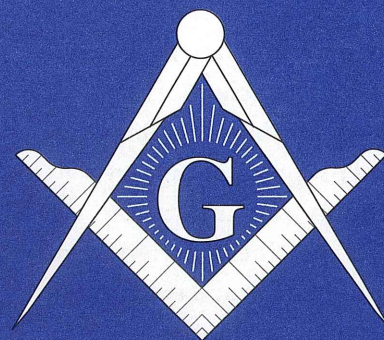


Free State Freemason



Spring 2004

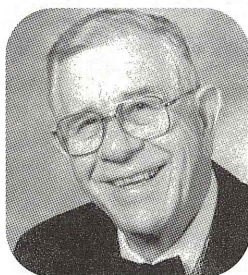
From the Grand Master—

2004 Grand Lodge Officers

M.W. Grand Master - John A. Young, Jr. - 145
R.W. Dpty. Grand Master - Ronald G. Belanger - 227
R.W. Sr. Grand Warden - George E. Hunt - 229
R.W. Jr. Grand Warden - Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. - 227
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W. Sr. Grand Deacon - Herbert Y. Holcomb, III - 158
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W. Grand Standard Bearer - Kenneth Taylor - 101
W. Grand Sword Bearer - Henry McDonald, Jr. - 13
W. Grand Pursivant - Robert C. Shinnick - 93
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies - Frederick J. Reitz - 70
W. Grand Tyler - Teddy R. Barkley, Jr. - 3
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W. Grand Chaplain Emeritus - Lunda W. Laird - 51
Assistant Grand Chaplain - Elwood L. Ulmer - 123
Assistant Grand Tyler - Richard H. Uren - 13

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

MASONRY FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM



My Brethren,

The statewide Regional Meetings are finally history. This concept has proven to be a very successful and informative tool for the Grand Master and Brethren to jointly share information. We, your Grand Lodge officers, set the agenda, then the remainder of the meeting is basically an informational conversation between Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and those in attendance. No subject is untouchable. Strange as it might seem I like the concept. We, the Grand Lodge, have nothing to hide and you have a right to know in which direction your Grand Master is taking this Grand Lodge. The question and answer part of the program often reveals important concerns of interest to you, and can serve as a wake-up call to us. We need and want to hear those rumors, always there, and which take a life of their own. I welcome the opportunity to address the rumors, give them recognition when they are correct and stop them when they are "off base." We need to be, up-front with you. The only subject we will not discuss is an item of a personal nature. If any brother wants to learn specific information about another brother, he will have to go to the source.

While at Hagerstown Lodge No. 217 for one of the Regional Meetings, a very legitimate question was presented. It was a perfect example of how a longstanding policy/rule has outlived its purpose. The question was asked of the Grand Master: why does the Lodge need Grand Master's approval for a variety of the small changes required to "get the job done?" The questioner presented several examples, such as; to open a Lodge ahead of its normal time for Degree work; for an Open Installation of Officers; to have a Ladies Night; to make an early pin presentation because of health reasons, etc. It was a very *(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.

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

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Death Notice

Death, the Grand Leveler of us all, has struck yet once again. Bro. Keith A. Brown, Jr., Jr. Grand Steward of this year's Grand Line, and Past Master of Liberty Lodge No. 219, has passed from this mortal world to the Celestial Lodge above at the tender age of 48. Bro. Keith, a much respected and hard working member of our fraternity suffered a massive heart attack last month while sitting in his work truck on the parking lot of his employer. Death is sad enough when it comes to those of us that have lived a long and enjoyable life, but when it comes to those well under 60 is especially difficult for those left behind.

Bro. Craig Wehrle, W.M. of Liberty Lodge No. 219 is composing an article about Bro. Keith's Masonic activities and will be included in the summer issue of the FSFM.

Bro. Keith is being replaced in Grand Line by Bro. Robert C. Shinnick who will assume the duties of Jr. Grand Steward. Bob, a Past Master of Oriental Lodge No. 93 was the Grand Pursivant in this year's Grand Line.

Three Maryland Masons Receive National Recognition

At the Conference of Grand Masters of North America held in the District of Columbia this past February, our own Deputy Grand Master, Brother Ronald G. Belanger, was nominated and unanimously elected to serve as the Conference Chairman in 2005 which is to be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This is not only a great honor for our Deputy Grand Master but also for the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

It looks like 2005 will be a special year for all Maryland Masons. Brother Wm. Raymond Bosley, will serve as Supreme Grand Tall Cedar, Brother Raoul Frevel as Imperial Potentate, and Brother Ron Belanger as Conference Chairman. Maryland may indeed be a "small" jurisdiction but, we must be doing something right. All of Maryland Masonry extends hearty congratulations to these fine Brethren for their service to the Masonic Family.

John R. Biggs, Editor

Please keep the Free State Freemason informed of the activities occurring in your Lodge and area.

Article Submission

These points should be followed for articles for the FSFM:

Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine.

Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures will not reproduce satisfactorily.

Pictures should have submitting individual's name on back.

Pictures should have accompanying documentation stating who is in the picture and what the picture represents if it is not accompanied by an article. This should be typewritten.

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



(continued from page 1) good question which I believe deserves an answer. After that meeting I reviewed past dispensations issued and then issued a letter removing the requirement for some of those dispensations, while maintaining all the necessary controls required for future Grand Masters. That question was a very good example why our Grand Lodge Constitution needs to be constantly reviewed and amended where necessary. We must continue to make progress or we shall decline. Nothing stands still, especially in American society. Our younger Brethren honor our history, but they also wonder why we are so unwilling to change. Don't be afraid of change. It's a necessary part of life. Embrace it and use it for the betterment of the fraternity. A copy of my letter is part of this edition.

This years' Grand Master's/ Grand Secretary's Conference, in Washington DC, introduced some very interesting subjects to be discussed. One major change that is taking place throughout many Grand Lodges regards the "One Black Ball" vote. The general feeling among many of the Grand Masters was the change is warranted. Some Grand Lodges have already changed their Constitution and voted to accept a three (3) negative vote ballot. Almost everyone present had his own examples where petitioners were rejected by the one, possibly personal, negative vote. The general conclusion

was now is the time, with falling membership, to take a fresh look at this problem. I am not sure how I would vote, but I will say we need to at least address the problem. It is not going away anytime soon. At the Regional Meeting in Salisbury, it was suggested perhaps another approach might be to remove the Lodge Personal Jurisdiction after a negative vote. The petitioner would then be free to petition another Lodge should he so desire. The Worshipful Master who suggested this change said he had been rejected 13 times before he was finally accepted. I do not believe I would have persevered had I been rejected 12 times. To me it would have been a clear signal I was not wanted in this fraternity long before I reached the number 12. As you can see, my Brothers, there are many ways to approach a problem. It is imperative we choose the correct answer that solves the problem and does not create another one.

Speaking of Amendments to the Constitution, there will be three new ones presented in May, at the Semi-Annual Communication. For those Brethren who cannot attend their Lodge because of health, age, or distance from the Lodge the following amendments will to be voted upon:

Amend Article X, Section 1. D.1. of the Constitution to increase the Grand Lodge assessment from the present \$ 6.25 semi-annually to \$ 9.25 semi-annually. My Brethren, Grand

Lodge needs your support on this amendment. There has not been an increase in the assessment since November 1987. I understand the feeling prevalent among the Brethren but the time for healing is now. We, the present Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master did not build the Grand Lodge building, but it's here. We have to move on, keep this Grand Lodge strong and work on solving today's problems.

Amend Article X, Section 1.D.3. of the Constitution to basically double from \$100.00 to \$200.00 the fee presently charged for a Petition for Initiation and \$50.00 to \$100.00 fee for a Petition for Affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction. The first \$100.00 of the new Petition for Initiation fee would go to Grand Lodge and the entire fee for affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction would go to Grand Lodge. The Brother submitting this amendment believes we have set our standard fees too low.

Amend Article VII, Section 3 of the Constitution to allow the Grand Lodge to cast their vote for all candidates who meet the qualifications and wish to serve as a member on the Board of Managers, Board of Trustees or Masonic Charities of Maryland. Presently those candidates who meet the qualifications to serve, submit their resumes to the respective nominating committee who then nominate the most qualified to serve. (continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3) Grand Lodge will then elect a Master Mason, from that list for all vacancies on each Board. Passage of this amendment would require the nomination committee to present all qualified Master Masons, to the Grand Lodge for an open election to determine membership on each particular Board. Should this amendment pass it would mean there could be no nominations from the floor because the Nominating Committees would be unable to determine the qualification of that nominee prior to election.

There are several additional amendments to be submitted and then voted on in November at the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge. My Brethren, I am pleased this Grand Lodge has finally begun taking those positive steps towards the modernization of our rule of law, the Constitution.

I, myself have offered an Amendment to be read in May and voted on in November, permitting nomination of Blue Lodge Officers. It has always remained a mystery to me why the Grand Lodge can nominate, from the floor, while the Blue Lodge is not permitted the same courtesy. My amendment to Article XVI, Section 3. Subsection A. states: Nominations for the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer may be made and seconded from the floor (in the same manner as is done in Grand Lodge). Nomination declarations shall

consist only of the name of the brother, who must be a Lodge member, making the nomination, the name of the nominee and the elected office. A second from the floor is required. That Brother will give his name and declare he seconds the nomination. There shall be no nominating speeches. The nominee may stand in place to be recognized. He must either accept or reject the nomination.

I have also submitted to the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence four (4) other small amendments to the Constitution which will be read in May and voted on in November. This is just my intent to change those housecleaning items that had been outlived their useful purpose. One amendment reflects the size of the Lodge communication. Today almost every Lodge uses a computer and their communication is letter-size.

My Brethren, as Grand Master I am not always in touch with the world as you know it to be, so please feel free to enlighten me. This Grand Lodge can work as well as your individual information permits it. We need and must work together for the good of every member of this Grand Lodge.

Philanthropic No. 168

"A Fraternity within a Fraternity"

Philanthropic Lodge No. 168 in New Market, Maryland is growing. While we may not be the largest, newest or fastest growing Lodge in the State, we have been growing at an impressive rate.

This is, in no small way, thanks

to the Free State Shield and Square Club Degree team. They have raised nine of our current members and while there, they strongly encourage the newly raised Brothers to become active in their Lodge. This has provided our new members both interest and motivation, and they in turn, have brought other petitioners to us.

There are plans to have the Team raise at least four more Brothers over the next year. In addition to these, there are also four more that have petitioned the Lodge for admission.

The Lodge currently is the home Lodge of nine Brethren, who are Deputy Sheriffs with the Frederick County Sheriffs Office, which is our fraternity within a fraternity. Our Sr. Warden, Brother Santangelo, is a Deputy Sheriff, as are several other of our officers. I have seen that Law Enforcement is as much a fraternity as Freemasonry, and the two are an excellent fit.

The Sheriff's Office currently has 21 Deputies who are Brothers from Lodges around the Frederick County, Md. and Adams County, Pa. area. Many of the Deputies of the surrounding Lodges, visit here when another Deputy is to be raised. They are a close-knit group. The Free State Shield and Square Club has raised most of them.

When the Team raises a law enforcement officer, the newly raised Brother automatically becomes a member of the Shield and Square Team, and they encourage (continued on page 5)



(continued from page 4) them to become active members of both their Lodge and the Team, and to assist in the conferral of future Degree work.

The Brothers sitting in our Chairs this year were all raised by the Team, as were last year's.

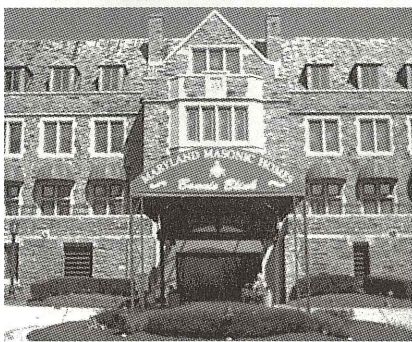
In case you are wondering, no, the Shield and Square Club doesn't do all our work. But due to the interest created by the Team, we have been doing a lot of EA and FC conferrals, and will be conferring the Master Mason Degree on May 5th on one of our Brothers who is not a Deputy Sheriff.

Come out for a visit - we would love to welcome you in Lodge.

Take I-70 to Rt. 75 north, then the first left will bring you to downtown New Market. The Lodge is in the center of the town, on the right hand side of the street.

*Gregory Selby, W.M.
Philanthropic No. 168*

Bonnie Blink



Bonnie Blink has been bustling with activity the past few months. Our census has grown dramatically as we continue to serve the Masonic fraternity. The newest addition to our Continuing Care Retirement Community is

Serenity Hill; a Dementia and Alzheimer's unit. Approved by the State of Maryland, this secure unit offers specific health care and activities that enhance a resident's quality of life in a safe, dignified and engaging environment. Our staff has been extensively trained in Dementia and Alzheimer's care, providing support and encouragement services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

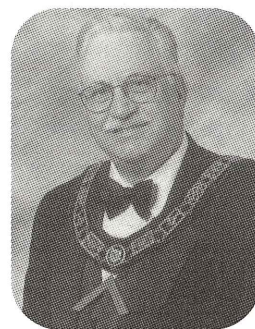
We continue to offer a continuum of care; retirement living in the Independent Living Apartments, health and medical services in Assisted Living and Health Care. We nurture the fraternal bond and Masonic principles that are the cornerstone of the facility.

Please call Maryland Masonic Homes at 410-527-1111 to schedule a tour and inquire about the services offered in Serenity Hill. We would love for you to visit and have the opportunity to show off YOUR beautiful facility.

Ritual???

*Ronald G. Belanger
Deputy Grand Master*

My Brethren, I had originally written a message encouraging your participation in Grand Lodge. You know me; "get out and vote, participate, get involved, be



part of the process!" Well consider that said, and I hope you will all take it to heart.

I trust you will take what I have to say next to heart as well. I'm sure by now you have all been made aware of the terrible accident that has taken place in the state of New York. There can be no excuse for this senseless loss of life, and our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the family members who will be forever affected by the loss of our Brother. We all know the accidental shooting of this "initiate" into some "Fellow Craft Club" or auxiliary unit of that Lodge had nothing to do with the esoteric work of Blue Lodge Masonry or any other form of Masonry for that matter. This unsanctioned and unauthorized "ritual" can only be viewed as illegal. There are no provisions in Masonic Ritual for a weapon of any kind. In fact we are taught that we are to bring nothing "offensive or defensive" into a lodge room, period.

How do we defuse what has happened in New York here in Maryland? We don't or maybe it is better stated: "We can't." If you are approached and asked about this horrific accident I trust you will remain dispassionate and calm. Let your family, friends and acquaintances know that weapons of any kind are not a part of Masonry. We as a Fraternity are guided by a code of morality which should govern all of our actions. What has occurred in New York is much more than highly irregular; it falls well beyond the bounds of acceptable behavior. It certainly violates that code of (continued on page 6)



(continued from page 5) morality we have all submitted ourselves to upholding and promoting. College fraternity high jinks are not a part of Masonic ritual, nor have they ever been endorsed or tolerated by any Grand Lodge jurisdiction when brought to the attention of our Masonic leadership.

The message Masonry offers does not need to be reenforced by childish pranks or over exuberance. The belief in the Fatherhood of God and Brotherhood of man is in and of itself a powerful enough message, and we should concentrate on letting the public know we are against such illegal and unofficial practices without becoming argumentative. Finally my Brethren, poor judgment and downright stupidity has caused the loss of an innocent life; there is no denying that fact. To a brother, each and every one I've spoken to immediately express deep concern for the family members of our departed Brother, showing little concern for themselves or the Fraternity. Let there be no mistake: because of the senseless and irresponsible actions of a few, millions of good upstanding individuals. Masons worldwide have had their names besmirched, and the greatest fraternity in the world has been tarnished. Now more than ever we must show the world what real Masons and real Masonry is about. We are taught that all men are entitled to our regard. I trust you will keep all involved in this totally unacceptable behavior in your thoughts and prayers.

Office of R. W. Grand Secretary Vacant

It has been brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge of Maryland A.F.&A.M. that R.W. Brother Jack R. Frazier will not stand for re-election as our R.W. Grand Secretary in November of 2004 leaving the office of Grand Secretary vacant. Any permanent member of Grand Lodge, as defined by the Grand Lodge Constitution, may be eligible for election to this position. It is requested however that a resume be submitted to Grand Lodge that it may be included in the next issue of the Free State Freemason. The deadline for this submission is June 1, 2004.

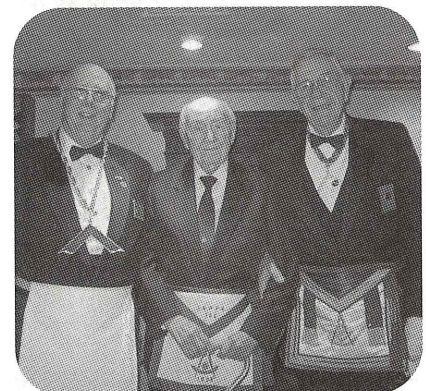
Your Board of Managers has also determined that your Grand Lodge would be better served if the day-to-day operations of the office were turned over to an office manager, leaving the Grand Secretary to deal with communications between the Blue Lodges and Sister Grand Lodge Jurisdictions. To this end the annual compensation for the office of Grand Secretary has been restructured to reflect this change. A stipend of \$10,000 per year along with a standard rate of travel pay, as determined by the Board of Managers, will be awarded to the position of Grand Secretary.

This action by the Board of Managers also necessitates the search to fill the new position of Office Manager. While this search will not be limited to only mem-

bers of the Craft, it is felt that the first option to fill this position should be made available to the membership. Therefore: anyone interested in the position of Office Manager should submit a resume no later than June 1, 2004 to the personnel committee of the Board of Managers in care of the Deputy Grand Master. All duties and compensation will be discussed and explained at the interview with the personnel committee.

Lunda Laird Turns 101

On Tuesday, February 10, 2004, Warren Lodge celebrated their senior Past Master (1938), W. Bro. Lunda Wright Laird's 101st birthday. The evening was attended by many dignitaries including Most Worshipful Grand Master John A. Young, Jr. and Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Ronald G. Belanger



Pictured is Worshipful Brother Past Master Lunda W. Laird flanked by M. W. Grand Master John A. Young, Jr. and Worshipful Master Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

The highlight of the festivities was when Warren Lodge's committee, consisting of W. Bros. Avrum Tamres, (continued on page 7)



(continued from page 6) Warren H. Green, William C. Eppig, Vernon K. Garrett and Chairman Bro. Joel Davis, announced that they were establishing an annual award known as "The Lunda W. Laird Humanitarian Award." This award will name a recipient each year regardless of race, religion or gender. The selected individual will be one whose services have had a marked impact on their fellow humans. It will carry with it a special plaque to be presented to them and \$500.00 to be given to their favorite charity. This award, which will perpetuate the name of our beloved and revered Brother, will be presented annually on the evening of Warren Lodge's Worthy Charities Night which will be held this year on November 9, 2004. This will also perpetuate their nomination to this distinction by having their name inscribed on a plaque that will be hung in our display case in the Common Room.

Appropriate remarks were echoed by a number of brothers present after which the honoree concluded by speaking nearly 10 minutes, saying he was proud to be a Mason and happy to be a member of Warren Lodge "till his dying day."

All then retired to the Common Room where the Sir Knights of Monumental Commandery joined us for ice cream, cake and all raised their voices to the strains of "Happy Birthday."

W.M. Louis F. Bandell, Jr.

Masonic Family Night Ripken Stadium

Aberdeen Lodge No. 187 will again host Masonic Night at Ripken Stadium which will be held on July 31st, 2004 at 7:05 p.m.

The cost of the Game will be \$15.00 per ticket. With the pur-



chase of your ticket you will receive a free hat and a program.

A food drive will also be held prior to the game with all donations going to Harford County Neighbors-in-need. We ask everyone who purchases a ticket to bring one can of non-perishable food with them, which will be collected at the main gate.

Tickets will go fast for this event; we are limited to a total of 90 seats for this year's game. Please contact Ralph Perry, PM for tickets very soon or you may be left out.

If necessary a rain date will be determined by Ripken Stadium. In the event of the game being canceled, please refer to the back of your ticket for full rain date information.

Ripken Stadium,

873 Long Drive,

Aberdeen, MD 21001

From Baltimore, MD:

Directions to the Aberdeen

Ironbirds are as follows:

The Ironbirds are at 923 Gilbert

Road, Aberdeen, MD 21001.

From Baltimore, MD Take I-95 North to MD-22 (exit number 85) towards Aberdeen-Churchville. Keep left at the fork in the ramp. Then turn left onto MD-22 West Aberdeen TRWY/Churchville Road. MD-22 West Aberdeen TRWY/Churchville Road becomes MD-22/Churchville Road. Turn right onto Gilbert Road.

After the game, vehicles cannot enter onto Gilbert Road from Rt. 22. To enter Ripken Stadium, fans are encouraged to use alternate directions via back roads.

MASONIC CHARITIES OF MARYLAND, INC.

Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. Board of Directors are pleased to report that final preparations for this Spring's Educational Grant Program are being completed where 48 scholarships of \$1,000.00 each are planned to be awarded. Thanks go to Brothers Stephen Ponzilla, III and Richard P. Naegle who have and will spend countless hours reviewing the hundreds of applications in order to select the winning applicants as received from five lodges. The Board wishes to thank the Lodges, the collateral bodies and the Craft for their excellent support and cooperation towards the success of the scholarship program.

Also during the past six months our Student Assistance Program continues to address the problem of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse among our (continued on page 8)



(continued from page 7) young people through our sponsorship and partnership with the Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) within the public school systems throughout the State of Maryland. During this period MSAP conducted five training programs throughout the State for 263 new participating volunteers. This new group of volunteers consisted of teachers, counselors, nurses, administrators and many other professionals connected with the State school systems. In addition, on February 2, 2004, the Annual MSAP Team Chairs Symposium was conducted and attended by the Team holders through the State. Currently, there are over 3411 active teams with over 2,500 volunteer members who have been trained and supported thru the partnership of MSAP and Masonic Charities of Maryland, to which they have committed. Our heartfelt thanks reach out to Brother Mike Codori, Montgomery Lodge 195 for his dedicated efforts in his leadership role in making this critically needed youth oriented program such a success.

Since its inception, Masonic Charities has provided over \$1,500,000.00 to the two programs: The Student Assistance Program and the Educational Grant Program. All of this has been awarded in the name of the Masons of Maryland to better publicize and gain recognition for Masonry.

Our new land raising activity consisting of a raffle featuring the Harley Davidson new "V Rod"

motor cycle will come to a conclusion with the winner being announced on April 23, 2004. From all indications this fundraiser has been very well supported and should be a big success.

In addition, Board Members have been very busy making preparations to sponsor their major fundraiser - the Fifteenth Annual Regional Charity Golf Tournament at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, Maryland, on June 7, 2004. The progress during; the past Fourteen Tournaments has been very gratifying and has provided substantial support for the Masonic Charities of Maryland's youth-oriented programs. Thanks go to MWPGM, C. David Haacke and his co-chairmen Charles Thomas, Frank Kinnear, Ron Parker, Con Regester, Wayne Wilson, Jack Pickett, Karl Ballwanz, Vern Mules, Ed Blake, Bob Calvert, Tom Keister, Bob Bynion, and Ray Crumling and the general Golf Committee for their tireless efforts behind the scenes in helping to make the necessary preparations for another successful golf tournament. These golf outings have realized over \$300,000.00 and resulted in numerous applications for membership in Masonry.

All Free State Freemasons can be extremely proud of the accomplishments of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, which works hard to help Freemasonry make a big difference in our community and State.

The annual audit report of

MCM is available from, and direct donations, special contributions of cash, insurance or securities should be made to:

*Masonic Charities of Maryland
Mr. Louis F. Friedman, Secretary
409 Washington Avenue, Suite 900
Towson, Maryland 21204*

The continued assistance to, and encouragement of all MCM activities in Maryland is essential for our continued success and Maryland Freemasonry. Contact our web page for further information:

<http://www.mdmasons.org/gl/MCM/default.htm>

*Vern Mules
Board of Directors*

4th of July Cancellation

NOTE: Our Annual 4th of July celebration and gathering on the grounds at Grand Lodge has been cancelled by the Grand Master.

He and the Deputy Grand master will be out of town that weekend and the Grand Master does not want anyone on the "Hill" watching the Fireworks. The Grand Lodge will be closed, and there will be no access to rest rooms.

There will be guards posted at the gates, and will be instructed to allow only the residents, or those visiting the residents to be permitted access to the grounds.

Hopefully next year we will be back. Take due notice thereof, and govern yourself accordingly.

*The palest ink is better than
the best memory.*



Shown above, from right to left: R.W. Bro. Gary Pierce; W.M. Michael Caldwell and Grand Master John A. Young, Jr. In the center, the tell-tale picture, shown again to the right.



**Gary and Barney,
The Fife Brothers**

Susquehanna 130

Worshipful Master Michael A. Caldwell invited the Grand Master and his Grand Line for a social evening.

During the evening, R.W. Bro. R. Gary Pierce was called to the altar for a presentation. Bro. Gary had recently retired from the Maryland State Police, and has accepted the job of Chief of Police for the town of Perryville.

Gary spent 24 years with the State Police, retiring as a sergeant, having spent most of his career as a Criminal Investigator.

Rumor has it that he was required to take some special courses to learn how best to patrol a small town. Thus the graduation picture you see above and to the right. Bro. Mike says "Barney is

giving Gary the hard look, as he found out that Gary was given more bullets than Barney had.

Suffice to say, the Lodge brothers and visitors thoroughly enjoyed the picture and the evening, and the delicious refreshments. Thank you Bro. Michael, and your hard-working crew.

R.W. Bro. Chief Gary took all the ribbing in stride, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening.

Gary, we, your friends and brothers, wish you all the best in your retirement, and all the best in your

new career ! May you spend as many good years as you desire in your new career as Chief of Police. And it just so happened that Gary's MSP retirement dinner was the following Saturday - we are assured by our editor, Bro. Jack Biggs, who just happens to also be the editor of the MSP Alumni Newsletter, and just happened to be present at the retirement dinner as well, that the picture would be soon showing up in that magazine as well. It also can be found at www.fsssc.org.



Temple Committee Happenings

A special Temple Committee meeting was held on January 29th. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer were in attendance. The Grand Master had requested that all of the lodges meeting in the building have their Worshipful Master and Secretary attend.

They were shown the "collection of clutter" that has accumulated, both on the inside and on the outside of the meeting rooms. It was stressed that, as Master Masons, we need to work together to eliminate this problem, and to see that it doesn't return. Everyone present was advised of the number of blue and beige lockers that were available for storage; and were informed that the Grand Lodge can no longer furnish the slide projectors, slides etc., but did offer assistance to any lodge as to where they could be purchased.

The Grand Master told everyone present that in the near future each meeting room will have a viewing screen permanently attached to a wall. This screen will roll down for viewing, and then retract for storage. Oriental Lodge and Warren Lodge volunteered to pay for these screens if it found that the Temple Committee doesn't locate the necessary funds.

A major clean-up has since been accomplished! All of the food, utensils, miscellaneous materials and shelves have been removed! Eventually the walls will

be spackled and painted; after which Beige lockers will be placed in the area for storage.

The next project will be an attempt to "ENLARGE" the meeting rooms by removing some of the permanent chairs. A test will be done first to see how the carpet reacts after the bolts are removed.

On February 24th at a Warren Lodge visitation an antique projector was presented to Stephen Ponzillo, III, to be added to the Masonic collection by the Temple Committee.

The Temple Committee is very proud of our "SECOND HOME", and we know that deep down all Master Masons harbor the same sentiments - let's work together to keep it as functional and beautiful as possible. We are all on the same TEAM!

*Pat Green
Chairman*

Help Wanted

As reported in a preceding article, the Temple Committee is playing an active part in the maintenance of the Grand Lodge Building and Freemasons Hall. We are in dire need of Masons who are regularly engaged in various trades to help with the work that needs to be done from time to time. The following disciplines are needed:

electricians, plumbers, drywall and finishing, HVAC, painters and welders.

If any Brother can find it in his heart to volunteer services to the Temple Committee, please call Bro. Pat Green (410-484-4973) or

Bro. R. Craig Wehrle (410-977-7576) to register your name with us. Thank you,

R. Craig Wehrle

Dispensations

Regional meetings throughout this jurisdiction serve an important function.

We, the Grand Lodge Officers, are able to communicate our programs, Grand Lodge financial status and other general information critically important to you.

I am always pleased to present our Grand Lodge information, open a two-way dialogue with those present, and attempt to reach a reasonable conclusion.

We need each other's support, and that can be gained only by an open discussion of our operation. Is there a better time or place to discuss subjects of mutual importance? My quick answer is no. We need to bring forth those seemingly unsolvable problems and solve them!

At the February 28, 2004 Regional Meeting held in Hagerstown Lodge No. 217, a Brother posed a question for the Grand Master. The crux of his question exposed a system overburdened with paperwork. He wondered why the Grand Lodge requires a Special Dispensation before a Lodge can make a change from its normal procedure. My short response was, "If the request does not violate the Constitution of the Grand Lodge this should not be a problem." After that meeting, we reviewed at Grand



Lodge, the requests and our overwhelming number of favorable responses. Grand Lodge history indicates Dispensations were requested and granted almost automatically.

Many labor hours, yours and Grand Lodge's, were wasted sending or responding to these requests; this did not even include the postage paid, yours and ours.

Therefore, with prior notification to your membership via the Trestle Board and your Grand Inspector, it will no longer be necessary to request a dispensation from the Grand Master for the following actions:

Open your Lodge at a time other than the regularly stated By-Law time.

Change a scheduled communication for the purpose of honoring a member, or his Masonic birthday, or celebrate Masonic Widows Night, or Ladies Night, or have a Table Lodge, or to confer Degrees such as Rusty Nail, Empty Chair, etc.

Schedule a Special Communication, on other than a meeting date, for Masonic Degree work.

Divide the Master Mason lecture, on Past Master's Night, among qualified Past Masters.

Hold a public Open Installation of Lodge Officers. The Masonic ritual and rules for an Open Installation are clearly spelled out in a previous Edict and shall be adhered to in all Lodges. No deviation shall be permitted.

Request a waiver concerning a candidates' physical handicap

4th Annual Bull & Oyster Roast

Presented by the Scottish Rite Valley of Baltimore

3800 North Charles St. - 410 243-3200

Sunday, September 26, 2004

\$25.00 per person - \$28.00 at the door - 12 and under 1/2 price Catered by Atlantic Caterers, Inc.

Menu:

On the Pit: Beef, Fresh Ham, Turkey, Oysters on the Half Shell
with Spicy Cocktail Sauce Homemade Oyster Stew

Buffet: Meat Lasagna, Bar-B-Que Chicken, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Macaroni & Cheese, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy,
String Beans, Cole Slaw & Pasta Salad

Goodie Table: Fresh Fruit, Cake, Assorted Cheeses & Crackers, Pickled Beets,
Seasonal Vegetables with Dips

Beverages: Draft Beer, Sodas, Coffee and Iced Tea

MUSIC BY VERNON STEARN

and/or his inability to perform certain actions during the conferral of Degrees. His condition should have been addressed when the petition was submitted to Grand Lodge.

Take part in a public parade, or be a "bell ringer" for charity, or assist in community events, etc.

Present a 50, 60 or 70 year Masonic Emblem prior to the scheduled date for health reasons, or as a convenience for an out-of-state member, or for planning of future Trestle Board items. Prior notice of this change must be made to the Grand Lodge office to assure presentation materials will be available. This is a "notice" not a dispensation request.

Written requests for Dispensation from Grand Master are still required for;

Permission to hold an election of Officers other than the regularly scheduled meeting in

December.

Initiate more the five (5) candidates at one meeting, or confer more than one (1) degree on a Brother at the same meeting.

Permission to initiate a candidate on the night of his election.

Confer or perform proficiency of Maryland ritual in another jurisdiction.

All other Lodge activities not specifically identified above.

My Brethren, we need to address our problems openly and make those necessary changes to keep our Fraternity fresh and inviting to prospective candidates. Thank you for your thoughts and input. Working together we can make the difference.

John A. Young, Jr.
Grand Master

I love deadlines. I especially like the whooshing sound they make as they go flying by.



Summer School Schedule 2004

All Schools Begin Promptly At 7:30 p.m. - (Except Cumberland)

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|
| July 13 | Cockeysville | F.C. Degree |
| July 20 | Cockeysville | E.A. Degree |
| July 27 | Cockeysville | Special Topics |
| August 3 | Cockeysville | M.M. Degree |
| August 10 | Cockeysville | M.M. Degree |

Western Maryland

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| July 8 | Hagerstown No. 217 Hagerstown | E.A. Degree |
| July 22 | Brunswick No. 191 Brunswick | F.C. Degree |
| August 5 | Friendship No. 84 Hagerstown | M.M. Degree |
| August 17 | Potomac No. 100 Cumberland | F.C. Degree |

Note: The above school in Cumberland will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Eastern Shore

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|
| July 15 | Wicomico No. 91 Salisbury | E.A. Degree |
| July 29 | Cambridge No. 66 Cambridge | F.C. Degree |
| August 19 | Temple No. 128 Denton | M.M. Degree |

Southern Maryland

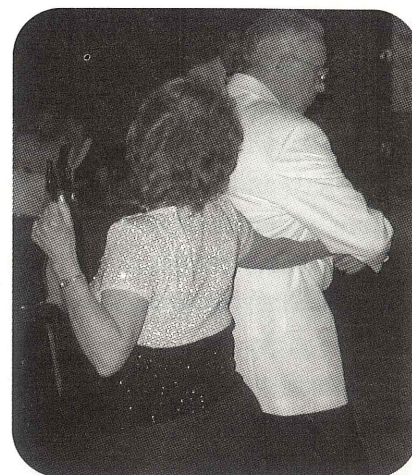
All schools in Southern Maryland to be held in Upper Marlboro

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|
| July 22 | Centennial No. 174 | E.A. Degree |
| July 29 | Centennial No. 174 | F.C. Degree |
| August 5 | Centennial No. 174 | M.M. Degree |
| August 12 | Centennial No. 174 | Workshop |

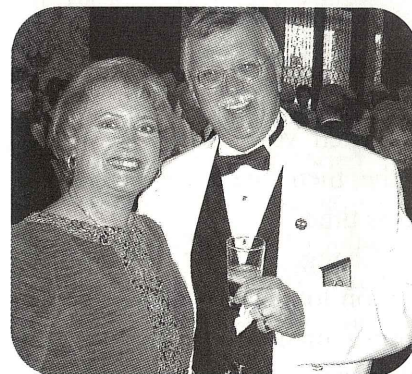
All Schools Begin Promptly At 7:30 p.m. - (Except Cumberland)



A most happy group, taking a break from the festivities of our Annual Grand Master's Ball last July. These couples are regular attenders at this event.



A little swing going on by Pat and Jack Biggs during the G.M.'s Annual Grand Ball.



Steve and Marie Ponzillo are sure enjoying the G.M.'s Ball.



Steve and Maria Pazulski posing for the roving camera. Steve is the Administrator of our Masonic Homes.



Grand Master's Ball

July 17, 2004

From 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

This is a personal invitation to every fun loving Mason in the State of Maryland. The Grand Master's Ball is a time when we all get together - eat, drink, dance, and just have FUN.

You get to dress up in your tuxedo and your lady to wear a gown - if she doesn't have one - don't you think it's time to for her to get one?

Seriously, it is a great night of friendship, great food, and dancing, either with old friends or new ones, and to just let your hair down and enjoy!

Call me for your tickets - cost is \$75.00 per person, and for that amount, you really get a lot. There will be the usual abundance of fresh fruit table, veggy table, cheeses, hot crab dip, smoked salmon, steamed shrimp, scallops in bacon, lobster Newburg puffs, turkey and ham carving stations, a sit-down dinner of tenderloin and selected seafood, potatoes, veggies, and a Ceasar Salad with crab meat to start the meal. WOW. All that, plus the music of the Crystal Strings for your listening pleasure during dinner.

After dinner, there will be dancing as usual to a great band.

You really don't want to miss out on a great evening like this!

Linda Hagan (410) 527-0600

"The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything." Edward John Phelps



The Can Club

Pictured above are the members of Can Club for the last ten years. In the back row John Bechtold, Stan Flaggs and Bill Graf. In the front row Len Salfner and T. Lee Ross. A short time ago after this picture was taken Brother Len Salfner passed away.

Cambridge Lodge #66 presented the Mason of the Year award to the Can Club whose members are pictured above. During the ten years of its existence the Can Club has donated \$6205.53 to Cambridge Lodge and \$2592.78 to the Travelers Club. The money was raised by collecting aluminum including cans, siding, light poles, airplane parts, radiators, doors, windows and anything else that was aluminum. Many organizations saved the cans for the club and often trips were made to the islands (not the Caribbean) to collect them. In January of this year the club was disbanded. John Bechtold's truck (Barney) used to hold and transport the aluminum was de-odorized and retired.

Stan Flaggs

Cambridge Lodge No. 66

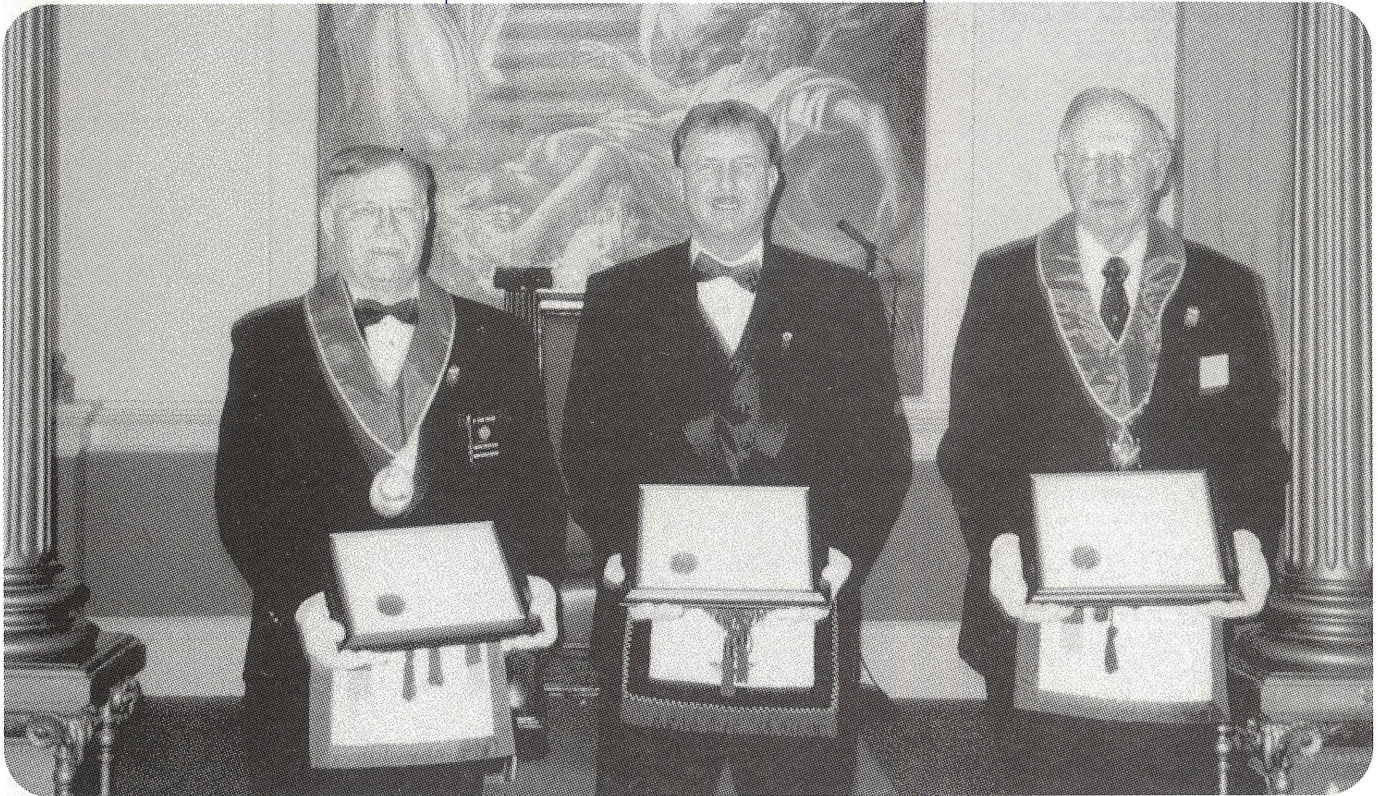
Spaghetti Dinner

Solomons Lodge No. 121 will host their Annual Spaghetti Dinner on May 8, 2004, from 4 to 7 p.m. The dinner will be held in the Jessup

Community Hall, located on St. Rt. 175 and Wigley Ave. in Jessup, Md.
Donation:

Adults - \$7.00

(continued on page 14)



Special Presentations

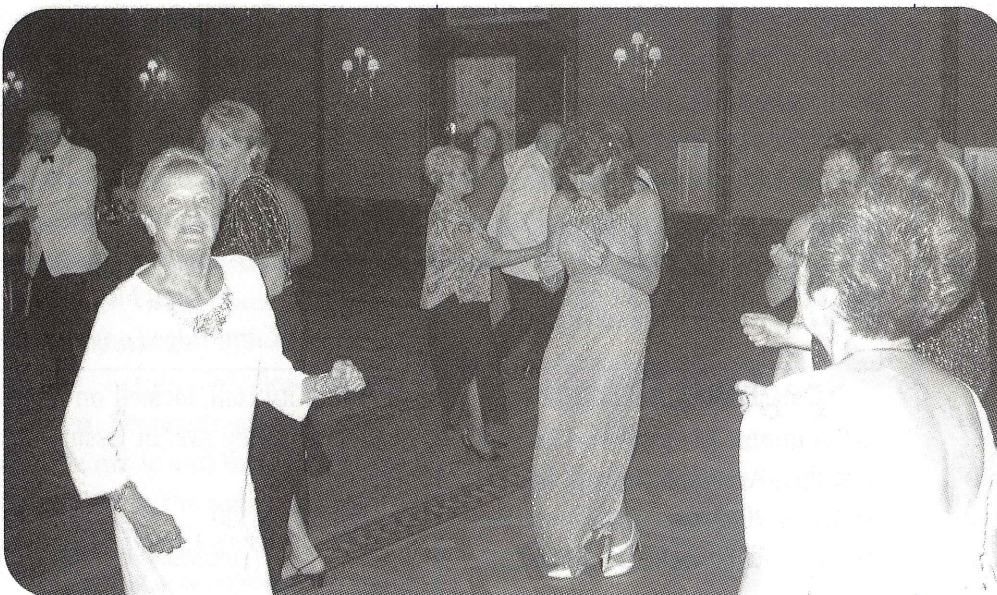
The Worshipful Master of East Gate Lodge No. 216, David B. Robinson, presented three Honorary Membership Certificates to the following three brothers. Left to right: Bro. Wilbert G. Miller, Past Master of Fort Cumberland Lodge No. 211 and Grand Inspector; Bro. Gary L. Miller, Past Master of Potomac Lodge No. 100; and Bro. Frank Eberly, Past Master of Hagerstown Lodge No. 217 and Deputy Grand Lecturer. These brethren assisted the officers of East Gate Lodge # 216 on countless occasions.

*Gary Shircliff
Past Master*

(continued from page 10)

Children 5 to 10 - \$3.00
Children under 4 - Free.
Carryout dinners will also be available for \$6.00
Give the spouse a break, support the Lodge, and enjoy some very good home-made meat sauce.

More G.M. Ball pictures on the left. Here is Jerry Piepiora's wife in the center, doing her thing, and having a great time as usual.





Philanthropic No. 168

will host an "Open House" on May 22, 2004 to commemorate their 130th anniversary. The Lodge will be open from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. Should you be in the area, do drop in and say Hi. They are located in New Market, MD, in between Frederick and Mt. Airy, just off I-95. Take the Rt. 75 exit and go north to the first stop light - make a left and proceed to the center of the town. The Lodge is situated on the right side of the street. Watch your driving though, remember, many of them are Frederick County Deputy Sheriffs, but they almost always wear a smile.

Highland Lodge No. 184

Highland Lodge No. 184 celebrates its 113th anniversary; M.W.G.M. John A. Young, Jr. presents service awards totaling 160 Years.

On May 14, 2003 Highland Lodge celebrated its 113th Anniversary, which this year fell exactly on a meeting night. In addition to M.W.G.M. John A. Young, Jr. and R.W.D.G.M. Ronald G. Belanger, accompanied by seventeen additional Grand Lodge Officers, many friends and family members of the recipients were present. Approximately 70 members and guests were in attendance as Bro. John Stewart Sparr received his 60-year Service Award, and Bros. Melvin Frederick Borleis and Gary Luthor Voris each received their 50-year Awards. M.W.G.M. Young presented each recipient with his lapel

NEW!

So You Want To Know More About Freemasonry

A brief, interesting, and informative overview of the purpose and history of Freemasonry

- An effective way to respond to all inquiries regarding Freemasonry
- An excellent tool to introduce Freemasonry to the prospective member and his family
- Narrated by David Goodnow, this 17-minute presentation (in two parts) can be used one-on-one as well as for larger groups.
- Formatted in audiocassette and CD for easy presentation.

So You Want To Know More About Freemasonry is available in audiocassette or CD format. The cost is \$6.00 plus \$3. The cost is \$6.00 plus \$3. When ordering please specify audiocassette or CD format. Order from Masonic Information Center, 8120 Fenton Street, Silver Spring MD 20910 or e-mail msana@ix.netcom.com.

The flyer to the left is being included with the April Short Talk Bulletin. The Masonic Information Center feels this new audiocassette/CD "So You Want to Learn More About Freemasonry" is a very important tool to use when discussing Masonic membership with a prospective candidate. It is also very informative about the fraternity, and could be given to anyone who has a question about Freemasonry.

All human actions have one or more of these seven causes: chance, nature, compulsion, habit, reason, passion, desire.
-Aristotle



From left to right: Tom Landerkin, W.M. of Highland Lodge No. 184, Bro. John A. Young, Jr., M. W. G. M., Bros. Melvin Borleis, Gary Voris, Stu Sparr, and Bro. Ronald G. Belanger, R. W. D. G. M.

pin, while R.W.D.G.M. Belanger, G.I. Wm. Sweeney, and W.M. Tom Landerkin presented their cards, certificates, and caps. Following the presentations, Bro. Stephen J.

Ponzillo, III spoke on the history of Highland and Masonry in Maryland, and passed around many artifacts and photographs from the Masonic Museum.

Maryland Masonic Calendar



May

16 - Grand Lodge Church
Service 3 P.M. MMH Chapel

17 - Annual Communication of
Grand Lodge

June

12 - Maryland Masonic Homes
Family Day - 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.

June

4 - Independence Day
Celebration at Grand Lodge of
Maryland - 6 P.M. until after
the fireworks

July

4 - Annual celebration at Grand
Lodge has been cancelled by
the Grand Master!

13 - Summer School begins -
7:30 p.m. at Grand Lodge, and
continues for 5 consecutive
Tuesdays.

17 - Grand Master's Ball

Daylight Lodge - meets on the
second Tuesday at 10:30 A.M.

Freestate Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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