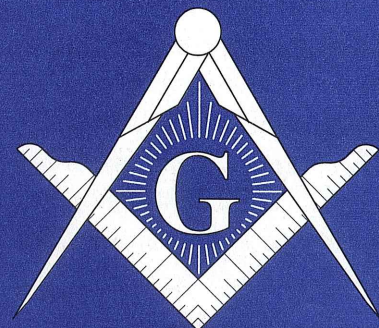


Free State Freemason



Fall 2005

2005 Grand Lodge Officers

M.W. Grand Master - Ronald G. Bélanger
R.W. Deputy Grand Master - John R. Biggs, Jr.
R.W. Sr. Grand Warden - David L. Schneider
R.W. Jr. Grand Warden - Thomas J. Winebrenner
R.W. Grand Secretary - Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
R.W. Grand Treasurer - Wm. Raymond Bosley
W. Grand Marshal - Harold A. Garren
W. Sr. Grand Deacon - William E. Whitaker
W. Jr. Grand Deacon - Robert W. Chase
W. Sr. Grand Steward - Dennis F. Nebel
W. Jr. Grand Steward - James L. T. Knighton
W. Grand Standard Bearer - Bradley D. Andrukitis
W. Grand Sword Bearer - Julius H. Poston, Jr.
W. Grand Pursuivant - Jackie M. Calloway
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies - Charles J. White, Jr.
W. Grand Tyler - Wallace R. Jones
W. Assistant Grand Tyler - Richard H. Uren
W. Grand Lecturer - David L. Schneider
W. Grand Chaplain - Donald C. Stottlemeyer
W. Grand Chaplain Emeritus - Lunda W. Laird
W. Assistant Grand Chaplain - Elwood L. Ulmer
W. Assistant Grand Chaplain - Stephan D. Campbell
W. Grand Organist - Ronald L. Unger

The Grand Lodge of Ancient,
Free, and Accepted Masons
of Maryland

A Formula For Success Can "Make A Difference"

From the Grand Master:



My Brethren:

For the past 12 months I have tried to impress upon the Craft the importance of sharing what and who we are as an organization with our friends and relatives. Many of you have heard me speak to the concept of not having a "Membership Problem" but rather an "Identity Problem." I have tried to encourage the membership to become more vocal about who and what we are. I have even offered primers that I and the Chairman of our Education Committee feel are "must reads" for any Master Mason. I feel we must all be ready to speak on the subject of Masonry intelligently and being well read and prepared is a part of that exercise.

Do you know what you are a part of? Are you willing to allow non-masons to define who you are? Are you proud to be a Mason? Are you prepared to speak about the philanthropic endeavors of our various collateral bodies? Almost all of which, by the way, involve the care of youth. There are more questions to ask of course but I trust you are starting to get the picture. My formula for success is really quite simple:

Identity plus Image will equal membership.

Identity is simply a way of defining to our acquaintances who we are and especially who and what we are not. We've all heard the "cult" concept thrown around yet we who are members know there is nothing cult-like in any of our ritual or teachings. If we choose not to respond to these baseless charges then we are allowing others to define us. We must be careful not to enter into shouting matches with religious or political fanatics as there will never be meaningful or thoughtful discussion with those of that ilk. If however, you find yourself in a meaningful discussion with individuals of some intelligence, being prepared to speak with those who show an ability to listen, you will find that sharing the truths of Masonry can be an exhilarating experience. It is said that if you truly

(Continued on Page 3)



Issued quarterly by the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, & Accepted Masons of Maryland, U.S.A. This publication serves as a medium for informing the Craft of pertinent activities of the Grand Lodge and constituent Lodges and for sharing with the media, community, family, and friends those events, activities, and personalities which exemplify the purposes & objectives of the Masonic fraternity.

Seymour H. Lipshitz, P.S.G.D.
Founding Editor

John R. Biggs, RWDGM,
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Spring Issue – April 1

Summer Issue – July 1

Fall Issue – October 1

Grand Lodge of Maryland

304 International Circle

Cockeysville, MD 21030

410-527-0600 tel

410-527-1276 fax

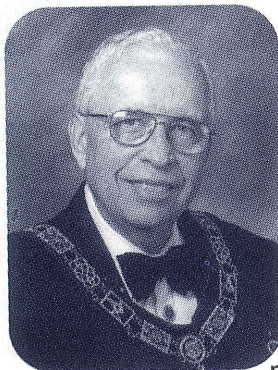
FSFM@covad.net

<http://freemasonry.org/maryland/gl>

Send articles to the editor; address changes to the Grand Lodge.

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Editorial



Greetings Brethren,

I recently had the pleasure of attending a Membership seminar conducted by the Imperial Shrine – you may recall that several years ago there was an attempt to sever ties to the Masonic fraternity. It didn't go over too well with most Shrine members and quickly became a non-issue.

I did wonder if it would surface again, and, much to my chagrin, saw it brought up again at the recent Imperial Session held in Baltimore this past summer. I am pleased to say that out of nearly 1000 votes, it was supported by less than 10 % of the voting members.

Also, I was most happy to hear, during the seminar, the Imperial Divan express their support and commitment to maintaining ties to our Masonic heritage. They stressed the importance of Shrine members and particularly Shrine leadership attending and being active in their Blue Lodges.

Grand Master Bélanger has established regular meetings with the heads of our Masonic bodies, primarily to look at ways to avoid date conflicts for those events important to each of us. In addition, it provides regular contact, interface and familiarity with our leaders, and those that will soon become leaders. To date, while we haven't had participation from all bodies, we have had good attendance, and a willing attitude to make it work from those that have participated. I have had the opportunity to meet, and get to know those that will be in leadership positions over the next several years, and look forward to working with them to further the ties and friendships already established.

Article Submission

These points should be followed for articles submitted for inclusion in the FSFM:

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.**

Pictures should 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.



(continued from Page 1)

want to know a thing, teach it. Obtaining true light in Masonry does not end with the conferral of the Master Mason Degree. The search for true light is a life long quest. No one man, especially me, has all the answers. We can however continue to search and leave no stone unturned in that quest. Here again, there is much information to share as regards "Identity" that time and space will not allow here.

Image is yet another subject. I have often used the following to describe what could be defined as our image problem. "We have met the enemy, and they are US!" We are indeed, at times, our own worst enemy. "...Hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us?..." If only it were true. "...Sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us and the heart and tongue join in promoting each others welfare and rejoicing in each others prosperity..." Truly words to live by, if only we would all seize the opportunity to practice this tenet. You see, once we get passed the identity problem we have an image to live up too.

Those who are not among us are watching us. Why wouldn't a young man want to join an organization that is morally based, teaches a love of God, Country and family and whose philanthropic endeavors are based on the cure and care of so many children. I can only humbly conclude that first, they are unaware of us and secondly, we are not projecting an image consistent with our teachings and tenets. We must endeavor to be kinder to one

another and project a "Truer Masonic Image."

At the outset of my term in serving our Grand Lodge as your Grand Master I challenged each Lodge to go out and acquire five new petitions this year in the hopes of stemming this negative slide in our census. While several Lodges have done just that and others have raised as many as 35 new members this year I have failed to encourage enough of our jurisdiction to action in order to stop this negative trend. While I consider this a personal failure on my part, I will not be deterred. I will continue to preach what I feel is a formula for success. I will continue to go the entire length of my cable tow to ensure our success in that all elusive pursuit of excellence in an effort to Make a Difference!

I thank the heads of the collateral bodies for their support in the initiation of our Grand Lodge Commission. They have shown great trust and appreciation in the efforts being made to bring our Maryland Masonic Family closer together by way of unilateral communication and cooperation. A new Grand Lodge web site is being constructed and we will incorporate a list server whereby all of our Lodges and collateral bodies may post information and schedules to the entire jurisdiction in a more timely fashion. Information about the list server once completed will be posted on the new web site and in the Free State Freemason.

Karen and I wish for each of you the Creators richest blessings this

very special Holiday Season. We thank all of you for your kindness and courtesies extended over the last twelve months as we have traveled across our great jurisdiction and if it be the will and pleasure of the membership we are committed to continuing our efforts to Make a Difference for another year. My Brethren, "...Let your light so shine that they may witness your good works to the glory of our Father in Heaven...." and let the world know, You are a Maryland Mason committed to Making a Difference.

Ronald G. Belanger
Grand Master

Silver Spring Lodge in Action

The Brethren of Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 have been helping to "make a difference!" A "Good Samaritan" Club has been formed within the lodge to work with the Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition to provide for the homeless in Silver Spring.

Each "Good Samaritan" donated \$100.00 a year to the lodge to support this humanitarian effort. It has been reported that nearly 1,600 persons seek shelter each night in Montgomery County alone.

To date, we have raised nearly \$6,000 to help bring unfortunate persons, many of them children, from drafty shelters into temporary warm homes where they can have a place to study.

Silver Spring is growing and we want to grow with it. Currently, we

(Continued on Page 4)



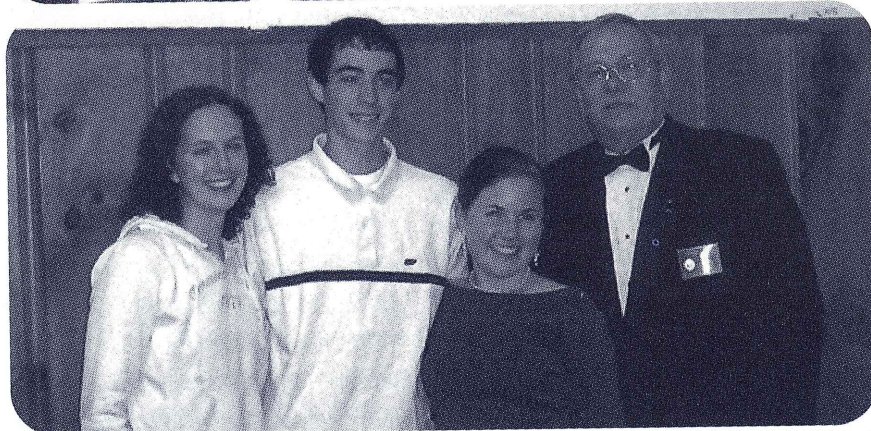
(Continued from Page 3)
have 34 "Good Samaritans" helping to "make a difference!"

We earnestly solicit your support in this endeavor, and will welcome you as a "Good Samaritan."



(Left) On April 7, 2005, our Grand Inspector Brother Thomas Wainwright at Sinepuxent Lodge No. 193 in Snow Hill, MD presented Brother Paul Joyner his 60 Year Masonic Pin.

From left to right are Brothers Joseph Henderson, Worshipful Master, Thomas Wainwright PM, Grand Inspector, Mark Todd, PM, Senior Warden, and Paul Joyner, Master Mason.



(From left: Allison Mosley, Adam Strauch, Lori Ann Hansell and W.M. Paul R. Mays)

Mt. Nebo Lodge No. 229, at their Annual Strawberry Night, had in attendance about 70 members and guests. Among our special guests were three students from Perry Hall High School. Allison and Adam were selected as the recipients of Mt. Nebo's "Honesty and Integrity Award" and received a Lodge Certificate of Excellence and \$100 each. While Lori was congratulated for being the recipient of the scholarship from Masonic Charities of Maryland, Bro. Craig Borne and Bro. Paul R. Mays had the honor of presenting her with a lodge certificate of Excellence and the \$1000 scholarship check at Perry Hall's Seniors Awards ceremony on May the 25th.

Below: Mt. Nebo's entry in Kingsville's "Independence Day Parade", July 4th, 2005. Their officers passed out Masonic pamphlets to the adults and flags and flag buttons to the kids along the parade route. This was their second year participating, helping to keep them visible in the community.



TEMPLE COMMITTEE

Brethren, The Temple Committee took advantage of the summer break to complete some projects.

We now have an ice machine located by the loading dock, that will be operating, I hope, by the time you read this. Now we won't be dependent on others to see that we have ice for our refreshments.

There are now two hot plates available. They will enable us to expand our menus. We will be able to heat or cook such items as hot dogs, spaghetti, etc.

You will notice that all of our Lodge Rooms now have permanent door stops. No more having to kick wedges under the doors! In the Tuscan and Doric Rooms, the sides have been lowered in the East and West to enable the Worshipful Master and the Senior Warden to see the officers they are communicating with on their right and left.

Lastly, the Temple Committee has arranged to have a storage closet to store the different "Working Tools" we need to conduct our degree work. It will be the one between the Ionic Room and the pool room in the common area. We will have it identified by a sign on the door. All lodges will have a key to it and will be responsible for returning anything used. If you have any of the "Tools" in your lockers, this is an opportunity to place them in the closet and have more room in your locker. We hope you will get much pleasure from the efforts of our volunteers.

Fraternally,
Pat Green, Chairman



National Sojourners, Baltimore Chapter No. 7, Officers Installed

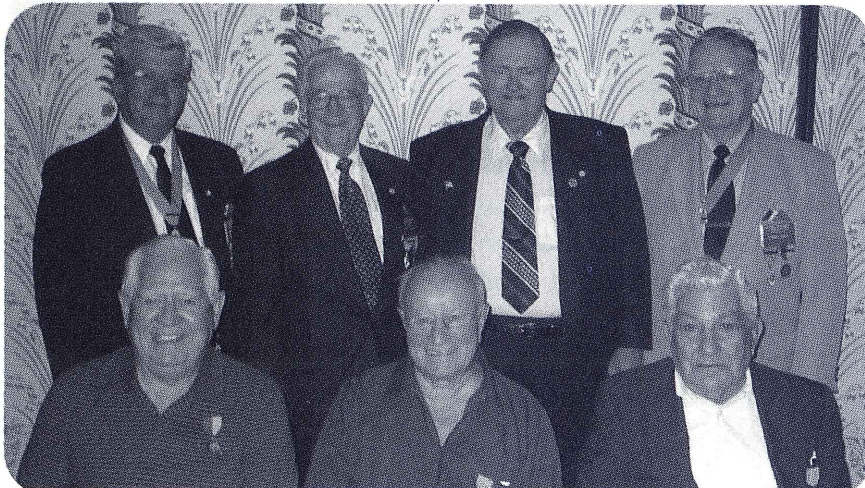
Baltimore Chapter No. 7 held its first Open Installation of Officers on September 15, 2005, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Installed as Officers for 2006 were Brothers Kenneth D. Lewis, President; Oswald E. Kinat, 1st Vice President; Teddy R. Barkley, Jr., 2nd Vice President; Carl J. Cicchetti, Secretary; Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr., Chaplain; and Richard J. Sackerman, Marshall. The Installation was conducted by Brothers: Bennie G. Owens, PGM, Installing Officer; Timothy Palmer, Installing Marshall; and Oliver W. Strong, Installing Chaplain.

Brother Oliver W. Strong was made a Past President and presented with his Past President's Bar, in recognition of his many years of service to Baltimore Chapter No. 7 and his leadership, after the passing

of Past President James E. Harding.

The occasion also included a Candlelight Memorial Service for those Brothers answering the final roll call this past year. The service honoring Brothers James E. Harding, George Popadopolous, and James W. Webster, was conducted by Brothers Oliver W. Strong, Timothy Palmer, and Oswald E. Kinat. Brother James Harding's widow, Helga, was in attendance, along with Brother Harding's daughter, Nancy Parks, to receive the Widow's Pin. Mrs. Harding graciously donated the cost of the Installation Luncheon in her husband's memory.

The Installation Luncheon was provided by members of the Scottish Rite Cheer Club: Brothers Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr., Charles E. Winebrenner, and Charles Duerbeck. The SRCC meets every Thursday at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center and serves a luncheon at 11:30 AM. Call for reservations at 410-243-3200.



Top, From Left: Tim Palmer, IM; Bennie Owens, IO; Ken Lewis, President; Floren Quick, Area Rep.

Front, From Left: Teddy Barkley, 2nd VP; Ozzie Kinat, 1st VP; and Carl (TW) Cicchetti, Secretary.

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Hello, my name is Paula O'Neill and I am delighted to return to the "Hill" as the Administrator of Maryland Masonic Homes. I started working for MMH in 1988 as a clerical worker and advanced over the years to the position of Administrative Services Director. During that time, I attended The College of Notre Dame of Maryland and received my Bachelors Degree in Business and am now enrolled in the Graduate Program in Health Care Administration there and will receive my Masters Degree in the Spring of 2007.

I left Maryland Masonic Homes in February of 2004 and did my Administrator-in-Training Program for one year at Fahrney Keedy Memorial Home in Boonesboro, Maryland. I received my Maryland Nursing Home Administrator License in 2005 after taking the Federal and State Licensure exams. I was welcomed back to the Homes on September 1, 2005 and I am excited to now be given the opportunity to be here as Administrator, which has always been a dream of mine. As Administrator of this exceptional facility, I will give my all to make it the best it can be!

First and foremost, my passion is to provide the best possible care in a home-like setting to the residents of MMH! We are fortunate to be blessed with caring staff and I look forward to working closely with them to reach our goals. Increasing the census, assessing all aspects of

the overall operation, making improvements, and strengthening the relationship between the Grand Lodge and the Homes are just a few of the goals I have set for our team. I will keep you apprised of our progress through quarterly updates that will be featured in this publication. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Masonic family, and please stop in and introduce yourself because my door is always open!

BOARD OF MANAGERS RESUME

Those members that are interested in election to the Board of Managers have included their resumes here for your consideration:

Thomas Chagouris is a candidate for the Board of Managers.
 Education: Graduated from Northern High School in 1974, 1year Strayer Business School
 Business Experience
 1974-1983: Manager of Nick's Seafood at Hollins Market
 1983-1986: Manager of Nick's Inner Harbor Seafood at Cross-Street Market
 1986-1988: Director of Seafood Operations at Weis Markets Inc.
 1988-Present: President of Nick's Inner Harbor Seafood at Cross Street Market
 2003-Present: Managing Partner of Nick's Fish House, LLC
 Experience
 Retail and wholesale seafood, super market retail seafood, prepared food service, catering shrimp

feasts, crab feasts, bull roasts, and private parties, etc. restaurant and marina

Fraternal Organizations

25 year member of The Free Masons Warren Lodge #51: 1980-Present
 Worshipful Master: 1984-1994

Chairman of Worthy Charities Committee: 2000-2002

Scottish Rite of Free Masonry

Board of Directors: Scottish Rite Holding Company: 1995-Present

Received Knight Commander Court of Honor: 1985

Received 33rd Degree: 1990

York Rite of Free Masonry

Gold Honor Award of Excellence:

1985 Jerusalem Council, Royal and Select Masters

Druid Chapter
 Royal Arch Masons Monumental Commandary, Knights Templar

Maryland Masonic Research Society President: 1984

Boumi Temple Shrine: 1981
 Present Ambassadors

Knights of Mecca, Towson Shrine Club, Q Club

Royal Order of Jesters

Royal Order of Scotland: 1985-Present

Knights of The Red Cross of Constantine: 1999-Present

Grand Lodge of Maryland

Grand Tyler: 1999

Board of Trustees, Maryland Masonic Homes: 1998-2001

Chairman, Masonic Homes Endowment Fund: 2002-Present

Grand Representative to Vermont: 2003-Present

Warren G. Seipp Medal: 2002

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from Page 6)

Civic Organizations

Living Classrooms Foundation,

Board of Trustees: 1992-1996,

Rotary Club of Maryland: 1985-1992

Patriots of Fort McHenry

Board of Trustees: 1992-Present

Honorary Colonel of Fort McHenry

Guard: 1994

Robert W. Chase is a candidate for the Board of Managers.

Experience:

Account Manager 1999 to Present - Print-O-Stat, Inc. Catonsville, MD

Have been instrumental in the development of Print-O-Stat, Inc's. Print-on-Site program billing in excess of \$50,000 per month in revenues.

Grew my assigned territory operating with a \$1.80 million dollar budget achieving the President's Club Award for 5 consecutive years.

Consistently managing more than a 50% gross margin.

Sales Consultant Minute Man Press 1994 to 1999 Dundalk and Hunt Valley, MD. Responsible for the sale of offset printing.

Completed self-study "Selling Skills" course.

Home Discount Tile 1988 to 1994

Responsible for the sale of retail ceramic and vinyl floor covering.

Masonic Affiliations:

Past Master of Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge No. 116 with an annual budget of over \$50,000.

Member 507 Holding Company Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge 116 AF&AM.

Member and Officer of the Grand Lodge of Maryland AF&AM 2005.

Member Scottish Rite Free Masonry Southern Jurisdiction, 32nd degree, and officer in Chapter Rose Croix.

James C. Anagnos is a candidate for the Board of Managers.

Personal/Professional:

I grew up in Baltimore County (Rosedale), and graduated from Calvert Hall College High School in 1986. I then attended La Salle University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in English in 1990. I returned to Baltimore and worked in the insurance industry for three years prior to entering law school in 1993. In 1996, I received my law degree from the Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law in Washington, DC. Upon graduation, I once again returned to Baltimore to pursue my legal career. After a one year clerkship with the Honorable John C. Themelis (Baltimore City Circuit Court), I began working for the Attorney General of Maryland in 1997, where I am still employed as an Assistant Attorney General for the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. I have been married for just over a year to my lovely bride, Jennifer.

Masonic:

I was raised to Master Mason in October 1991, St. John's Lodge No. 34. I have served as Chaplain since 2002, and I also serve on several committees within St. John's Lodge. I joined both the Scottish Rite and Boumi Shriners in 1992.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES RESUME

Those members that are interested in election to the Board of Trustees have included their resumes here for your consideration:

Raoul L. Frevel, Sr. is a candidate for the Board of Trustees.

Blue Lodge:

Concordia Lodge No. 13 AF&AM Towson, Maryland Entered Apprentice Degree Apr. 16, 1972

Fellow Craft Degree May 14, 1972

Raised a Master Mason June 2, 1972

Received the Thomas Jacob Shryock Award from the Grand Lodge of Maryland Nov. 17, 1997

Scottish Rite:

Orient of Maryland, Valley of Baltimore

One Day Class Sept. 22, 1973

KCCH Oct 1995 - Received the 33rd Degree Oct. 7, 1997

York Rite Bodies: April 1994

Concordia Council #1

St. John's Royal Arch Chapter #19

Knights Templar of Maryland

Shrine:

Boumi Temple Baltimore, Maryland June 14, 1974

President of Feedayes Club 1983

Outer Guard 1984

Marshal 1985

2nd Ceremonial Master 1986 1st

Ceremonial Master 1987

Oriental Guide 1988

High Priest & Prophet 1989

Assistant Rabban 1990

Chief Rabban 1991

Potentate 1992

(Continued on page 8)



(Continued from Page 7)

Cabiri Jan. 8, 1993

Imperial Shrine:

Temple Representative 1989 - 1994

Emeritus Member Imperial Council A.A.O.N.M.S. July 9, 2003

Elected to the Imperial Line July 1994 - Served through July 2004

Imperial Potentate July 2004-2005

Trustee for Shriners Hospital

Robert J. White is a candidate for the Board of Trustees.

Experience:

1996-2005 Beckley's Camping Center Thurmont, MD - Controller
Prepared monthly financial statements including income statement and balance sheet.

Reviewed the preparation of all Federal and State payroll tax returns.

Compiled cash flow and sales budgets.

Developed and executed comprehensive debt reduction plan.

Developed retail banking relationship with several local banks.

Education 1983 James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bachelors of Business Administration 1981 Hagerstown Junior College, Hagerstown, MD
Associate of Arts

Masonic and Church History:

Board of Trustee's Maryland Masonic Homes at. Bonnie Blink, Vice President Board of Grand Inspectors Grand Lodge of Maryland

Friendship Lodge # 84 Past Master Ithiel Chapter #27 Royal Arch Masons. Past High Priest

Palestine Council #16 Royal and Select Masters. Past TIM

Bethel #26 IOJD Past Assoc. Bethel Guardian

Member Tall Cedar of Lebanon Forrest #95

Member Scottish Rite

Member Royal Order of Scotland

Member of York Rite College #58

Member John Wesley UMC. Finance Committee and Administration Council.

J. Thomas Landerkin is a candidate for the Board of Trustees.

Professional:

Bethlehem Steel Corp. 1958 -1990

1958 - 1972: Product Expediter

Maintained communication between district sales offices and wire mill production units related to customers' needs vs. wire mill ability and capacity to produce and deliver on time.

1972 - 1975: Chief Provider

Forecast raw material requirements and integrated requirements of the mill with steel making departments ability to produce and deliver as needed.

Planned long-range production schedules based on order levels.

Created and published daily production schedules.

1975 - 1985: Chief of Schedules
Supervised activities of all chief providers in the wire mill units, including wire drawing dept., electroplating unit, nail mill, and straightened and cut (welding rod) unit.

Maintained personnel records, and performed annual employee performance appraisals.

Responded to home office

(Bethlehem, PA.) Information requests and possibilities of changing production schedules to accommodate changes in customers' requirements.

1985 - 1990: Chief of Schedules

Supervised forecasting, ordering, and delivery of raw materials consistent with the steel making dept's ability to comply. Supervised in-transit surface preparation of raw materials when required.

Supervised day-to-day and long range production scheduling.

Maintained personnel records, and performed annual employee performance appraisals.

Sept. 1990: Upon the corporations decision to close the division, elected early retirement.

Armstrong World Industries

Suspended Ceiling Division

1990- 1993: Assisted Production engineer in the scheduling of production and shipping operations, and maintenance of authorized finished-product and raw material levels.
1993 - 1995: Assumed full supervision of above, freeing production engineer to work more closely with corporate engineering in new-product development.

1995 - 1997: Continued as above, while adding the responsibility of soliciting bids, negotiating pricing, and placing contracts with vendors of raw materials. Maintained records of vendors delivery performance and pricing levels, seeking new bids and/or changing vendors whenever delivery performance/pricing levels justified.

December 1997: desiring to spend

(Continued on page 9)



(Continued from Page 8)

more time with my wife, children, and grand-children, I chose again to retire, this time for good!

Masonic:

1978 -1982: Junior Steward to Worshipful Master

Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Highland Lodge September 27, 1978.

Passed Grand Lodge law school requirements, and received the Past Master degree in December 1981.

Installed as Worshipful Master January 1982.

1983 - Present: Continued participation in masonic activities

Appointed and served as Grand Inspector 1984 through 1986.

Active member of the Lodge's Board of Trustees 1980 through 1983 by virtue of the offices held as prescribed in the lodge by-laws. Elected by the lodge membership to a full three-year term in 1984, and re-elected as terms expired ever since. Served as the board's Secretary 1995 through 2002.

Elected Worshipful Master for 2003 on December 11, 2002, and installed January 8, 2003.

Elected to the office of Treasurer for the 2005 term of office, continuing to be deeply involved in the management of the lodge's assets and sharing financial planning responsibilities with the lodge Board of Trustees.

Appointed to the Grand Lodge Board of Trustees for the year of 2004. Re-appointed in 2005. Served on the board's Personnel Committee both terms.

MCM BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESUME

Laurence R. Gerber, Sr. is a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Education:

Charlotte Hall Military Academy (MD) Shepherd College (WV)

B.S., Economics and Journalism

Business: Owner, Auto Salvage & Parts Company, Inc.

Towing & Recovery Equipment Distributor

Military:

WV Air National Guard, 1964-1970

Masonic:

James W. Bowers Lodge #173, AF&AM 1970 Valley of Martinsburg, AASR 1970

Ali Ghan Shrine, AAONMS 1970

Ali Ghan Shrine Club Board of Directors 2003, 2004, 2005; President 2004, 2005 AU Ghan Directors Staff 1990, President 2004, 2005

Royal Order of Jesters Court #117, Created 1989,

Jester of the Year 1992, Director 1996 Royal Grip, 9 years

National Court Representative, 10 years, National Court General Registration Committee, 1996-2005 Vice Chairman, 2001-2005

Mid-Atlantic Association of Jester Courts, President 2002 Kachina Klub Life Member - Mesa Representative

Jesters On Wheels

Other: BPOE #378

American Legion Post 26, Commander - 5 years

Dept. Of Maryland, Department Executive Committee Washington

County Commander

Western Maryland District Commander

Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels of Western Maryland, President 2001 Hancock Lions Club, District 22W Governor 1973-74

Charlotte Hall Military Academy Alumni Board of Directors

Honors: Lions Clubs International, Melvin Jones Fellow Church: Hancock Presbyterian, Ruling Elder

Mike Cordori is a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Masonic:

Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195

Professional:

Maryland & National Student Assistance Program Professionals Association Past President

Note: Mike Cordori has been a long time premier leader in the prevention field of drug and alcohol abuse among our young people, both in Maryland and also on a national level.

Wayne Wilson is a candidate for the Board of Directors.

Masonic:

Howard Lodge No. 101

Boumi Shrine - Camel Wheels

Professional: VW Homes, LLC - Vice President

New Home Construction

Note: Wayne Wilson is currently serving on the Masonic Charities of MD. Board of Directors. Term expires 11/18/05.



MASONIC CONTRACTING

Brethren: There is an ongoing need to contract a variety of work and services to be done at the Maryland Masonic Homes and Grand Lodge facilities.

In line with attempting to help our brothers and keep this type of work within the Masonic Family, we would prefer, all things being reasonably equal, to contract organizations that are owned and operated by our Masonic Brothers. If your company is involved in any of the building trades, material and equipment supplies, services oriented activities, and/or any other discipline that might be useful in the maintenance and operation of our facilities, please contact George Hunt at the Grand Lodge at (410) 527-0600, or Fax: 410-527-1276

GRAND COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Sir Knights- We are now squarely implanted in the autumn of the year. Children are back in school, and we are in the season of Halloween (from the Celtic "Samhain," pronounced Sah-ween, which means "end of summer"). These are the early-darkening days that inspired the well-known Cornish prayer, "From ghoulies and ghosties and long leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night, Good Lord deliver us!"

Celtic stories that grew up around Samhain were ultimately set down by Christian scribes. In stories populated with supernatural

creatures, the human and spirit worlds were said to merge on Samhain. People disguised themselves as ghosts and goblins as protection against evil. Food was an offering of respect for the dead who were believed to return home. All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows Day, and All Souls Day -- November 1 and 2, respectively -- were Christian holidays established to replace Samhain. The celebration begins on the evening of October 31, All Hallows Eve or Halloween. Obviously, these traditions continue today in the more benign manifestation of Trick or Treaters besieging neighbors for candy every October 31. Besides, we probably all enjoy a little scare once in awhile.

Beyond the juvenile heebie-jeebies and mischief making of its youngest members at Halloween, Western Christian society more soberly acknowledges and celebrates All Saints' Day, November 1st. Historically, it was Pope Gregory who in 835 A.D. ordered that the Feast of All Saints be universally observed on November 1st. Different denominations and sects have attached differing traditions of belief to the day. For Roman Catholics, the Orthodox, and Anglicans it is the occasion for remembering, honoring and praying to all the saints in heaven. After the Reformation (and consequently, for most present-day Protestants), it is a date to remember and honor all those who have gone before us. Most important for all Christians, it is a time to glorify

Jesus Christ who, by His holy life, death and resurrection, has made us all holy through Baptism and faith.

So first we watch amused as our children and grandchildren dress in outlandish and spooky garb to clear their neighbors' shelves of all candy and goodies. Then we turn our hearts and minds more seriously to remembering and honoring our predecessors, our departed fraters and loved ones, exemplars who have provided the "warp and woof" of our lives, beliefs and standards.

I urge you to search your heart and memory for those most deserving of recollection and honor in your life. Give thanks for them; they helped make you what you are today.

We have much to give thanks for. Those present at the "Friend to Friend" Observance in Gettysburg in late September know that we have, among other things, reason to give thanks for our Pennsylvania brethren for their kind invitation to us to once again be part of this singular service, honoring those who fought so bravely on opposite sides of the great battle set in a tiny farming town. And clearly, though on opposing sides, at least some of these soldiers of North and South saw their attachment to Freemasonry as encouragement (indeed mandate) to view their adversaries first as brothers and treat them as such.

Many who traveled to Gettysburg for the observance
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gathered the night before for a dinner marking this special weekend. The following morning, we shared a brief church service at the site of the famous statue, "Friend to Friend," and Pennsylvania Grand Commander Ken Faub and I placed a wreath at its base. All in all, a great opportunity for us to be together and share a brotherly tradition.

Memorial Wall

The Grand Lodge's library and museum is in the process of planning a memorial wall adjacent to the Walk of Remembrance. The wall will display several bronze plaques removed from 225 North Charles Street and presently stored in the barn on Grand Lodge premises, due to lack of safe and appropriate placement elsewhere. In addition, the wall will house plaques honoring Maryland Masons who have served in the armed forces of this nation since its beginning. Donations can be sent to the Grand Lodge, checks made payable to: Maryland Masonic Homes Memorial Wall Fund.

Knights Templar Eye Foundation

We are one month into this year's fundraising campaign for the Eye Foundation, the foremost charity of the Knights Templars. I urge each of you to consider your first (or another) life sponsorship of \$30 – less than the cost of a meal out – to insure the continuing good work of a philanthropic foundation that provides funding for research,

helps cover surgical expenses and eyeglasses to bring hope of sight to the blind, provides windows on the world to those previously deprived.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Jim Coker - G. C. of Maryland

The 34th Degree

I was invited to attend the reincarnation of the "34th Degree of the Muckee Meezers" that originated and was held in Pitman, New Jersey. This was a well attended event in the 60s, 70s and 80s, and was held four times a year. Usually once in April, May, September and October, and brethren traveled by car and bus from far and near to attend.

This event hasn't been held since the very early 90s, as the club that brought it into existence was unable to maintain their building, and basically retired the show.

In 1964, a friend of mine, and I questioned that friendship later, invited me to attend Lodge with him in Pitman, N.J. Having been newly raised, I eagerly accepted, and traveled to Pitman on the appointed night.

I soon learned the real reason for his invitation; my name had been volunteered by him as one of the candidates. I also learned that he had informed them of the fact that I was a State Trooper. Suffice it to say, that everyone attending that night, really enjoyed the evening. I did become a regular attendee for many years thereafter.

Due to efforts by the Grand

Lodge of Delaware, and primarily by Past Grand Master Wayne D. Mower, III, the Pitman group was invited to Nur Temple in Delaware on October 1st to once again bring the 34th Degree to life. It was a most enjoyable evening, and the "High Muck" was in rare form, and I thank our Delaware Brothers for a most enjoyable evening.

From what I hear, Delaware plans to do this on a regular basis, probably once a year, and I will keep you informed of the next date – it is really worth the trip to see it.

While there, I renewed an old friendship with the "First Worthless Assistant" – his father had held this position for many years, and upon his demise, Bob filled the chair. Bob became active with the club the year I was "initiated". He stated that he would be more than happy to bring the group to Maryland if we so desired, and had the interest. We will be looking into this. Let me know when you see me if this would interest you.

J.R. Biggs, D.G.M.

Note to Lodge Secretaries

Your 2006 Service Award Forms will be coming out shortly. Please read them at your first meeting in December, sign them and return them all to the Grand Secretary's Office. (Remember, they do not have to be voted on, only read out in lodge.) They will be placed in monthly folders in the Grand Lodge Office and will be our responsibility to process when the brothers become due for their awards. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You

Maryland Masonic Calendar



Schedule of Events

November

10: Maryland Masonic Homes' Employee Service Awards

18: Grand Master's Banquet in the Grand Lodge Ballroom at 7:00pm.

19: Grand Lodge of Maryland's 219th Annual Communication at 2:00pm.

20: Church Service at 10:00am followed by Open Installation at 2:00pm.

December

4: Mayor's Christmas Parade. Formation at 1:00pm, Step-off at 2:00pm. Coldspring Lane to 36th Ave.

16: MMH Residents Christmas Party at Maryland Masonic Homes. 2:00pm

24: Candle Light Service at the Chapel at Maryland Masonic Homes. 7:00pm

January

Open Installations of Various Lodges in MD

February

Regional Meetings

North American Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries - Tennessee

Free State Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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