sponsors at the respective outings were:


Central - Smith Barney Capital Management; Rense, Lower, Patrick and Scott; Riser Barus Service; Purcell Machine Company, Inc.; First USA Bank, N.A.; Forzacon; Frank S. Miller Funeral Home; Lancaster Health Alliance; P & J Printing; Perseverance Lodge No. 21; Harrisburg, Healthguard, Clark Associates, Inc.; Lopuch, Inc.; Lodge of Friendship; Masonic Children’s Home, Inc.; UGI; Sollenberger Painting; Warfel Construction Co.; B & G Lumber Co., Inc.; Bergen

Branson Drug Corp.; BR&C; Computal Corp.; D J Sportswear; Directors Staff of Zembo Temple, AAONMS; Dorwart, Andrew and Co.; 18th Masonic District School of Instruction; Ernie E. Lasluz; Frieda Dodge; GeoSocial Contracting, Inc.; Horshorn Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.; Hoeck & Co.; Huepenbecker Enterprises, Inc.; JPC Specialty Fastening Systems; KPMG, LLP; Kroon, Inc.; Lee Wayne Corporation; Lobsinger Manufacturing, Inc.; Mutual; Larmande’s Machine Shop, Llweyer; Minor Warden Lodge No. 751; Camp Hill; M.H. Eby, Inc.; Marshall Associates; Mastercraft Specialties, Inc.; Moeller’s Flower Shop; Newcomer Station, Inc.; Pro Solutions, Inc.; Ridgeview Farms, Inc.; Robert Burns Lodge No. 454, Harrisburg; Shepherds Unit, Zembo Temple; AAONMS; Iron Foundation of Central PA, Inc.; Wickie L. and Jack L. Gillmore; West Shore Oil; Xped; Yorkaire, Inc.

Eastern - Smith Barney Capital Management; Lodge No. 9, Tacony (Philadelphia); Concordia Lodge No. 67, Eastern Region; and看了 more...
Sell Chapel Renovations Complete; Services Dedicate Building and Honor Pastor Emeritus

During a "Special Service of Rededication" on Aug. 29, the Masonic Homes community celebrated the enhancements made to the John S. Sell Memorial Chapel. The original cornerstone was laid for Sell Chapel on Dec. 5, 1925. Now, almost 74 years later, an addition on the east side of the Chapel is complete.

The new space includes a three-floor elevator and lobby, a parlor, rest rooms, memory garden, and a lobby. There also is a covered drop-off area from a new parking lot to the north of the existing Chapel and addition.

The elevator provides access from the basement tunnel level of the Chapel to the main floor and the balcony to improve the accessibility of these areas for residents. The new parking lot also provides much easier access along the Village Green area roadways.

The addition was constructed of stone matching the existing Chapel. The elevators, parlor, elevator lobby, and main lobby complement the aesthetics of the Chapel. The memory garden is in the interior courtyard formed amidst the sanctuary, the parlor, elevator lobby, and main lobby.

Rev. Charles H. Lacquement, D.D., and Rev. A. Preston Van Deusen, the new Director of Pastoral Care presided over the rededication service. Pastor Lacquement delivered the sermon and the Men's Chorus performed.

"We have gathered as a family of God to celebrate with thanksgiving the new addition of this sanctuary and to rededicate this entire sanctuary to the glory of God," Pastor Van Deusen said. "Receive this house afresh for your glory," he continued, "as we dedicate it and ourselves to your service."

Pastor Lacquement and his wife, Connie, great Bro. and Mrs. Carl Fisher after the special worship service in honor of Pastor Lacquement.

Looking for Nursing, Assisted Living or Rehab Services? Masonic Homes Provide Them Across the State!

The Masonic Eastern Star Home-East in Warminster and the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West in Pittsburgh have immediate availability in their assisted living areas. This level of service is for individuals who desire to be independent but require some daily help with getting dressed, taking medications, transportation, or bathing.

The Valley Care Masonic Center in Sewickley currently has openings for nursing home care.

Subacute and rehabilitation services are also available now in three of the four locations: Elizabethtown, Sewickley, and Warminster. Persons who require skilled care following a hospital stay or need complex medical management, may receive those services at one of the three locations and return home upon recovery.

Some of the advantages of staying at one of the three homes for rehabilitation includes: cost-saving services, safe homelike environment, state-of-the-art facilities, and professional staff.

For information on the services available at each of the locations, call the Admissions Offices:

- Elizabethtown: (800) 422-1207 or (717) 367-1212, ext. 33101 (locally)
- Pittsburgh: (412) 931-8300
- Sewickley: (412) 741-1400
- Warminster: (215) 672-2500

Grand Master's Day 1999

Grand Master's Day at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown was held on Sept. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Approximately 7,000 attendees enjoyed visits from friendly, fun-loving clowns, delicious "Homes" made food, musical entertainment, amusing jugglers, the popular resident talent show, guided tours, and Masonic information booths and displays. It was a great day of fun, excitement, and fellowship, as Pennsylvania Masons, their families and friends, enjoyed the annual open house and celebration.

1. R.W. Grand Master Ernette greets the crowd in the Village Green Circle. 2. The Zembo Shrine Chanters were enjoyed by the young and the young at heart. 3. Clowns rejuvenate with hot dogs and sausage sandwiches...YUM! 4. Resident Clarabelle Ludwig with a mime. 5. Marissa and Bryce Merlet created spin art masterpieces. 6. Independent Living residents sell crafts.
Although there is a waiting list for certain units, there are some apartments and cottages currently available for immediate reservations. Anyone considering a move to an Independent Living apartment or cottage at the Masonic Homes Retirement Campus in Elizabethtown should act now. Although there is a waiting list for all areas of Independent Living in the near future. Considering the Masonic Homes' history of excellence and solid financial ratings, there is great peace of mind in living in a community with such stability.

If you or your spouse are at least age 65 and possess a Pennsylvania Masonic or Eastern Star affiliation (call for specific details), call to arrange an appointment with a Masonic Homes counselor: You will get a tour of this top-rated facility so you can select a unit that best fits your needs. Call 1-800-676-6452, or complete and mail the coupon.

**Reserve Now and Move In Later!**

An aerial view of the Independent Living Community apartments

Independent Living
Renovations Complete!

The Independent Living Clubhouse has been the hub of activity for Independent Living residents since that level of service was first offered by the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown in 1990. Due to the expansion and growth of the Independent Living areas on campus, plans to renovate and upgrade the Clubhouse began in the spring of 1998.

The Independent Living Clubhouse renovations include enlargement of the Keystone Room, a large meeting room for residents; construction of a café; beautification of the lobby area, library, and hair care center; and the addition of a lounge, located just off the lobby. The café replaces the coffee shop that previously seated 30, and was open Monday through Saturday for breakfast and lunch. The new café offers an enhanced menu, new services, and additional seating that will serve up to 66 for breakfast, lunch, and dinner Monday through Saturday. The atmosphere at the café is casual and reservations are not required. The café is cash-based; however, residents may use their meal plan option if they choose.

"The renovation of the entire Clubhouse, including the café, was in response to the interests and preferences of the residents to have the space redesigned for their enjoyment," said Joseph E. Murphy, Executive Director/CEO.

Residents enjoy refreshments and socialization as they celebrate the grand re-opening of the Clubhouse on September 1, 1999.

**Residential Living in the Village Green Area of the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown**

A variety of residential options are available immediately in the beautiful Village Green Area for individuals who desire independence without the daily household chores. Services in this area include three meals daily in the beautiful Grand Lodge Hall dining room, biweekly housekeeping services, personal laundry services, transportation, activities, outpatient medical services, 24-hour emergency nurse call response, and all utilities (except telephone and cable, which are optional).

Conveniently located within walking distance are a post office, library, gift shop, general store, chapel, ice cream parlor, recreational area, lodge room, and ballroom where Masonic lodges and Eastern Star chapters meet. Parking is available, although transportation is provided to shopping malls, medical appointments, and other activities.

Admissions representatives are available to show life first-hand in the Residential Living Area. If you prefer to meet with someone in your home to hear more about Residential Living options, a visit can be arranged with one of the counselors. For more information, or to schedule an appointment for a tour, call 1-800-422-1207.

A view of the Grand Lodge Hall building from the formal gardens in the Village Green Area of the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown.
Residential/Respite Cottage is Home to Many

To some, it’s home... to others, it’s a Residential/Respite Cottage is Home to Many.

givers. They also enjoy the company of special adults, which allows their parents to take a vacation or spend some personal time free from their caregiving responsibilities.

Within the caring, secure environment of the Masonic Homes, the program provides quality services to ensure the well-being of the individuals during their stay. The warm, inviting cottage is staffed by friendly, compassionate, and experienced professionals who work with the philosophy that the residents and guests deserve dignity and respect. The staff cares for each individual’s medical and physical needs, including the administration of medications. But more importantly, they embrace the holistic approach to providing exceptional care for the mind, body, and spirit within a nurturing environment.

The Masonic Homes Respite Cottage provides three nutritious meals a day and snacks, social and recreational activities, and assistance with personal care.

For further information about the cottage’s first resident, Trent Echard (top photo), participating in both the Class of 1999. He will be attending Carnegie Mellon University majoring in Political Science.

D.D.G.M. Presents Aid Grant and Scholarship

Within weeks, Richard J. Stemmler (second from left), D.D.G.M. of the Masonic Homes, presented a $5,000 financial assistance grant from the Samuel Davis Bequest to Mrs. Carole Echard, widow of the late Bro. Alex A. Echard, Marlow Lodge No. 562, Scottsdale, then a $2,000 Lawrence Dietrich Smith Memorial Scholarship to their son, Trent Echard (top photo). Participating in both presentations were Terry Grath (left), W.M., and David F. Hilleges (right), Secretary of Marlow Lodge.

The Samuel Davis Bequest is granted by the Grand Lodge to assist families in caring for minor children of deceased Pennsylvania Masons. The grant is based on need and there is a special application which must be completed by the parent or guardian.

The Lawrence Dietrich Smith Scholarship is awarded by the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, an extension of the Grand Lodge, to young people who have a Masonic relative, or who are members of a Masonic-sponsored youth group. Trent was graduated from Southmoreland High School where he was valedictorian in the Class of 1999. He will be attending Carnegie Mellon University majoring in Political Science.

GIFT FROM THE EASTERN STAR

Jason Piskopas (center), a graduate of Belle Vernon High School, was awarded one of the R.W. Past Grand Master Carl W. Stenberg, Jr., scholarships of $1,000 a year for four years. He plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to major in microbiology. The presentation was made by Joseph F. Acton (second from left), D.D.G.M., 31st Masonic District. Participating in the presentation were (l-r): Gregory Zborovanick, high school Vice Principal; Bro. Acton; Jason Piskopas; Mrs. Stella Kosco, a school nurse; and Mrs. Denise Coebolon, a teacher and Student Assistance Program Team Counselor.

Quarterly Communication Dec. 1; Annual Grand on Dec. 27

The December Quarterly Communication and Election of Officers will be 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 1 in Corinthian Hall of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. The business of the Grand Lodge will determine the schedule for lunch. There will be a Grand Master’s Banquet at the Philadelphia Marriott with entertainment by “Up With People” in the evening. There will be a social reception at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. (See reservation coupon at right.)

The Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and the installation of the new Grand Master and Elected Officers will be Monday, Dec. 27, in the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Grand Lodge will open at 10:00 a.m., and the installation of the Grand Master will be at noon. Lunch will follow the Communication. A gala Grand Master’s banquet and outstanding show are planned for the evening in the New Red, White and Blue Ballrooms of the great American Hall in the remodeled Hershey Convention Center. (See more information and reservation coupon on Page 11.)

Monograph Produced As Tribute

An inspiring biographical monograph was written and published by Robert L. Engel, Armstrong Lodge No. 239, Freeport, as a tribute to his brother, Bro. William Basing Meredith (1839-1924) of Kittanning, a financier, businessman, public servant, State Senator, military veteran, and lifelong dedicated Mason. Bro. Meredith posthumously received outstanding records of service to York Rite Masonry as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania in 1907 and 1908 and to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as a District Deputy Grand Master for 51 years, from 1873 until his death in 1924. (Bro. Engel served as Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Holy Arch Chapter of Pennsylvania in 1993 and 1994 and is serving as an elected member of the Committee on the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.)

PA Masons Recognized for D.A.R.E. Support

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker presented R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette with a plaque giving special recognition to the Masons of Pennsylvania for the outstanding support of D.A.R.E. and its programs by the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children. Law enforcement officers from all over the Commonwealth are trained for the D.A.R.E. program at the Masonic Conference Center on the Patton Campus at Elizabethtown.

GIFT FROM THE EASTERN STAR

Beth Weman, resident, likes to color at the dining room table.

Deb Beiler makes coffee in the kitchen.

Respite Cottage or to schedule a tour, visit or short-term respite stay, call (717) 367-1121, ext. 33751, or write to Respite Cottage, Masonic Homes, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Susan Vale, the cottage's first resident, spends some quiet time in her room.

THREE GENERATIONS IN LODGE

It became three generations of Masons from the same family in Liberty Lodge No. 505, Port Allegheny, when James D. Gustafson, J.W., (right), conferred the three degrees on his son, David (center), last November, January, and February. The new Mason’s grandfather, J. Howard Gustafson, is at the left.

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CEREMONIES FOR NEW RIMROCK MASONIC CENTER

Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden (second from left) pours the wine during the ceremonial cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new Rimrock Masonic Center and the dedication of the lodge room June 19 by R.W. Grand Master J. Ernette (left at lectern) and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. There was a large attendance by members of the lodges, attendant bodies, and ladies’ organizations who met in the new building. The Center is home to Barger Lodge No. 325; J. Simpson Africa Lodge No. 214; Grand Master’s Club; and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

November

Nov. 6 International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Centennial Region.
Nov. 7 Organ Recital, Corinthian Hall, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia - 4:30 p.m.
Nov. 8-9 Grand Lodge of Nevada.
Nov. 12-13 Scottish Rite Valley of Pittsburgh Fall Reunion.
Nov. 13 Overture Series Seminar, Wilkes-Barre.
Nov. 15 Meetings at Masonic Temple, Philadelphia; 9 a.m. - Program Presentation; 9:30 a.m. - Consolidated Fund; 11 a.m. - Administrators of the Pension Plan; 3 p.m. - Committee on Finance.
Nov. 16 Scottish Rite Valley of Williamsport Fall Reunion.
Nov. 17 Overture Series Seminar, Harrisburg.
Nov. 23 St. John’s Lodge No. 223, West Pittsburg, State Police Degree Team confer of Master Mason Degree.
Nov. 27 Appreciation Dinner, 30th Masonic District, Stapleton.
Nov. 30 Meetings at Masonic Temple, Philadelphia; 10 a.m. - Landmarks Committee; 1:30 p.m. - District Deputy Grand Masters; 3 p.m. - Rehearsal for Grand Lodge Elevated and Appointed Officer; 5:30 p.m. - Social Reception; 6:30 p.m. - Dinner.
Dec. 1 December Communication, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia - 10 a.m.; Social Hour - 5 p.m.; Barquet - 6 p.m.
Dec. 2 Grand Chapter Quarterly, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia - 10 a.m.
Dec. 3 Valley of Pittsburgh Christmas Luncheon, Allegheny Club.
Dec. 9 Masonic Homes Appreciation Dinner; Social Hour - 6 p.m.; Dinner - 7 p.m., Log Cabin.
Dec. 10 Meeting at Masonic Homes; 8 a.m. - Buildings and Grounds Committee; 10 a.m. - Grand Sub-Committee; 1 p.m. - Committee on Masonic Homes.
Dec. 11 Syria Shrine Ceremonial, Pittsburgh.
Dec. 15 Grand Lodge Employees Christmas Appreciation Dinner, Union League, Philadelphia.
Dec. 17 Scottish Rite Valley of Philadelphia Reunion: Dinner - 5:30 p.m.; Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dec. 21 Official Visitation to Westmoreland Lodge No. 558, Greensburg.
Dec. 26 Rehearsal for Grand Lodge Elevated and Appointed Officers, Chocolate Ballroom, Hershey - 12 p.m.
Dec. 27 Annual Grand Communication, Hershey - 10 a.m.; Installation of New Grand Master - noon; Social Hour - 6 p.m.; Dinner - 7 p.m.; Entertainment to follow.

CEREMONY AT RIMROCK MASONIC CENTER

Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., R.W. Senior Grand Warden (second from left) pours the wine during the ceremonial cornerstone-laying ceremony for the new Rimrock Masonic Center and the dedication of the lodge room June 19 by R.W. Grand Master J. Ernette (left at lectern) and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. There was a large attendance by members of the lodges, attendant bodies, and ladies’ organizations who met in the new building. The Center is home to Barger Lodge No. 325; J. Simpson Africa Lodge No. 214; Grand Master’s Club; and the officers of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The value of the lessons taught in Freemasonry, however, lies entirely in the thoughts and inspirations they stimulate in the minds of those receiving them. The lessons do not change, only the recipients change. My Brothers, Freemasonry is more than a group of men — it is an ideal. It has served as an attractive force for some of the great men this world has ever seen. It has honored the commitment to us, but we have truly honored our commitment to it.

I have heard in recent years, questions raised by those both inside and outside who are concerned with the relevancy of Freemasonry in the current world. Could there ever be a time when our philosophy would not be relevant? If we are slipping in influence, is it our fault, not the outside world’s? Maybe that world is not as receptive to us as it once was, but it does not influence our quality as an institution. That control is totally in our hands. Therefore, the destiny of Freemasonry is subject to our actions — always has been. We cannot continue to make excuses to justify our failures. What we need is to understand more fully our purpose and minimize the failures.

There is no question that our present way of life has deprived the Craft of much of the opportunity of doing the personal things that were the source of its major strength of the past; but, our philosophy is eternally relevant. We represent a bastion of tolerance in an intolerant world. Our philosophy of purpose could very well serve as a foundation for world peace. Our only weak link is us.

A Roman Catholic priest and a member of the Fraternity said several years ago, "We would be glad to teach Brethren and their families about tolerance and correctness to the world, then, be it!" What a great testimony to the relevancy of Freemasonry in today's world.

We are not only relevant; we are needed by this intolerant world. So, note it always be.