



FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2016

Masonry's wisdom comes from its rich heritage and its strength enables it to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. With that thought in mind, I am anxious to roll out several new initiatives and reignite existing ones to bolster our fraternity and our lodges.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.



FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

The *Free State Freemason* is published bi-monthly from September through June (there is no issue in July or August). Deadlines for submissions are the 1st day of February, April, August, and October for publication in the following issue. These dates **ARE FIRM** and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the *Free State Freemason* publication:

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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.

ADVERTISING

The *Free State Freemason* is now offering advertisement space for anyone wishing to promote their business in our publication. The printable area on each page is 7½" x 10"

Please use the following dimensions:

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\$1,400.⁰⁰ (Save \$200.⁰⁰)

\$2,500.⁰⁰ (Save \$300.⁰⁰)

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Your artwork should either be mailed or e-mailed to the Grand Lodge office at office@glmd.org. We will accept .jpg, .bmp, and .pdf formats. We can **NOT** accept graphics embedded into .doc files. All requests for alterations must be made **prior** to the issue's deadline. If you have any specific questions about ad submissions, please contact the Grand Lodge office at office@glmd.org or (410) 527-0600



The Maryland Free State Freemason is published six times annually for the members, families and friends of Ancient and Accepted Masons of Maryland. The views expressed in the Maryland Free State Freemason do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, or its officers.

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Submitted articles should be between 250 and 600 words, and whenever possible, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits should be included. Check details at the left hand panel. Articles are subject to editing and, if published, become the property of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

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VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

ARTICLES

Grand Master's Message	4
2016 Grand Lodge Line Officers	7
Message from the RW Deputy Grand Master	8
Message from the Grand Secretary	9
Masonic Craftsmanship	10
Six Steps to Access the Maryland Masonic Membership System	12



Cover, The Most Worshipful
Grand Master Wyvill, Jr. addresses
the Brothers at installation.



FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

The 229th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Maryland is in the books. I want to “Thank you” again for the opportunity to serve as Grand Master and for the support and inspiration you have given to me. All of the new officers are now installed and invested and are working hard to meet their new responsibilities. As in the past the Grand Line will be conducting a number of “Open Installations” around the state in January as well as various degree conferrals and other duties throughout the year. We are always ready to respond to your call.

First I want to “Thank all of you” for your unselfish response to assist young Jordyn Raines. Through your generosity Maryland masons raised over \$23,000 to assist her and her family meet their expenses as they dealt with her very complex health condition. So far everything has turned out very well for her. I cannot begin to express how proud I am of you for this act of kindness. Charity is our greatest gift.

Second, in our very first year nearly \$50,000 has been raised to capitalize the Bennie G. Owens Masonic Youth Scholarship Fund. A significant portion of this was generated as a result of the Grand Master’s Appeal. So I will be looking for all of the red ties as I travel so that I can personally thank each of you. There is no better investment than in the future of our own youth. Maryland masonry is making a difference.

President John F. Kennedy remarked: “Change is a law of nature. Those who only look at the past or present are certain to miss the future.” Masonry’s wisdom comes from its rich heritage and its strength enables it to meet the challenges of an ever changing world. With that thought in mind, I am anxious to roll out several new initiatives

and re-ignite existing ones to bolster our fraternity and our lodges.

Let’s begin with our number one priority and that is always membership. When I speak of membership I am always including all members as well as our new members and the men who will be joining us in the future. We have to make certain that we continue to be an inclusive fraternity by reaching out to all of our members especially those who cannot attend lodge regularly so that they know that they really matter to us.

We stand on the strong shoulders of all the men who came before us and we will continue to be as strong in the future as our current members and the new men we develop today. Our goal is to assist all good men in becoming better men. And we must not fail.

Masonry in a sense has changed over time. What is that change? Perhaps the greatest change is the way we communicate. Nearly everyone has a computer or a cell phone. We email. We text. We tweet and who knows what technique of communication is next. Sometimes we even write old fashioned letters and mail them. However, everything today is nearly instantaneous or faster. Because of this, we expect instant gratification. Keeping up with the times in the way we communicate with ourselves and all of our members will remain ever important. So we have taken steps to catch up with the need to communicate with you in a more modern fashion through our new Membership Management System, Compass Points and a new Grand Lodge website just for starters.



Last year we began the transition to a new **Membership Management System** which now gives you access to your own records. This system, once completed, will enable us to be more interactive with all of our members. For instance, I will be able to send you a “*birthday e-mail*” or a notice about an upcoming event. The Lodge can communicate with you much faster and efficiently. You will be able to update your address, e-mail, phone number and even add other personal information like your profession. Eventually if you need assistance with some plumbing or other service, you will be able to find a Maryland Mason nearby who can help you. The potential is endless. All you have to do is go online and update your information now. So go to GLMD.ORG and enter the Maryland Membership site. To register you will need your dues card and then follow the directions. Call us at Grand Lodge if you need assistance. We need you to complete and update your personal data as soon as possible for this program to be fully effective.

Through the efforts of Tom Foster we **successfully initiated “Compass Points” to get information out to you** on a weekly basis. Now you can be aware of the many activities around the state and select those that interest you. You must also register for this at MDMASON.ORG which will get you to the Grand Lodge website. Go to the sign up tab on the left and complete your registration and start receiving this communication.

We are working on a new website to better serve you and to better appeal to those who “*hit us*” in their search for information about masonry. Among the new items will be access to our “*Shutterfly*” page which is a pictorial history of the various Grand Lodge events around the state – you can even download the photos or purchase prints. We will also have an “*On Line Store*”



where you can buy Grand Lodge shirts and hats and other items as they become available. Watch our website to see our progress.

We are also in the process of developing a new advertising campaign for 2016. We strongly believe that this continues to be important to our future. We are gaining a steady flow of membership inquiries from our current effort though we would like to see an increase. Our new ad campaign will be promoting our message more aggressively and should help to meet our future goals. We are excited about the potential that advertising presents to us as

an additional means to positively self-promote ourselves to the outside community and potential members.

In times past, most of our new members came from within our Masonic family. A man was brought to us by his father, an uncle, an aunt or some other person within the fraternity. However, as our numbers dwindled our natural source of new members also diminished. In tracking our petitions today the overwhelming majority have no direct masonic connection. They met someone at work or at a social function. They saw something on TV including one of our ads. They read a book or some article about the Masons. So we are now growing our fraternity mostly from outside sources and that is fine. But as in the past, we must always be vigilant in guarding the West Gate to insure that we are getting the right candidate for the right reasons. The role of the “*Investigating Committee*” is more important than ever. I will be sending a letter to every Worshipful Master asking him to spend time with his membership committee to see that training and proper instruction is given to his Investigation Committee members. In the end our membership growth is always in your hands.

Earlier this year we experimented with a **Social Media campaign to attract men** to various Lodges. It had mixed success and we learned a lot. We had an enormous amount of “*hits*” and a good number of inquiries but we still have to work on several aspects of this effort. We did successfully convert some of the inquiries into petitions. So we will make another run at this campaign again this year but we will use tighter controls in an effort to reach our target base. Stay tuned.

We are reviving the Solomon’s Membership Project which began under Past Grand Master C. David Haacke. This program recognizes all masons who bring in a new member. There are Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and we will be automatically awarding these to the first line signers of petitions beginning on December 1st. All recipients will be recognized in Compass Points each week as well as the Free State Freemason.

Last year we introduced the “Book of Lodge Strategies” in an effort to give the Worshipful Master and each lodge some ideas to help develop the lodge in specific areas such as “*Attracting New Men to Our Lodges, Social Media, Mentoring, Lodge Activities and Retaining Members.*” All are important in strengthening your lodge. Please review this valuable resource while making your plans for 2016.

Continued on page 6



Developing our membership is important. Getting them interested in masonry and willing to be more involved is a worthy challenge. Too often we relegate our newest Master Mason to the sideline and then forget him. I am convinced that a new mason is excited about his experience and is anxious to

learn more about masonry and sometimes the lodge is unable to satisfy his curiosity or his need for more knowledge.

So we have established the **Maryland Masonic Academy** which will be available "On Line" to all masons January 1, 2016. We especially think this will serve to further enlighten and motivate the newest master mason to become more involved. There are three parts. First you can earn recognition as a "Fellow of the Craft" followed by "Pillar of the Craft" and then "Master of the Craft." If all three are completed you will become a member of "King Solomon's Society." Details will be sent to each lodge and included in "Compass Points" in January, 2016.

In an effort to better prepare the new Worshipful Master and the future leaders of our fraternity, **we are realigning our very successful Leadership Program.** The change will occur in the late spring of 2016. We will begin with a series of one day classes held strategically around the state where all Wardens and Deacons are expected to attend. These classes will last about 3-3 1/2 hours. Our goal is to prepare the officers for a more formal leadership class to be held in October. **This October class will be mandatory for anyone who will be moving to the East as a new Master in January 2017.** We will share more on this subject at the Regional meetings in February and March 2016.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

We are launching a **new Masonic University Club** at the University of Maryland. Our goal is to turn this club into a new functioning Masonic Lodge. The membership will be alumni, students, professors and others who attended the University of Maryland. There are similar university Lodges currently at Harvard, George Washington University and George Mason University. We expect to eventually expand these



Brethren, I am convinced that we have begun to recognize the opportunities being presented to us and with proper planning and implementation and execution of our plans we will be successful in reaching our goals. I am confident that together we will succeed in our quest to become better men and to keep a light shining so that other men may find their way to our door and share in our Great Masonic Experience.

"clubs"

to other universities around the state.

Think about it. The graduating members of our university lodges will pollinate Masonry wherever they go as they pursue their careers. How exciting.

We certainly have a lot of things going on in our state designed to create opportunities for all of us. However, Thomas Edison once said: "Opportunities are missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Mark Twain also said: "I was seldom able to see an opportunity until it ceased."

In closing, I want to thank you for everything you have done for Maryland masonry. But more importantly, I thank you for everything you continue to do to make

Maryland Masonry a Pathway to Excellence.

I wish each of you and your loved ones a most joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year. May God Bless each of you and our great fraternity.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Kenneth Stuart Wyvill, Jr.
Grand Master



2016 OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND

On Saturday, November 14, 2015, Grand Master Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr. was installed for his second term of office.

Also installed was the entire line of elected and appointed officers for the 2016 Grand Line as follows:

- Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.* – MW Grand Master
- Kostas “Gus” Vourvoulas* – RW Deputy Grand Master
- Frederick A. Spicer* – RW Senior Grand Warden
- Terry L. Royce* – RW Junior Grand Warden
- Kenneth R. Taylor* – RW Grand Secretary
- William E. Gyr* – RW Grand Treasurer
- Walter F. Burgess* – W Grand Chaplain
- Roger D. Dunn* – W Grand Marshall
- John E. Collins, Sr.* – W Asst. Grand Marshall
- Douglas J. Ports* – W Senior Grand Deacon
- David A. Schmidt* – W Junior Grand Deacon
- Charles J. Matulewicz, IV* – W Senior Grand Steward
- Eric R. Harvey* – W Junior Grand Steward
- Jon C. Simpson* – W Grand Standard Bearer
- Samuel J. Lane* – W Grand Sword Bearer
- Ian M. McIntosh* – W Grand Director of Ceremonies
- Richard L. Mendez* – W Grand Pursuivant
- J. Bradley Thomas* – W Grand Tyler
- Patrick A. Stangler* – W Asst. Grand Tyler
- Michael R. Raab* – W Asst. Grand Tyler
- Kenneth C. Mars* – W Grand Organist
- David M. Smith* – Aide to the Grand Master
- Charles W. Taylor, Jr.* – W Asst. Grand Chaplain
- Andrew L. Cowley, Jr.* – W Asst. Grand Chaplain
- Jack R. George* – W Asst. Grand Chaplain
- David L. Schneider* – W Asst. Grand Chaplain

- Randall A. Schoch* – W Asst. Grand Chaplain
- Wayne C. Penley, Sr.* – W Grand Photographer
- Robert W. Reynolds* – W Asst. Grand Photographer
- Mark T. Beall* – President, Board of Grand Inspectors
- Paul H. Fishell* – W Grand Lecturer

In addition, the following Brothers were installed to the various Boards of Directors:

BOARD OF MANAGERS

- Robert W. Chase*
- Thomas A. Keller*
- Samuel J. Lane*
- Richard G. Feezer (1 year term)*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Henry C. McDonald, Jr.*
- Charles E. Warns, II*
- Drew M. Taylor*
- Gilbert F. Kennedy, III (2 year term)*

MASONIC CHARITIES OF MARYLAND, INC.

- Frederick Laser*
- Stephen J. Ponzillo, III*
- Randall L. Watson*

LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

- John B. Grieve*
- Albert C. Kaestner*
- Thomas G. Heimiller*

MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

by Kostas "Gus" Vourvoulas, RW Deputy Grand Master



“HOW SHOULD WE, AS FREEMASONS, MEET?”

We all know the answer to that question. However, men new to the craft sometimes question the answer. When a newly initiated brother looks around the lodge he immediately notices men sitting on the sidelines wearing white aprons. Looking closer, he may even see men wearing aprons with purple on the edges and wearing collars and jewels. Some men are sitting in chairs one, two, and even three steps above the floor.

How, then, can we “Meet on the level” when we appear to be so different? We meet on the level because we are all Brothers. There is no difference of station within a lodge. Some have chosen to accept a position of greater responsibility and become officers. These brothers are recognized by the regalia they wear. Some serve their lodges in less conspicuous capacities but are equally as important as anyone in the lodge. We come from all walks of life, different social and economic standings however, once seated in a lodge, we are all on the “Level”. We are all working toward the same goal; that of becoming a better men; better morally, spiritually, and socially. Becoming a better man is the “great aim” we have in view.

There are many reasons as to why men have joined and remained members of our fraternity. Those of us whom enjoy learning, gaining an understanding and participating in the ritual are joined by many who equally enjoy the esoteric aspects of the fraternity. The social functions of the local and Grand Lodges also attract and serve to retain members. We have all found our little niche in the fraternity. But the common reason men join the fraternity

is the “Brotherhood” which we come to enjoy. We enjoy being able to associate with men that think as we do, where we can believe “love of country” is not just a phrase, but a way of life. A place where we are able to help our fellow man through the various charities within Masonry in which we can become involved. The participation that we are afforded together with getting involved in our communities, and attempting to make them better places to raise our families contributes greatly to the primary goal of becoming “better men.” These are just a few of the reasons men become Masons.

Membership development and retention is the lifeblood of our fraternity. We will not continue to grow and continue the great works of Masonry without attracting and retaining members. We must give men a reason to join and even greater reasons to maintain their membership. If we do not provide what our members are seeking they will lose interest and very soon walk away seeking activities that they can participate in. We must show these men that we are able to meet their expectations and be the organization they were looking for.



Educating and keeping the members interested while progressing through the degrees is the responsibility of the “Mentor”. The “Maryland Mentoring Program” is designed to be the beginning of the candi-

date's education. Once a candidate has been elected to receive the Degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry the Mentoring process must begin. The mentor will remain with the candidate throughout his journey in the Blue Lodge and if necessary; be there to answer any questions the new brother may have or be able to find the answers that the new Brother needs.

This will assist in giving the new brother a better understanding of what masonry has to offer and increase his comfort level while in the lodge setting as well as developing a lifelong relationship with his "Mentor."

We urge all lodges to take an active part in this program, your lodge and the craft at large will reap extraordinary benefits because of it. Please contact Right Worshipful Brother Dave Sandy at david-jocelyn@isp.com. He will be more than happy to work with you in implementing this important and extremely worthwhile program in your lodge.



The **Instructive Tongue Society Award** program has been a tremendous success. One hundred and twelve brothers received recognition for being the foundation of our fraternity. We must thank these brothers for all of their hard work deep in the quarries as they polished the minds of our new brethren. The next time you visit the Grand Lodge, please look for the

plaque with the names of the **Charter Members of the Instructive Tongue Society**. These men have earned the recognition.

Please spread the "Great Light of Masonry" throughout our state and may the Supreme Architect of the Universe bless and keep you and our entire Masonic Family as we continue on our quest to become "Better Men"!

Sincerely and Fraternaly,
Gus Vourvoulas, RWDGM

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

by Ken Taylor, Grand Secretary



Let me start by expressing my gratitude and appreciation to the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Maryland for electing me to serve as your Right Worshipful Grand Secretary. It is truly humbling and such an honor to be selected for an office that has been held by so many respected and revered gentlemen in the past. I will serve with pride and endeavor

to uphold the traditions established by my predecessors. My efforts will be devoted to being of assistance to all the brethren of our Grand Lodge. And as always, our excellent Grand Lodge staff will be ready to assist the lodges when needed.

Brethren, there is a Grand Lodge program that has been around for quite some time but has recently been somewhat forgotten. The Solomon II program was instituted to reward those brethren who are helping to build the membership in our craft. The brethren

are presented with a bronze builder's lapel pin for the first petition on which they are the first line signer. A silver pin is issued for their second and a gold pin for the third.



In order to qualify, just be sure to sign the portion of the petition that asks if this is a Solomon II petition. The Grand Lodge office will track these petitions and send the appropriate awards to the lodges to be presented.

This is an excellent way to recognize the brethren who are making an effort to grow our membership and spread the Light of Masonry. All Worshipful Masters and Secretaries should make their members aware of this worthwhile program and encourage them to participate.

In closing, I look forward to serving as your Grand Secretary and ask that you contact me or the Grand Lodge office if we can be of any assistance.



A Note From The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum

MASONIC CRAFTSMANSHIP

By: Edward Heimiller, Curator

Baltimore craftsman David Wiesand, a member of Waverly Lodge, No. 152 and owner of McLain Wiesand, is one of Maryland's leading artisans. Specializing in designing and fabricating custom furniture and lighting as well as painting interior finishes, his clients include Cal Ripken Jr., filmmaker Spike Lee, and clothing designer Alexander Julian. His showroom in his home in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood gives only a glimpse of his talents.

Brought up in a family with a passion for art, antiques, and history, established by his grandfather, William Wiesand, Sr. a contractor with an infectious passion for collecting, his work has a classical flare. In 1986, after studying art at Towson University (graduating in 1978) and receiving his Master's Degree in painting in 1981 from the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), he decided to start his business focusing on custom furniture and decorative arts. In 1998 he moved into his current

spacious, 7,300-square-foot showroom with more studio space in Mt. Vernon.

As a member of Waverly Lodge, No. 152 his involvement and interest in Masonry is another aspect of his life shared with his family. Following a family tradition he joined Waverly Lodge, No. 152 alongside his brother in 1987. Both his grandfather, William Jacob Wiesand, Sr. (Initiated October 7, 1926; Passed November 4, 1926; and Raised December 16, 1926), and his father, William Jacob Wiesand, Jr. (Initiated June 7, 1945; Passed October 4, 1945; and Raised October 30, 1945), were members of Waverly Lodge, No. 152. With these strong Masonic ties it is not surprising to learn one of his favorite buildings is the Old Masonic Temple on Charles Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

Initially built in 1866 and rebuilt and expanded after fires in 1890 and 1908, the Old Masonic Temple has long been considered one of Baltimore's architectural gems.

Representing the work of noted Maryland architects Edmund Lind, Charles Carson and Joseph Evans Sperry, the building features coffered ceilings, carved woodwork, marble walls and balustrades. Sold in 1998 upon the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland relocating to their current home in Hunt Valley the building has been used as a conference center and is now owned by the Embassy Suites.

In 2005 David had the unique privilege to enhance the architectural treasure that is the Old Masonic Temple. Supplying numerous pieces of furniture as well as completing over thirty new murals gracing various parts of the building his work can be seen throughout the building. The murals in the library above the bookcase are particularly notable. Inspired by the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and Medici Chapel by Michelangelo de Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni the walls are covered with murals depicting sculptural figures and rolling Italian landscapes. This room has recently been used as the backdrop during the filming of VEEP and House of Cards television series.



While completing work in the Old Masonic Temple, David stumbled across a section of plasterwork removed from the Oriental Room, decorated in 1910 in a Moorish theme, when it was undergoing restoration. Salvaging the fragment, it inspired him to create his Moroccan Room on the third floor of his home. Creating over 160 replicas of the section of plasterwork and applying them to the walls as wainscoting over a period of three years (completed in 2008) the room captures the essence of one of his favorite spaces in the Old Masonic Temple.



More recently David has turned his talents to aid the fraternity. This past spring David was consulted about the decorations for the Masonic booth at the American festival held as part of the Bicentennial celebrations of the Washington Monument in Baltimore on July 4, 2015. Taking on the task himself, David volunteered his talents and personally painted two panels featuring various Masonic emblems framed in a laurel wreath featuring a patriotic red, white, and blue ribbon for the event. These panels were proudly displayed at the booth and were subsequently used to decorate the monument for the Masonic ceremony honoring Washington on September 26, 2015. Now part of the museum's collection, these panels are currently framed and on display in the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. of Maryland.



Masonry means different things to each member. For some, it's about making new friends and acquaintances. For others it's about being able to help deserving causes – making a contribution to family and society. For most it is an enjoyable hobby. For the creative, Masonry can prove to be a unique muse



SIX STEPS TO ACCESS THE MARYLAND MASONIC MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

The following step-by-step process will give you access to your personal account on the new **Maryland Masonic Membership System**. By following these steps you can quickly update your contact information and gain access to other valuable information for all Maryland Masons. Get your current dues card out before you begin.

1. Log onto <http://www.glmd.org>

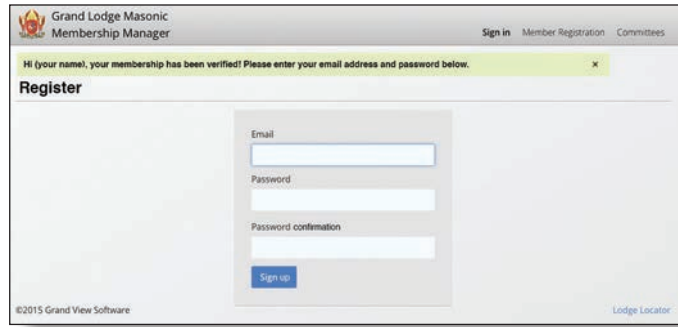
2. Click on Member Portal

Lodge	Lodge Number	Address	City	Meeting Times	Region
Bonnie Blink Daylight	1	304 International Circle	Cockeysville	2nd Tuesday, 10:30 am	Baltimore North
Washington Lodge	3	304 International Circle	Cockeysville	3rd Thursday	Baltimore North

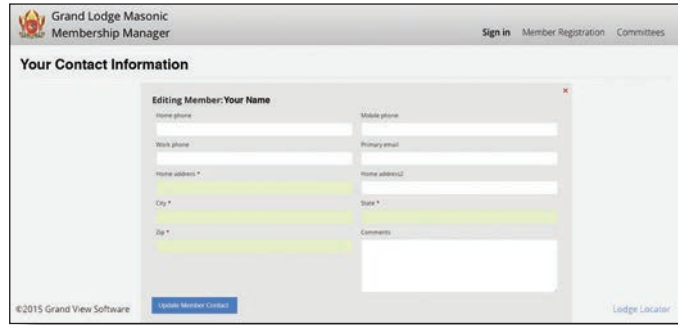
3. Click on Sign in. Since this is your first visit you will need to register yourself into the system. Follow the next steps to register and update your information in the **Maryland Masonic Membership System**.

4. Enter your information. Your Lodge number and Member ID are from your dues card. When entering your ID number do not enter the beginning zero, i.e. 12345. Enter your last name as it appears on your dues card. Click on the blue button to check membership status when done.

5. You will receive this prompt if it was successful and you will next enter the required information. Be sure to remember this information you will need for future transactions. *(Reminder: This is your account so use an email that is yours)*



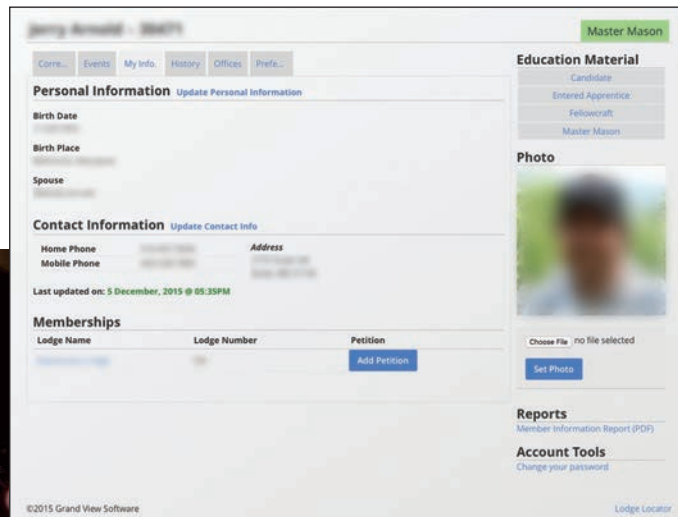
6. Once information is verified, the contact information page will appear which you will need to update. It is extremely important to keep the information here current. Click on the blue button to update your membership information when done. You will return to this screen anytime this information changes.



CONGRATULATIONS!

You are now in the Maryland Masonic Membership System and you have the ability to keep your Grand Lodge record up-to-date anytime you need to make a change. For questions, please contact the Grand Lodge Office at:

office@glmd.org –or– cnewman@glmd.org





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