

Spring 2005

2005 Grand Lodge Officers

M.W. Grand Master Ronald G. Belanger R.W. Dpty. Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr.

R.W.S.G.W. David L. Schneider R.W.J.G.W. Thomas Winebrenner R.W.G.S. Herbert Y. Holcomb R.W.G.T. W. Raymond Bosley W.G.Mar. Harold A. Garren W.S.G.D. William E. Whitaker W.J.G.D. Robert W. Chase W.S.G.S. Dennis F. Nebel W.J.G.S. James L.T. Knighton W.G.St.B. Bradley D. Andrukitis W.G.Sw.B Julius H. Poston, Jr. W.G.P. Jackie M. Callowav W.G.Dir.C. Charles J. White, Jr. W.G.T. Wallace R. Jones W.Asst..G.T. Richard H. Uren W.G..Chap. Donald C. Stottlemyer W. Asst.G.Chap. Elwood L. Ulmer W. Asst. G. Chap * Stephan D. Campbell

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

W.G. Ch. Emeritus * Lunda W. Laird

Ronald L. Unger

David L. Schneider

* = Deceased

W.G. Organist

W.G. Lecturer

MARYLAND MASONRY.... MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

From the Grand Master—

Brethren:

SPRING, A TIME OF MASONIC RENEWAL
It's hard to believe by the time you receive
this issue six months will have gone by and we
will be heading into the Semi-Annual
Communication. I guess what they say about
time flying when you're having fun is true. The

New Year has been busy and it hasn't been all work. We have had fun along the way in trying to make a difference.

Installations were a true joy to be a part of. Those of you who witnessed the outstanding work of this Grand Line know what I am speaking of. Their attention to detail and pursuit of excellence during the Installation season brought great credit upon themselves and the Grand Lodge of Maryland. Open Installations have brought many a Brother's family and non-Mason alike into our Lodge rooms and have placed our beloved fraternity in a most positive light. I have received many positive and in fact glowing reports as regards these Open Installations and I hope more of our Lodges will adopt the concept.

At this writing we are at the completion of our Regional Meetings as well. All were very well attended and I would hope the information we had to share was informative and educational. I appreciated the give and take we all shared during our general session. I will be the first to admit that the sharing of ideas with you, the Craft, is, in my humble opinion, the most important part of our Regional meetings. It is where I get that most important feedback as to how we are doing in terms of operating our Grand Lodge. I hope you understand just how important and informative I find your ideas and suggestions. I may not always agree, and I may not choose to use all or any of them, but I do listen and consider all of them before I make any decisions concerning our Grand Lodge. I thank you all for your participation.

For those who did not bother to attend, you will be (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, R.W.D.G.M. Editor 1222 Walker Road Freeland, MD 21053 410 527-0600 tel dgmmaryland@covad.net

Harry S. Scott, Asst. Editor

Deadlines for submitting articles & information for publication in the *Freestate Freemason*:

Winter Issue – January 1
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
glmaryland@covad.net
www.mdmasons.org/gl/default.asp

Send articles and address changes to the Grand Lodge

Brethren, on June 24th, we will have a testimonial dinner for two Brothers that have toiled long and hard in our fraternity. Both served well over 20 years, and this will be a chance for their many friends to join them on their special evening, socialize, enjoy dinner, listen to a few short speeches, and make sure they have a great time with their many friends.

The dinner will be held in the Grand Lodge Ballroom beginning with a social

hour at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there - tickets may be obtained through Grand Lodge - the cutoff date is June 16th - get your name on the list now.

Brethren, it seems like only last week that we enjoyed our annual communication, and here it is nearly time for the Semi-annual. How time does pass. It has been a real pleasure to serve as your Deputy Grand Master; and a real pleasure to serve with a Grand Master such as we have.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of your Lodges over the winter, and look forward to a lot more of the same in the coming months. Remember, Grand Masters, as a rule, do not visit without an invitation - all it takes is a written letter to Grand Master Belanger, providing the date (it helps to have alternates in mind, as his schedule fills up quickly) the time, and the reason of his visit. If you wish him to speak, state this - it isn't fair to him to surprise him with this at the last minute - even though he is an excellent speaker. Everyone likes a little time to prepare, and let him know if you have a particular topic in mind, or if you will leave that choice to him.

John R. Biggs, Editor R.W. Deputy Grand Master

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 <u>will not reproduce satisfactorily.</u>

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.

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



Continued from page 1)

pleased to know that we are still working on the lease of our longterm agreement with our chosen developer. While things seem to be moving slowly, rest assured I would not sign any lease until our development team and our legal counsel advise me that we have reached the best possible position for Grand Lodge over the long term. Even I get frustrated at times and have been reminded of our own ritual concerning time, patience, and perseverance. We must be willing to persevere and get the best possible deal for our future and with that goal in mind I am not willing to compromise our position!

I must share with all of you that while we have been trying to make a difference, and yes, we've had a bit of fun along the way, we all share in the loss of our Worshipful Asst. Grand Chaplain, Stephan D. Campbell. Steve was a bright light in our Grand Line and enjoyed his labors with us as we traveled about the jurisdiction. His sudden and unexpected loss caught all of us off guard and we shall miss his broad smile and wonderful sense of humor. He was truly a wonderful Masonic Ambassador and represented your Grand Lodge with great enthusiasm and pride. He will be dearly missed.

Along the same lines our beloved Lunda Laird, Worshipful Grand Chaplain Emeritus, was called from labor to rest as well. There isn't much I can say to expand on how we all felt about Brother Laird. Not just a gentleman but also a gentle man, not just a Mason but also a Mason's Mason. He brought great dignity and class with him when and wherever he traveled. He made everyone around him a better person for just having known him and we all will miss his sense of humor and quiet strength of character.

Since our last issue, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America was held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The delegation from Maryland included your Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Secretary. Also in attendance were Imperial Sir Raoul Frevel, Imperial Potentate and the Supreme Tall Cedar, W. Raymond Bosley. This marked the first time the Imperial Potentate, Cedar. Supreme Tall and Conference Chairman came from the same jurisdiction. All of Maryland Masonry should take great pride in this historic fact as I'm sure it will be many years before this happens again, if ever!

Membership continues to be on the front burner. For those of you who attended any of the Regional meetings you understand my posi-"One concerning Classes." I find them a financial drain on the Grand Lodge, and they do not make financial sense to this Grand Master. In like manner they make us lazy in regards to our ritual. "Why should I learn the work and exemplify when the Grand Lodge will do all the work?" I believe a One Day Class can be a useful tool, and I will support any Lodge that chooses to hold a One Day Class, as long as it is done in the most exemplary manner with the candidate's education in and of the Craft in mind. Remember to stand exemplification with your Deputy Grand Lecturer BEFORE you schedule your event.

NO EXCEPTIONS!

I know most of you feel we have a membership problem. I believe we have an identity problem. People just don't know who or what we are. We are great at preaching to the choir within the four walls of our Lodges. How many of us take the message to the street? How many of your friends have you told about Masonry? Do they know of the many Masons who were also patriots and founders of this great nation? I find it curious that the Lodges in our jurisdiction experiencing the most success are the Lodges with the most community involvement. There can be no substitute for consistent involvement in your own community. How else will the general public learn of us if we are unwilling to share our story?

With that in mind, let us renew our efforts to promote our "Gentle Craft" as we go about our daily lives. Let the spring season of 2005 mark a new chapter in our Masonic history here in Maryland. Let's begin by sharing Masonry with our family, friends and coworkers. Let us all work together in writing a new Masonic chapter based on our making a difference in our own (Continued on page 4)



Continued from page 3)

lives a day at a time. What will you do today to change how the uninitiated views Masonry? When is the last time your Lodge had a new petition? When is the last time you spoke of Masonry to a friend or family member? I challenge each of the elected officers of each Lodge to be a presiding officer and not a sitting officer! Take the duties of your office to heart. Read, study, think and talk about Masonry and how you and each Brother of your Lodge can make a difference in promoting the Craft. My final challenge is this:

Let each Lodge raise an average of just five new Masons this year! Doing this would mean we could actually experience a net growth for the first time in many years. Yes, my Brethren, Spring can really be a time of Masonic Renewal. "Let your light so shine"

From the Desk of the Grand Secretary

Thanks to all of you who attended and participated in the 2005 Regional Meetings. Those who could not attend missed a wonderful opportunity. I truly enjoyed traveling around the jurisdiction and meeting with you. If you got half as much out of the program as I did, then you acquired a wealth of knowledge.

I want to thank all of the presenters who worked extremely hard preparing their presentations so that the membership received their message in a concise and accurate form. The MWGM, Brother Ronald G. Belanger, was very clear in his remarks as to the amendments to the constitution to be voted on in May as well as his

hopeful outlook for Maryland Masonry. The RWDGM, Brother John R. Biggs, Jr., addressed uniformity in our ritual. RWSGW/GL, Bro. Dave Scheider, explained the progress of the "Land Lease" committee and the schedule for the summer schools of instruction. The presentation on Masonic Education by Brother Carl Todd was extremely interesting. Our RWGT Brother Wm. Raymond Bosley explained the current finances of the Grand Lodge. Brother William D. Hooper, Counsel to the Grand Lodge, explained the amendments to the constitution to be balloted on in May. The president of the Board of Grand Inspectors, Brother Jerry Piepiora outlined the future update of the Constitution. Brother Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, gave a highly informative presentation on the Library and Museum. Without their help the regional meetings would not have been possible. Thanks to all for the generous donation of their time and talents.

While on the subject of thanking those who helped make the events possible, I would be remiss if I did not thank those who hosted them. Mount Ararat Lodge # 44, WM Brother Jim Davidson hosted the Northern meeting. Wicomico Lodge # 91, WM Brother Bryan Philips hosted the Eastern meeting. Hagerstown Lodge # 217, WM Brother Jeff Kimble hosted the Western meeting. Centennial Lodge # 174, WM Brother Tim Wisnewski hosted the Southern meeting. And of course the Central meeting was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, MWGM Brother Ronald G. Belanger. Thank you Worshipful and Most Worshipful Sirs for your much appreciated hospitality

In closing let me thank the

entire membership for giving me the opportunity to be of service.

> Fraternally, Herbert Y. Holcomb, III Grand 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 Vogle 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 Grand Lodge 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 in honor of 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.

4 Free State Freemason



Grand Master's Ball

The Grand Master's Ball honoring the Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald G. Belanger and his Lady Karen - Black Tie Preferred.

Date: Saturday, August 6, 2005 Time: Cocktail Hour - 6:00 pm

Dinner 7:00 pm

Dancing 8:00 until 11:00 pm Price \$75.00 per person Tables of 8 may be reserved Deadline for tickets: July 26, 2005 For reservations, call: Ray Vogel, 410-527-0289 or 527-0600

Make checks payable to: "Grand Lodge of Maryland."

Mail to: Grand Lodge of Maryland Grand Lodge Ballroom 302 International Circle Cockeysville, Maryland 21030

Testimonial Dinner

Brethren, on June 24th Testimonial Dinner will be held for two worthy Brothers that have toiled long and hard for our fraternity, and who should be recognized for their efforts. They are R.W. Bro. Edward B. Kraft, Past Grand Lecturer and R.W. Bro. Jack R. Frazier. Past Grand Secretary. Tickets will be available from Linda H. at Grand Lodge by calling 410-527-0600, or by stopping by Grand Lodge in person. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. in the Grand Lodge Ballroom. Space is limited - make your reservations early.

Come out and let these Brothers know how much you appreciate their long service.

Failure has a thousand explanations. Success doesn't need one.

Sojourners

Lafayette Camp, Heroes Of '76 Baltimore Chapter No. 7 National Sojourners, Inc. Barkley, Jr. became the newest member of Lafayette Camp, Heroes of '76.

Hero Teddy R. Barkley is pictured below between camp com-



Lunch was finished and a few of us officers sat down for a couple of hands of whist with our tea and brandy. Our tranquility was interrupted by a commotion at the picket line, and when we inquired of the Officer of the Day as to what had occurred, he informed us that a ragged, barefoot stranger was detained for trying to enter our bivouac area. The man was taken to guardhouse no. 1 where he awaited our pleasure. When brought from the guardhouse this man proved to be a Mason and sojourner. He proclaimed a desire to become a recruit in our Lafavette unit. A vote was taken and it was decided that he could be admitted after the normal examination. The recruit had particular problems answering our questions but, after a number of trips to the "D", he seemed to have his memory refreshed and was finally elected, in the usual manner, to join with us. Thus Teddy R.

manders Bennie G. Owens (L) of John Paul Jones Camp and Donald M. Miller (r) of Lafayette Camp.

Now, do you know what the Sojourners organization is?

National Sojourners, Inc., is a national fraternal organization meeting the needs of military Masons and advancing programs that promote love of country.

Membership in National Sojourners is open to citizens of the USA who are Master Masons in good standing in a duly constituted Lodge of Master Masons recognized by and maintaining fraternal relations with a majority of the Regular Grand Lodges in the United States and who are serving or have served honorably as a Commissioned Officer or Warrant Officer of the uniformed services of the United States, a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the uniformed services of the United States, (Continued on page 6)



Continued from page 5)

(E5, 6 & 7 prior to 1958 - E7, 8 & 9 as of 1958), have served in time of war as a Commissioned Officer or Warrant Officer or the equivalent in an armed service of a nation allied with the United States, or are regularly elected to Honorary Membership.

A Brief History: Although the term "sojourner" is common in Freemasonry, it takes on new meaning under the aegis of National Sojourners, Inc. This Order, founded to meet the needs of the Military Mason in war and peace, has as one of its precepts the words of George Washington, said:"When one once assumes the soldier, he does not lay aside the citizen. "The Order traces its origin to the time when the North Dakota Regiment departed the Philippines taking it the Field Lodge Dispensation which had filled the needs of Masons while they were there. In its place a club of Masonic "sojourners" was formed. In 1901 sixteen of these "Sojourners," representing 13 Grand jurisdictions, demitted from their home Lodges and were granted a Lodge Charter by the Grand Lodge of California. Of course, by instituting a formal Blue Lodge, they negated their purpose for being and, therefore, ceased to exist. In 1913, Surgeon Capt. Harry Eugene Stafford, 33°, Chartering Master of the Manila replaced Lodge which "Sojourners Club," became the first Grand Master of the new Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The idea for a sojourners club to serve the needs of displaced military Masons revived, however, when , in 1917, a group of Masonic Military Officers met in the Hamilton Club in Chicago.

They agreed that, in the absence of the Military Lodges of earlier times, there was a need for a national Masonic organization which would serve the requirements of Masonic Brethren from various parts of the country who were thrown together by virtue of their military service. The Order they started grew rapidly, from a 15-man club in 1917 to a national corporation in 1927 with membership then approaching 20,000. The purposes of National Sojourners, Inc., affirm their responsibilities to Brother Masons, the Masonic Nation. Fraternity. and the Sojourners traditionally sponsor and coach most military personnel petitioning for Masonic membership, thus providing a bridge between the local military and the Masonic Lodges. Sojourner efforts are directed toward Americanism and support of Masonic programs and policies. Americanism activities include patriotic ceremonies, speeches, presentations, and other actions intended to promote love of country with special emphasis on the youth of the nation. National Sojourners, Inc., sponsors varied programs such as the following:

Reserve Officer Training Corps ROTC Awards:

Every year the Order bestows upon a member of each unit of the ROTC and the Junior ROTC the Sojourners ROTC medal with ribbon and certificate). The award goes to the cadet who has, in the opinion of his or her superiors, done the most to encourage and ideals the demonstrate Americanism by deed or conduct or both; and who has demonstrated potential for outstanding leadership. This award is available upon request to every ROTC and JROTC unit in America. Nearly 1500 of these medals are presented each year.

Flag Programs:

Throughout the Order, several historical and patriotic flag programs have been developed. One, in particular, had a Scottish Rite genesis.

A member of the National Soiourners Chapter in El Paso, Texas, Hubert L. Koker, 32°, K. C. C. H., was chairman of a Scottish Rite committee tasked to prepare an Americanism program for presentation to the El Paso Scottish Rite Valley. He developed a program in which the American Flag was built, stripe by stripe and star by star with a narration giving the state or states admitted to the Union with the addition of each stripe and star. Another Brother, who was also a member of both the El Paso Scottish Rite and National Sojourners, saw the program and understood immediately the full significance of what he had seen. After getting proper permission, he brought the program to National Sojourners, Inc. The rest, as they say, is history.

The program was refined again and again. More portable and reliable props were developed, and "Building the Flag" teams were National throughout formed Sojourners with their affiliated Order. The Heroes of '76, presenting it in colonial uniforms, often assisted by their ladies, also in colonial costume. This excellent patriotic and educational program has been performed thousands of times at schools as well as Masonic and non-Masonic gatherings of all kinds. It continues today as one of the most effective and popular patriotic programs yet invented.

A "Historical Flag Program' was written by (Continued on page 7)



Continued from page 6) National Sojourner, Byron C. Jenkins, 32°, K., C., C., H., of the Omaha. Nebraska, Scottish Rite Valley, for presentation during the U.S. Bicentennial celebration. Past Grand Master Jenkins's program displays up to sixteen flags used Americans from pre-Revolutionary times to the present. The presentation utilizes three or more "Heroes of '76" to display each full-size flag while a narrator gives the history of how the Masonic heroes who were serving under it contributed to our country's birth, development, and fame.

The programs cited here barely scratch the surface of the service performed by National Sojourners, Inc. This small but capable group of American Masonic leaders quietly serves our country and Masonry every day through their efforts to raise the loyalty and pride of every American by eulogizing and emulating the Masonic builder-patriots who preceded them.

For further information on this outstanding group of Masons, see their web page at:

www.nationalsojourners.org Gratification Comes in the Doing, not in the Results.

Record Your Statistics

instances Several have occured when the Grand Lodge office needed to contact a member only to find there was no telephone number listed. Two of these occasions were of an urgent nature. Take a moment and send a note to Grand Lodge (attention Linda Z.) or pick up the phone and give her a call to have your records updated including any change of address. In addition, vour Lodge secretary should receive the same information. Not having this could cause an unwanted and unnecessary suspension for non-payment of dues. We can't notify you of a problem if we don't have your current address of phone informaton.

Trip To Israel Masonic Trip To Israel

On Oct. 30, 2004 at the request of the Worshipful Master, Samir Farran, of Galilee Lodge No. 31 in Nazareth, Israel, Bro. Maurice F. Weisberg H.P.M. in company with Bro. William Oettel of Jephthah Lodge No. 222, Essex Md. were invited to attend a special installation meeting, at which time Bro. H.P.M. Maurice F. Weisberg was to be honored for his work as a founding member in helping to regain the Charter for Galilee Lodge No. 31.

Masons from all over Israel, which included 57 Masters, Past Masters and the Grand Master of Masons in Israel, ILL. Bro. Chaim Henry Gehl, and the Grand Line Officers. There was also in attendance the Ambassador of Venezuela, who is a Mason, and ILL. Bro. Leon Zeldis Past Grand Commander Supreme Council 33rd Degree for the State of Israel.

After the installation meeting Bro. Maurice F. Weisberg was given Grand Masonic Honors by Grand Master Gehl, and was presented with an autographed copy of the Jubilee Book of 50 years of Masonry in Israel. Grand Master Gehl also presented him with a Jubilee 50 year book for Grand Master John Young for the Grand Lodge Library, which he also autographed.



For the occasion, W.M. Arthur Dickerson Jr. of Jephthah Lodge No. 222 appointed Bro. H.P.M. Maurice F. Weisberg as Goodwill Ambassador to Galilee Lodge No. 31 and a framed letter of the appointment was presented to W.M. Samir Farran.

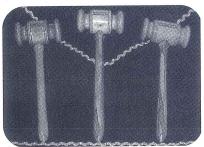
At the meeting of Oct. 30, 2004, there were in attendance 147

Dinner was served following the meeting with wives attending, Harmony and Brotherly Love prevailed in Friendship with many Jews and Arabs in attendance.

After the dinner W.M. Samir Farran presented to Bro. H.P.M. Maurice F. Weisberg and Bro. William Oettel three gavels made from an olive (Continued on page 8)



Continued from page 7) tree thought to be 1000 years. old, and were inscribed with Galilee Lodge No. 31, 30/10/04 to be given to Jephthah Lodge No. 222





in remembrance of the occasion to be used at the three stations.

Any brother who desires to become a founding member of Galilee Lodge No. 31 can contact Bro. Maurice F. Weisberg at 410-238-1994 or email weisberg202@aol.com.



M. W. Bro. Belanger proudly sporting his new white hat that was presented to him in Calgary.

Visitors can become honorary Calgarians through a unique presentation where they receive a white cowboy hat and take a



Three distinguished Maryland Masons - from the left: Ray F. Bosley, Supreme Tall Cedar and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Maryland; M.W. Bro. Ronald G. Belanger, Grand Master of Masons in Maryland and Chairman of the 2005 Conference of Grand Masters in Calgary, Canada and Illustrious Sir and Bro. Raoul L. Frevel, Sr., Imperial Potentate.

(Picture take at the conference in February, 2005)



Other Maryland conference attendees - from the left: R.W. Bro. Herbert Holcomb, Grand Secretary, and Iwife Millie; First Lady Karen Belanger (standing), Pat Biggs; M.W. Grand Master Ronald Belanger, and Deputy Grand Master Jack Biggs.

pledge agreeing to spread Calgary's brand of hospitality around the world.

A white cowboy hat is a

metaphor for Calgary and its people and a distinctive souvenir.

Will he wear it to Grand Lodge?

Hmm, you must come to find out.



Wages of a Mason

Masonic labor is purely a labor of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed.

The wages of a Mason are earned and paid in their dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, these are the wages of a Mason."

Brother Benjamin Franklin.

The Grand Lodge A. F. and A.M.of Maryland

A Journey in Seeking the Light

The year is 1783 and the new United States of America has ratified a treaty of peace with Great Britain. American independence has been recognized. Throughout the former colonies, state governments are functioning almost as independent countries within a Confederation of States. On December 23, 1783, George Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in Annapolis, Maryland on the desk that is on view at the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. For Freemasons in Maryland, the urge to establish their own Masonic destiny takes root in a meeting called by five lodges at the Talbot County Court House. Their purpose was to found a Grand Lodge and place John Coats, M.D. as their Grand Master. These lodges, as well as Dr. Coats, himself, who was a Deputy Grand Master of Pennsylvania, were primarily com-Pennsylvania posed of Freemasons who petitioned the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a charter to form a new Grand Lodge. Perhaps due to some debate as to its power to so act,

the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania delayed action on this petition.

Meeting once again in April of 1787, the same five lodges established the Grand Lodge of Maryland on April 17, 1787 and elected Dr. John Coats as their first Right Worshipful Grand Master. The Grand Master¹s title was changed from Right Worshipful to Most Worshipful Grand Master well into the 1800s.

At the formation of Grand Lodge, there were lodges in Maryland chartered by Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, England and Ireland. After 1787, most of these lodges were rechartered by the new Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Prior to the 1780s, Masonic activity had existed not only on the Eastern Shore, but also in Southern Maryland and at Fells Point. Records in our Grand Lodge Museum show Masonic Lodge activity in Leonardtown, Maryland as early as 1762. In 1750, Masons were active in Annapolis, and other lodges existed in Port Tobacco, Joppa, Talbot Court House, Frederick, and, no doubt, other locations.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania chartered lodges in 1765 at Georgetown, No. 6 and Chestertown, No. 7. In 1770, Pennsylvania chartered Fells Point, No. 15 (later Washington, No. 3) and, in 1773, Baltimore, No. 16.

During the Revolution, Masonry in Maryland grew rapidly. Prior to 1776, it is estimated that the five Maryland lodges had 250 members. Again, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania chartered Maryland Military Lodge, No. 27, attached to the Maryland Line. Worshipful Master Mordecai Gist, who became one of Washington¹s

generals, presided over the lodge. Many celebrated figures belonged to lodge including Baron de Kalb, General William Smallwood, Colonel John Eager Howard, Colonel Otho Holland Williams, Colonel Nathan Ramsey, Colonel Paul Bentalou. Masons of note, who belonged to other Maryland Lodges during the pre-Grand Lodge of Maryland period, included young Samuel Smith and Joshua Barney, both of whom were heroes in the War of 1812. Commodore Barney¹s apron is on display in our Museum. Dr. Frederick Wiesenthal of Lodge, No. 16, headed the Hospital Service during the Revolution.

Under Dr. Coats, himself a Revolutionary War officer, the Grand Lodge of Maryland grew. In 1793, the Grand Lodge of Maryland began holding the Annual Communication in April in Baltimore. Until 1822, Grand Lodge met in the lodge rooms of Concordia Lodge, No. 13. On April 13, 1793, in Baltimore, Concordia became the first lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Maryland and first met on Water Street in the City. Today, City Hall, in Baltimore, sits on Concordia Lodge¹s second meeting site that, in 1813 was the second floor of the Old Watch House on Guilford Avenue, then called Belvedere Street.

In 1822, The Grand Lodge occupied its new home on St. Paul Street near Lexington, now the site of the Mitchell Court House.

During the first forty-five years of its existence, the Grand Lodge participated in several notable public events. On September 18, 1793, the Grand Lodge, together with Alexandria Lodge, No. 22 of Virginia (President Washington¹s lodge of which he was past master) and (Continued on page 10)



Continued from page 9)

Amanda Lodge, No. 13 of Annapolis, joined in the Grand Procession for the laying of the cornerstone of the national Capitol building in the capital city of Washington. In Masonic attire, President Washington, joined by Joseph Clark, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, functioning as Grand Master pro-tem laid the cornerstone. In 1818, the Grand Lodge laid the Cornerstone of the Washington Monument at Mount Vernon Place in Baltimore with the Governor of Maryland, Grand Master Levin Winder presiding. The trowel used at this event, as well as the 1814 cornerstone laying of the St. Paul Street Temple, is on display in the Grand Lodge Museum.

In 1823, when General, the Marquis de Lafayette, toured the United States, he was entertained by the Grand Lodge when visiting Baltimore and was made an honorary Maryland Mason.

On July 4, 1828, Grand Master Benjamin C. Howard, former Congressman and son of Brother John Eager Howard, together with the Grand Lodge, laid the cornerstone of the first railroad in America, the B & O. Brother Howard was assisted in breaking ground by the 91 year old, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll of Carrollton. Despite the depiction in the film National Treasure, Mr. Carroll was not a Freemason. A print of the painting of this event made in the 1920s for the B & O Centennial is on display in our Museum as well as Masonic aprons worn in the Grand Parade held to commemorate the cornerstone laying. In 1829, Grand

Lodge conducted a similar cornerstone laying for the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad (Northern Central) later a part of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

We end this first installment of the history of the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1828 on the eve of the Morgan affair and the advent of anti-Masonry. Our next installment will take us from 1829 through 1885.

Much assistance in this effort is attributable to the writings and efforts of Edward T. Shultz, Charles Everstine and Charles Stein and their respective histories of the Grand Lodge of Maryland.

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III Librarian and Curator Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Library and Museum of the Grand Lodge of Maryland

109th CONGRESS 1st Session H. RES. 17

Recognizing the thousands of Freemasons in every State in the

Nation and honoring them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRE-SENTATIVES January 4, 2005 Mr. GILLMOR (for himself and Mr. KINGSTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the thousands of Freemasons in every State in the

Nation, and honoring them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history.

Whereas Freemasons, whose long lineage extends back to before the Nation's founding, have set an example of high moral standards and charity for all people; Whereas the Founding Fathers of

this great Nation and signers of the Constitution, most of whom were Freemasons, provided a well-rounded basis for developing themselves and others into valuable citizens of the United States:

Whereas members of the Masonic Fraternity, both individually and as an organization, continue to make invaluable charitable contributions of service to the United States; Whereas the Masonic Fraternity continues to provide for the charitable relief and education of the citizens of the United States; Whereas the Masonic Fraternity is deserving of formal recognition

Of their long history of care-giving for the citizenry and their example of high moral standards; and Whereas Freemasons have always revered and celebrated St. John's Day, June 24th, as dedicated to their patron saints: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives recogthousands nizes the Freemasons in every State in the Nation and honors them for their many contributions to the Nation throughout its history.

Grand Lecturer's Message

Those of you who had the privilege of attending the Grand Lodge of Maryland's 2005 Grand Line Installation of Officers witnessed some of the finest Installation Ritual performances this Grand Lecturer has seen in over 40 years. Through the leadership of our Grand Master, Ronald G. Belanger, his 2005 line of officers were nothing short of being outstanding in providing the introductions and charges to the officers of subordinate Lodges to be installed and invested. This level of performance (Continued on page 11)



Continued from page 10)

did not happen by accident. It began by a careful selection by the Grand Master of those he chose to be Grand Line Officers for 2005. The Grand Master led the way by stating he would memorize the Installation Service and hoped his line would follow his example for each of their assigned parts. Each member of the Grand Line worked very hard to provide the level of excellence expected by our Grand Master. Installation after installation your Grand Line received excellent comments on their ritual work. They have done themselves, the Grand Line, Maryland Masonry and The Grand Master of Maryland proud with their work.

I would like to thank our Deputy Grand Lecturers for their continued support for the ritual of the Grand Lodge and their many hours spent working with individual officers and lodges. Please, every Lodge should attend the Deputy Grand Lecturer's School of Instruction. Maryland Masonry, as we know it, would not exist if were not for these few dedicated men who give so much time and energy preserving our Ritual.

We are trying to provide some standard documentation for those areas of our work that can be documented. I would like to caution you that it is against our obligation to write any part of the ritual that is not part of a public event. You will find that the "Open Installation" process has been modified and reissued. Guidelines for "One-Day Class" for subordinate Lodges has been modified and reissued. Several lodges have conducted "Table Lodges" using different variations. In keeping with Maryland Masonic tradition our Grand Master asked that we provide a single "Grand Lodge of Maryland Table Lodge". This was completed and approved by the Grand Master on February 5, 2005. The guidelines for the "Conferral of the Past Master's Degree" has been standardized and issued. These documents have been provided to your Deputy Grand Lecturer and to the President of the Board of Grand Inspectors, Jerry Piepiora. I would like to thank those who provided input and corrections to areas that needed correcting. These are living documents and to be used by each lodge. If you need copies please call the Grand Lodge and they will make sure you receive a copy. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our Ritual please do not hesitate to call your Deputy Grand Lecturer or myself. Thank you for your continued support of Maryland Masonry

> Dave Schneider Grand Lecturer

THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND CRAB FEAST & BULL ROAST AUGUST 27, 2005

Join the Grand Master and his 2005 Line of Officers for a great social afternoon. There will be plenty of FOOD, MUSIC AND FUN FOR ALL. LADIES INVITED.

To purchase tickets: Please call the Grand Lodge Office on 410-527-0600 or: Dave Schneider – 410-247-4039; Bradley Andrukitis – 301-738-1932; Dennis Neble – 410-442-1663; Bill Whitaker – 410-569-6150; Charlie White – 410-734-4329.

No tickets will be sold at the door.

DATE—8/27/05 TIME—1 P.M. TO 6 P.M. MENU Unlimited Steamed Crabs Plus Pit Beef & Ham Beef Barbecue All kinds of sides Music, Raffles & Prizes COST \$30.00 PER PERSON BEFORE 8/21/05 \$34.00 PER PERSON AFTER 8/21/05

Help your Grand Lodge by attending and making this a successful event.

Dave Schneider, R.W.S.G.W.
Chairman

July 4th

G.M. Belanger says "whether he is there or not", the "Hill" will once again be available to you and your family to bring your picnic lunch, sodas, lawn chairs, etc. and have a good time socializing and enjoying the fireworks display from Oregon Ridge.

Our Grand Secretary. R.W. Bro. Herb Holcomb will be on hand to see the Grand Lodge is open, and to conduct tours as needed.

Citizen Award Dinner

The Boy Scouts of America conducted a Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner on April 5th at the Talbot Country Club in Easton, MD.

Their honoree this year was Judge Marvin H. Smith, who is retired from the Maryland Court of Appeals, and Past High Priest of Edenton Royal Arch Chapter No. 36; Past Treasurer of Adoniram Council No. 21, and a member of Chesapeake Commandery No. 10, Knights Templar; Boumi Temple, AAONMS; Nanticoke Chapter No. 64, Order of the Eastern Star and Past Master of Nanticoke Lodge No. 172, AF & AM.

We commend Judge Smith, and thank him for all the good things he has done for the nation, the state, our fraternity and his community.



GRAND LODGE SUMMER SCHOOL - 2005

"PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGES"

This year our Grand Lodge Summer School will return to (8) eight evenings. The schools will be held in the Grand Lodge Room, Cockeysville, Md. However, we will be making some modifications to shorten the evening and provide closer attention to the corrections of the ritual. The schools will begin at 7:00 P.M. (NOTE: NEW STARTING TIME). The dress code will be casual. Please no jeans or tank tops.

Example: We will have two nights for the first degree. There will not be a catechism after each degree. The lecture will be given after the Lodge has been closed and only those interested in hearing the lecture need to stay. This allows those who must leave early to do so.

The three catechisms will be given on a special evening. This will allow each lodge to bring their INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE AND their RITUALIST to review all three catechisms' in one evening, thereby saving them two nights of attending summer school.

We will select the line for conferring the third degree on the last night of School. However, we will not do the lecture. Certificates of attendance will be distributed. Refreshments will follow.

There will be a Special Events evening.

The schedule for our school this year is:

JULY 5 - 7 P.M. Grand Master's Lodge will open our School.

The three Catechisms and The Lodge of Sorrow

JULY 12 - 7P.M. - First Degree (LECTURE AFTER DEGREE IS CLOSED)

JULY 19 - 7 P.M. - Fellow Craft Degree

JULY 26 - 7 P.M. - Third Degree (LECTURE AFTER DEGREE IS CLOSED)

AUGUST 2 - 7 P.M.- SPECIAL EVENTS EVENING (GMW, Memorial Service)

AUGUST 9 - 7 P.M. - First Degree (LECTURE AFTER DEGREE IS CLOSED)

AUGUST 16 - 7 P.M. - Fellow Craft Degree

AUGUST 23 - 7 P.M. - FINAL EVENING -Third Degree, Certificates, refreshments

State Schools will held at the following locations

July 7 - Hagerstown 217- 7:30 P.M. - Fellow Craft Degree

July 21 - Columbia 58 - 7:30 P.M. - Entered Apprentice Degree

August 4 - Friendship 84 – 7:30 P.M. - Third Degree

Potomac 100 – August 16 – 7:00 P.M. - Entered Apprentice Degree

Wicomico 91 - July 14 - 7:00 P.M. - Third Degree

Cambridge 66 - July 28 - 7:30 P.M. - Open in long form, balloting

Centerville 180 - August 18 - 7:30 P.M. - Fellow Craft Degree

Centennial 174 – July 21, July 28, August 4, August 11 - The three degrees and a special events evening on the last night.

We are hoping these modifications will improve our attendance. If you have any suggestions please send them to any Deputy Grand Lecturer, or to me.

Questions from those in attendance are welcomed and encouraged. Please attend that you might share in our brotherhood and education while preserving our Masonic ritual.

Dave Schneider Grand Lecturer 410-247-4039

e-mail: daves@maxinter.net



20th ANNIVERSARY

Masonic Charities of Maryland celebrates its 20th anniversary.

Twenty Years Ago! It was in May 1985 when the M.W.G.M., at that time, Bro. C. David Haacke, received Grand Lodge approval to carry out his vision of a statewide charitable organization designed to help our young people. As a result, Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. (MCM) was incorporated in August 1985. Shortly thereafter, in September 1985. MCM became officially qualified under Federal Law as a 501(c) (3) charitable organization. With this IRS approval, funding for MCM began immediately through private donations and fundraisers. Since then. through its Student Assistance Program, addressing the problem of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse among young people, its Scholarship Educational Grant Program, and other endeavors, MCM has assisted literally thousands of young people throughout our state. In addition, MCM has provided \$1,600,000.00 to these programs and endeavors. All of this has been awarded in the name of the Masons of Maryland to help our young people and to gain recognition for Masonry. As for MCM founder, MWPGM, Bro. C. David Haacke, he is still, after 20 years. very active and dedicated to MCM as a board member and the driving force behind all activities

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 Brother Stephen Ponzillo, 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 the 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 young people through our sponsorship and partnership with Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) within the public school systems throughout the State of Maryland. During this period MSAP trained 271 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 Feb 7, 2005, the Annual MSAP Team Chairs Symposium was conducted and attended by the Team Leaders throughout the State. M.W.G.M. Ronald G. Belanger opened the symposium with a very powerful message. He related to this program through Masonry and the many volunteers, working together, have helped children and families caught in the cycle of addiction. He also emphasized how it has helped those children depressed and suicidal, and in some instances saved lives. All in attendance gave him a standing ovation. He made us proud to be a Mason. Currently, there are over 300 active teams with over 2,500 volunteer members who have been trained and supported through the partnership of MSAP and Masonic

Charities of Maryland, to which they have committed. Our thanks to Brother Mike Codori, Montgomery Lodge No. 195 for his dedicated efforts in his leadership role in making this critically needed youth oriented program such a success.

In addition, Board Members have been very busy making preparations to sponsor their major fundraiser - the Sixteenth Annual Regional Charity Golf Tournament at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, MD on June 6, 2005. The progress during the past fifteen tournaments has been very gratifying and has provided substantial support for Masonic Charities of Maryland's youth oriented programs. Thanks to M.W.P.G.M., 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, Ray Crumling and the General Golf Committee for their tireless efforts behind the scenes in helping make the necessary preparations for another successful golf tournament. These Golf Outings have realized over \$300,000 and resulted in numerous petitions for membership into Freemasonry.

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

Free State Freemason

Brethren, in the last issue we announced that Bro. Keith Vivian, assisted (Continued on page 14)



Continued from page 13)

by his lovely wife Judy, would be taking over as editor of this newsletter. Keith has been doing an outstanding job of handling the printing end of the task, and volunteered to give the whole thing a try.

Upon sitting down with the editor to be brought up to speed on all that is required in the way of software and hardware and a working knowledge of the same; Keith, not wanting to do anything less than a great job, decided it would be more than he and Judy could handle.

Therefore, we have been discussing an alternative route. I will continue on until we can put a satisfactory system in place, and I hope that will be soon in coming.

John R. Biggs, Jr. Deputy Grand Master

April 10 Ceremony

By the time you read this, the proclamation signing ceremonies will be history - I hope many of you had the chance to attend to witness this very large piece of Masonic history. Grand Master Belanger hoped to use it as a vehicle to get the fraternity out in front of the public - therefore, we aimed for as much media coverage as we could possibly get - several politicians had been invited, as well as all the Grand Master from the surrounding area.

In the next issue I will give you a report on how it went, and what kind of press we ended up with, although, if we are successful, at least those in the local area of Baltimore will hopefully know by reading their local papers.

Pictures Wanted

The Tremont Hotel in Baltimore is the purchaser of the former Grand Lodge at 225 N. Charles Street. The Tremont is restoring

and renovating the historic building and positively presenting its heritage as the long-time headquarters of Maryland Freemasonry.

With the consent of two Grand Masters, the Grand Lodge Museum has assisted the Tremont in presenting the "Masonic Story" as it pertains to 225 N. Charles Street.

The hotel has asked for formal or candid photographs of the former use of individual rooms. In the museum, we have formal photographs, but not much in the way of candid photographs. If you have photographs of installations dinners, parties (holiday, etc.) or organization anniversaries, and would like to share them for possible use in displays outside of the room in which the photograph was taken, please contact me. We would also be interested in adding such photographs for our own museum collection.

The Tremont will bear the cost of copying photographs and all originals will be returned to their owners.

The "old" Masonic Temple on Charles Street will still positively reflect on Masonry and your photos will add to telling the story to those who will attend events at what will debut as "The Tremont Grand" in September, 2005.

Thanks for your help in this matter.

Stephen Ponzillo Curator/Librarian Grand Lodge Museum

Editor's Note: If you do not wish to part with your originals, scan them, or take them to a photo shop and have a duplicate made. Most photo shops have a photo reproducer that you can use or have someone there do it for you.

To change and to improve are two different things.

.-German proverb

150th Year Celebration

At least two of our Maryland Lodges will be celebrating their 150th anniversary this year.

The first will be Potomac Lodge No. 100 in Cumberland. They will celebrate their anniversary on April 21st with an open house from 3 to 5 p.m., followed by a banquet at 6 p.m. The open house is available to all, however advance tickets and reservations must be made for the banquet through the Lodge.

Then will come Howard 101 on May 16, 2005. The Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald G. Belanger and the Grand Lodge Officers will attend. Master Masons and invited guest are invited. Dinner begins at 6:15 P.M. Held at Howard Lodge, Elkridge.

Lodge Courtesy

Lodge courtesy is founded in the Golden Rule. It oils the Masonic wheels and enable them to revolve without creaking. It smoothes the path of all in the Lodge, and proves to all the truth of the ritualistic explanation of that "more noble and glorious purpose" to which we are taught to put the trowel.

There is a special Lodge courtesy to be observed in all debates to any motion.

One speaks to the Master; the Master is the Lodge. One does not turn one's back on him to address the Lodge without permission from him. One stands to order when addressing the chair; some salute must always be given when addressing the Master. The spectacle of two brethren on their feet at the same time, arguing over a motion, facing each other and ignoring the Master, is not one which any Master should permit. But it is also one which no Master should have to prevent - in other words, it should never occur.





The Tall Cedar's Annual wreath laying at the tomb of W. Bro. George Washington in Mt. Vernon, Virginia. This ceremony was held on March 13, 2005.

From the left: R. W. Bro. Wm Raymond Bosley, Jr., Supreme Tall Cedar and Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, M.W. Bro. Leonard Proden, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, M.W. Bro. John R. Quinley, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, M.W. Bro. Ronald G. Belanger, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, and two Brothers from the Tall Cedars' Color Guard.

This is one of the very few times that the tomb of George Washington is open to allow visitors to enter and have their picture taken in the tomb.

Spring 2005 15

Maryland Masonic Calendar



Schedule of Events

<u>May</u>

14 - Semi-Annual
Communication of Grand
Lodge - Coffee & Donuts will
be served at 8: a.m. Grand
Lodge Convenes at 9:00
a.m. Saturday!!!

June

6 - The Sixteenth Annual Regional Charity Golf Tournament at the Talbot Country Club, Easton, MD

11 - Family Day Picnic

24 - Testimonial dinner honoring Ed Kraft and Jack Frazier, please put this date on your schedule - Tickets will be available through Grand Lodge.

July

4 - Annual celebration on the hill in front of Grand Lodge.

AUGUST

7 - Grand Master's Ball

October

15 - Harvest Home Day
Schedule:
6:25 First bus leaves Executive

Plaza for blood donors.

6:30 Blood donors start

7:00 Food will be served

7:00 Gates open - Harvest Home

Day festivities begin

7:15 String band entertainment

8:00 Grand Master to address assembly

8:15 Highlanders entertainment Tours of Grand Lodge & Museum begin (weather permitting)

8:30 Drum Corp

9:00 Tours of Masonic Homes

begin - Cooking stops - Pie

served

9:30 Serving stops
Second tour of Masonic Homes

10:00 Festivities concluded

10:30 Last bus leaves hill

NOVEMBER

19 - Annual Communication of Grand Lodge

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

Freestate Freemason 304 International Circle Cockeysville, MD 21030 Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 295 Waldorf, MD

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