

From the Grand Master

Brethren,



The weather during the past few days has brought hope that Spring is near and that the tender branches will sprout again. Spring is the time for renewed hope and a time to cast off the heavy cloak of Winter. It is a time for us as Masons to renew our ties to our Lodge and to our fellow Masons. It is a time for us to return to Lodge and renew our acquaintances with the other members. For our Lodges, it is a time to reach out to our communities and work with the leaders of the community to renew our involvement with them. The Masonic Child Identification Program is a good example of a program that will help a Lodge establish themselves as valued contributors to the community in which the Lodge resides. There are many other ways to do the same if a Lodge doesn't wish to participate in the CHIP program and it only takes an active imagination to produce a list of possibilities.

Some Lodges have a scholarship program that is similar to the one administered by the Masonic Charities of Maryland. This is a very worthwhile endeavor and those who participate in it are to be commended. One important aspect of being involved is the contact you make with your community because, in doing so, we demonstrate to the public, the good our Fraternity does and the commitment we make to helping our fellow man. Our continued efforts will cause a favorable light to shine upon us.

The 2009 Regional Meetings are in progress with the last one scheduled for March 28th. Attendance has been good thus far with many good questions and comments resulting from the informative presentations during the morning. It has been noticed that there has



been a distinct lack of participation in the meetings by Deacons and Stewards of the Lodges. The purpose of these meetings is to provide all members of the jurisdiction of Maryland the opportunity to share in the activities of Masonry in Maryland and to express their concerns, support, and opinions to, not only the Grand Master, but the other Officers of the Grand Lodge. I fear the opinion of many subordinate Officers and members is that these meetings do not pertain to them. I can tell you with confidence "such is not the case." The Regional Meetings are open to all Master Masons and attendance by the Officers of every Lodge is particularly requested. Your support of the Grand Master's programs as well as the programs of your own Lodge is necessary for the success of every effort we as Maryland Masons undertake.

Brethren, the main topic of discussion at the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, held a few weeks ago in Anaheim, California was the Millennium Generation, that is those who are between 20 and 35 years of age. The question is, are we ready to have these young men as active members of our Lodges? Are we ready to find meaningful work for them which does not necessarily include occupying an officers chair in the Lodge. If you can answer yes to these questions, please contact me and let me know what you are doing in your Lodge to excite the interest of these men so that we can share it in Lodges where the excitement has not happened.

I look forward to greeting you as we travel around the jurisdiction and listening to your ideas and suggestions.

Fraternally,
Tom Velvin
Grand Master

Disaster Relief Grand Lodge of Iowa

Dear Grand Lodge of Maryland,

I just had to send a personal note to your office. You can't imagine the feeling I get every time one of your Lodges sends a check for the disaster fund. I'm the bookkeeper here at the Grand Lodge of Iowa and I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Even though I was lucky not to have my home destroyed by the water, the friends and family that lost so much still hits home with me. I can't explain it. The feelings of loss is overwhelming at times. We spent time cleaning out homes, fixing meals for those working on their homes, and praying for those who lost everything.

Material items can be replaced, memories can never be taken away, but to know you may not be able to go back into your home or to where you worked or prayed for your whole life makes it hard.

The Grand Lodge was able to help 25 families, 6 Lodges, 10 businesses so far with all the donations we have received.

Would you please let all the Lodges know I say Thank You and bless you. As Brother Jack Butler, Grand Master of Iowa Masons says "Masonry - A Way of Life" is spelled out in each and every one of the men in Maryland.

Sincerely,
Karen L. Davies
Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant
Grand Lodge of Iowa



Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Free State Freemason*: **the 1st day of March (Spring), June (Summer), September (Fall), and December (Winter).**

These dates are firm as the issue must be formatted and given to the printer the last day of these months.

Send mail to:
Free State Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

410-527-0600 tel
410-527-1276 fax

FSFM@glmd.org

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 the return of pictures, they must have submitting individual's name on the 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: glballroom@glmd.org, Fax 410-316-9410

Office Hours: 10:00 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 experience 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. (*Motorcycle tags are not available*)

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.

Call Ray Vogel at the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600 to make arrangements for yours.

Time, Patience, and Perseverance...

It's no secret that over the last few months the Grand Lodges of New York and D.C. have been involved in somewhat of a "Dust Up" with the Grand Lodge of New York withdrawing recognition from D.C. With the Grand Lodge of Maryland being the closest neighbor, if not physically, but in personal relationship, it was requested by both New York and D.C. that our Grand Master be the "Mediator" in an effort to negotiate a reconciliation.

The initial meeting occurred a day before M.W. Brother Velvin was to take office and the first notion was to follow the Grand Lodge of New York and withdraw recognition, however G.M. Velvin realized that this would ultimately adversely affect many Maryland Masons who hold dual membership. So a different strategy was adopted, to have both sides sit down and work out their differences, amicably. It was hoped that this could be accomplished prior to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, but alas this was not to be.

Upon his arrival at the Conference, G.M. Velvin was met with the news that what had been an acceptable agreement on Feb. 3, 2009 had fallen apart and the two sides were as far apart as ever. It would take 2 more meetings while at the Conference to reach an accord and ultimately it would be done! On Tuesday morning, with the entire membership of the Conference in attendance, the Grand Lodges of New York and D.C. announced that an agreement had been reached and reconciliation was forthcoming. Both jurisdictions stated that without the patience of G.M. Velvin, his leadership and willingness to listen to both sides, this reconciliation would not have been possible. All three were given a standing ovation and M.W. Brother Velvin received congratulations from all in attendance for his leadership and courage for his part in negotiating what was best for the Fraternity.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland can be justifiably proud of our Most Worshipful Grand Master, for he has brought great honor, not only to himself but also to our Grand Jurisdiction and in doing so he has exemplified "Leadership by Example" and service to the "Craft."

Ronald G. Bélanger, PGM

Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.
Candidate for Re-Election
Most Worshipful Grand Master

Blue Lodge: Camp Springs Lodge No. 227; Raised May 12, 1978; Worshipful Master 1985.

Memberships: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite since 1978; Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine since 1996; York Rite since 1998; Masonic Veterans since 2005; Chester River Shrine Club since 2005.

Leadership Positions: Webmaster, Maryland Masonic Family since inception in 1994; Director of Work, AASR Baltimore Valley, 1998; Deputy Grand Lecturer, District 8, 2003; Board of Trustees, 2005; Executive Committee, 2005; Chairman - Policy Committee, 2005; AASR Holding Company Board, 2006; Right Worshipful Master, Southern Maryland Past Master's Association, 2006; Asst. Treasurer, Christ Church at I.U. Worshipful Junior Grand Steward, 1987; Advisory Council Bethel No. 41, IOJD, 1988 - 1993; Worshipful Master, Dr. John Coats Memorial Lodge, 1990 - 1994; President, Camp Springs Temple Holding Corp., 1988 - 2003; Grand Inspector, 1994 - 2000. Served as President from 1996 - 2002. First President of combined Board; Board of Trustees, 1998 - 2004. Executive Committee, 1998 - 2004; Chair, Personnel Committee, 1998 - 2003; Co-Chair, Imperial Shrine 2005; web site, 2002 - 2006; Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, 2004; Venerable Master, Lodge of Perfection, 2005; Treasurer, Episcopal Church of the Nativity, 1978 - 2006; Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master 2007-2008

Awards: Warren E. Seipp Award, November 1996; Coroneted Inspector General Honorary in Scottish Rite, October 2001

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Candidate for Re-Election
R W Deputy Grand Master



I am a candidate for re-election to the Office of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

Professionally, I am retired from the public schools in Maryland after thirty-seven years. I have Bachelors and Masters degrees from

Towson University and have advanced studies at five other area universities. For twenty-seven years, I served as a Principal and Assistant Principal at middle and high schools and was a teacher for eight years. Currently, I help train new public school teachers and teach graduate courses at Towson University.

A freemason for forty years, I am Past Master of Liberty Lodge No. 219, have served in numerous Grand Lodge positions and in 2006 was Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, currently serve as the Curator/Librarian for Grand Lodge.

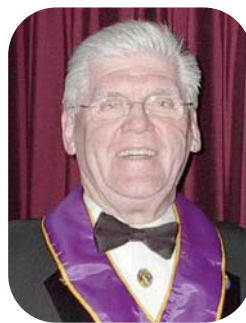
I hold the 33° in the Scottish Rite, and have served the York Rite as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, Grand Master of Cryptic Masons and Grand Commander of Knights Templar in Maryland. I am privileged to be the Past Sovereign of the

Red Cross of Constantine and belong to the Grotto, the KYCH the Tall Cedars, and the Shrine, the Allied Masonic Degrees, the Royal Order of Scotland, the National Sojourners, the Heroes of '76 and hold the Order of the Purple Cross of the York Rite College. I am most honored to have been named an honorary Past Master of Patapsco Lodge No. 183 and Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116.

A senior member of Dundalk Chapter, I have been honored by the Supreme Council of DeMolay as an Honorary member.

I pledge my best efforts in support of the Grand Master and his program for Grand Lodge.

Robert W. Chase
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden



Masonic Resume: Raised in Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 in 1996. Appointed Line Officer Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 1997. Worshipful Master Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 2002

Grand Lodge Positions: Appointed Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon 2005. Elected Grand Lodge Board of Managers November 2005. Appointed Grand Inspector (Charity Lodge No. 134) 2007.

Concordant Bodies: York Rite – Royal Arch Baltimore Chapter. Scottish Rite – Valley of Baltimore, Orient of Maryland. 2007 - Senior Warden Meredith Chapter Rose Croix. Awarded the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honor 2005. Member of Scottish Rite 5th, 14th, and 30th Degree Team.

We continually hear that we are a part of the greatest fraternity in the world. I believe it and hope to bring a positive image to Grand Lodge.

Arthur R. Dickerson, Jr.
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden



Graduated from Kenwood High, School in 1972, I entered the Machinist trade in Feb 1974, and in May 1977 was accepted into a State regulated Apprenticeship program with 12months credit for 38 months experience.

In May 1980 I was awarded the classification of Journeyman Machinist, having worked an additional 7,000 hours and met the State prescribed academic requirements.

In July 1983 I established Dickerson Machine & Tool which was incorporated in 1987, and continues to manufacture precision machined components for industry.

I have been a member in good standing of Jephthah Lodge No. 222 in Essex, Md. since being raised May 2000. In 2004, as W.M., I participated with the elected officers of Union Lodge No. 60 and Jephthah Lodge No. 222 in formulating a merger agreement. The success

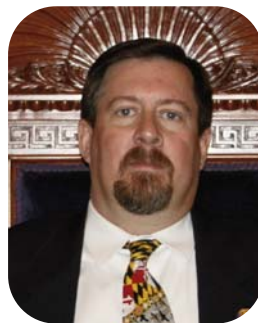
of this agreement demonstrates the value of fidelity to our obligations and to the Masonic tenants.

My appointment to W.G.D.C. for 2006 has provided an opportunity to visit Lodges in all regions of our State. As each Lodge is unique in its character and reflects that of the community in which it operates, our Grand Lodge has an important responsibility and opportunity to help preserve and promote our rich heritage as Masons in Maryland.

Julius H. Poston, Jr.
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden
(Resume Not Submitted)

Jay W. Hodges
Candidate for the office of
R W Junior Grand Warden
(Resume Not Submitted)

Leslie G. Metcalf, Jr.
Candidate for the office of
R W Junior Grand Warden



Masonic Background: I became a Master Mason in Sincerity Lodge No. 181 in 1999 and became a plural member of Waverly Lodge No. 152 in 2002. I served as Worshipful Master of Waverly Lodge in 2006 and am currently the

Secretary of Waverly Lodge. In 2008, I became the Worshipful master of Sincerity Lodge and still serve in that capacity. I was appointed to serve on the 2008 Grand Lone as the W. Grand Standard Bearer and appointed as a Grand Inspector for Patapsco Lodge No. 183 in 2008.

Masonic Affiliations: Scottish Rite - Joined in 2001 and have served on several degree teams as well as the Feast of Tishri. In 2002, I was appointed to the Council of Kadosh and served as its Commander in 2007. In 2005 I was decorated a Knight Commander Court of Honor. York Rite - Member of Druid Chapter No. 28 RAM, Hiram Council No. 5 R&SM, and Monumental Commandery No. 3 KT in 2003. In 2008, I became a member of Maryland York Rite College No. 58. Tall Cedars - Annapolis Forest No. 126 in 2008. Boumi Shrine - 2007. Member of Knights of Mecca, serving on Board of Directors. Knights of Mecca. Jobs Daughters - Currently the Associate Bethel Guardian of Bethel No. 22 in Elkridge.

Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
Candidate for Re-Election
R W Grand Secretary



Masonic Background: Past Master of Oriental Lodge No. 158 in 1982, 1989, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2003. Past Grand Inspector, Past VP of the Board of Grand Inspectors, Past Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon, Past Member of

the Board of Managers, Past President of the Past Master's Association of Baltimore City/County and currently is the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.

Masonic Affiliations: Scottish Rite, York Rite, Tall Cedars, Shrine, Knights of Mecca, Masonic Veterans Association.

William E. Gyr
Candidate for Re-Election
R W Grand Treasurer



Masonic Background: Past Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 202 and a plural member of Ionic No. 145. Currently serving as Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.

Education: Certificate in Accounting from Johns Hopkins University. This curriculum is all the Major Accounting subjects required for an Accounting Degree. Subsequently received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Baltimore. Attended frequent seminars in Finance, Management, Technology, Personnel and General Office Administration to keep current on these topics.

Professional Experience: Supervised all Accounting functions including Accounts Receivable, Payable and General Ledger. Controller positions have included the duties of preparing Financial Statements, Budgets, Systems Design and report analysis. Serving as Controller, I have been the primary representative with Auditors, Banking operations, Insurance Agents and Employee Benefit providers.

Currently semi-retired, I am the Controller for a Manufacturing and Installation company serving as a sub-contractor to the building industry.

Masonic History: Former DeMolay, Tuscan Chapter, Legion of Honor; Past Patron Gleaner Chapter No. 49, OES; Past Associate Guardian, Bethel No. 48, IOJD, Reisterstown. Master of Tuscan Lodge in 2000. Currently serving as Vice President, Board of Grand Inspectors for the Central Region, Grand Inspector to Lebanon Lodge No. 175 and Worshipful Grand Pursuivant 2005-06. Member of Masonic Veterans Association.

R. Bruce Tanner
Candidate for the
Board of Trustees

Masonic Background: 25 year member of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 46 in Westminster serving as Worshipful Master in 1990, 2002, 2003 and 2004. Served as Worshipful Grand Sword Bearer and Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon for the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Currently

Chairman of the Committee on Reinstatements and a member of the Masonic Trial Commission. Grand Inspector for Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 in Bel Air and Aberdeen Lodge

No. 187 in Aberdeen.

Professional: Retired as a Captain from the Maryland State Police in 2004, after almost 29 years of service, and returned as a civilian where he is currently the Civilian Manager for Recruitment and Selection for the Department of State Police. Assignments included: Troop Commander of the Western and Central Regions of the Field Operations Bureau; Commander of the Human Resources Division and Westminster, Hagerstown and Frederick Barracks; Central Region Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division; flight paramedic in the Aviation Division and member of the Superintendent's Staff.

Educations: B.S. in Journalism from the University of Maryland and an M.S. in Management and Community Development from the Johns Hopkins University.

Henry C. McDonald, Jr.
Candidate for the
Board of Trustees

Masonic History: I was Raised in Concordia



Lodge No. 13 in 1997. Installed as Worshipful Master in 2001. I served for three consecutive terms during which time Concordia Lodge received the Grand Master's Award with Distinction each year. I currently chair the Catechism Committee and

have chaired or served on numerous others. Plural member of Washington Lodge No. 3.

Grand Lodge: I was elected R.W. Junior Grand Warden, 2007, and appointed President, Board of Grand Inspectors, 2007. I am also chairman of the Hospitality Committee. I served in the 2004 Grand Line as W.G. Sword Bearer and was appointed a Grand Inspector in 2002.

Masonic Affiliation: Scottish Rite - Past Director of Work, Degree Master 18^o, Diplomat for the Valley of Baltimore, Fraternal Relations Committee. In 2007, I received the 33^o Inspector General (Honorary). Appointed to the Lodge of Perfection in 2001, I currently serve as Venerable Master. Boumi Shrine - Member of Ambassadors, Highlanders and Past President of Knights of Mecca. Boumi Ceremonial cast. I became a Nobel in 1998.

Professional: BS in Commerce, University of Virginia, 1961; MBA in Finance, George Washington University, 1969. Since 1989, I have been an active Realtor specializing in the acquisition and sale of investment properties. I have professional experience in real estate financing, development, and property management. From 1973 - 1989, I was president of a Baltimore based investment banking and financial consulting firm. In addition to my duties as CEO, I was involved in providing client services in real estate finance and development, working with owners/executives, attorneys, and accountants in the acquisition and marketing of properties. Previously, I was a regional manager for a NYSE member firm where I had begun my career as an account executive.

David L. Schneider
Candidate for the
Board of Trustees



Masonic background: Howard Lodge No. 101; Initiated March 18, 1963 - Passed April 15, 1963 - Raised May 13, 1963; Worshipful Master 1971; Served as Ritualist, Audit Committee, By - Law Committee, Treasurer and Secretary, Present

member of the Board of Trustees. York Rite 1963; Boumi Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S., Baltimore Maryland 1963; Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, S.J. USA Valley of Baltimore Orient of Maryland 1992 received KCCH in 2005; Tall Cedars of Lebanon 2003; Baltimore Forest No. 45; Grand Lodge of Maryland; Elected Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden for 2005; Appointed Worshipful Grand Lecturer November 2004; Appointed Grand Inspector 1999 and served six years for Ionic Lodge No. 145, Composite Lodge No. 212 and Sharon Lodge No. 182; Served as Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon 2001; Served as Vice-President of the Northern Region Board of Grand Inspectors 2002-200; Served on the Board of Managers 2001-2004; Appointed to the Grand Masters Long Range Planning Committee 2003 and 2004; Appointed to the Committee for Long Term Leasing Project 2004

Charles L. Carmichael
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors



Masonic History: Past Master of Pythagoras Lodge No. 123. Chairman Auditing Committee - Pythagoras Lodge No. 123. Vice President of Board of Grand Inspectors for Baltimore South, Member

of Grand Lodge Leadership Training Committee. Scottish Rite: 33^o Inspector General (Honorary); General Director of Work. Line officer for Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix. Board member for Knights of Mecca, Boumi Temple, AAONMS.

Professional: Board of Directors for Coal Export Services International. Regional Vice President for Inchcape Shipping Services. Board of Directors for Baltimore Maritime Exchange.

Education: 1977 Graduated (Cum Laude) Virginia Wesleyan College - BA; 2008 College level training in non-profit management

Community: Various positions at Christ Episcopal Church and All Hollows Episcopal Church; Leadership roles in the South River Federation, a 501 (c) 3 organization

Joseph F. Chalker
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors



Masonic History: Member of Door to Virtue Lodge No. 46, WM in 1967, Secretary from 1976-1998. Elected RW Sr. Grand Warden 1986. Excellent High Priest of Carroll Chapter No. 31 1966-67, 1974-75; Excellent Grand High Priest, Grand Chapter 1997; President of the Council of Anointed High Priests of Maryland 1984, Treasurer 1996-Present; Thrice Illustrious Master of Carroll Council No. 7 1963-64, 1970-74; Past Most Illustrious Grand Master of Grand Council R&SM of Maryland 2001; Commander of Carroll Commandery No. 17, 1978-79, 1998-Present. Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of Grand Commandery of KT of Maryland 1993; Preeminent Governor of Maryland York Rite College No. 58 1994; Celebrant of Maryland College Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis 1996; Prior of Francis Scott Key Priory No. 14, Knights of the York Cross of Honour 2001; Past Patron of Door to Virtue Chapter No. 94, OES; Past Associate Bethel Guardian of Bethel No. 31; Dad Advisor of Westminster Chapter, DeMolay.

Professional: President of the Maryland Music Educators Association 1972; Member of the Executive Board and Historian of the 454th Bombardment Group Association, Inc. 1986-2007, Chair of Editorial Committee for the publication's "454th Memories" and "Bombing Missions and Related Stories"; Treasurer of the Carroll County Community Concert Association 1986-2007; Duty as Education and Training Officer of the 9508th Air Reserve Sqdn.

John B. Grieve
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors



Masonic History: Member of Highland Lodge No. 184, WM in 1998-2000, 2006-2007. Grand Inspector for Tuscan Lodge No. 202 and Jephthah Lodge No. 222. Appointed W. Grand Pursuivant in 2009. Excellent King of Tuscan Chapter No. 42. Marshall for Hiram Council No. 5. Volunteer in Grand Lodge Library

Professional: Mechanical Engineer Apprenticeship - 5 years; Seagoing Marine Engineer for British India Steam Navigation Co. Ltd. for 8 years. Design Engineer Draftsman for 3 years. Assistant Chief Engineer for 2 years and Chief Claims Officer for 4 years at Marine Industries Ltd. in Sorel, Quebec, Canada. General Manager of Philly Ship of Baltimore for 5 years. Assistant Yard Manager and Estimator for General Ship Repair Corp. for 10 years.

Mark E. Hartz
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors
(Resume Not Submitted)

Robert H. Hill, Jr.
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors
(Resume Not Submitted)

Albert C. Kaestner
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors

Masonic History: Member of Tuscan Lodge No. 202. Worshipful Master in 1981 & 1982. Treasurer in 2008 & 2009. Appointed W. Grand Standard Bearer, 1985. Committee member and Treasurer of Monument 2000 and Walk of Remembrance project.

Professional: In 1953, joined the E.A. Kaestner Company, a family owned business which was founded in 1875. While working with other family members, became President and owner in 1988. Semi-retired in 2005 to join with Mary Lou Kaestner in managing her real estate office, Re/Max Greater Metro.

Education: Baltimore Polytechnic Institute B course graduated 1949. Johns Hopkins University BS Business/Engineering graduated 1953.

Donald M. Miller
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors
(Resume Not Submitted)

C. Edward Poarch
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors



Masonic Background: Member of Howard Lodge No. 101. Past Master 1998, 1999 (Mystic Circle No. 109), Past Grand Inspector (2002-2008), W.J.G.D. in 2009, Grand Commandery York Rite.

Professional: 1999 to the present - Foreman Superintendent - Banner Masonry Inc. Involved in projects requiring secret service clearance. 1994 to 1998 - Executive Director - Maryland Foundation For Fair Contracting, Inc. Prevailing wage monitoring for Davis-Bacon, Maryland State Prevailing wage under COMAR and Baltimore City to prevent fraud and misclassification of employees as independent contractors. 1990 to 1994 - Business Manager for Local No. 1 Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen of Maryland. Run the day-to-day operations of the hiring and referral hall, representing the members of the

local union. Apprentice instructor and Joint Training Committee member for 14 years. Apprenticeship Training Director for 3 years (1991 to 1994). Trustee for Pension Fund for BAC Local No. 1. Trustee for the Annuity Fund for Local No. 1. Trustee for the Health & Welfare Fund for Local No. 1. Trustee for the Vacation Fund for Local No. 1. Trustee for the Joint Apprenticeship & Training Council for Local No. 1. Trustee for The Baltimore Building and Construction Trades Council (12 affiliated unions) in Maryland.

Education: I completed my teaching certificate for apprenticeship in 1976 from Essex C.C. BS Degree from UMBC in 1984. I went to the George Meany Center for Labor Studies form 1978 to 1997

Spyridon G. Treklas
Candidate for the
Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr.
Memorial Library/Museum
Board of Directors



Masonic Career: Joined Amicable-St. Johns Lodge No. 25 in 1986. Served as Worshipful Master of St. Johns Lodge No. 34 in 1991. Member of the Past Masters Association for Baltimore since 1991. Served as a Grand

Inspector 1995-2001. In 1997 served as Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer for the Most Worshipful Past Grand Master John C. Naquin. In 2002 accepted an appointment for Grand Inspector and since serving as Vice-President of the Board of Grand Inspectors for Baltimore South. Chairman of the Masonic Law School for Baltimore North and South region from 1997 to 2001 and from 2002 to present. Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of Greece to the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Joined Scottish Rite in 1991. In 1997 invested with the rank of Knight Commander Court of Honor. Served as Wise Master for the Lodge of Rose Croix in 2001. Since 1992 involved in multiple Scottish Rite administrative and ritualistic degree teams. Currently involved in multiple speaking parts in various Scottish Rite degrees. In October of 2005 coroneted with the honorary 33rd Scottish Rite Degree. Member of the Royal Arch Tuscan Chapter No. 42. Member of the Hiram Council No. 5. Member of Monumental Commandery No. 3. Member of Baltimore Forest No. 45. Member of the Royal Order of Scotland. Member of the Scottish Rite Research Society.

Professional Career: I Graduated from Towson State University with dual major in Computer Science and Mathematics. Received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Johns Hopkins University. I have been employed by Baltimore Aircoil Company Inc since 1988. Going through several positions in the Information Technology Department, currently I am the System/Database and Security Administrator for the company's Oracle-PeopleSoft Enterprise Resource Planning system.

John A. Young, Jr.
 Candidate for the
 MCM, Inc. Board of Directors



My Masonic history begins June 20, 1970 when I was raised to Master Mason in Ionic Lodge No. 145. I served as the Worshipful Master in 1976 and was appointed Lodge Secretary in May 1980 when the then current Secretary passed. In December, of 1980, I was elected Secretary and continued to serve until January 2001. I was elected Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master at the November 2000 Annual Grand Lodge Communication and served with Most Worshipful Grand Master Bennie G Owens during 2001 and 2002. I was elected Most Worshipful Grand Master at the November 2002 Annual Grand Lodge Communication and served as Grand Master during 2003 and 2004. During my terms as DGM and GM and also as a PGM I served on the Board of Directors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.

**Masonic Charities of MD, Inc.
 Annual Golf Tournament**

The Masonic Charities of Maryland Annual Golf Tournament will be held on October 12, 2009 at Rocky Point Golf Course. All the details and registration forms will be provided in the next issue of the Free State Freemason.

For more information contact Bob Ivey at mcmgolf@comcast.net

I would also like to include some type of thank you to our 2008 sponsors just to recognize them for their support with making last years tournament a huge success. I listed the sponsors below.

A very special Thank You to our 2008 Sponsors:

- Joan A. Birmingham, Attorney at Law
- Patapsco Lodge No. 183
- The Acacia Club of Dundalk
- Bob Bell Pontiac GMC KIA
- Hooters in Towson
- Friedman & Friedman, LLP Attorney's at Law
- Adherence Lodge No. 88
- Singleton Funeral Home
- Premier LLC Williamsburg Vacations
- Angle Inn
- Complete Management Services Inc
- Bromwell Jewelry Center, Inc.
- Herbert Y. Holcomb III RW Grand Secretary
- Masonic Temple Foundation, Inc
- Tuxedo House
- Jilly's Bar & Grill
- Liberty Lodge No. 219
- Ruck Funeral Homes
- Chuck's Body and Fender, Inc
- Mid Atlantic Insurance
- Della Rose's Restaurant
- Maryland Demolay
- A New Way Clinic

**Honors to the
 Grand Lodge of Maryland**

The 2009 Conference of Grand Masters of North America, named Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. Chairman of the Time and Place Committee. This committee is charged with reviewing the applications of Grand Jurisdictions who wish to be considered as future hosts of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. The term runs through the 2010 Conference and marks the second time 4 years a Grand Master of Maryland has been selected by the conference to chair a committee.

Additionally, MWPGM Ronald G. Bélanger was nominated and elected to serve a three-year term on the Masonic Renewal Committee. This committee has been mandated by the Conference of Grand Masters of North America to establish an Internet Library aimed at providing educational material for use by every Grand Lodge Jurisdiction, more importantly, for use by every Mason. Congratulations M.W. Sirs!

Greetings from the Boumi Oasis

As we enter into the Spring of the year, Brethren we greet each of you and look forward to the coming months. Boumi will be busy as usual. Coming events will be the Carnival at 5050 King Avenue starting May 11 through May 17. This would be a great chance for those of you who have never been to our Temple to see it. But more importantly, it would be an opportunity for you to bring you children and grand children here to enjoy one of the days. Anyone interested please call Paul Reinke at 410-977-3071 or cell: 240-925-1886.

What a great evening we had on January 30 when the Knights of Mecca installed their officers. And when I, along with the Henry McDonald, the out going President; Marlin Mills, the newly installed President and the Chief Rabban Ronald Carlson were able to present to the Most Worshipful Grand Master his Boumi Fez. But that night our Grand Master turned the table on us by surprising the Potentate with a presentation of a special Masonic apron. What an honor that was! I cannot thank the Grand Master enough.

What a great Masonic Family we have in Maryland. The relationship each of our organizations have, is without a match anywhere. However, it's the responsibility of all of us to work together to maintain and continue to interface and communicate with all of the supporting organizations. As we help ourselves, we need to remember that we are all a part of the Masonic Family and are responsible to support our Lodges.

Boumi has planned two trips this year. The first will be held in late May. This will be a 12 Night Scandinavia and Russia Cruise May 20, 2009 through June 2, 2009 and a second trip in October flying from Baltimore to San Diego and taking a cruise to the Mexican Riviera.

We wish for the Most Worshipful Grand Master and his Officers an outstanding and safe year as they travel throughout the State with their Regional meetings and other programs.

Fraternally,
 James L. Davis, III
 Potentate

**Seat Pleasant Lodge No. 218
 Makes a Move**

Seat Pleasant Lodge No. 218, AF & AM was chartered on May 10, 1927 under the Grand Lodge of Maryland. At that time, the lodge was established above the Seat Pleasant building and Loan and a grocery store on Roosevelt Ave. in Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

Due to continued growing pains, the members of Seat Pleasant began to seek a location that would allow for a custom building for their lodge. In 1957, several locations were scouted, the lodge deciding on a location on Marlboro Pike in District Heights, Maryland.

On October 25, 1957 the 218 Temple Holding Corporation purchased the Moore property at Marlboro Pike and Washington State Road. The building was designed by a member of the lodge, Past Master C. William McPherson. The dedication ceremony for the temple was held on April 3, 1965 with a cornerstone laying ceremony.

On March 8, 2002, due to rising costs and the decline of active membership, the Temple Holding Corporation had made a very difficult decision and sold the lodge temple to the District Heights Church of Christ. At this time, Seat Pleasant Lodge began renting space from the Oxon Hill Temple Holding corporation. Again, due to declining active membership and lodge participation the lodge members had another difficult decision to make.

In December 2007, the lodge met and began discussing what should be done with the lodge. Given the many options suggested, a vote was taken May 2008 to move from Oxon Hill and rent space at Centennial Lodge Temple, Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The membership felt that this would move the lodge closer to the members who live in the area and make the "only daylight lodge in southern Maryland" more centrally located. Seat Pleasant Lodge remains active but still suffers as many lodges do with only a few committed brothers who attend regularly and take a "chair".

However, In moving to Centennial we are located better to suit our members and others who might wish to attend a day light Lodge. Also, there is ample parking and the Lodge room is at ground level. And attendance has increased. We had an active autumn picnic with food and entertainment and are holding a special Lodge meeting in November at the House of the Temple, Washington, DC. Hopefully, the word will get passed among brethren in the area who can't attend their mother lodge due to the meetings held at night and will consider visiting Seat Pleasant on the First Saturday of the month at 10:00am.

We are located at Centennial Lodge Temple, 6110 Croom Station Rd., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Our email address is; Lodge218@comcast.net. PLEASE come out and join us.

Maundy Thursday & Feast of Tishri

On April 9, 2009, the Scottish Rite will be having our annual Maundy Thursday Open Ceremonies, beginning with the Mystic Banquet at 7:00 PM, followed with the ceremony of Extinguishing the Lights. We will also have a guest speaker that evening, the Ill. Richard E. Fletcher, 33°, PGM.

October 14th is our Feast of Tishri at 7:00 PM. No feast day in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry has ever had or will ever have greater significance than the Feast of Tishri. It is the symbolic cornerstone of our Rite. It forms the central theme of most of our degrees. To understand the Feast of Tishri and its symbolic significance to the Scottish Rite, past and present, is to touch the deep meaning, "The very heart and soul of our Fraternity."

All Masons and their families are invited to both of these events. The cost of the meal for each event is only \$15.00 per person. Please call the Scottish Rite Office at 410-243-3200 for reservations.

Ill. E. Ray Leppo, Jr., 33°,
Personal Representative

Centennial Lodge No. 174 Annual Friend to Friend Shoot

Centennial Lodge 174 will hold their annual FRIEND TO FRIEND shoot on April 25th, 2009, starting at 10:00am. The same location, the PG Trap and Skeet Center in Greenbelt, Maryland will be the site of this exciting event. More details to follow soon, please remember to ink in this date!!

Also, in an effort to defray costs, Signs may be purchased for advertising, Business will pay \$100.00 and individuals \$50.00.

Please pass the information along and most especially to men you know that are not Freemasons. What a great opportunity to show our friends that we do have fun!

If you know of a business owner, please pass this information on to them, as the PG Trap and Skeet center is a very active and busy venue where they will get a lot of exposure. The cost of the signs are tax deductible as well.

Please contact Ken Wyvill, Chairman, at 240-417-6167 or email him at kenw@smi-pvd.com with reservations on the signs. Menu and other fee information will be forthcoming.

Columbia Lodge No. 58 Breakfast

Columbia Lodge No. 58 will be holding a Buffet style breakfast on the Third Saturday of each month. Menu: Pancakes, Eggs cooked to order, Sausage, Scrapple, Bacon, Home Fries, Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Toast, Coffee, and Orange Juice.

The event is open to all and is handicapped accessible. Cost is \$6.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 6 and under for "All you can eat".

The Lodge is located at 6816 Blentlinger Road Frederick, MD 21705. We are just west of the Golden Mile off of Route 40. Don't miss a great breakfast and a chance to support the Lodge at the same time.

Odenton Lodge Breakfast

When the members of Odenton Lodge wanted to help a local community group they do one of the things that they do best, they cook breakfast.

On Sunday January 18th the members of Odenton Lodge in conjunction with their Temple Holding Corporation held a breakfast at the Odenton Masonic Center to Benefit the Anne Arundel Alarmers Association. The Alarmers is a group of volunteers affiliated with the county's department that provide refreshments to emergency responders at the scenes of various incidents.



During an emergency scene when firefighters or police officers are on scene for many hours performing strenuous activities they need water and they need nourishment. These volunteers provide that service. The goal of the breakfast was to provide funds needed to replace the organizations aging mobile kitchen. The cost of the new vehicle is in excess of \$450,000. At the conclusion of the breakfast Worshipful Master Logan E. H. Starr, Sr. presented a check to the association's president for \$937.00.

An all you can eat buffet breakfast is held at the Odenton Masonic Center each month on the second Sunday.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland Deluxe Bull & Oyster Roast

Day & Date: Sunday, April 26, 2009

Time: Food 2-6 pm, Music/Dancing 3-7 pm

Place: Grand Lodge Ballroom
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Price: \$27.50 per person before April 14
\$35.00 after April 15, 2009

For Tickets: Call, Ray Vogel at
(410) 527-0289 or (410) 527-0600

Menu: On the pit: Beef, Turkey, Country Smoked Ham, Bread, Rolls and Condiments, Oysters on the shell with spicy cocktail sauce, Fried padded oysters, Homemade Maryland Crab Soup, Meat Lasagna, Bar-B-Q chicken, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Shells in Tomato Sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas & carrots, Fresh fruit, Cole slaw, Taco salad, Assorted cheeses & crackers, Seasonal vegetables with dips, Pickled beets, Coffee & iced tea, Beer & soda, Sheet cake - last hour of food.

Tables of 8 or 10
No tickets sold at door

Masonic Charities of Maryland Student Assistance Partnership

The Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) and the Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) have enjoyed a productive partnership for more than 20 years. Since 1987, the MCM has supported the Maryland Student Assistance Program. Besides providing the financial needs for the Maryland Student Assistance Program Professionals Association to conduct the yearly and the periodic trainings for MSAP, the MCM works behind the scenes to arrange for other supports (speakers, contacts, etc.) to facilitate the continuation of MSAP, which is designed to identify Maryland teens with problems that may be related to alcohol and other drug use and secure treatment if needed. This valuable and highly confidential program exists in all Maryland secondary schools and is free to all students and parents. On October 21 and 22, 127 new MSAP members were trained at the Grand Lodge. The picture below is of the participants listening to one of the several key presenters who assisted in conducting this training.



During this training, the MCM Board members were recognized and ate lunch with the participants. Many of the trainees expressed sincere gratitude to the MCM for their unflinching support for Student Assistance over the past 20 years. In addition, each February, the Masonic Charities supports the continuing education of MSAP members by sponsoring the keynote speaker at the annual MSAPPA Conference held in Ellicott City. More than 500 Student Assistance professionals---school staff members, law enforcement personnel, treatment providers, and others---convene on that day to enhance their knowledge of the factors and issues affecting Maryland youth. Many thanks to our brother Masons for your generous contributions to the Masonic Charities of Maryland that permit this partnership between Maryland Masons and the Maryland Student Assistance Program to flourish to help our at-risk youth.

Rebuilding a Courthouse

Two years ago, the 100 year old courthouse in Berkeley Springs, WV caught fire and was destroyed. On Saturday, January 24th, the PGMs of West Virginia invited our PGM Ron Bélanger to join the brethren of Deford Lodge No. 88 in Berkeley Springs, along with the GM and Grand Line of West Virginia to lay the new cornerstone of the courthouse.

Maryland Masonic Homes

“Bonnie Blink”

Greetings from the Hill!



Each year, I am afforded the opportunity to represent Maryland at the national Masonic Homes Executive Association of North America (MHEANA) Conference. Various Masonic and Eastern Star Homes host, creating educational sessions and networking events that the members attend. As an eager participant, we work towards improving processes, systems and operations and creating best practices for our Homes to follow.

One of the areas we have discussed and more recently presented by the CEO of the Virginia Masonic Homes in an article of the Virginia Masonic Herald relates to retirement living. As working adults, most of us speak wistfully of those ‘retirement years’ and look forward to the joys that surround the anticipation of retiring. Unfortunately, as we reach those retirement years, we delay those important decisions that affect and impact the quality of our lives. Many times, it becomes ‘too late’ and instead of enjoying retirement, poor health dictates what happens.

As I walk the halls of Maryland Masonic Homes, many residents will stop and thank me and the staff for what they are enjoying. “Why did I wait so long to come here?” is usually what I hear. Sometimes it is a matter of waiting too long and not being able to come in to the level of care you wanted to.

We have a wonderful array of living arrangements and the security of knowing that health care is here if you need it – in the beginning or later. The quality of care that Maryland Masonic provides is second to none in the state of Maryland. It is difficult to make the decision to move and down-size, but it is comforting to know there is a community that can offer activity, energy and life. Give us a call and see what we can offer to you – there is much to enjoy at Maryland Masonic Homes.

Let me introduce you to our exceptional Nutritional Services Department. Led by Food Service Director, Patrice Goham, the team consists of Joann Price-Troxel, Ken Howard, Eric Jeter, Ndiya Kalu and Pamela Pinder.



(Front Row from Left: Pamela Pinder, Patrice Goham, Ndiya Kalu, Joann Price-Troxel. Back Row from Left: Ken Howard, and Eric Jeter)

This caring and skilled staff provides our residents with nutritious meals and high quality service. Most foods are prepared in-house and our dietitian works in tandem to create interesting and seasonal menus. The Department also caters resident, staff and Masonic events with a personal touch, elegance and style. Each year, the Food Service Department goes through four specific County inspections and our annual State of Maryland inspection. As always the team shines and we frequently receive few or zero deficiencies. Maryland Masonic is fortunate to have this team of committed and dedicated employees.

At Maryland Masonic we have much to give and would love the opportunity to show you. Don't wait too long, call Stacey to schedule a tour.

Paula L. O'Neill, N.H.A.
Executive Director

A Success Story

A common issue facing many of today's seniors is the life-changing decision whether or not to move into a Retirement Community. Not only is this decision a difficult one but along with this step comes the questions, “where do I want to go?” and “am I really ready for this?”. This challenge was met recently by one of Maryland Masonic Home's newest residents, Dorothy (Dottie) DeHaven.



Although she had always been self-reliant and independent, Dottie began to realize that she needed to make a change. As her family was spread throughout Maryland, she feared that if something were to happen to her, what would she do and where would

she go? Further prompted by advice from her physician, Dottie began the process of gathering information. As there are many options in Baltimore County, soon Dottie was inundated with informational brochures.

Recalling the experience of a late, distant family member who resided at Maryland Masonic Homes, and was always so busy that “her daughter would have to make an appointment just to see her”, Dottie made the call. Peering through yet another packet, she happily realized that this was an affordable option offering all of the services and amenities that were most important to her. Most importantly it offered the security and peace of mind that she was searching for. As soon as she came in for a tour, she noticed the warmth of the staff and other residents and knew that her decision had been made. Luck was certainly on Dottie's side as an ideal apartment was available for occupancy. Dottie moved quickly to secure this desirable unit and moved in, October 2008.

Dottie has become an integral part of the community and she fondly remembers that “as

soon as I moved in I felt like part of a great big family.” She finds herself busy once again being part of the Program Committee for the Resident Council and a member of the Bonnie Singers. Dottie also enjoys participating in the many social activities, playing Bingo, relaxing and helping to build jigsaw puzzles. When asked if she made the right decision to move, her reply is always, “this was the best decision I've made in my life!”

75th Anniversary Celebration

Maryland Masonic Homes will be celebrating 75 years of providing outstanding quality care to our residents! We have a whole week of celebratory events planned and hope that you can join us for one or all of them.

On Sunday, April 26, 2009 we will have an Open House/Wine/Cheese at the Homes. From Monday, April 26th through Friday, April 30th we have various Resident events scheduled such as a History Show, Fondue Extravaganza and Bonnie Blink Talent Contest. The finale of the week is an Anniversary Gala to be held at the Grand Lodge of Maryland on Friday, May 1, 2009.



The staff of Maryland Masonic Homes wishes to extend an invitation to each of you! Tickets are available through the Grand Lodge for \$75 per person and will include the following: Open Bar with Hot and Cold Hors d'oeuvres, Entertainment by the Peabody Institute, Seated Dinner, Live Auction, and Firework Display.

A limited number of tickets will be sold and can be purchased by contacting Bettie Dunkin at 410-527-0600.

Please contact Jennifer Paul, Director of Administrative Services at 410-527-1111 for details on how you or your Lodge can donate or sponsor these events. Thank you for your continued support of Maryland Masonic Homes and we look forward to seeing you at the celebration!

**Don't wait!
Get your tickets today!**