

Free State Freemason



July 2006

The Fourth Quarter...

From the Grand Master:



My Brethren: Forgive me for using the sports analogy "The Fourth Quarter" but, that is the underlying feeling I get when the realization that my service to you as Grand Master is rapidly coming to an end. I feel like I'm in a two minute drill, down by six points. So much to accomplish and so little time to get it all done. I can only promise that I'll keep at it until you pull me kicking and screaming out of the Grand East in November.

Our Semi-Annual Communication was successful with the exception of our attendance. I suspect the proposed amendment placed by myself on the floor of Grand Lodge may cause some of you to think and bring the message home that this Grand Master views "apathy" as a disease that will eventually cause our demise. It is of course up to you, the membership, to decide whether or not to adopt this policy. There will be an additional six other pieces of legislation on the floor of Grand Lodge in November along with the election of those who will govern this Grand Lodge in the future. I trust this will be enough of an incentive to get each Lodge to send representation to the Annual Communication in November.

The situation concerning Almas Shrine moving into Maryland is of course a serious matter and occupies much of my time. I will defend this jurisdiction as best I can. For those who might wonder why the Grand Master is concerning himself in this matter let me reiterate, the office of Grand Master requires that he defend his jurisdiction and that he does what is best for all the collateral bodies beholdin' to the Grand Lodge of Maryland. The RWDGM and I both agree that this move by Almas Shrine is not in the best interest of Shrine Masonry in Maryland nor is it in the best interest of Maryland Masonry in general. I have requested the Imperial Shrine of North America intercede in this matter and if they can not or will not, this office will have no choice but to take action.

Our program, "The Pursuit of Excellence," is off to a good start. The Grand Lecturer and his staff are setting up times to hear the work from those Brethren interested in qualifying for cards. I encourage all of you to participate in celebrating that which sets us apart from all other organizations, our Masonic Ritual. If we do not encourage our younger members to learn the ritual properly, where will our future Deputy Grand Lecturers come from? Who will step up to be the mentors and teachers of the future if we don't help them along now?

Summer is upon us and Karen and I wish for all of you a safe and restful vacation, if traveling, do so with care. God bless and I look forward to being with you at our Summer School of Instruction.

Ronald G. Bélanger
Grand Master



Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Freestate Freemason*: the 20th of January, March, May, July, September, November. These dates are firm as the issue must be formatted and given to the AASR the last day of these months.

Grand Lodge of Maryland
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-527-0600 tel
410-527-1276 fax
FSFM@covad.net
<http://www.mdmasons.org/gl>

Article Submission

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the Free State Freemason publication: Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine - use the highest resolution.

Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures **will not reproduce satisfactorily.**

If you desire return on the pictures they must have submitting individual's name on back.

Pictures should have accompanying documentation detailing who is in the picture and what the picture represents if not accompanied by an article.

Articles must be typewritten.

Articles can be submitted to the editor by e-mail, fax, regular mail or dropped off at the Grand Lodge office.



The Grand Lodge of Maryland Ballroom Rentals

Contact: Raymond J. Vogel, Ballroom Coordinator at 410-527-0289

E-Mail: gballroom@covad.net, Fax 410-527-0289

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.- Monday - Friday by appointment.

Catering: Approved list of caterers.

Ballroom Capacity: Receptions, 320, with a nice dance area. 410 for banquets without dance area. Separate room for Weddings and Special Events.

Rates: Call for information.

Parking: Free on site, 178 spaces.

Information: Foyer is marble with a fantastic staircase. Ballroom is 55 ft. x 111 ft., with hardwood floors. Twelve brass chandeliers, dance area depends on table setup. A must see in person to really see and feel the beauty of this facility. Call us and come see our Ballroom in this beautiful Hunt Valley setting.

License Plates

Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home.

You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. Ray is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday. **Be proud of your fraternity and display these plates on your car this year.**

Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

Chair Plaques are for chairs located in the Corinthian Room on the second floor of Grand Lodge. You may have your own name on a plaque, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Tree of Life is located in the main lobby of the Grand Lodge Building. You can sponsor a leaf on the tree, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each. This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line. What a wonderful way to remember someone. Call Ray Vogel at the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to make arrangements for yours.



From The Deputy

Grand Lodge Election Process



Several times over the past year, the question has come up as to what the election procedures for Grand Wardens and Deputy Grand Masters are. Therefore, the procedure process used by the Grand Lodge of Maryland follows that all may know and be governed accordingly.

About 1934 the Grand Lodge of Maryland decided to implement a system for the election process for Grand Wardens and Deputy Grand Masters. The reason, at the time, was intended to provide a fair and equitable system for those desiring an elected office.

It was far easier in those days for Masons living in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas to travel to Grand Lodge than it was for those that lived in the outlying areas. In addition, over half of the Masons in Maryland at that time resided in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Therefore, it was much easier for those living close in these areas to obtain an elected office. This was not a fair system.

Due to this, the Grand Lodge decided that they would institute a process whereby one year the Baltimore City/Baltimore County area, where roughly half of the Masons in Maryland lived, would provide a Jr. Grand Warden, and the same year the State area would

provide the Sr. Grand Warden; the following year this would reverse, and the State area would provide the Jr. Grand Warden and the Sr. Grand Warden would come from the Baltimore City/Baltimore County area. For the office of Deputy Grand Master, the State area would provide a candidate for that office and two years later the Baltimore City/Baltimore County area would provide the candidate, alternating like this every two years.

This system has worked well for the Craft for roughly 72 years; and is still the system in use today. The process has worked well due to the fact that both areas have supported it by not supporting the very few who have ignored it for personal reasons.

Until someone comes up with a better system, agreed to by all concerned, we should continue to support those candidates that abide by the rules.

Any Past Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland may place his name as a candidate for election when it becomes his area's turn, thus following the established guidelines.

This year the State area will be providing candidate(s) for Deputy Grand Master and Sr. Grand Warden – Baltimore City/Baltimore County will provide candidate(s) for Jr. Grand Warden.

Important Notice

Brethren, the next issue of the FSFM will contain the resumes of those brethren that desire elected office for Jr. and Sr. Grand Wardens, Grand Secretary, Grand

Treasurer and Deputy Grand Master.

The following issue will contain the resumes of those brethren interested in applying for Board of Trustees and Board of Managers.

In keeping with the reduced size of our Grand Lodge magazine, the Grand Master has imposed the following guidelines. A resume for Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer is not to exceed ½ page – this equates to 300 words. A resume for Grand Warden is not to exceed 200 words, or one column.

Most word processors in use today will provide you with a word count. In MS Word, simply click on "Tools" and then "Word Count".

These guidelines must be strictly adhered to. Resumes submitted that exceed them will be adjusted. Obviously it would be preferable that the writer of the resume edit his submittal as opposed to someone in the Grand Lodge office doing this. Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

MCM Golf Tournament

The Masonic Charities of Maryland is sad to announce that the Seventeenth Annual Charity Golf Classic has been cancelled due to circumstances beyond the control of MCM.

The progress of the past sixteen golf tournaments has been very gratifying and has been one of the main financial supports of the Educational Grant Program (scholarships), and the Student
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Assistance Program (dealing with drug, alcohol and child abuse problems among our young people).

All Free State Freemasons can be extremely proud of the fact that through your generous contributions and support of our fundraising activities that over \$1,500,000 has been donated in support of these worthy programs since their inception.

For details please contact:

Bro. Gene Strite 410-561-1807
Bro. Vern Mules 410-296-1015

Maryland Masonic Homes

Mrs. Paula O'Neill
Executive Director



Good-bye Winter and Hello Summer! As the weather warms and we reflect on the last few months, many changes occurred at

Bonnie Blink.

Our Medical Director of eight years, Dr. Robert T. Liberto increased his hours of service. Resident and physician communication has been enhanced and also an increase in the coordination of clinical services.

We have a new front entrance canopy, improved lighting throughout the facility and the dedication of Lunda Laird Hall highlights several improvements.

In December 2005, the Maryland Health Care Commission conduct-

ed a resident family satisfaction survey for long-term care facilities in Maryland. Maryland Masonic had a response rate of 82.9% (27.9% higher than the State average.)

Six domains were measured with MMH prominently higher than other MD facilities and an overall satisfaction rate was 4.38 (out of a possible score of 5.) Positive comments that were submitted included: "MMH is far above any other, the staff exceeds my expectations for nursing care and support for my family, the services are excellent, if all nursing homes were run like MMH we would all be lucky, MMH is the best!" This survey confirms once again, the superior services provided at Bonnie Blink.

Nursing Home Week was May 14th through May 20th. Staff, residents and their families came together to celebrate and a good time was had by all who attended.

We again hosted the annual Family Day event Saturday, June 3rd. Thank you to all who joined us on the hill for the fun and fellowship.

In June, I participated in the annual Masonic Homes Executive Association Conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This is the first time Maryland has attended and I was privileged to represent MMH. The Conference provides educational sessions and an opportunity to network with other Masonic Homes.

Sadly, our Chaplain, Rev. Bob Brookman is retiring and moving to Colorado this summer. His tenure has brought spiritual support, friendship and love to our residents and

staff. We will miss him and wish him many blessings in his new journey.

Enjoy the summer and please come visit us on "the Hill."

The Lodge Room Over Simpkins Store

While on vacation last summer with my family in Breckenridge, Colorado, we took a short drive to the town of Fairplay to visit a restored mining town. The mining town, South Park City, was a typical re-creation of an old west mid to late 1800's town, complete with houses, stables, doctor's office, general store, saloon and much more. However, what really attracted my attention was the general store, or more particularly, the name: Simpkins General Store.



My mind immediately flashed to the picture and poem that hangs just outside the entrance to our lodge room that I had studied and read many times, The Lodge Room over Simpkins Store. Sure enough, just to the left of the name are the square and compasses. It looked very little like the picture I remembered, and I recalled that the poem was written by a brother from

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Colorado, so this had to be it. I couldn't wait to climb the stairs and I wasn't disappointed. While the outside bore little resemblance to the picture back home, the inside was remarkably similar.



From the pot-belly stove sitting in the North, to the alter, tapers, and officer's chairs, it looked just like I expected it would. A glass enclosure prevented me from taking more than a step or two into the room, but that was enough to really get the feel of the room while at the same time protecting it. There's a sign from the Grand Lodge of Colorado stating that they are maintaining this replica of an early day Masonic Lodge. So while this may not be the original Simpkins Store, hence the different look from the outside, they certainly made the inside live up to the picture and poem with which I was familiar. If you are ever in the area, I would recommend a visit to Fairplay and the Lodge Room over Simpkins Store. It's about 30 minutes south of Breckenridge or a beautiful two hour drive from Denver.

Barry Bosley, SD
Columbia Lodge No. 58

Campers Wanted

Are you a camper with a tent, pop-up, travel trailer or motor home and are looking to join a good Masonic camping club? We camp out once a month starting in April and ending in October. The 3rd weekend of these months are usually the scheduled times, except October. The reason we do not schedule a camp out in October on the 3rd weekend is not to interfere with Harvest Home Day at Bonnie Blink.

Our year starts out with a dinner meeting in March. The camp out weekends usually start on Thurs/Fri through Sunday. We normally camp within 100 miles of Baltimore. Our campground activities consist of lunch on Friday, bingo on Saturday, a pitch-in dinner Saturday evening and good friendly conversations around a campfire every night, weather permitting. Our ladies put together a beautiful quilt which is raffled off at the end of the camping season. Dues are \$10.00 per year plus your camping fees.

If you are interested and want more information, please contact our Travel Master:

Robert Heinze
9106 Crosshill Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21234-3327
Ph: 410-665-5352

or
William Winegrad
8412 Hallmark Circle
Baltimore, MD 21234
Ph: 410-668-8061

Grand Lodge ListServe

The Grand Lodge ListServe is for Maryland Masonic related information to be passed to members of the Craft. Lengthy discussions or "statements of opinion on various subjects" are NOT allowed on this ListServe. Jokes and Trivia type messages are also forbidden on the Grand Lodge ListServe. Poems, surveys, etc., either Masonic in subject matter or not, are not appropriate for this ListServe because of the volume of message traffic that they usually generate. The goal for the Grand Lodge ListServe is to keep the message length and volume to a minimum to benefit the many Brethren who receive their Masonic e-mail notifications through their office or business communication systems.

The Grand Lodge ListServe makes it easier for brethren to communicate. Participants can quickly disseminate information as well as receive feedback and responses in a short amount of time by posting messages concerning Maryland Masonic News. To subscribe to GLMaryland Listserve, visit:

[http://mailman.listserve.com/
listmanager/listinfo/glmaryland](http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/glmaryland)





Grand Lodge Crab Feast & Bull Roast

Saturday, August 26, 2006

Come join the Grand Master and his 2006 Line of Officers for a great social afternoon. There will be plenty of food, music and fun for all. **Ladies are invited.**

Location: Tall Cedar Building
2501 Putty Hill Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

Time: Food - 7pm - 11pm
Dancing - 8pm - Midnight

Date: Saturday, August 26, 2006

Make checks payable to:

Grand Lodge of Maryland

Tickets are \$29.00 per person. Tables of 10 are available. **Reserved Seating.** No tickets will be sold at the door. To purchase Tickets, please call Jason at the Grand Lodge Office at 410-527-0600 or send an email to glmaryland@covad.net

2006 Scholarship Awarded

William C. Shank, Worshipful Master of Friendship Lodge No. 84 in Hagerstown (*pictured below*) stands with scholarship winner Anna Lenhart of North Hagerstown High School. Anna



was presented her check at the Lodge's annual awards night on Monday, May 22.

My Friend Cal Parker

I first came to Annapolis in June of 1946 aboard the U.S.S. Block Island, CVE 106. The "BI" had just been decommissioned and was in Annapolis, "Out of Commission, In Service, In Reserve". I was the senior medical department representative left aboard. There was still some work to be done to complete the reserve preservation of the Medical Department. We continued to hold sick call and do some other necessary work. There was a "Catapult School" established on board and the ship was used to indoctrinate Midshipmen. By fall my duties had changed almost completely to North Severn Dispensary and in 1947 I was assigned to the APL on the Academy side. After working in Oklahoma for two years I returned to Annapolis and was employed by W.Y Kitchin at Kitchin Drugs, Inc. Kitchin Drugs had a very good relationship with the Naval Hospital in Annapolis and was permitted to supply some items that were not available through Navy Channels.

I met Master Chief Parker at Annapolis Lodge on several occasions. He was the leading "Chief" at the Naval Hospital when Captain (Dr.) Wm. P. Stephens was the Commanding Officer. This was in the 1960's. We became very good friends. Later, Dr. Stephens retired as a Rear Admiral and began a practice in Annapolis. Dr. Stephens oldest daughter "Missey" grew up and

married Prof. Vernon Bates' son. Missey became a recording artist for Christian Gospel and died just last year. Chief Parker retired and became a nursing home administrator. We again did much business when he was the Administrator of Fairfield Nursing Home in Crownsville. In the mid 60's Calvin joined Concordia Royal Arch Chapter in Glen Burnie, Maryland. It was my pleasure to be present on the night that he was exalted to that degree and take an active part. Incidentally the Chaplain on that occasion was Ray Lynch (Ray died last spring).

Now you have the background and can see how our friendship developed over the years. Cal presided over all of the York Rite Bodies and was Master of Amos Lodge. He also was the Secretary for a number of years. Cal presided as Grand High Priest, Grand Master of the Grand Council and as Grand Commander of Maryland. Cal worked with Job's Daughters and DeMolay as well. Cal was a most diligent worker for Masonic Youth in Maryland and when he was Grand High Priest established the D. Ross Vansant Scholarship fund.

I am certain that he was given several recognitions for his outstanding work. It was during one of these presentations that we begin to talk about our Navy background. That is how I came to know that Cal was aboard the

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U.S.S. Block Island, CVE-106 during the period after the Korean War. He was the senior Medical Department person in the second decommissioning of The Block Island.

Isn't it magnificent how the Supreme Architect of The Universe can take two young men from different walks of life and so entwine their lives? As a Baptist believer, as a Freemason, as a former Navy Corpsman and as a friend I thank our God and Savior for the privilege of knowing and working with Calvin Wright Parker and I wish for June and the family only the kindest memories of this fine man. Cal laid down his working tools December 27th, 2005.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bennie G. Owens - PGM

Special School of Instruction

We have established a new School of Instruction at the Grand Lodge downstairs in several of the lodge rooms. These schools began in February of this year with an attendance of 33 and increased to 39 in March.

We were able to conduct two schools each evening as we split the members into two groups and covered several topics of interest of those attending. This provided the opportunity for many more of the attendees to participate as we covered many subjects that were about to be performed in their lodges the following week.

The schedule for these schools

is the third Monday of each of the months listed below:

Open January through June, September and October. Closed in July and August for Summer School. Also closed in November for the Annual Communication and December for Christmas.

All Masons are welcome to attend. If you bring an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow Craft please let me know and we will hold a school to accommodate them.

Annual Pancake Day

Lebanon Lodge No. 175 in Manchester, Maryland holds their Annual Pancake Day in October each year. More than half of the earnings are donated to Manchester Volunteer Fire



Department. Presenting the check *(pictured above)* W.M. George B. Little, J.W. Leon M. Fleming, President of M.V.F.D. Doug Rhoten, and P.M./Chaplain Bayard Bollinger.

Grand Master's Ball

July 15, 2006

Remember, this is our Grand Master's last Ball - Let's show him how much we appreciated all he has done for this Grand Lodge and

all the Brethren - Let's make it a sell-out!

Tickets are \$75.00 per person. Contact Linda Hagan at the Grand Lodge office at 410-527-0600 Tables of 8 are available with advanced notice - Reserve yours today!

Masonic Blood Donor Program

Our Grand Lodge of Maryland, AF&AM, is in dire need of Masonic and Non-Masonic Blood Donors to fulfill our monthly blood quota.

The minimum age of Non-Masonic Blood Donors is 16 with parental consent and the minimum weight is 110 pounds. There is no maximum age restriction subject to physicians advices.

For blood donation information, instructions, donor cards and donor sites, please contact your Lodge Blood Donor Chairman or me at 410-825-6394. Thank You and your Blood Donations are always greatly appreciated.

John W. Hooks, PM #116
Blood Donor Chairman
(Grand Vampire)

Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry

Author S. Brent Morris will be at the Summer School of Instruction at the Grand Lodge on August 15 for a book signing and sale of his latest book.

Books are \$20.00 each. To reserve a copy, your check must be received by the Grand Secretary's office no later than August 1st.



Grand Lodge Summer School 2006

This year our Grand Lodge Summer School will again be eight evenings. The schools will be held in the Grand Lodge Room, Cockeysville, MD. However, we have made some modifications to shorten the evening and provide closer attention to the corrections of the ritual. The dress code will be casual. Please no jeans, shorts or tank tops.

There will not be a catechism after each degree. The three catechisms will be given on the first evening. This will allow each lodge to bring their Instruction Committee and their Ritualists to review all three catechisms in one evening. This year we will be serving refreshments after each school. Come and join in the fellowship and learning or refreshing yourselves with our ritual.

On the last evening certificates of attendance will be distributed.

The schedule for our school this year is:

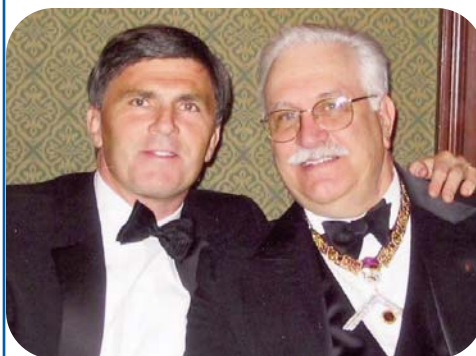
- July 11: 7pm Grand Master's Lodge will open our School. The three Catechisms will be reviewed.
- July 18: 7pm - EA Degree
- July 25: 7pm - EA Degree
- August 1: 7pm - FC Degree
- August 8: 7pm - FC Degree
- August 15: 7pm - Special Events
- August 22: 7pm - MM Degree
- August 29: 7pm - Final Evening M.M. Degree and Certificates.

All State Schools will held at the following locations:

- July 6: 7pm - Hagerstown 217
MM Degree

- July 13: 7pm - Wicomico 91
MM Degree
- July 20: 7pm - Columbia 58
FC Degree
- July 27: **7:30pm** - Cambridge 66
MM Degree
- August 3: 7pm - J.W. Bowers 173
EA Degree
- August 17: **7:30pm** - Centerville 180
MM Degree
- August 24: 7pm - Potomac 100
MM Degree
- Centennial 174 - **7:30pm** July 20, July 27, August 3, August 10 - The three degrees and a special events evening on the last night. We are hoping these modifications will improve our attendance.

If you have any suggestions please send them to any DGL. Questions from those in attendance are welcomed and encouraged. Please attend that you might share in our brotherhood and education while preserving our Masonic ritual.



(Above: Govenor Robert Ehrlich and Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald G Bélanger at the Annual Hibernian Society Banquet.)

Masonic Web Sites

The Masonic Service Association of North America: Contains information about the Masonic Visitor's Program to the Veteran's Hospitals. Also very useful in locating a specific Grand Lodge.

<http://www.msana.com>

The Southern California Research Lodge: Their papers and publications are very low cost, and make a fabulous library for the Masonic reader. Membership in this Lodge is only \$15.00 per year.

<http://www.calodges.org/scrl>

The Philaethes Society: One of the premier research societies in the world. <http://freemasonry.org>

Philaethes Society "Masonic Leadership Correspondence Course:" Contains information on this most valuable course and how to register.

<http://freemasonry.org/leadership>

The Grand Lodge of Iowa: Contains several courses geared toward the Three Degrees as well as and excellent mentoring program.

<http://www.gl-iowa.org>

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania: Their Masonic Education Committee has a great deal of pertinent information useful to all Masons, but especially those aspiring to the East.

<http://www.pagrandlodge.org>

The Grand Lodge of California: The "Member's Center" contains information on Leadership Development, Membership Development, and Masonic Education. <http://www.freemason.org>