Charitable gift annuities are available at attractive rates.

**Benefits Include:**
- Payments Partially Tax-Free for a period of time
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For a free information packet, call Development Office located at the Masonic Homes at: 1-(800)-599-6454.

Your Fraternity wants to help you make a good gift better. The Development Office staff can assist you in finding the best gift plan for your needs. They will explain the various options and provide helpful tailor-made illustrations. They will be sensitive to your financial needs, objectives, and will protect your confidentiality. You can choose from several Grand Lodge sponsored charities. There is no cost for this service and you will be under no obligation.

For further information about Charitable Gift Planning, complete and mail the response form below or call the Development Office at (717) 367-1121, ext. 3331 or 1-(800)-599-6454.

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**One-Life Gift Annuity Rates**

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*Rates recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities, effective July 1, 1999.

Note: Two-life rates are lower due to added life expectancy.

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**TO DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

- [ ] Send me the brochure on estate planning.
- [ ] Send me the brochure on Taking Stock and Giving It.
- [ ] Contact me regarding a Charitable Gift Annuity.
- [ ] Send me the brochure on Giving Through Your Will.
- [ ] Contact me about a personal visit or other assistance.

**Name**

**Address**

**City**

**State, Zip**

**Phone**

MAIL THIS FORM TO: Development Department
John R. McFadden, Planned Giving Officer
Masonic Homes
One Masonic Drive
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

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**Pennsylvania Academy of Freemasonry**

**National Communication**

**Page 6**

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**Robert L. Dluge, Jr. installed as 113th R.W. Grand Master**

**Page 2**

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**The PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON**

**February 2000**

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**Little League World Series**

**Page 4**

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**Robert L. Dluge Jr.
Right Worshipful Grand Master**

**2000-2001**
Robert L. Dluge, Jr. Installed 113th Grand Master During Impressive Communication in Hershey

It is our hope that you have entered into this new millennium without any Y2K difficulties and you are prepared to participate actively in the activities of your lodge and of this great Grand Lodge. The pages of this issue of The Pennsylvania Freemason reflect that our brethren have taken the challenge placed before them at the Annual Grand Communication – that of sustaining service to our Fraternity and our communities.

In this issue, you also will find the names of our members who will serve all of us at Grand Lodge elected and appointed officers, district deputies, chaplains, ritualists, aides, important committee members, directors, and staff. The next time you see any of these brethren, tell them that you saw their names and give them "a pat on the back" for their efforts.

As we can see, our lodges are very active in helping others. We are now going to give you the opportunity to improve yourself which, by your participation, will help your lodges as well as the Grand Lodge. The opportunity I refer to will be a series of educational self-improvement programs on Saturday, May 11, on the Masonic Homes campus in Elizabethtown.

If you are a lodge leader, Saturday, the 11th, will be when the Junior and Senior Wardens training seminars will return. Wardens and their wives are being invited to attend and to learn what it means to be a leader. By the end of the day, they will have been given the tools to plan to lead their lodges completely and successfully.

Saturday's session also will focus on ritual when a Grand Lodge School of Instruction will take place. This school will be conducted and presented by the brethren and principals of the district schools. Come and see the work presented the way it is intended.

Lastly, we will give you the opportunity to improve yourself by gaining accurate knowledge of the Fraternity, its purposes, goals, and a unique perspective of your position as a member locally as well as globally. This opportunity will come with the opening session of our Academy of Freemasonry. Bro. Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Past Grand Secretary, has arranged for a dialogue to begin on these subjects with some of the foremost experts of Freemasonry in the world. This is an exciting challenge for Pennsylvania Masons. Please take that challenge and attend!

Best wishes for a millennium year. We look forward to seeing you in Elizabethtown.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Robert L. Dluge, Jr.
R.W. Grand Master

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Robert L. Dluge, Jr. was installed as the 113th R.W. Grand Master of Masters in Pennsylvania on Dec. 27 in the presence of more than 500 brethren in a Grand Lodge room-in-the-round staged in the expansive Chocolate Ballroom of the Hershey Convention Center.

The Annual Grand Communication was attended by an impressive line of visiting dignitaries from many of the grand jurisdictions in the United States, as well as the Province of Ontario, Canada, and Haiti. The leaders, or their representatives, from most of the appointed and allied bodies of Freemasonry attended.

The Grand Master's installation at noon climaxed the administration of oaths to the other elected officers: Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., Deputy Grand Master; William Slutter Jr., Senior Grand Warden; Ronald A. Aungst, Jr., Junior Grand Warden; and Donald L. Albert, Grand Secretary. As the re-elected incumbent R.W. Grand Treasurer, it was not necessary to re-install Marvin G. Speicher.

After the new Past Grand Master, James L. Ermette, "passed the gavel" of leadership, Grand Master Dluge introduced a new symbolic ceremony during which three retiring Worthy Masters of Blue Lodges who were present in Grand Lodge "passed the gavel" of their leadership to their successors by transferring to them the collars and aprons of their offices.

Grand Master Dluge introduced another inspiring invocation, "The Pennsylvania Charge," which was delivered by Homer Jones, P.M., Pocoro Lodge No. 780, Cresco. The charge recalls the obligatory values, principles, and character of a Freemason.

Among his first acts as Grand Master, Bro. Dluge awarded the Pennsylvania Franklin Medal for outstanding, distinguished service to Freemasonry to Past Grand Masters Edward O. Weiszer and James L. Ermette. (See article on page 8 of The Pennsylvania Freemason.)

Grand Master Received in His Lodge

Within two hours of his installation, Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Grand Master, was received in his home lodge, Elysburg Lodge No. 414, during an informal visitation at a special meeting in Hershey. Grand Master Dluge and the Grand Lodge officers are pictured entering from the lodge room after the reception.

3 Members of the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R., N.M.J., gather prior to the Annual Grand Communication in Hershey. They are from left: Thomas K. Sturgeon, Active Member; C. DeForest Treder, Deputy for Pennsylvania, Robert O. Ralston, Sovereign Grand Commander, and Judge Charles F. Crevecoer, Active Emeritus.

1,300 Gala Banquet

Some 1,300 brethren and ladies celebrated the installation of Bro. Dluge at the gala Grand Master's Banquet held that evening in the new Great American Ballroom of the Hershey Convention Center. The gala evening was climaxed by balloon received, lively show featuring Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, Jr., the founding headliners of the Original 5th Dimension.
Grand Master Dluge Announces Program That Teams Pennsylvania Freemasons With Little League Baseball

Grand Master Dluge presented the check to Stephen D. Kemmer, President and C.E.O. of Little League Baseball; Karen Stotz Myers, daughter of the late Bro. Carl Stotz; and Theorell H. Reich, Chairman of Little League Baseball International Board of Directors. In receiving the check, President Kemmer said: "Little League Baseball continuing to grow and expand, it is appropriate that we take this opportunity to remember Carl Stotz as the founder of our program. We thank the Masons of Pennsylvania for their generosity and their belief in the mission of Little League as they memorialize Mr. Stotz. Their gifts will be of benefit to the children around the world." It is a great day for the Stotz family, Masons, and the Little League," said Chairman Reich, who also is Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Jersey Shore (PA) State Bank.

According to Karen Stotz Myers, the founding of Little League was simply the result of her father wanting his nephews to play baseball. "The Stotz family dreams will be realized when future generations of Little Leaguers know it was Carl Stotz who gave them the opportunity," she said at the media conference.

After the conference, Grand Master Dluge commented on behalf of the nearly 150,000 Pennsylvania Masons: "Our team effort and contribution is a 'grand slam' for youth, again putting action into the often repeated words that 'Masons care about youth.'" This Grand Master's program came to this point as a team effort among a number of Masons, especially Ronald A. Augst, Sr., R.W. Junior Grand Warden, and Richard L. Betron, Sr., P.M., Lodge No. 100, Williamsport, who is an employee of Little League Headquarters, Inc.

Ready to deliver the first pitch during a well attended media conference in Little League Stadium, Bro. Dluge announces this Grand Master's monumental program to support youth. "The Grand Lodge team of officers are here to support what will become 'A World of Opportunity' for children."

Logdes Urged to Aid Heart Program

Theo Kotjarajopulos, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Heart Association (left), and Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Grand Master, display an automatic external defibrillator (AED), such as the Grand Master is encouraging lodges to aid the Heart Association in providing for local police, fire, and ambulance units in their communities. The AED is a device that literally can shock a person back to life. The Grand Master said that helping the Heart Association attain its goal of placing 1,000 units across Pennsylvania is a program that literally will save lives. It is an excellent method to apply the Matching Grants Program to good community service. Joining in the presentation of the AED story are (at right): Alvin Blitz, General Counsel of the Pennsylvania Heart Association, and Earl "Skip" Montan, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Emergency Safety Committee.

In honor of the late Bro. Carl Stotz, the Mason who founded Little League Baseball in 1939, Robert L. Dluge, Jr., R.W. Grand Master announced a monumental program for the Masons of Pennsylvania to support the expansion of the Little League World Series in Williamsport. During a well attended media conference on Dec. 30 in the Little League Baseball Museum in Williamsport, Grand Master Dluge toasted a benefit youth by presenting a contribution of $500,000 to Little League Baseball.

Because of this support, in conjunction with the building of another stadium, the Little League complex will have a big league-style scoreboard marked with Masonic symbols and dedicated in honor of the late Bro. Stotz. In addition, there will be a memorial sculpture of him placed at the entrance of the stadium complex. A Masonic cornerstone laying ceremony for the memorial statue is also being planned for the unveiling and dedication of the statue during the Little League World Series.

It was Bro. Stotz, who was a member of John F. Ludlow Lodge No. 707, Williamsport, who conceived the idea of organized baseball for young boys. He founded the first program in 1939 with only three teams that today has grown to become the world's largest organized youth sports program. Nearly three million boys and girls participate in Little League baseball and softball programs with one million volunteers in 103 countries.

Over Two Years With Matching Grants, Lodges Infuse $2-Million-Plus into Communities

Spirited by the Grand Lodge Matching Charities Grants Program, in two years lodges across Pennsylvania have infused $2,154,470 into their communities to serve the needs of their neighbors. Along with the funds, brethren have contributed countless hours of personal service to mankind.

In 1998, 326 lodges filed 736 applications and $478,575 were granted. That means with Grand Lodge Matching Grants, nearly a million dollars benefited mankind in communities across the state in the first year of the program.

If 1998 was great; then 1999 was superb: 349 lodges filed 1,010 applications of which 911 were granted $958,600. In other words, with Matching Grants monies, nearly $1.2 million more made a difference in the lives of persons across the state in 1999. That's a seven percent increase in lodge participation and a 25 percent increase in funding.

R.W. Grand Master Robert L. Dluge, Jr. has said that the Matching Charities Grants Program will continue, adding increased emphasis for lodges and members' personal involvement in community projects along with the funding. Samuel C. Williamson, R.W.P.G.M. will continue to chair the program and administer it.

Pittsburgh Proclamation Cites Grant

The City of Pittsburgh issued an official Proclamation resolving that the Council "...does hereby thank the officers and members of East Liberty Lodge No. 725, Pittsburgh, and Pennsylvania's Grand Lodge of the Free and Accepted Masons for their generous and gracious support of the community of Garfield (in Pittsburgh)... and for their efforts, energy, and undying dedication to the principles upon which the Free & Accepted Masons were founded nearly three hundred years ago," East Liberty Lodge contributed $1,000 in support of the Garfield Youth Football project to improve its facilities in Pittsburgh.

Azalea Lodge Gives Police Night Vision

With an ITT Night Monocular device purchased at a cost of $1,500 by Azalea Lodge No. 687, Hadleton, Butler Township police will be able to see things more clearly. The equipment, known by police as "night vision," looks like a small hand-held video camera and makes the time look almost like daylight. Charles Miller, W.M., of Azalea Lodge (right) presented the night vision equipment to Patrolmen Al Demko (left) and Brian Sabatini.

Concordia Lodge Helps Police Dept.

During the annual ladies' night of Concordia Lodge No. 67, Jenkintown, Frederick Weichertman, W.M. (Center), presented a check for $6,000 to the Jenkintown Chief of Police, Craig Rickard (right), for the purchase of a mobile data transmitter. The equipment will allow a police officer to access instantly information relating to the situation at hand. Participating in the presentation were H. Fera (left), D.D.G.M., Masonic District E. Concordia Lodge, and history of also supporting the local volunteer fire department and the D.A.R.E. programs.

Masons Donate $1,000 for Police Chapel

Andrew H. Hershoy Lodge No. 764 presented a donation of $1,000 to the Lancaster City's Mayor Charles Smithgall, and Donald L. Erb, Sr., at a city hall ceremony for the construction of a chapel in a new city police station to be built. Donald L. Erb, Sr. is the husband of the late Carol Erb, for whom the chapel will be named. She was the mother of two city police officers, Chris and Donald Erb, Jr.

The chapel will serve as a sanctuary for police officers, employees, victims, families of victims, and the public who are in need of a quiet place for meditation, reflection, and solitude during times of stress.

Pictured (left to right): George E. Vernau, Jr., P.M. and Past Secretary; Charles I. Fasnacht, P.M., Secretary; Donald Erb, Sr., husband of the late Carol Erb and father of the two police officers; Police Chief Michael Landis; and Mayor Charles Smithgall. Also, back row: John F. Anuscavage, Chaplain; Donald L. Erb, Jr. and Christopher M. Erb, officers of Lancaster City Police.
Pennsylvania Academy of Freemasonry Ready To Open Three Schools of Opportunity in Elizabethtown on March 11


School For Ritual

In the Grand Lodge School of Instruction, Regional Instructors and Principals of the Schools of Instruction will exemplify the ritualistic work. Bro. Dlugi emphasized, "Through the Grand Lodge School of Instruction, we are striving for the excellence in our ritualistic work that is so vital to the philosophy, mission and tradition of our Fraternity. Brothers involved in ritual will be able to witness the degree the way they are intended to be exemplified."

This school, which is one of the three tracks of the Pennsylvania Academy of Freemasonry, will replace several of the Regional Schools of Instruction.

The Academy of Masonic Knowledge

In presenting the plans for the newly created Academy of Masonic Knowledge, its chairmen, Thomas L. Dlugi, Jr., past Grand Secretary, noted: "For a considerable number of years it has been a concern of many in the Fraternity that Freemasonry in North America has been failing to provide the proper stimulus to keep Masonic scholars and to provide an environment for those who wish to learn about Freemasonry and its impact and receive guidance in understanding and communicating its message.

This has been a particularly great concern for Brother Robert L. Dlugi, Jr., and rectifying that deficiency has become one of the major objectives of the Pennsylvania Academy of Freemasonry. Each meeting will feature a prominent Masonic scholar who will address the first Grand Master, and comprises Ronald A. Aungst, past Grand Secretary, and Thomas L. Dlugi, Jr., the chairmen, and three brothers who were made Masons together 50 years ago in Butler Lodge No. 272, but they never attended together lodge again until they received their 50-Year Emblem of Gold in 1990. The embryos were presented by David A. Towsley, D.D.G.M., 27th Masonic District, assisted by Frank Goetz, W.M.

The three grew up in Butler and all served their country during World War II. Bill was in the Army and Don was in the Air Force, both in the China Burma India Theater. Tom was in the Navy serving on the battleship USS Iowa. After the war, Bill started in the newspaper business, but soon followed his father to the Triosteum Department Store in Butler. In later years he was owner of the Lazarus chain of stores in Columbus, OH, from which he retired. After being graduated from Grove City College, Don became Business Manager for Allied Newspapers, moved to sales management positions with large insurance companies, then to Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp., in Pittsburgh and Chicago, where he retired as Senior Sales Representative in the Midwest area.

Triosteum Department Store in Butler, where he retired. All three are married and reside in the areas where they retired.

Press Conference Kicks Off Dramatic “Every Thirty Minutes” Program

Then-Grand Master James L. Ernette (left) and State Police Commissioner Paul J. Evanko present an oversize replica of the $50,000 check from The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children to Angela Saggi, S.A.D.D. Director.

On Dec. 17, then-R.W. Grand Master James L. Ernette and several members of the Grand Lodge, the Executive Director Bro. Joseph L. Witte and members of The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children, along with Bill, and Cpt. Paul J. Evanko, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police, attended a press conference in the Rotunda of the State Capitol for the kick-off of the “Every Thirty Minutes” program. Grand Master Ernette presented a check for $50,000 to the Program Coordinator to show the support for our youth by The Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children and the 150,000 Pennsylvania Masons.

Run by the PA DUI Association in conjunction with the State Police, the Pennsylvania Masons and Students Against Drunk Driving, the program aims to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the roads through the consequences of being "driving under the influence." During the press conference, speakers from two high schools that had participated in the pilot program spoke about the impact that it had on their whole student bodies.

In the dramatically instructional "Every Thirty Minutes" enactment, the "Grim Reaper" goes into the classroom every 30 minutes and removes previously chosen students to demonstrate that's how often someone is killed as a result of an auto accident involving driving while impaired. When they are returned to the classroom, those students are not allowed to communicate with anyone in the school while their fellow students write letters expressing their thoughts about the departed student.

The students who were chosen and removed from the classroom stay with the staff in a local hotel overnight, where they write letters to their parents about their "death." Parents are also part of the program and they, too, write letters to their children expressing their feelings of loss and grief. Visits to the emergency room and morgue are also part of the program.

Quarterly in March To Be In Irem Temple, Wilkes-Barre; Evening Show by Hampton String Quartet in Scranton

The Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania will be held Saturday, March 25, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. a.m. in the Temple Shrine Center, 59 N. Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre. Luncheon for members will follow the Grand Lodge meeting.

That evening there will be a special Quarterly Communication show beginning at 8 p.m. by the Hampton String Quartet in the Masonic Temple at the Scranton Cultural Center, 420 Washington St., Scranton.

The Julliard-trained and Grammy-nominated Hampton String Quartet performs unplugged renditions of rock from The Rolling Stones to Led Zeppelin. They have played in concert and broadcast venues such as the Town Hall, Madison Square Garden and United Nations in New York City, Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, Canadian Center in Hong Kong; and on ABC, BBC, CBS, and NBC. The quartet comprises Jon Reed, cello; Regis Landorio, violin; Michael Maxamoff, viola; and Richard Hendrickson, second violin.

Price for tickets to the entertainment will be $20 per adult and $15 per student. Tickets can be purchased at the Scranton Cultural Center Box Office by calling 570-344-1111, or the toll-free number, 1-888-669-8566. There also is a web site, www.ticketmaster.com.
Franklin Medal Presented to Two Past Grand Masters

After his installation as R.W. Grand Master, Robert L. Dioge, Jr., presented the Pennsylvania Franklin Medal to the two immediate Past Grand Masters, Edward G. Weisser and James L. Ernette.

The Franklin Medal is the most distinguished honor awarded by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to those who have rendered outstanding service. It is named for Bro. Benjamin Franklin who served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania in 1734 and 1746.

Bro. Edward O. Weisser

Bro. Weisser served as the 111th Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons in 1966 and 1967. He served as Worshipful Master of Newtown Lodge No. 427, Westmoreland County in 1972 and as District Deputy Grand Master of the 8th Masonic District from 1972 through 1983. He had served Grand Lodge as Chairman of Masonic Education in 1989 until he became Grand Master and has returned to that service the last seven years. He is a member of Philadelphia Lodge No. 427, Philadelphia Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Temple Beth Israel Temple. He is a member of the Sankey Family and the Elks Lodge.

He is married to Bro. Weisser was born in Langhorne where he has resided his entire life. They have two daughters, Robin Rowlands and Kim Stockmayer. There are three grandchildren, George, VI and Matthew Stockmayer and Jillian Rowlands. He has a twin brother, John, who served as the Grand Sword Bearer through his term as Grand Master.

He was educated in the Lower Merion School District. He received an Associate Degree in Elementary Education and a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Chestnut Hill College, and a Master of Education degree from Temple University. He taught in the Neshaminy School District for 11 years and spent 14 years as Superintendent of Education. He is currently, he is Vice President and Secretary of Eastern Deacon Mobile Home Park, Inc. He remains an active member of Langhorne United Methodist Church and is the current treasurer of the church.

Ben Weisser is well known for his favorite hobby, music. He plays the accordion and has been performing band music and church music in the Philadelphia Mummers’ Parade for 46 years. He has been a member of the Greater Pennsylvania String Band since 1954, served as its president, treasurer, trustees, and currently is the business manager.

Bro. James L. Ernette

Bro. Ernette served as the 112th Grand Master of Pennsylvania Masons in 1998 and 1999. He served as President of the Franklin Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity in 1989 and is a member of Philadelphia Lodge No. 427, Philadelphia Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Temple Beth Israel Temple. He is a member of the Sankey Family and the Elks Lodge.

He is married to the Venerable Dean of the Pennsylvania Masons, the Rev. Sister James L. Ernette, who serves as the Chaplain of the Pennsylvania Masons. They have two daughters, Brook and Ashley, and two grandchildren, Ashley and Cole Frederick. The Ernettes are members of the Charter Oak United Methodist Church, Greensburg.

Chester County Masons Dare to Care

A very successful “Dare to Care” Drug and Alcohol Awareness March and Expo was sponsored by several lodges from Masonic District 5, Goodard Lodge No. 383, Coatesville, and Williamson Lodge No. 309, Downingtown, joined together to involve the community in a fundraiser to benefit various drug and alcohol prevention and treatment programs. The program raised more than $12,000, and with matching funds of $7,000, it was a huge success.

It received excellent newspaper coverage, two-hours of live radio coverage, and several television newscasts.

The program was coordinated by Bros. Ed Stimm and Ed Dazio, with the support of Russell W. Baker, D.D.G.M., 5th Masonic District. Participants included hundreds of sponsored marchers, local township and Chester County commissioners, a State Senator, Ronald McDonald, and several crash test dummies. Nineteen local substance abuse agencies were on hand to present displays at the Expo, which also included a Masonic Awareness Booth. Additional support for the program was provided by Coatesville Lodge No. 564; West Chester Lodge No. 322; Thompson Lodge No. 340, Paoli; Skerrett Lodge No. 343; Cochrane; Oxford Lodge No. 353; Howell Lodge No. 405, Honey Brook; Kennett Lodge No. 475, Kennett Square; New London Lodge No. 545, West Grove; and Keystone Lodge No. 565, Parkesburg.

P.M. Confers Degrees For Three Sons

For three months, I have enjoyed some of the proudest moments of my life,” said Past Master Van Randall Keglerise (rear) when he welcomed his three sons as Masons in Ephrata Lodge No. 665. He was a recommender for all of them and conferred one of the degrees on each of them (f); the past Master was the Venerable Dean of the Pennsylvania Masons, James L. Reinwald (center) of the Penn Masonic District.

The Venerable Dean of the Penn Masonic District was also present are: At left, Chaplain Douglas Nelson and Senior Deacon Gerard Bellini; at right, Junior Deacon Bradley Leibs.

Chester County Masons Dare to Care

On Dec. 3, then-Grand Master James L. Ernette visited the Penn State-Altoona Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity meeting in the Altoona Masonic Temple to witness the initiation of 12 undergraduates and three Masons in the collegiate Fraternity. The Masons, who will serve as masters are: David A. MacIntosh, Ben Davis, and Larry Smith. The new members will be Chapter Advisor; George Greiner, III, S.W. Logan Lodge No. 400, Assistant Advisor, and Dale A. DeLotor, D.D.G.M., 20th Masonic District.

At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Venerable Dean of the chapter presented then-Grand Master Ernette with a $100 contribution to be applied to the Grand Master’s Law Enforcement Scholarship Fund. To raise the money, the Acacia Fraternity has organized a free pizza shop hanging flyers on neighborhood doors. A banquet was held in honor of then-Grand Master Ernette, who is a member of the Franklin Chapter of the Acacia Fraternity at the University of Pennsylvania. The Grand Master spoke of his desire to see an even stronger relationship grow between Freemasonry and the Acacia Fraternity as a result of the initiation of the advisors into the chapter. He then presented the chapter with the Grand Master’s Medallion.

The Acacia Fraternity was founded in 1904 at the University of Michigan by 14 Master Freemasons. Today the Fraternity has chapters throughout the country and in Canada, with nine chapters and one lodge in the Commonwealth.
PA Masonic Foundation For Children
Graduates 500th D.A.R.E. Officer
From Masonic Conference Center

Since 1994 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has been supporting the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (P.C.C.D.) with its mission to "provide children with the information and skills they need to live drug-violence-free lives," through the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.). Recently, the support from the Masons of Pennsylvania reached a milestone with the graduation of the 500th D.A.R.E. officer, Bro. James W. Powers, Jr. of Carroll Valley Police in Fairfield, at the Masonic Conference Center located in Elizabethtown. Bro. Powers is a member of George Washington Lodge No. 143, Chambersburg.

Brother Powers, who began his career in law enforcement with the Carroll Valley Police in 1995, says children must realize "attitude is everything" because being positive about life and education will make it easier to overcome negative peer pressure. "Nothing is better than saving the lives of children. Masons of Pennsylvania take great pride in knowing that we are doing something for every child throughout the Commonwealth who has had a D.A.R.E. officer visit their elementary school or secondary school," said then-R. Grand Master James L. Ernette in addressing the D.A.R.E. graduating class.

The Masonic Conference Center at Elizabethtown has been designated as the official P.C.C.D. as the official D.A.R.E. Training Center which hosts a minimum of two training classes per year. This allows uniformed officers enrolled in D.A.R.E. from across the Commonwealth to receive two weeks of intensive training, a total of 80 hours, compliments of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Children, who has last been the liaison between P.C.C.D. and the Grand Lodge, supports D.A.R.E. with an annual budget of approximately $80,000, a small price to pay when dealing with the lives of children.

Carroll Valley Police Officer Bro. James W. Powers, Jr. with then-R. Grand Master James L. Ernette at the Masonic Conference Center at Elizabethtown.

**SIX SECTIONAL SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION SCHEDULED**

Six Sectional Schools of Instruction will be conducted across the state in the Spring. The following dates and locations are as follows:

- Feb. 26 .............Scranton
- Mar. 4 ..............New Castle
- Mar. 18 .............Pittsburgh
- Apr. 1 ...............Baltimore
- Apr. 8 ..............Johnstown
- May 6 ..............Philadelphia

**In Memoriam**

Hiram Price Ball, Right Worshipful Grand Master 1970-1971
July 13, 1983 - September 11, 1999

Brother Hiram Price Ball was born on July 13, 1913 in Millvale, Pennsylvania, and died on September 11, 1999 in Gibsonia, Pennsylvania. He is survived by his wife, Florence, son Hiram, Jr., and daughters Victoria and Susan, and two grandchildren. In the span of his 86 years, he built a long resume of accomplishments for himself by serving others.

Brother Ball was educated in the public schools of Pittsburgh and at the University of Pittsburgh and received a bachelor's degree in 1937 from Franklin and Marshall College. He attended the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1937 and 1938 and received an honorary degree from Thiel College when he gave the commencement address there.

In business, he rose to Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Ball Chemical Company. He enjoyed a very successful and fulfilling business career and was a recognized leader in the development of paints, resins, and insulating varnish. He also held membership and leadership roles in numerous professional and fraternal associations.

In Freemasonry, however, that Brother Ball seemed to find his deepest satisfactions. He was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Harmony Lodge No. 420, Zelienople, on March 13, 1941. Brother Ball served as Worshipful Master of his Lodge in 1944. In 1947, he resigned to become a member of his father's Lodge, Corinthian Lodge No. 573, Pittsburgh, from which he also resigned in 1949 to become Warrant Master and trustee of Colonel Henry Bouquet Lodge No. 787, which merged with Lodge No. 45 in Pittsburgh in 1978. In 1987 Brother Ball changed his Blue Lodge affiliation for a final time by returning to Corinthian Lodge No. 573.

He was a member of Zerubbabel Royal Arch Chapter No. 162; Mt. Moriah Council No. 2, Royal and Select Master Masons; Pennsylvania Commandery No 1, Knights Templar; U.S. Premier Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine; Court No. 2, Royal Order of Jesters; Islam Croton; Al-Qa'ed El-Dine; the Masonic Homes; the National Sojourner and the Pennsylvania Masonic Homes High Twelve Club.

Brother Ball received his Scottish Rite degrees in the bodies of the Valley of Pittsburgh, but also maintained membership in the Valley of New Castle. He received the 33° in September, 1964. A member of Syria Shrine Temple, he served as Illustrious Potentate in 1957.

Brother Ball was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1964, and served as Right Worshipful Grand Master in 1970 and 1971.

In his final report as Grand Master, he said: "The landmarks of the obvious aspects of our heritage and accomplishments are those of perpetual and enduring nature. But Freemasonry, the changeless, is ever changing, ever beginning. Let us with high resolve, once again, rededicate our hearts, minds, and energies to its purpose and service."

He couldn't have described himself better! Brother Ball put his heart, his mind, and his energy into the work of Freemasonry. He seemed to have a changeless personality and he aged with such dignity that his accumulated years were undetected by many. His interests were ever and ever beginning. He was youthful in his demeanor and his actions, and he liked being in on the beginnings of new efforts. In 1976, he chaired the Committee on Youth Activities, which began the Masonic Youth Programs at the Patton Campus in Elizabethtown, and which eventually led us to the starlight the Pennsylvania Masonic Foundation for Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children, and he provided stellar leadership to that flegding program, which has since grown in support and activity.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania has lost a great Mason, and we are the poorer for his passing.

Know the Facts about Life at the Masonic Homes!

Would you enjoy the beauty, conveniences, companionship and services offered at the Masonic Homes— but have questions? Now is the time to visit the Masonic Homes to discover the facts that have alleviated many of our residents’ concerns and encouraged them to join the Masonic Homes family to enjoy the many conveniences offered to the residential living, assisted living, or health care services area.

**Fiction:** Residents must turn over assets to the Masonic Homes.

**Fact:** Residents retain ownership of their assets. Residets will be billed monthly by the Masonic Homes for services rendered to them while they reside at the Masonic Homes.

**Fiction:** Residents must have a minimum amount of assets to be eligible for admission to the Masonic Homes—Residential Living, Assisted Living, and Thanh Care Center areas.

**Fact:** There is no required amount of money necessary to enter the Masonic Homes' Residential Living, Assisted Living, and Health Care Center areas. However, the Masonic Homes does require that all applicants maintain a necessity for Medical Assistance and have Medicare, and other third-party payers by not transferring or giving away assets.

**Fiction:** If residents’ funds are depleted, they will be asked to leave the Masonic Homes.

**Fact:** As long as residents maintain their eligibility for Medical Assistance and other third-party reimbursement, they will not be required to leave.

Now are you ready to visit our caring community? The Masonic Homes are ready to serve you! To schedule a personal appointment or a tour with one of the Admissions representatives, for additional information about the Masonic Homes, or for questions regarding availability, call toll-free: 1-800-422-1207.

**Eastern Star Festival**

On Nov. 20, 1999, Eastern Star members, residents, and their families gathered for the Second Annual Eastern Star Festival and Luncheon at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown.

Eleven Eastern Star chapters participated in the festival, themed "Sweets for the Sweet." Visitors had the opportunity to take bus tours of the campus and purchase a variety of items, including homemade baked goods, handicrafts and baskets fully edible treats, and other products. The Eastern Star Festival raised approximately $7,000 for the Masonic Homes. These funds will be used to purchase items to enhance the quality of life for the residents.

Proceeds from last year’s festival went toward the purchase of a new computer for the Adult Day Living Center and a magnifying reader for the Grand Lodge Hall library, among other gifts.

Following the festival, 288 guests attended the sold-out Eastern Star Luncheon.

Mrs. Virginia A. Colestock, resident of the Masonic Homes, enjoys the Eastern Star Festival with friends and relatives.

**Fiction:** When residents pass away, the residual of their estate will be given to the Masonic Homes.

**Fact:** The Masonic Homes encourage all residents to have a will. Funds and personal belongings remaining upon their demise will be distributed according to their will.

**Fiction:** Residents may not come and go as they please.

**Fact:** Residents are encouraged to go on trips and visit with friends and relatives. The Masonic Homes asks that residents let staff members know their whereabouts, so that staff can locate them in the event of an emergency.

**Fiction:** Residents may not keep their automobile.

**Fact:** Residents may maintain their automobile, as long as they follow the guidelines established under the Automobile Policy. The policy indicates that a resident must hold a valid Pennsylvania driver’s license, auto registration, auto insurance, and residential financials for all costs associated with a motor vehicle.

**Itinerary**

**July 21 - Depart Philadelphia on your own private chartered jet.**

**July 22 - Frankfurt - Mainz - Arrive in Frankfurt in the morning and meet you by your CIF escort.** You will have your choice of Deccor Maroc Moroccan Palace, Star Festival, and Luncheon at the Masonic Homes in St. Goar, or for questions regarding availability, call toll-free: 1-800-422-1207.

**July 22 - Mainz - Koblenz- St. Goarshausen - Oberammergau.** After breakfast at your hotel, you will enjoy a two-hour cruise on the Rhine River to St. Goar. After your cruise you will be transported via motorcoach to Koblenzen where you will experience wine tasting at George Breuer Vineyard. This afternoon you will be traveling to Oberammergau's surrounding area. This evening you will check into your hotel and have dinner (included).

**July 24 - Oberammergau and the Passion Play:** You will enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning and be transferred to the Passion Play which is a show of pageantry and an outstanding cultural event surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of the mountains. There will be a two-hour lunch break. After the play, enjoy dinner at your hotel this evening.

**July 25 - Oberammergau - Munich - Nurnberg.** This morning you will have a half day sightseeing tour of this town of children's toys and the heritage that was an event that will enthrall you.

**July 26 - Nurnberg - Rothenburg - Weimar.** Today you will travel to Rothenburg and have a city tour of this town of children's toys and gingersbread houses. Admire the impressive imperial royal palaces and visit St. Sebald Church which is a reconstruction of a monument to peaceful event of destruction. Tonight we'll check into the LeMeridien Grand Hotel.

**July 27 - Weimar - Buchenwald - Leipzig.** After breakfast at your hotel, you will have a walking tour of Weimar and hear about the giants of German literature as you visit Schiller's House and stand in front of Goethe's residence. You will stop at Buchenwald and see the Concentration camp on its site.

**July 28 - Leipzig.** This evening you will have free time in Leipzig after you check into the Renaissance Hotel.

**July 28 - Leipzig - Berlin: You will enjoy breakfast at your hotel this morning. Today you will have a tour of this wonderful metropolis that was an important center since the middle ages. See its Renaissance buildings, the 15th century St. Thomas Church - where Bach is buried, and the Battle of the Nations Monument. After your city tour you will be transferred to Merseburg to see the famous China factory. This evening you will check into the Grand Esplanade Berlin for your next four nights.

**July 29 - Berlin: Enjoy a buffet breakfast at your hotel this morning before enjoying "The Gateway To The East" and experience what it has to offer. Today you will have a guided tour of this wonderful city including Brandenburg Gate, Charlottenburg Palace, Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, Schoenew City Hall, and the new government Reichstag Building. You will pass through "Check Point Charlie", where you will see the Berlin Wall. In East Berlin, we will dine along Unter Den Linden and see Alexanderplatz, the German Opera House, and Museum Island.

**July 30 - Berlin - Potsdam - Berlin: After your breakfast at your hotel you will enjoy a scenic ride to Potsdam by crossing the River Elbe, the one-time home of the Holyrood Westminster, and visit one of Europe's most impressive Renaissance palaces, Friedrich's, the Grand Home of Sanssouci. This evening you will enjoy a dinner at the Grand Esplanade hosted by the Grand Master and his wife.

**July 31 - Berlin: Enjoy all the world-class city has to offer in your leisure time. There are plenty of option shopping, sightseeing, entertainment district of Kurfurstendamm, or visit the Fueserg Museum which hosts one of Europe's most precious collections of art treasurers.

**August 1 - Berlin - USA: This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home on your private jet.

**Includes:** Round trip air from Philadelphia to Germany on an exclusive charter jet. Deluxe hotel accommodations including taxes. Round trip airport transfers in Germany. Breakfast daily and two dinners. Full-time professional escort(s) "Passion Play" tickets (for those attending) Special events with our brethren who live in Germany.

For information and reservations call Staci, King Coal Travel, Rt. 61, P.O. Box 446, Mount Carmel, PA 17751, (800) 332-8566 or (570) 373-1528.

**“Passion Play”**

The quaint village of Oberammergau is set amidst a mountainous backdrop and is the perfect setting for this show of pageantry that has been held throughout the centuries. Oberammergau will delight you with its beauty, breathtaking scenery, and crisp air. The “Passion Play,” an outstanding cultural event and a testament of religious faith, will enthrall you.


Brother:

Be a true friend to a good and worthy man -- a relative, a neighbor, or an associate. He deserves the opportunity to be a Freemason ... to benefit from all that our Fraternity offers ... to be part of its great charities ... to enjoy the fellowship that comes with brotherhood.

Attached is an advance copy of a new brochure, patterned after the highly effective Friend to Friend brochure. It will be available soon in quantities; but with this sample, you can be a true friend today.

Just remove it by tearing along the perforation near the centerfold. Lay it face down and fold the bottom up and the top down so the latter becomes the front panel. With this new brochure, you will be all set to do something special for your good and worthy friend -- acquaint him FRIEND TO FRIEND with Freemasonry.

Put This information TO WORK RIGHT AWAY!

Remove the page to the right, fold it to make a three-panel brochure

THAT YOU CAN USE TODAY!

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Words From Bro. Thomas W. Jackson

My Brothers:

This will be my last column that I write to you (because of the position as R.W. Grand Secretary) and I want to use it to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for the opportunity that you gave me to serve. Twenty years ago, when I came to Philadelphia, I had no way of knowing that I would spend just short of one-third of my life in the position of Grand Secretary. It has been an experience that few have the privilege to realize -- and for that experience, I am grateful!

Freemasonry has afforded me an opportunity to meet some of the greatest people I have ever known and my life has been enriched by them. It has given me not only the opportunity, but also the stimulus, to learn. It taught me leadership skills and how to use them; but, most of all, it provided the lessons of a philosophy unmatched anywhere outside of it.

I established a little prayer shortly after arriving which stated simply, "Dear God, let me never forget where I came from and let me know when to quit." I trust that with my retiring I have fulfilled both parts of that little prayer. I certainly hope, my brothers, that I never forget what my origins were and that I now leave before I stayed too long.

Looking back historically, I learned that I became the 29th Grand Secretary of our Grand Lodge in its 168 years and only the second to last in the position for 20 years. (Brother William Adams died in office shortly after starting his 23rd year in the mid-1800's). I found it significant that over a third of them died in office shortly after arriving which stated shortly after arriving which stated:

"I want when to...

I never forgot what my origins were and that I now leave before I stayed too long.

I am totally aware that no one accomplishes much in life without the help of others. Man can be nothing more than a reflection of all of his life's experiences along with his modifications. So many persons have contributed to my life, and what I became is a reflection of them. That which is good is totally due to them. That which is not so good is due to my modifications. I can never give enough thanks to totally express my appreciation to all of you for what you have given to me. I know you will give the same to him who succeeds me.

I sincerely hope that I have fulfilled not only the responsibilities of my office, but also the expectations of each of you and those who preceded you during the years I have been here. My Brothers, I again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great Craft of ours. May the Grand Architect of the Universe bless and guide each of you.

Sincerely and fraternity,

Thomas W. Jackson, R.W. Past Grand Secretary
Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. Its history and tradition date to antiquity. Its singular purpose is to make good men better. Its bonds of friendship, compassion, and brotherly love have survived even the most divisive political, military, and religious conflicts through the centuries. Freemasonry is neither a forum nor a place for worship. Instead, it is a friend of all religions that are based on the belief in one God.

WHO FREEMASONS ARE

Many of our nation's early patriots were Freemasons, as well as the 13 signers of the Constitution and 14 Presidents of the United States including George Washington.

Today, the more than three million Freemasons around the world come from virtually every occupation and profession. Within the Fraternity, however, they all meet as equals. They come from diverse political ideologies, but they meet as friends. They come from virtually every religious belief, but they all believe in one God.

One of the fascinating aspects of Freemasonry has always been: how so many men from so many different walks of life can meet together in peace, never having any political or religious debates, always conducting their affairs in harmony and friendship, and call each other "Brother!"

QUALIFICATIONS

Freemasonry is proud of its philosophy and practice of "making good men better." Only individuals believed to be of the finest character are favorably considered for membership. Every applicant must advocate his belief in the existence of a Supreme Being (atheists are not accepted in the Fraternity).

THOSE WHO SEEK MEMBERSHIP

Anyone seeking membership in Freemasonry must ask a Masonic friend to recommend him. He must sign a petition stating his age, occupation, and place of residence. Members of the lodge vote by ballot. To be accepted, the ballot must be unanimous.

WHY YOUR FRIEND TALKED TO YOU ABOUT FREEMASONS

Your friend is proud of Freemasonry and the fine character of its members. He believes that you have the qualities for membership and desire the opportunity to know more about it.

This brochure explains what Freemasonry is, who Freemasons are, what they believe in, and what they do. It is important for you to know that those who desire membership must seek it on their own. Unfortunately, without this understanding, many qualified men have not enjoyed the special rewards of membership and fellowship in Freemasonry.

If, after reading this, you have any questions or desire to know more about Freemasonry, your friend will be pleased to give you answers or obtain answers for you.

Whether or not you decide to seek membership in Freemasonry, you can be certain that you have a special friend within the Masonic Fraternity who thinks very highly of you. Please consider it to be the highest compliment that he has shared this information with you. It is a message of kindness... from FRIEND TO FRIEND.

Admissions Counselors Attend Annual Training Session

Residents and staff welcomed the Admissions Counselors of the Masonic Homes for their annual training session on Oct. 14 and 15, 1999.

Forty dedicated Admission Counselors participated in a two-day training program Oct. 14 and 15 at the Elizabethtown campus. They attended sessions presented by various departments that discussed changes in policies and procedures, as well as updates of activities at Elizabethtown, Pittsburgh, Sewickley, and Warmminster campuses. They also toured the newly renovated John S. Bell Memorial Chapel and the Independent Living Clubhouse.

The Admissions Counselors are responsible for assisting potential residents through the application process for the residential living, assisted living, and health care services at all Masonic Homes' locations. The annual training sessions enable the counselors to provide potential residents with the most accurate and up-to-date information on the Masonic Homes.

Admissions Counselors have been assisting potential residents in Pennsylvania, Florida, and other states since 1968. Because of their desire to help others, many counselors, like J. Walter and Elaine Price, have been dedicated to aiding residents for the Masonic Homes since the inception of the Admissions Counselors program 11 years ago.

"People need our help," Bro. Price said, "and we're trained to extend our hands and hearts to help them."

Mrs. Price added, "it's satisfying knowing that you're taking care of someone who needs help."

Each December, the Prices go the extra mile, extending their hands and their hearts at the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown not to bring residents into the community, but to bring love and laughter into the hearts of residents who reside there already.

Custed as "Mr. and Mrs. Claus," as many of the residents know them, Bro. and Mrs. Price spend a week at the Masonic Homes delivering candy and hugs to the young and the young at heart. They keep a very busy schedule, attempting to visit every adult and child on the campus.

The Pennsylvania Freemason / February 2000

17
Independent Living Residents Reflect on the Most Difficult Decision

Bill and Helen Schneider moved to the Masonic Homes retirement community this summer. Like many other Independent Living residents, they enjoy the security and quality lifestyle which Masonic Homes offer in a more carefree environment.

When asked if it was a difficult decision to leave their home in Scranton, the answer was an emphatic, "No!" The spacious cottage the Schneider’s chose allowed them to bring all their furniture from their former residence. They definitely won’t miss the work that goes along with home ownership and its never-ending maintenance.

"I don't miss the work that goes along with home ownership and its never-ending maintenance," Helen Schneider said when Bill broke the news that they were retiring and moving to Independent Living at the Masonic Homes.

Today, Bill is back in the working world. He began a part-time job at a local hardware store just three weeks after moving to Elizabethtown and is now looking at the possibility of joining another engineering firm in the area. Bill quipped, "I just can’t sit still!"

Bro. Schneider was Worshipful Master of Elizabethtown Lodge No. 311, Scranton, in 1984 and 1986. Elizabethtown Lodge has since merged with Union Lodge No. 291, Scranton. Bill will proudly receive his 50-year Emblem of Gold in 2000.

Helen enjoys reading, suggesting she will read every book in the various campus libraries. She was thrilled to learn that their dog of nine years, The Duchess of York, would be able to join them in their new cottage.

Bill and Helen say they have enjoyed a wonderful life. They will celebrate 51 years of marriage in April 2000. They believe moving to Independent Living will provide them with the opportunity to continue their wonderful life together during the busy and exciting years ahead.

If you would like to learn more about how resitting at Independent Living can accommodate your busy and carefree lifestyle, call 1-800-676-6352, or complete and mail the coupon (left today).

Send more information about Independent Living at the Masonic Homes!

Name ___________________
Address ___________________
City ___________________
State __________ Zip __________
Phone (________) _______

Complete coupon and return to: Marketing Office Masonic Homes One Masonic Court Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Independent Living Brings New Joy to Life

If you have expertise, a vocation, or simply a strong interest in dogs, cats, or birds... if you work with or enjoy plants... or if you have a love for children, the Masonic Homes needs you!

The Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown is now a registered Eden Alternative™ site, which means that the Masonic Homes’ community has strengthened its commitment to creating a “life worth living” for residents receiving health care services and assisted living services.

This dedication to transforming the Masonic Health Care Center and the Freemasons Building into warm, vibrant, homes requires that residents have daily, continual contact with animals, plants, and children—just as they had all of their lives.

The Masonic Homes’ success in eliminating the three plagues of the elderly — loneliness, helplessness, and boredom — is dependent upon its ability to bring variety and spontaneity into residents’ everyday lives. If you have some time to give, some experience to share, or just feel compelled to help residents reclaim their right to live a life worth living, call the Masonic Homes at (717) 367-1121, and contact the extension for one of Masonic Homes’ Eden Alternative™ Associates; Cathy Mieslews, RN, extension 33176; Mark Eyer, extension 33306; Vicki Gillmore, NHA, extension 3339; Joyce Hessey, RN, extension 33526; Kirk Rakos, extension 33191; or Lori Seiden, extension 33697.

Eden Alternative brings holiday cheer to Masonic homes

The holiday celebration was complete with generous gifts, beautiful decor, and laughter to all. For the Lodge members and their families, this was more than just a community service outing. It was a chance to really make a difference in the lives of individuals through selflessly giving of themselves. And for the recipients of those gifts, it was a reminder of the true spirit of Christmas.

Residents of the Smith Cottage at the Masonic Children’s Home enjoy “clowning around” with Lodge members.

Grand Lodge Officers to visit PA Brethren in Florida

R.W. Grand Master Robert L. Dugay, Jr. and his wife, Debra, along with the other Grand Lodge Officers, Past Grand Masters, Committee on Masonic Homes, and their ladies, will host three Masonic reunions scheduled for Pennsylvania Freemasons who now reside permanently in Florida, or who reside there during the winter months.

The purpose of this year’s reunions is to increase awareness about the expansion of services and opportunities provided through the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The reunions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 24 at the Azan Temple in Melbourne; Friday, Feb. 25, at the Bahia Temple in Orlando; and Saturday, Feb. 26, at the Sahib Temple in Sarasota. The schedule for all three reunions will include a reception at 11 a.m., lunch at noon, programs at 1 p.m., and a social hour from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

During each program, Grand Master Dugay will award 50-year Emblems of Gold to brethren in Florida. If you are eligible to receive your 50-year award in 2000, or did not receive it when you were eligible in a previous year and are planning to attend one of the reunions, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33489.

Also during the program, Joseph E. Murphy, Executive Director/CE0 of the Masonic Homes, and members of the Masonic Homes staff, will share important, helpful information about the benefits and full continuum of services provided for Masons and their families by the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, Pittsburgh, Sewickley, and Warrington.

If you are a Pennsylvania Mason residing in Florida and have not received an award, please register to attend one of the reunions, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33488.
Masonic Homes’ Services in Western PA
Will Come Together and Expand
The master plan for the Valley Care Masonic Center, Swickley, to be expanded into a 47-acre continuing care retirement community is being developed by the architectural firm, Perkins Eastman, and being presented to various governmental officials for review and approval.

The 60 assisted living accommodations planned for the campus are expected to open for residents in Summer 2001 when the residents and staff move from the Masonic Eastem Star Home-West, Pittsburgh, to the new facility. Plans for the existing Masonic Eastern Star Home-West facility are under development at this time. The Committee on Masonic Homes, with input from the Grand Chapter of Pennsylvania, Order of Eastern Star, has chosen the name for the new assisted living building at Swickley to be "Star Points Building" to reflect the strong tradition the residents and staff of the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West will bring with them to their new home. Star June 1 when the Valley Care Masonic Center became part of the continuum of care provided by the Masonic Homes of the Grand Lodge, the Valley Care Center, the Masonic Eastem Star Home-West, and the Masonic Eastem Star Home-West. This transition will bring the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West’s assisted living and nursing expertise together with Valley Care Masonic Center’s quality nursing services to ease the transition of residents between the two levels of care.

Depending upon interest, up to 25 independent living apartments and 28 independent living cottages are expected to open in Swickley for residents in Summer 2001. The campus also may include such conveniences as a wellness center, day care center, medical clinics, a pool, and a clubhouse, among other desired features. The community in its entirety will be known as the Masonic Village at Swickley.

Reservations are being accepted by the Priority List for the independent living areas, which is currently being accepted. To ensure that you get your first choice of a premier apartment or cottage at the new Masonic Village at Swickley, contact one of the following:

Manager, Marketing Department, Masonic Homes, One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022 or Executive Director, Valley Care Masonic Center, 1100 Merriman Road, Swickley, PA 15143.

Masonic Homes’ Services in Western PA
Will Come Together and Expand

Santa gives a candy cane to resident Alfred Mosch during his visit to the Masonic Health Care Center.

Using the theme “Come Home for the Holidays,” this year’s annual holiday celebration is planned for the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown for residents in the Masonic Health Care Center and the Freemasons Building, along with their families and friends, was held on Saturday, Dec. 14.

This year, the residents in each unit of the Masonic Health Care Center chose and helped to arrange the programs they shared with their loved ones that afternoon—from the music and food they desired to the decorations and activities they enjoyed. Residents in the Freemasons Building celebrated their holiday gathering in the Roosevelt Building Assembly Room. As predicted, Santa appeared to share lots of hugs and cheer, and this year, he was accompanied by “Rudolph” and an elf or two.

While the holidays are wonderful times to experience family and fellowship with the residents, the Masonic Homes would like to encourage brethren and their families to be a constant part of the “Mission of Love” prevalent at the Masonic Homes every day.

Volunteers are integral to providing for some of the residents’ daily needs, such as serving as a courier at resident care units by delivering medications, distributing reading real to residents, escorting residents to medical appointments, assisting with therapeutic recreation programs, attending on-duty resident meetings, staffing the gift shop and the information desk, and escorting residents to and from church services on Sunday afternoons. Volunteer opportunities may vary at each Masonic Homes location.

If you would like to experience the fulfillment that volunteering can bring to your life, don’t hesitate. Call today to discover opportunities that could enrich your life! At the Masonic Homes in Elizabethtown, call (717) 367-1121, extension 33175. For opportunities at the Masonic Eastern Star Home-East in Yorkmont, call (215) 672-2500. In the western part of the state, call either the Masonic Eastern Star Home-West in Pittsburgh at (412) 931-8300 or the Valley Care Masonic Center, Swickley, at (412) 743-1400.

Santa and Rudolph the Volunteer Reindeer (St. Nick) roam through the Masonic Health Care Center visiting residents.

The Pennsylvania Freemason / February 2000

D.D.G.M. Gives and Gets Awards
Turn-about was fair play when Jay W. Smith, D.D.G.M., 1st Masonic District, presented 30-year and 50-year service awards during a quarterly luncheon of Masons at the Willow Valley Retirement Community south of Lancaster. Bro. Smith was recognized with a certificate of appreciation for "doing...a brother tried and true and has made all of us feel welcome in the district." The 70-year award from Star Lodge No. 138, Orwigsburg, and the 50-year award was presented to Gilbert Bohn, Harry A. Housman Lodge No. 747, Philadelphia.

The Masons who live in Willow Valley and take part in the luncheon club come from all parts of Pennsylvania and from other jurisdictions. They enjoy the Fraternity and have visited and were warmly welcomed in every lodge in the district. Pictures at the award presentations are (1-2) Woody Kirt, P.F.M., Washington Lodge No. 156, Quarryville; Bro. Bollin; Bro. Smith; Bro. Bohn, and Bro. and Rev. A. William Archer, P.M., High Noon Lodge No. 38, Newport, D.B.

Blood & Organ Donor Poster Winners
Renee Spence, a member of Rainbow Assembly No. 19, Franklin, won first place and received $300 in the Masonic Blood and Organ Donor annual poster contest. Her winning poster depicts a cheerleader calling for people to “Give the gift of life! Donate Blood & organs.”

Laurie Dunlap, a member of Joe’s Daughters Bethel No. 6, Blairsville, won second place and received $200. Tonya Sweeney, a member of Joe’s Daughters Bethel No. 6, Shippenburg, won third place and received $100.

New Shield & Square Club Growing Strong

More than 70 brethren with common interests in law enforcement attended the first general meeting of the newly formed Pennsylvania Shield and Square Club held Nov. 15 in the Grand Banquet Hall of the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia. Guest speaker for the evening was then-R.W. Grand Master James L. Perno (second from left in picture below) who spoke of the need to unify those brethren in law enforcement to work with the Grand Lodge in providing security at special events across the Commonwealth.

In assisting symbolic lodges in creating interesting education programs, and in providing a forum for brethren with common interests to interact.


Membership of the Shield and Square Club comprises brethren who are active in, or retired from, Pennsylvania law enforcement, but limited to those who have held arrest powers granted by the Commonwealth. Current membership is almost 300 brethren from across the state.

The next scheduled meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Mar. 20, in the Masonic Temple. Any brethren meeting the membership requirements who are interested in joining the Shield and Square Club should contact Bro. Raymond G. Brown, Treasurer, at 215-988-1978.

The Pennsylvania Freemason / February 2000

Rainbow Girls of PA Join in “Make A Difference Day”
Rainbow Girls of Pennsylvania were a part of the Ninth Annual “Make A Difference Day,” the nation’s largest day of helping others sponsored by USA Weekend along with 550 local newspaper clubs that distribute the magazine. The Points of Light Foundation and its nationwide network of 501 volunteer centers are partners in this project. Millions of Americans reach out to help others on the Fourth Saturday of October.

Across the state worked to “Put Our Food Banks” by contacting stores in their areas for permission to set up collection tables. The Pennsylvania Girls worked through 40 locations. Well over 300 people put in a cumulative total of 330 hours and collected more than 5,000 non-perishable items and more than 450 gallons. Many of the food banks were overwhelmed. The Rainbow Girls feel good knowing that at least 600 families, if not more, would be helped.

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Masons Take Part in Recognizing Organ Donors
Through the Masonic Blood Bank and Organ Donor Committee, Masons of Pennsylvania participated in two of Life donor programs in which 38 families were recognized for the donation of organs from loved ones who had died within the past year.

On Sunday, Nov. 7 in Zembo Temple, Harrisburg, then-R.W. Grand Secretary Thomas W. Jackson welcomed the donor families and recipients. In remarks, he recalled the support which Masons have been giving the program since its inception four years ago. The next Sunday in the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, A. J. "Bud" Garvey, Chief of Staff for Grand Lodge Operations, spoke of the Masonic Fraternity’s dedication to assisting the program of organ donations.

The Grand Lodge Committee Chair T. J. Knepper presented $500 to the Gift of Life Donor Program to assist in the purchase of donor medals.
The members of the Order of DeMolay in Pennsylvania recently learned that Mickey Mouse was a DeMolay.

Bro. Louis Grow, State Master Councilor, presided over the program, under the direction of "Dad" Samuel C. Williamson, R.W.P.G.M. and Executive Officer of DeMolay in Pennsylvania.

"Dad" Williamson and the State Officers are pictured with the newest members of Pennsylvania DeMolay.

Two Lodges Meeting in Same Hall Have Fathers Install Their Sons

Edenburg Lodge No. 560, and Allegheny Valley Lodge No. 552, both of Knox, meet in the same lodge hall. Within a week of each other, both lodges had fathers install their sons as Worshipful Masters.

Past State Master Councilor of DeMolay Made a Mason

Those who spend time with quality young people can't help but become impressed with their enthusiasm and ability. Such was the case when then-Grand Master James L. Ernette was with the State Master Councilor of DeMolay. From July 1998 to June 1999 Rakesh Kumar served as State Master Councilor of the Order of DeMolay for Pennsylvania. The well-spoken and energetic 19-year-old member of Allentown DeMolay Chapter is a student at Penn State University. A Dispensation was granted by the Grand Master to Jordan Lodge No. 673 in Allentown to accept a petition for initiation and membership from Rakesh. Bro. Kumar (center) was accepted and received the Entered Apprentice Degree in October, and both the Fellowcraft and Master Mason Degrees in November. The Degrees were conferred by his father, Prabhat Kumar, S.W. (left) of the Lodge. He was guided by his grandfather, Eugene Weider, (second from left). The then-Grand Master (second from right) was present for the Masonic Degrees. Also participating in the program were Marvin A. Cunningham, Sr., then-R.W.G.M., Samuel C. Williamson, R.W.P.G.M. (right), and Thomas R. Lohbah, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Youth Foundation.

Honors For "Doc, The Man Behind The Man"


Popular professional golfer Arnold Palmer has the running support of the thousands of people in "Doc''s Army" on the golf course, and he has a "one-man army" by the name of "Doc" Giffin as "the man behind the man."

On Oct. 31, Donald W. "Doc" Giffin was honored at the Tri-State annual Champions of Golf dinner as the 1999 Distinguished Service Award winner for his outstanding lifelong contributions to the sport, adding his name beyond the boundaries of Western Pennsylvania. He has made a Mason in Crafton Lodge No. 275, Latrobe, in 1958. Also quoted in the news article, Bro. "Doc" Giffin's renown is the "one-man army."
Diane Bish, renowned organ virtuoso and host of The Joy of Music television series, will present a solo recital at the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia on Sunday, Apr 9, at 2 p.m.

Diane Bish has displayed her virtuosity and unique showmanship of the world over. Her performances have been hailed by critics as "stunning, virtuoso, fiery, and astonishing." Through numerous recordings, concerts, and weekly television appearances, Diane Bish is considered by many to be the most visible organist in the world today. Miss Bish is best known as Diane Bish playing famous organs in solo recitals, recordings, concerts, and weekly television appearances. She shares this rare distinction with such legends as Leonard Bernstein, Eugene Ormandy, Van Cliburn, Robert Shaw, Irving Berlin, and Fred Waring.

On Apr 9, Miss Bish will literally "pull out all the stops" with a concert of thrilling organ favorites, traditional classics, and some of her own hymn arrangements to demonstrate the full resources of the three-manual 150 Rodgers organ.

Due to the number of persons anticipated attending this recital, tickets will be required for this performance. Because of the limited number of seats, requests will be honored on the basis of the date the requests are received. Attempts will be made to honor the number of tickets requested by each person, but it may be necessary to limit those requests.

Now that John J. Tumolo, III, has been installed as Worshipful Master of Chandler Lodge No. 227, Reading, he is the third of his family to preside over a Masonic lodge using a gavel that has been passed from generation to generation. The gavel was first used by John, Ill's grandfather, John, Jr., who was Master of Golden Rule Lodge No. 748, Philadelphia, in 1965 and 1966 and is a dual member of Chandler Lodge. The gavel is a 25-year-old silver gavel used by John, Ill's father, John, Jr., who was Worshipful Master of Golden Rule Lodge, Philadelphia, in 1932. Golden Rule Lodge merged with Independence Lodge No. 723 in 1974, which then merged into Harmony Lodge No. 52 in 1957.

Masonic of Note

Bro. and Dr. Charles William LeVan is proud to serve as the guide for all three degrees in Chandler Lodge No. 227. Reading when William Charles LeVan was the fourth generation of the family to become a Mason. The Master Mason's Degree was conferred by John J. Tumolo, Ill, S.W., himself a third generation Mason.

Fifty-two years ago, 21 year-old William H. Shafer, P.M. (third from left), Apollo Lodge No. 437, decided to wait two years before petitioning the lodge so that he and his brother, James C. (second from left), could travel the same road together. They were entered in June 1949, passed in Sept, and raised in Oct. Fifty years later at a banquet attended by 90 persons, the brothers were honored to receive their 50-Year Emblems of Gold from Harvey F. Fishel, F.D.G.M. (left), 39th Masonic District, and Randy W. Miller, W.M.

Grand Master Initiated into New Council of Knight Masons

At its first stated meeting of the new Northeast Council No. 74, U.D. Knight Masons of the U.S.A., on Jan 8 in Hazleton, R.W. Grand Master Robert L. Dluge, Jr., was initiated by Sir Knight Errol T. Betzenberger, the Excellent Chief. He and the other brethren in the "R.W. Grand Master Robert L. Dluge, Jr., Class" become charter members of the Council. Sir Knights of Penn Council No. 13, Philadelphia, conferred the Degrees of Knighthood under the direction of Matthew Dupae, Senior Knight-Elect.

Among those in the honor class were Luther J. Black, the Grand Sword Bearer; Patrick J. Dluge, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Pennsylvania; and Donald J. Panich, Grand Governor of York Rite Sovereign College of Pennsylvania.

Present to welcome the R.W. Grand Master was Douglas L. Jordon, R.W. Grand Scribe of the Grand Council of Knight Masons of the U.S.A., accompanied by Ronald L. Pennell, Grand King of Grand Chapter. Also attending from the Grand Council of Pennsylvania were Grand Master William N. Felikie, Deputy Grand Master Freeman E. Frey, III, and Grand P.C.W. Reverend Gold, Ill, and from the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania William E. Clepper, Grand Commander, and numerous present and past officers of all the bodies.

Grand Master Dluge has been active in York Rite Masonry, having served as a presiding officer of the four York Rite bodies, as well as Gallicantu Tabernacle No. LXXV, H.R.A.C.T.P., and Gen. John Sullivan Council No. 84, Allied Masonic Degrees, in recognition of his services as a past presiding officer of the four bodies, he was inducted into Penn Priory No. 6, Knights of the York Cross of Honor. Bro. Dluge was honored with the rank of Knight, York Grand Cross of Honour with One Quadrant, an honor bestowed only on York Rite Grand Presiding officers who have attained the Knight of the York Cross of Honor distinction.
**COORDINATOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS**  
**E. P. WILLIAMS (O.M.)**

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**COORDINATOR OF MASONIC CULTURAL ACTIVITIES/MASONIC EDUCATION**  
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**COORDINATOR OF MASONIC PUBLIC RELATIONS**  
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**COORDINATOR OF MASONIC UNION**  
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