

From the Grand Master



Brethren:

By the time you read this, Spring will be upon us, hopefully bringing warmer weather. While I have grown tired of the cold, however, with respect to the fraternity, the winter has been most enjoyable. I was invited, along with my Grand Line, to preside over 21 installations of officers, and had a wonderful time doing it. What a wonderful sight to stand in the East and see Lodge rooms overflowing with members and guests. And what a good impression my Grand Line made on everyone as they went about their task of installing the new officers for 2008.

On the first of March, I had the distinct pleasure of attending Waverly Lodge, and sitting in the East for the first section of my oldest son's Entered Apprentice Degree. What an enjoyable night that was. I am very grateful to the Worshipful Master and brothers of the Lodge for allowing me to do this.

The Regional Meetings are now behind us, and my thanks to the Lodges that permitted us to use their facilities to host this event. And my thanks to those that took the time from their busy schedules to come out, socialize and listen to the presentations. I was quite pleased to see the large turnouts we had this year for the regional meetings.

For years and years Maryland Masons have focused their attention on supporting the needs and goals of our communities. I am very appreciative of the support our Lodges are showing for the Maryland Child Identification Program (MdChip) I put in place this year. I feel strongly that it is a wonderful way to get the Lodges in their communities to show them some of the many things we undertake for the good of society, and a wonderful benefit for our youth and their families. I hope all Lodges will take part in some fashion. As soon as we have our Lodges set up to begin the Chip program, I intend to contact the Baltimore Sun, local newspapers here in Baltimore Co. and meet with the Superintendent of Schools and other media in an effort to get the word out. Once your Lodge has this program in place, the Lodge coordinator should make contact with their local media, explain the program and ask that they advertise the date(s) you will make this service available to the public. This program is definitely a win – win situation for the Lodges and their communities. Brother Marlin Mills has agreed to chair this program for us, and all questions pertaining to it should be directed to him.

I hope the Lodges will continue to show their support at the Grand Lodge by reserving a table, or sharing a table with Lodges in their respective districts, to the various events coming up this spring and summer. First on the list is the Bull Roast on April 27th, Family Day at Bonnie Blink on June 7th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Grand Master's Ball on July 26th. Brethren, we do not price these events to make a profit – the cost of your ticket goes to the caterer in its entirety to assure you of a very nice event. The Grand Master's Ball has always been a most enjoyable evening – this year we plan on making it even better – we have been able to contract with the Hubcaps. This is an outstanding group of entertainers. Join us during these events, and have a great time in your Grand Lodge.

Fraternally,
John R. Biggs, Jr.
Grand Master

2008 Grand Line Officers

M. Worshipful Grand Master John R. Biggs, Jr.
R. W. Deputy Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.
R. W. Sr. Grand Warden Spyridon G. Treklas
R. W. Jr. Grand Warden Marvin E. Printz
R. W. Grand Secretary Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
R. W. Grand Treasurer William E. Gyr
W. Grand Marshal Julius H. Poston
W. Asst. Grand Marshal Jay W. Hodges
W. Grand Lecturer R. Gary Pierce
W. Asst. Grand Lecturer Paul H. Fishell
W. Grand Chaplain Elwood L. Ulmer
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Walter F. Burgess
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Jack R. George
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Leslie G. Metcalf, Sr.
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Richard C. Oursler
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain Randall A. Schoch
W. Sr. Grand Deacon Robert H. Hill, Jr.
W. Jr. Grand Deacon R. Bruce Tanner
W. Sr. Grand Steward Frederick A. Spicer
W. Jr. Grand Steward Dan B. Lane
W. Grand Standard Bearer Leslie G. Metcalf, Jr.
W. Grand Sword Bearer Shawn R. Winpigher, Sr.
W. Grand Pursuivant John B. Rogalski, Jr.
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies Ronald A. Hill, Sr.
Aide to Grand Master Thomas A. Keller
Aide to Grand Master Charles W. Winkler
W. Grand Tyler Gregory B. Hudnet
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Mark E. Hartz
W. Asst. Grand Tyler Richard H. Uren
W. Grand Organist Ronald L. Unger
W. Asst. Grand Organist Kenneth C. Mars
W. Grand Photographer W. Grant Gibson

Remember to make your reservations for the Grand Lodge
Bull & Oyster Roast April 27th. See page 5 for details.

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

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

Send mail to:
Grand Lodge of Maryland
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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

FSFM@glmd.org

Grand Lodge Website
<http://www.mdmasons.org>

Article Submission

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

Original pictures or pictures from a digital camera on disk are fine - use the highest resolution.

Ink jet prints or newspaper pictures **will not** reproduce satisfactorily.

If you desire the return of pictures, they must have submitting individual's name on the back.

Pictures should have accompanying documentation detailing who is in the picture and what the picture represents if not accompanied by an article. Articles must be typewritten.

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

Change in Election of Grand Lodge Officers

Brethren,

Beginning in 2008, the Grand Lodge of Maryland will be electing its Officers and Board Members at the Semi-Annual Communication in May. They will then be installed at the Annual Communication in November. This will give the Officers the opportunity to learn their elected office prior to serving.

You will see the resumes for these Officers in this issue of the Free State Freemason.

There is also an amendment to the Constitution that will allow all "uncontested officers to be declared elected from the East, and contested offices will be balloted on individually, secret, and written."

Remember Brethren, this is your chance to have a voice in Grand Lodge. Make sure your Lodge representatives attend the Semi-Annual Communication on May 17, 2008.



The Grand Lodge of Maryland Ballroom Rentals

Contact: Raymond J. Vogel, Ballroom Coordinator at 410-527-0289

E-Mail: glballroom@glmd.org, Fax 410-316-9410

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday by appointment.

Catering: Approved list of caterers.

Ballroom Capacity: Receptions, 320, with a nice dance area. 410 for banquets without dance area. Separate room for Weddings and Special Events.

Rates: Call for information.

Parking: Free on site, 178 spaces.

Information: Foyer is marble with a fantastic staircase. Ballroom is 55 ft. x 111 ft., with hardwood floors. Twelve brass chandeliers, dance area depends on table setup. A must see in person to really experience the beauty of this facility. Call us and come see our Ballroom in this beautiful Hunt Valley setting.



License Plates



Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home. You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. (*Motorcycle tags are not available*)

Be proud of your fraternity and display these plates on your car this year.

Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

Chair Plaques are for chairs located in the Corinthian Room on the second floor of Grand Lodge. You may have your own name on a plaque, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Tree of Life is located in the main lobby of the Grand Lodge Building. You can sponsor a leaf on the tree, or have it in memory of, or to honor a person, club, or group.

The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each.

This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line.

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

Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. Candidate for the office of Most Worshipful Grand Master



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

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

Leadership Positions: Webmaster, Maryland Masonic Family since inception in 1994; Director of Work, AASR Baltimore Valley, 1998; Deputy Grand Lecturer, District 8, 2003; Board of Trustees, 2005; Executive Committee, 2005; Chairman - Policy Committee, 2005; AASR

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

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

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Candidate for the office of
R W Deputy Grand Master



I am a candidate for the Office of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master.

Professionally, I am retired from the public schools in Maryland after thirty-seven years. I have Bachelors and Masters degrees from Towson University and have advanced studies at five other area universities. For twenty-seven years, I served as a Principal and Assistant Principal at middle and high schools and was a teacher for eight years. Currently, I help train new public school teachers and teach graduate courses at Towson University.

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

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

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

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

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

Kenneth Taylor
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden



Masonic Resume: My Masonic journey began in 1991 at Howard Lodge No. 101 and in the years 1997, 1998 & 2000 I was privileged to serve as Worshipful Master.

I was honored to achieve the Grand Master's Award in all three years, twice with distinction. I now serve as the lodge Marshal and Ritualist. In 2004 I was appointed Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer. Also I was appointed as a Grand Inspector, a job I truly enjoy. In 1992 I joined the Scottish Rite and Boumi Temple. I was a part of the last York Rite festival class to be held at the old Grand Lodge building.

I have earned the Gold Card for ritual in the

Grand Master's Pursuit of Excellence Program. Other organizations I participate in are: Baltimore Highlands Square Club - Past President and current Treasurer; Member of State Trooper Lodge No. 69 F.O.P.; Catonsville Elks No. 2323-Past Exalted Ruler.

I am a candidate for Rite Worshipful Senior Grand Warden. It would be a great honor to serve the Grand Lodge of Maryland and the brethren of the craft.

John M. Lister
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden



Masonic History:

Annapolis Lodge No. 89 - Raised 1994, Worshipful Master 1998 & 2004; Secretary 1999 & 2000, Annapolis Lodge Board of Trustees, 1996 thru 2000. Grand Lodge of Maryland - Worshipful Grand Standard Bearer, 1999; Grand Master's Steering Committee 1999, Board of Managers, appointed to vacancy 2000, elected thru 2005; Worshipful Grand Marshal, 2001 & 2002; Deputy Grand Lecturer, 2001 to present.

Masonic Affiliation: Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore - Member, 1996, Diplomat, 1997. A.A.O.N.M.S., Boumi Temple - Member, 1996. Annapolis Shrine Club - Member, 1998. Central MD Past Masters Assoc. - Charter Member and Chaplain 1999, President 2004. York Rite - Mr. Vernon Chapter No. 25, Member 1999, Past High Priest; Harmony Council, No. 20, Member 1999; Palestine Commandery No. 7 - Member 1999

Civic Activities: Volunteer Fire Fighter, Baltimore County; Hydroplane Racing Rescue Team

Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
Candidate for the office of
R W Grand Secretary



Masonic Background:

Past Master of Oriental Lodge No. 158 in 1982, 1989, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2003. Past Grand Inspector, Past VP of the Board of Grand Inspectors, Past Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon, Past Member of the Board of Managers, Past President of the Past Master's Association of Baltimore City/County and currently is the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary.

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

William E. Gyr
Candidate for the office of
R W Grand Treasurer



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

Education: Certificate in Accounting from Johns Hopkins University. This

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

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

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

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

Louis F. Bandell, Jr.
Candidate for the
Board of Managers



Masonic Resume: Member of Warren Lodge No. 51. Past Master of Joppa Lodge No. 132 in 1967 & 1975; Past Master of Warren Lodge No. 51 in 2004; Past Master of Bonnie Blink Daylight Lodge No. 1 in 2006.

Served as a Grand Inspector for the Grand Lodge of Maryland in 1971-1973 & 2005-2006. Co-Chair of Harvest Home Day Committee from 1969-1974.

Masonic Affiliation: Scottish Rite: 32° KCCH - 1969, 33° Inspector General Honorary - 1977; Past Venerable Master Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection in 1972; Past Wise Master Meredith Chapter of Rose Croix - 1982; Past Commander Maryland Council of Kadosh - 1979; Past Venerable Master of Chesapeake

Consistory - 1977; Assistant Director of Work - 2002 & 2003

York Rite: Adoniram Chapter No. 21 - High Priest 1971, 1972, 1974; Phoenix Chapter No. 7 - High Priest 2004, 2006, 2007; Grand Chapter of Maryland - RE Grand Capt. of Hosts - 2005; RE Grand Scribe - 2006; RE Grand King - present. Concordia Council No. 1 - Thrice Illustrious Master 1975, 1976; Jerusalem Council No. 2 - Chaplain - present; Grand Council of Maryland - Grand Marshal - 1977; Crusade Commandery No. 5 KT - Eminent Commander - 2006; Grand Commandery of Maryland - Civic & Patriotic Comm. Chairman.

Tall Cedars: Baltimore Forest No. 45 - Past Preceptor

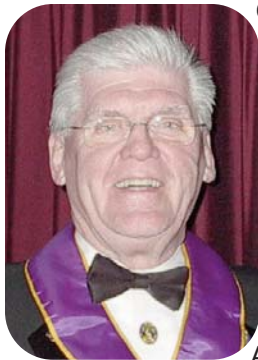
Eastern Star: Parkville Chapter No. 1969 - Past Patron.

Professional: Apprenticed as a Sheet Metal fabricator, and worked in the Baltimore area and continuing throughout his active career. As a member of Sheet Metal Workers Union 122, Brother Bandell worked in and with many Baltimore Area firms. His final employment was with the National Security Agency. His career was marked by progressive responsibility and independent action.

Brother Bandell has a long and broad history in all areas of Masonic Fraternity, giving him a balanced view of the ongoing challenges to long term operations. His principal professional talent which he brings to the Board of Managers is critical thinking, problem analysis and creative problem solving.

Financial management & budgeting are skills acquired in the various fraternal organizations in which he has presided. Learning to succeed in the groups' missions often on limited funds is one of the talents Bro. Lou learned in the chairs.

Robert W. Chase Candidate for the Board of Managers



Career: Fifteen (15) years in radio broadcasting. Twenty (20) plus years as an Account Manager. Currently Branch Sales Manager for Print-O-Stat, Inc..

Masonic Resume: Raised in Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 in 1996. Appointed Line Officer Mt.

Moriah Lodge No. 116 1997. Worshipful Master Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 2002

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

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

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

Clifton Friel Candidate for the Board of Managers



Masonic Resume: Clifton began his Masonic career at Temple Lodge No. 128 in Denton, Maryland on November 28, 1967, Worshipful Master in 1974, Secretary since 1985 and Treasurer of the Mid-Eastern Shore Past Masters' Association since 1975.

In 1991, Clifton was the first recipient of the Grand Lodge's Warren S. Seipp Medal for Meritorious Service and has served as Grand Inspector for six years.

In the York Rite, Cliff has served as the presiding officer of all York Rite bodies in Denton earning him Knight of the York Rite Cross of Honor. Cliff has also served as presiding Grand Officer of three York Rite Bodies and received the order of the Purple Cross. He has served as Sovereign Master of the Allied Degrees, and is an officer in St. Cyprian Conclave Red Cross of Constantine, Francis Scott Key Priory Knights York Cross of Honor and belongs to the Masonic Rosicrucians.

Cliff is a member of Chesapeake Consistory of the Scottish Rite as well as the Royal Order of Scotland. He joined the Caroline Chapter OES in 1975 and has served as Worthy Patron nine times.

If elected I will bring my activity in Masonic leadership positions to continued service to the Grand Lodge and to our Grand Master.

Raoul L. Frevel, Sr. Candidate for the Board of Trustees



Raoul served on the Shriners Hospitals for Children Board of Trustees during the Shriners' 2006 annual international convention for Imperial Council Session - held in Tampa, Fla., July 2-6. Frevel served as Imperial Potentate (president and CEO of Shriners of North America) in 2004-2005.

Frevel is a consultant of operations and was chief executive officer of Atlantic Caterers Inc. from 1977-1997. Atlantic, an off-premise caterer, is a family business that has been incorporated since 1968. Frevel has also been active in the National Association of Catering Executives in Maryland.

Frevel was raised in 1972 at Concordia Lodge No. 13, where he received the "Mason of the Year" award in 2004. He has been a member of DeMolay, serving on the Supreme Council, executive officer of Maryland from 1995-1997, the 5th Past International Master Councilor, Past State Master Councilor of Maryland and Past Master Councilor of Tuscan Chapter. He served as president of the DeMolay Foundation of Maryland from 1986-1992, and he holds the Order of DeMolay Legion of Honor. Frevel was also inducted into the DeMolay Hall of Fame in June 2004, and in June 2005, he was honored with the DeMolay Supreme Council Member of the Year Award.

Frevel served as Potentate of Boumi Shriners in 1992. He received the 33rd Degree Inspector General Honorary of the Scottish Rite in October 1997. Frevel is a member of Scottish Rite, Chesapeake Consistory, Valley of Baltimore, Orient of Maryland, and the Past Director of Royal Order of Jesters of Baltimore Court No. 82. He is also a member of Baltimore Forest No. 45, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, the Order of Quetzalcoatl, Mile Hi Teocali No. 69 and Chesapeake Teocali No. 100. He is also a life-member of the Cabiri.

Frevel served as the chairman of the Masonic Youth Committee in Maryland and as chairman of the Grand Master's Masonic Youth Day from 1983-1997.

Gene L. Purkey Candidate for the Board of Trustees



Masonic Resume: Member of Potomac Lodge No. 100. Past Master 2005 & 2006. Past Secretary and Treasurer. Past Grand Pursuivant for Grand Lodge of Maryland 2007; Board of Governors - Scottish Rite Endowment Fund; Executive Committee Member.

Professional: Perky Vettes, Inc. - Owner and President for 21 years; IBM Corp. for 30 years in various management positions.

My many years as an administrative manager at IBM Corporation as well as in my own business provide a wealth of overall business and management experiences at both a Fortune 50 corporation, and at a small business level. My skills include the ability to analyze situations from all angles and determine the best cause of action to obtain stated goals. Project management and the ability to get people to work together are also key strengths. My formal education includes an executive MBA with an emphasis on finance and marketing.

I believe my combined business and management experience qualifies me for a position on the Board of Trustees. My work experiences and appreciation for the endowment funds in my home Lodge and the Scottish Rite Endowment give me a working knowledge of the tasks required in this position.

Keith M. Vivian Candidate for the Board of Trustees



Professional: 1959-1967 Operated various office equipment and printing presses for CIA. Knowledgeable in all areas of commercial offset printing. 1978-1994 Lanman Companies - all prepress phases of printing; stripping 4 color work for phases. Proof and blues for customers approval. 1995-1997 - Salesman for Bernie's Print Shoppe. 1997-present Retired.

Masonic: Member of St. Columba Lodge No.

150. Master in 1986, 2000, 2001. Secretary 2006-present. 1991 - Appointed Grand Inspector. 1995 - Elected Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden. 1999-present Masonic Service Association, Hospital Visitation Program Chairman.

Collateral Bodies: 1992, 2006, 2007 - Worthy Patron of St. Columba Chapter No. 92, OES.

Michael P. Codori
Candidate for the
MCM Board of Directors



Professional: Career Educator: Science teacher, grades 7-12 (14 years), Zoology professor, Montgomery College (2 years), secondary administrator, grades 7-12 (15 years), intervention specialist, Safe & Drug-Free Schools (10 years). Currently, consultant and trainer, Student Assistance Program, team organization and development.

Member: National Association of Secondary School Principals, MD Association of Secondary Schools Principals, Maryland Student Assistance Program Professionals Association (president, 2000-2006).

Masonic: Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195, raised in 2002; York Rite of Montgomery County; Blue Lodge committees: Scholarship and Lodge Merger Exploration; Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) Board of Directors since 2005.

Grand Lodge of Maryland
Deluxe Bull & Oyster Roast

Day & Date: Sunday, April 27, 2008

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

Place: Grand Lodge Ballroom

Price: \$26.00 before April 15, 2008

\$30.00 after April 16, 2008

Tickets: Call, Ray Vogel 410.527.0289 or
 Grand Lodge 410.527.0600 – Jason

Menu: On the pit: Beef, Turkey, Country Smoked Ham; Bread, Rolls and Condiments; Oysters on the shell with spicy cocktail sauce; Fried padded oysters; Homemade oyster stew; Meat Lasagna, Bar-B-Q chicken; Sauerkraut & Kielbasa; Macaroni & cheese, mashed potatoes with gravy, succotash; Fresh fruit, potato salad, Caesar salad; Assorted cheeses & crackers, Seasonal vegetables with dips; Pickled beets; Coffee & iced tea; Beer & soda; Sheet cake - last hour of food.

Tables of 8

No tickets sold at door

Charity Lodge No. 134
Bus Trip

The 2nd trip is co-sponsored with Shrewsbury No. 423 F. & A. M. The trip is to the George Washington Masonic Memorial and Mt. Vernon on June 7, 2008. The trip price is \$60 per person that includes the bus fare, admission to both the Memorial and Mount Vernon and lunch at the Memorial. Everyone is welcome, Masons and their ladies and non Masons.

The tentative itinerary is to depart York Masonic Center at 7am. Pickups also will be at Shrewsbury and Charity Lodge tentatively and also at Bonnie Blink.

If interested please contact Karl Knouse, PM kklbk@basicisp.net or 410-692-5560. Make checks payable to Charity Lodge No. 134 in the amount of \$60/reservation and mail to:

Karl Knouse, PM

2215 Jerrys Road

Street Maryland 21154-1014

Fraternally, Fred Laser, WM

IOJD Visits 98 Rock/WBAL

On December 28, 2007, Bethel 35 IOJD, Bel Air, MD, visited the 98 Rock/WBAL AM/WBAL TV studios, and were given a tour by "Detour Dave" Dave Sandler.

The young ladies saw the studios, the production offices, and were able to speak to many of the radio personalities about careers in broadcasting.



(The young ladies pictured above are: Alicia, Cathy, Kim, Christine, Katie, Patsy, Paige, and Katie (yes, there are 2). The man with them is "Detour Dave" Sandler.)

MCM's 1st Annual Scholarship
Awards Banquet

Masonic Charities of Maryland will hold the First Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet on Sunday, June 8, 2008 in the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Lodge in Cockeysville. The event is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m.

The forty-eight MCM Scholarship Awards winners of 2008 will be feted that afternoon along with two of their guests. Each honoree will receive their Scholarship Award check for \$1,000.00, a certificate and a gift honoring their selection. Additionally, one of the forty-eight winners will be selected to receive the first award of the C. David Haacke Memorial Scholarship for \$5,000.00.

The State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, will bring greetings and join MCM and all Freemasons in Maryland, to honor our distinguished scholarship winners. Also invited to this special Awards Dinner are the Worshipful Masters and their ladies of all our Masonic Lodges, especially those lodges sponsoring one of the forty-eight (48) winners. This event is "business formal" for scholarship winners and their guests. Worshipful Masters and Grand Lodge officials are to be in tuxedo.

Due to the generosity of Monumental Commandery No. 3, Knights Templar of Cockeysville, this event is "gratis" for all attendees. MCM needs to augment the Commandery's support and will be pleased to accept donations from Masonic Lodges, other bodies, and individuals.

Reservations for this event may be made by contacting the Grand Lodge at 410-527-0600.

The Maryland Student
Assistance Program

Many Maryland Masons may be aware of Masonic Charity of Maryland's Scholarship program; fewer know of the Maryland Student Assistance Program. Almost twenty-five years old, this ongoing effort recently held several events where Maryland Freemasonry's support of training teachers in helping youngsters avoid substance abuse was on display.

On February 25, the Maryland Student Assistance Program Professionals Association (MSAPPA) held its 20th annual Conference at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. The partnership between MSAPPA and the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) was never more evident than on this day by the recognition of the MCM Board and the naming of a scholarship in honor of the late MWPGM C. David Haacke, through whose untiring efforts the Student Assistance Program was founded and has continued in Maryland.

The keynote speaker, Darryl Hunter, spoke to the more than 350 attendees on the topic of "The New Poverty," a program that seeks to understand the perspectives of children born into and living in poverty. The cost of the keynote speaker is graciously borne each year by the MCM, to illustrate their support for this important program that identifies at-risk students and intervenes with their parents to secure help to improve their success in school and also in life. At that event, our Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Thomas M Velvin, Jr. addressed the assemblage and received appreciation given by the President of MSAPPA to all Maryland Masons for their ongoing sponsorship.

Also, on March 4 & 5, 54 school staff members (teachers, principals, counselors, nurses, and others) convened at the Carver Staff Development Training Center in Gambrills to be trained in the Maryland Student Assistance Program. This two-day intensive event was paid for as well through the generosity of the Masonic Charities. One of the MCM board members, Mike Codori, Junior Warden in Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195, is one of the trainers for this program. As both a Mason and an educator, he fully appreciates the invaluable connection between Student Assistance and the Masonic Charities, without whose support this Student Assistance program would not exist. The youth of Maryland and those who work with them every day owe a debt of gratitude to MCM for their love of children demonstrated by their support.

As a Maryland Freemason, you contribute to this remarkable effort to help our students in need.

MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES
Bonnie Blink

300 International Circle, Cockeysville, Maryland 21030
 Telephone: (410) 527-1111
 Fax Number: (410) 527-1379



From the Hill

Paula O'Neill, Executive Director
Maryland Masonic Homes



The column this quarter is dedicated to the family of residents at Bonnie Blink. Each resident is a unique individual who brings with him or her a lifetime of experiences to share.

When residents choose Maryland Masonic as their home, they become a member of an exclusive family. Staff and residents join together in times of happiness and sorrow, working and playing together to continue to add to cherished memories to our lives.

Two residents who reside in our Independent Living apartments wanted to share their special Bonnie Blink moments with everyone. I introduce and thank Dorothy Holman and Margaret Todd.

Resident Dorothy Holman has resided in the Independent Living apartments for almost ten years. During a recent interview for a "Real Life" article to be featured in the Guide to Retirement Living Magazine, Mrs. Holman felt very alone after her husband of fifty-seven years, Basil William Holman's passing. Mr. Holman was a member of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116. "I visited several other retirement living communities and was encouraged by a friend to visit the Masonic Homes. I was looking for a smaller facility where I could be involved in activities and social gatherings. I also liked the fact that with a smaller community, I would have the opportunity to get to know every resident by their first name." Dorothy chose Bonnie Blink to be her new home. She is an active volunteer and participates in many aspects of activities at the Homes including, Past President of Resident Council, Past Guardian of Jobs Daughters and an avid bridge and rummy player. Dorothy says, "I love it here. Every new resident becomes a part of our growing family." Her sister moved into the community shortly after she did and now they are able to spend valuable time together.



Newer resident Margaret Todd has just celebrated her five month mark at Bonnie Blink. She moved directly from her two bedroom condo at Highview, located beside Maryland Masonic. Mrs. Todd explained she had originally believed we only



offered nursing home care. She came in for a tour looking for a one bedroom apartment and two days later she was back with a deposit to reserve that same unit. Margaret's Masonic eligibility is through her late husband, Claude Todd of Warren Lodge No. 51. Every day, you can catch Margaret walking through the hallway smiling and greeting everyone she sees. Still maintaining her independence as she did in her condo, she participates in many arts and crafts. Recently she offered a cane decorating class to residents. Margaret regularly shares and tours family and friends and expresses how happy she is to be at Bonnie Blink. "This place is so well run and full of great workers and residents that I am just very grateful to be a part of it!"

Many have joined in participating in the Third Age survey that was distributed to 6,000 Masons in January. The representatives from this consulting partner are busy gathering the survey information and are beginning to formulate the first steps in scheduling focus groups. Stay tuned for more updates as we proceed on our expansion project.

The special fraternity of brotherhood and sisterhood is the foundation of our beloved Homes. On behalf of the residents, I extend our appreciation for the support. We consistently strive to improve and seek new methods and practices as we evolve our community.

Recently we began enhancements to Serenity Hill, our secure dementia unit by adding colorful murals and pictures. We are also seeking to purchase two park benches for the serene sitting area at the end of each wing.



We are asking for monetary donations to cover the \$1,200 cost (each bench is \$600.) Please send your gift payable to **Maryland Masonic Homes**, to:

Maryland Masonic Homes
 Attn. Paula O'Neill
 300 International Circle
 Cockeysville, MD 21030.

Add to the memo "Park Bench".

Much happiness and good health to everyone as we enter this beautiful and blessed season of Spring.

Maryland Masonic Homes

Shelly Lewis, Admissions Coordinator

Initially it took 75 years to develop a Masonic Home. The official opening occurred in 1934 and in 2008 Maryland Masonic Homes will celebrate serving seniors for 74 years. See page 7 of this issue for a more complete history of the Maryland Masonic Homes at Bonnie Blink.

Our community of Masonic family currently houses 145 residents in 4 different levels of care. Independent living is offered in uniquely designed studio, 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Our social independent living setting is currently 100% occupied with 15 people on the external wait list.

Assisted Living is offered in two different settings, Assisted Living Ionic and Assisted Living Terrace. Both provide our residents with assistance with the daily activities of living. Our supporting staff encourages residents to retain their independence and maintain an active social lifestyle.

What began as an infirmary and dormitory for aged and poor health individuals has transformed into a comfortable "home like" setting managed by compassionate and experienced staff. Our Healthcare and Secured Dementia units are dedicated to improving the quality of life for each individual.

Perhaps you have visited the community or are familiar with the name, "Bonnie Blink", we still encourage you to come and see what we are all about. Please contact Shelly Lewis, Admissions Coordinator at 410-527-1111 for a detailed tour and discussion of all levels of care and services offered. Saturday and evening appointments are available upon request.



Bro. Melvin Kencel enjoys a quiet afternoon in the MMH Library. There are many areas of the Homes where residents can spend their leisure time.



Margaret Whittle participates in one of the many activities offered to the residents.

THE HISTORY OF BONNIE BLINK

A Masonic home for Maryland had been talked about for seventy-five years before a definite move was made in May, 1923, when the Grand Lodge adopted Article Thirty to its Constitution establishing a Masonic Home Fund. From then until May 1927, about one hundred and sixty-eight thousand dollars was accumulated. During this period of time the search was on for suitable property. Several parcels were under consideration, among them being five-hundred acres of the Catoclin Furnace Tract, about one mile from Thurmont. At the Semi-Annual Communication in May, 1927, the Board of Managers were authorized, empowered and directed to proceed toward the purchase of land, construction, furnishing and maintenance of the Masonic Homes.

The actual agreement for the purchase of Bonnie Blink was consummated on May 17, 1927. The owners were John B. Wailes and his wife, Anna (or Annie). They contracted to sell the farm consisting of two-hundred and sixty-six point two acres for the sum of forty-five thousand dollars in fee. The deed was dated June 30, 1927. An additional twenty-seven acres were acquired almost simultaneously from Wilbur C. Swam and his wife, Clara for one hundred and ninety dollars per acre. The total cost of the entire tract was fifty-five thousand forty-nine dollars and forty-three cents.



The property was improved by a large frame building, which could serve as a temporary home and had much development potential. Following the purchases of Bonnie Blink farm, the mansion house was renovated, furnished and opened for inspection on Saturday, July 2, and an invitation extended to Masons throughout Maryland to visit as they had an opportunity. Bonnie Blink was left open for visitors until the early part of September and then closed for fall and winter. Dinners were served at a modest price and at a loss, but it was felt the program was worth bringing the many visitors to the site. Approximately fifteen-thousand people visited Bonnie Blink within a two-month period. When the Grand Lodge met for its Annual communication in 1927, the Trustees announced Bonnie Blink would be open for visitors from April to October and by the end of 1927, the Endowment Fund had reached about two-hundred thousand dollars.

The purchase price and cost of maintenance for the first year had been taken entirely from general funds of the Grand Lodge in order to leave the Home fund in tact. It was estimated an Endowment Fund of at least one and a half million dollars would be needed for the proposed Home. This would mean an average contribution of about fifty-dollars for each of the more than thirty thousand Masons in Maryland.

The year 1930 was fruitful for Bonnie Blink, marred only by the death of Grand Master

Warren Seipp. His dying words to E. Lee Hickman were, "Lee, I do not believe I will ever live to see Bonnie Blink together with you again, but if we do not, tell the boys to carry on." And carry on they did for the records show that three thousand Masons gathered on the Third Annual Husking Party. Three additions had been made to the acreage and by 1930, Bonnie Blink consisted of three-hundred and thirty-eight point seven acres.



The year 1931 marked another milestone in the history of Bonnie Blink. On the afternoon of the day for the Semi-Annual Communication, May, 19, ground was broken for the first unit on Bonnie Blink, sixty-five hundred Masons, their families and friends gathered for the ceremonies. The architect for the building was Bro. William E. Emmart of M.A. Long Construction Company. The contract was for an estimated sum of three-hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars. Boilers, heating, plumbing, elevator, etc. brought the total to five-hundred and ninety-two thousand, six hundred and five dollars.

On October 10, 1931, the Grand Lodge met in Special Communication at Bonnie Blink to lay the cornerstone of the new Masonic Home. It was estimated that five-thousand people witnessed the ceremonies. The trowel and gavel used on this occasion were the same as used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the Nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. on September 18, 1793. Many Masonic tokens and printed materials were placed in a copper box and sealed within the cornerstone as well as copies of the Grand Lodge proceedings as early as 1842.

Bonnie Blink was entirely paid for when it was dedicated - October 22, 1932. The decision was made to open the Home on May 1, 1933, but that was the year of the big depression so the actual opening was postponed until May 1, 1934. Opening on this date was made possible, in part, by a bequest of Bro. Arthur Wallenhorst of Joppa Lodge#132, in the amount of approximately one-hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars. Most of the gift was used as the nucleus of a permanent Endowment Fund which was established when the Homes opened.

Eleven guests were among the first group to enter. There were four married couples. By the November Communication in 1934, applications had risen to sixty-seven.

Bro. E. Lee Hickman, the Homes first Superintendent reported to the November communication in 1934 that the kitchen department with assistance of residents had prepared four-hundred and twenty-three quarts of canned vegetables, four-hundred and fifty-one quarts of canned and preserved fruit, and three-hundred and forty-two glasses of jelly.

In the library were nearly sixteen-hundred volumes. All donated by friends. Many gifts were received during this period. Among them, our barber chair and pool table which is in use today.

The tower clock and its bell were dedicated on

October 26, 1935. This was made possible by a gift of forty-two hundred and fifty-dollars from Thomas D. Epron of Pythagoras Lodge#123. In the fall of 1935, Bonnie Blink was presented a portrait of the late G. M. Seipp. This hangs in our Board Room today.

Cornhusking was discontinued during the years 1932 through 1936 and voted by Grand Lodge to resume in 1937. Also, there were no husking parties during the war years of 1942, 1943 and 1944.

During 1937, the Endowment Fund received more than one-hundred thousand dollars from the Estate of Arthur D. Rivers and the Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star undertook the project to erect the Chapel. The new Chapel was dedicated on June 4, 1938. It was presented by Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star and Grand Master Harry B. Wright accepted the presentation.

By the spring of 1947, there were one-hundred and eleven residents at Bonnie Blink and the Infirmary fund had reached two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. The Annual Cornhusking Day was a wet one, for it rained all day. Despite this, however, attendance was the second largest in its history. Cornhusking Party of 1948 was held on the first Saturday in November and more than four thousand Masons attended, partaking of a barbecue luncheon.



Over the years, Cornhusking has remained one of the most memorable days of the year, even though there is no longer corn to husk. The day is now one of fellowship, good times, and rededication of memories for all of those who, over the years, have done so much for the brotherhood of mankind.

At the Semi Annual Communication in May of 2007, another addition was approved. This new community building will include a fitness center with a pool and meeting/gathering rooms. A second building will include independent living apartments and a covered parking garage.

There are currently 6,000 surveys that have been randomly sent to Maryland Masons about the new addition to the Homes, its services offered, etc. More information on this project will be released as we progress.





Pictured Above: Maddison Walbeck, Daughter of Richard Walbeck of Chester Lodge No. 115, being interviewed by RW Deputy Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. and Santa Clause Bro. Gene E. Utterback for the MD CHIP program.

Report of Santa Visitation

It is with great pleasure that I report to you the results of this year's Visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 1 & 2, 2007 we visited with 258 Children at the Holiday Inn Express in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142 sponsored this event, as they've done every year since 1998. This year's elves included Worshipful Master Brother Douglas Cooper; Mike O'Kelley, PM, SW and his Lady Sippie; Bill Kugel, PM, PGI, WPGSwB, DGL; Matt Ingalls, FC; Gene Gullickson, JD; Norman Broyles, PM, PGI, SW; Kirk Kugel, SD; Vince Keyser, Marshall; Jim Dabbs, EA; John Hall, PM, PDGL, RWPSGW; and John Cronshey, MM – who just happens to be 96 years young this year.

Brother Past Master Senior Warden Mike O'Kelly entertained the children who were waiting with magic and as usual he astounded them (as well as their parents).

Our dear friends Dr. Nathan Centers and his wife Shelly once again traveled all the way from Dagsboro Delaware to take pictures for the children. And as usual they provided all the camera equipment, film and photo frames at no cost to the Lodge or the children. What makes this particularly remarkable is that Nathan is NOT a Mason, nor is Shelly a member of the Eastern Star. They are simply great friends who've been helping with the Annual Santa Visitation since 2001.

On Saturday morning, December 8, 2007, we were the guests of honor at a Breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus hosted by Chester Lodge No. 115. Chester puts on an AYCE breakfast on the last Saturday morning of every month and they usually get a pretty good turnout. While this breakfast was not on their usual Saturday it was a SELLOUT – they served breakfast to 97 folks and actually ran out of food.

The Brethren of Chester Lodge, with the assistance of their Eastern Star Chapter, provided 28 children with their choice of either a coloring book & crayons, a snow globe picture frame or a porcelain doll along with their picture. While the number of children may not seem impressive, take note that the attendance DOUBLED from last year.

Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Thomas Velvin was also on hand with the Child

Identification Program equipment and provided identification packages to the parents of most of the children who visited with us. It is worth noting that Chester Lodge No. 115 was the VERY FIRST LODGE to make use of this equipment.

The Brethren in attendance included Chris Pavon, PM, Secretary; Jesse Cunningham, PM, Past Secretary and photographer; Wayne Bradley PM, Treasurer; George Wilson, PM, Chaplain and his wife Marilyn Wilson – George and Marilyn are also the Worthy Matron and Patron of Chestertown Chapter No. 86 of the Order of the Eastern Star; Gary Shield, Junior Steward; James TJ Martin, Senior Steward; John Stephenson, Musician; Richard Walbeck, a newly raised Master Mason; and RWDGM Tom Velvin.

As a side note, for your information, Mrs. Claus & I were inducted into Eastern Star Chapter No. 86 in Chestertown on December 11, 2007.

On Saturday afternoon, December 8, 2007, we visited with approximately 29 children at Centreville Lodge No. 180 from 1:00 P.M. Till 4:00 P.M. Again, while the number is small is it MORE THAN TWICE who visited with us last year.

The Brethren, with the assistance of their Eastern Star Chapter, provided refreshments in their dining hall. Centreville also provided some of the nicest frames Mrs. Claus and I have ever seen. They were on powder blue paper with a snowflake background and every picture was put in the frame by the Brothers helping with the photos – even the folks that received multiple pictures got frames for every picture.

The Brethren in attendance included Bro. Willis Dennis, PM, Worshipful Master and his wife Linda; Photographer Bro. Ed Berkman, PM, Chaplain, Treasurer elect and his wife Barbara; Charles Campbell, SW, WM Elect; Bro. Bryan Gall, SD, JW Elect; Bro. Marty Appel, JD, SD for 2008; Bro. Dennis Crawford, PM and his wife Susan; Bro. Al Feast & his wife, Ruth who donated a cake.

Centreville also had two Shrine Clowns to help entertain the visitors - "Pop Cycle" – Bro. Danny Horton, PM and "Willie" - Bro. Bill Joyce, PM. These "clowns" really helped to put some of the children at ease; they really added to the event and the overall experience for everyone – me and Mrs. Claus included.

On Thursday afternoon, December 13, 2007, we visited once again during the annual Christmas party for the residents of the Masonic Retirement Home at Bonnie Blink. We visited

with each of the attendees personally and provided pictures to 70 of them. Not everyone wanted a picture, but everyone who wanted one got one. Though some had to be delivered after the party ended because we simply couldn't print them fast enough.

And I couldn't keep up with the list of all the Brethren who were in attendance. In addition to RWDGM Tom Velvin, I did notice several Past Grand Masters including John Young, Francis Larrimore and William Clark. I apologize for not getting everyone's name and the names of their ladies, I will try to do better next time. I also ask the forgiveness of those whom I did not name individually.

Mrs. Claus and I would like to compliment whomever chose the entertainment this year. We think they were the best we've ever seen. And as usual, the food was spectacular and plentiful.

In general - A GREAT time was had by all. Mrs. Claus made kitchen aprons and pot holders for the Lodges to raffle and each Lodge accepted donations – BUT DID NOT CHARGE – for the pictures with Santa. Every one, children and residents, received a Candy Cane and got to spend as much time as they liked with me to share their Christmas lists.

The Brethren were most gracious and accommodating – as usual – and Mrs. Claus and I would like to thank them publicly for allowing us to visit with them and their neighborhoods. The annual Santa Visitations provide an excellent opportunity for Freemasons to open their doors and allow the public a peek into our Sanctum Sanctorum. Hopefully doing so will help to not only dispel some of the myths but will also entice other good men to improve themselves in Masonry.

I'd also like to thank you, Grand Master, for bestowing upon me the official title of Grand Santa Claus. As you may recall, that presentation knocked me off my feet!

Respectfully submitted,
Brother Gene Utterback,
AKA – Brother Santa Claus
Past Master North Pole Lodge No. 1
Past Master Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142
Grand Inspector

Masonic Service Association Appeal for Relief -Tennessee-

The Grand Lodge of Tennessee is asking for assistance to help them recover from the tornadoes that struck on February 5, 2008. Damage was extensive and loss of life was very high. In fact, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee tells us that at least 5 of their members were killed in this devastating storm. Help in their recovery is urgent.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as you feel appropriate to help our devastated Brethren and their families in this stricken jurisdiction. Please make checks payable to **MSA Disaster Relief** and send to 8120 Fenton St, Ste. 203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Thank you very much for your help!

Most sincerely and fraternally,

Richard E. Fletcher, PGM
Executive Secretary

2008 Installation of Officers - Birmingham Lodge No. 188

On January 26, 2008, The Grand Line Officers of the Grand Lodge of Maryland Installed the officers for Birmingham Lodge No. 188. This was one of the most well attended installations, as shown by the many Brethren and their ladies pictured below.



Masonic Chip Program

Brethren,

This year we are embarking on a program new to Maryland, but one that has been in use successfully in many other jurisdictions around the country. It is called MD Chip which stands for Maryland Child Identification Program.

This program can provide an excellent way for your Lodge to become involved, or further involved, in your community, while providing families and young children in your neighborhood an outstanding and valuable service. However, it can only work if you and your Lodge agree to support it.

A presentation will be given at each of the Regional Meetings – please attend and watch it, and I am sure you will be suitably impressed – I know I was. It is a very easy system to use, even those that have never used a computer can probably be up and running on it very quickly. Everything is contained in a small suitcase, and includes the computer, fingerprint scanner, video camera, and printer. Each child can be fingerprinted, provide an audio clip and have a picture taken of him. Include some small baggies and que tips or cotton swab and a DNA swab can be taken. All of this information, other than the DNA swab, is then stored on a CD, the swab can be placed in a small sealable baggie, and given to the family. No information is stored on the hard drive of the computer. It is important to impress this on people.

I hope you and your Lodge will attend the Regional meetings, take a look at this system, watch the demonstration, and agree to support it. A \$15,000 donation was recently given to the Grand Lodge, and not specified for any particular purpose. I can't think of a better way to use the money, and I intend on using the funds from that donation to purchase 5 of these MD CHIP systems. A computer system will be sent to a Lodge in each of the five areas around the State. They will go to the first Lodge that contacts me and offers to support the program.

The system has already been used successfully in Chester Lodge during a Christmas event, and was well received by the parents attending. One of our Southern Maryland Lodges has already reserved one of the two systems we presently have in Grand Lodge for use at one of their events in the Spring.

John R. Biggs
Grand Master

Master Mason At Sight Serving In Iraq

Below is a photo of Brother Chris Ellette (MSG, EOD) who was recently made a Mason at sight by Most Worshipful Grand Master Biggs.



He is currently on tour in Iraq, but assures me that he is staying out of trouble... well, as much as can be expected! I requested he send a current photo with the square and compasses patch I gave him; it is sewn inside the top of his hat (but on display in this photo only). There is no set date for his return but I will post it when I find out. If anyone is interested in contacting him, his civilian email (that he is able to check semi-regularly) is: ellette.c@hotmail.com

Brother Steve Hall, Chris and the rest of the unit received the first box of coffee and love it!

Fraternally,
Will Barrell

Want a Maryland Tie?

Due to the overwhelming demand for the Maryland Tie, the Grand Lodge of Maryland has sold the LAST of the 4 ties in stock. There is a *similar* tie available at the following location:

Cohen's Clothiers
64 Cranbrook Road
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-666-8022

Their price for the tie is \$39.50 and can be purchased directly through them.

Happy Birthday, Grand Master!

The Officers and Brethren of Centennial Lodge No. 221 in Salisbury, Maryland requested of the Grand Master and his Grand Line that he install the incoming Worshipful Master.



Coincidentally, the Installation fell on the same day as the Grand Master's Birthday, who was more than happy to accept the invitation.



Grand Master Biggs was surprised to discover that the Lodge had arranged a birthday party for the Grand Master. What an outstanding display of Brotherly Love and friendship.



Above: Gerald Vannienwenhove, Worshipful Master of East Gate Lodge No. 216 with Right Worshipful Past Grand Master Ronald A. Aungst, PGM or Pennsylvania at the National Treasure on the Avenue of the Arts Gala held at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania December 1, 2007.

Supreme Tall Cedar George Morgan



George was born April 6, 1937 in Allentown, Pa. He graduated from Allentown High School in 1955. George served in the U.S. Marine Corps. 1955-1959. He worked as a photo-technician for the Call Chronicle Newspaper 1959-1968 and Bethlehem Steel Corporation 1968-1983.

He was a partner, secretary and treasurer of Lehigh Valley Photographic Services 1983-1999 and retired in 1999.

George and Judy were married in 1961. They have 3 children Glenn, Diane and Barry, and 4 grandchildren Kimberly, Matthew, Nicole and Glenn, Jr.

George was President of Church Council, chairman of various committees, a representative to Penn Northeast Conference for 10 years while at Trinity U.C.C. Church. He was Cub Pack chairman and Webelos Den Leader for Cub Pack #309, assistant Scout Master Troop #341, assistant Scout Master and Scout Master Troop #302. He received his Wood Badge Beads 1977 and Order of the Arrow. He was manager and treasurer of East End Little League.

George became a Mason in 1988 Bethlehem Lodge #283, Master of Bethlehem Lodge #283 in 1994 and 1995 and representative to Grand Lodge 1996 to present. He became a Tall Cedar in 1989 Bethlehem Forest #61, Forest Trustee 1990 to 1995, Grand Tall Cedar 1997, Tall Cedar Foundation Trustee District #8 1999-2001. He was aide to J.D.S.T.C. 2002, aide to S.D.S.T.C. 2003 and aide to S.T.C. 2004, President of OPO District #8 2003. George received the Tall Cedar Foundation Trustee of the Year Award for the year 2000. He became a 32nd degree Mason in 1989 Valley of Allentown a member of the 15th degree team 1991-2003.

Tall Cedars of Lebanon 2008 Goodwill Ambassador E. Claire Menke



Claire was born in Greenville, North Carolina on May 15th 1995, and was diagnosed with SMA III at the age of nine at Johns Hopkins.

Middletown, Maryland is home to Claire, her parents Jay and Daeen, sisters Emily and Amanda and brother Alex. The family

has two cats and two dogs, one being Claire's service dog Xavier.

A seventh grader, she enjoys art, music, swimming, and spending time with her friends and family. Her other activities include her church, MDA Camp and fundraising for MDA and 4Paws for Ability. Chinese, pizza, hamburgers and steak are on the top of her list of favorite foods.

Sinepuxent Endowment Fund

Sinepuxent Lodge No. 193 has experienced some loss in membership over the last few years due to the age of our members and the new ones coming into the lodge have not made up for the loss. This condition is, I'm sure, experienced by our sister lodges across the state. With the loss also comes a reduction of income from dues revenue.

We have to maintain our building and grounds as we are part of our town and community. The building is relatively new (1993) but things do wear out and have to be replaced. We have over the years helped our loss of income by serving meals, having raffles, and setting up booths at community functions, but expenses for fuel and upkeep have increase dramatically forcing us to look for alternative, or better ways to increase our income. We simply could not continue to operate in the red.

At one our meetings it was suggested that we set up a trust fund or an endowment fund to give us an ongoing income. Out Worship Master appointed a committee to look into this possibility. We located a Community Foundation which is nonprofit to help us with this. As we are nonprofit, they agreed to set up a fund within their structure. This fund would be granted the interest and dividends each year of the Foundation's gains less a 1% administration cost once the Sinepuxent Fund reached the \$10,000 mark.

For the year of 2007 the Community Foundation attained a good return amounting to close to 12.5%. Their total assets amount to about \$65,000,000.

We set our goal for the Lodge at \$60,000 which, if we reaped the interest rate of say 10% would give us \$6000.00 each year from now on. Back in December we contacted our members and related to them the impending crisis. We asked our members to contribute to this fund in the amounts of either \$3000, \$2000, or \$1000 increments. This was a real shocker to our membership as most of us are on fixed incomes. Some could easily afford it. Some, of course, could not. But the committee explained that we just could not see our Lodge fold because of lack of funds.

The committee and active members could not have anticipated the wonderful response to this appeal. As of March 3rd the members have pledged (over a three year period) \$42,560 and of that figure \$24,050 in cash have been deposited in the Foundation's fund for the Lodge. In less than three months this has happened. Even some of our Widows have contributed \$3000.00.

Kind Masonic Regards,
Richard L. Bolen, Secretary
Sinepuxent Lodge No. 193

Masonic Aprons & Collars Worn Around the World

Belgium - The Grand Lodge Aprons are of light blue silk, embroidered with gold fringe, without tassels. The collars are embroidered with gold with the jewels of office, and with acacia and other emblems.

Egypt - The Grand Orient uses the same clothing as England, but the colors are thistle and sea green. The rank of wearer is denoted by the number of stars on his collar.

Greece - In recent years the clothing has become exactly identical with that worn in England, although formerly silk and satin aprons painted and embroidered with crimson were worn.

Germany - Aprons varied greatly in size and shape, from square to the shape of a shield. Some bear rosettes and others the level. There is no uniformity and German Lodges had jewels apparently according to the taste of each.

Holland - Each Lodge selects its own colors for aprons and the ribbons to which the jewels are attached. Individuals may use embroidery, fringes, etc., according to their own fancy.

Hungary - The members of Grand Lodge wear collars of light blue silk with a narrow edging of red, white and green-their national colors-from which are suspended five pointed stars. The Grand Lodge Officers wear collars of orange color edged with green and lines with white silk. They are embroidered with the acacia and the emblems of office. The aprons have a blue edging with three rosettes for a Master Mason.

Italy - The Entered Apprentice apron is plain white silk. The Fellow craft is edged and lined with a square printed in the centre. The Master Mason wears an apron lined and edged with crimson, bearing the square and compasses. He also wears a sash of green silk, edged with red, embroidered with gold and lined with black on which are embroidered the emblems of mortality in silver. It must be remembered, however, that Freemasonry for some time past has been suppressed in Italy, the reason being that it inter-medded in national politics.

Iceland - Plain white aprons, edged with blue, bearing the number of the lodge. At the Annual Communication lambskins are worn with a narrow silver braid in the centre of the ribbon. In former days, the Worshipful Master always wore a red cloak and silk hat.

Portugal - The aprons of the Grand Lodge Officers are of white satin, edged with blue and gold and with three rosettes. The collar is made of blue silk with the acacia embroidered in gold.

Spain - The apron of the Entered Apprentice is of white leather, rounded at the bottom, with a pointed flap, worn raised. The Fellow craft wears the same with the flap turned down, and the Mason (Master) wears a white satin apron with a curved flap, edged with crimson, and embroidered with a square and compass, enclosing the letter G. The letters M and B, and three stars also appear. It is lined with black silk and embroidered with the skull and crossbones.

Switzerland - The clothing is simple. The Entered Apprentice apron is white with the lower corners rounded. The Fellowcraft has blue edging and strings, and the Master Mason has a wider border and three rosettes in the body of the apron, while the flap is covered with blue silk. The apron of the Grand Officers is edged with crimson, without tassels or rosettes, except in the case of the Grand Master, which has three crimson rosettes.

Successful Planning For the Masonic Year

A very good friend, and PGM in Ontario, Canada sent me the following article. I read it and found it to be excellent material, thus I am including it in our FSFM - it should be particularly interesting, and informative for Lodge officers, primarily the wardens as they prepare for the East. The first line of the introduction is so true – things don't just happen – YOU, as an officer of your Lodge, must make them happen.

Successful Planning For The Masonic Year

This section provides Tips, Techniques and Tools that will not only provide help to the Worshipful Master in planning his Masonic year, but always should be used to help the Warden's better prepared for the leadership role they will undertake in the short years ahead. Planning is a key management responsibility.

Introduction - Things, especially good things, do not just happen - you must make them happen. This requires planning - and your plan should try to predict the unpredictable, so that, as Worshipful Master, you are prepared to cope successfully with any eventuality, from black balls in the ballot box, to the unannounced arrival of the Grand Master himself. Planning is a key management responsibility. It provides the following benefits:

- It compels you to assess your goals and objectives.
- It promotes communication and co-ordination with other members of the Lodge.
- It provides definite expectations that are the best framework for judging subsequent performance.

As a line officer, it is easy to take for granted the success of the meetings, but it must be recognized that hard work and planning are behind every successful meeting. Concentrate on determining the components that you recognize as contributing to that success, both in your Lodge, and when you visit. And do visit. There are many ideas worthy of adopting which you will see at other Lodges.

Be prepared in advance to be the Worshipful Master. There is no one sure road to success, but let's look at what should constitute a successful plan. But first, let us recognize that our plan is our road map to success, and, like any map, it is of no value if, once prepared, it is stuffed into the glove compartment and forgotten.

Study your plan, revise it if circumstances dictate - after all, it is your guide for a successful year! In reality, we should be talking of two types of plan - the long-range plan, setting out your goals and objectives for your year as Worshipful Master, and the short-term plan, or individual meeting plans, which obviously must be more precise, but in fact, are component parts of your Master Plan.

Long-Range (Master) Plan - In some lodges, it is traditional for the Master-elect to meet with the Past Masters prior to Installation to set out his plan of action and get their collective advice and guidance. If your Lodge does not now follow such a practice, you should seriously consider instituting it - or alternatively, set out your goals and objectives, as well as a plan to achieve them, and discuss them with a cross-section of Past Masters.

Obviously, the number of candidates avail-

able during the year will dictate the overall program, and this number is usually not known at the outset of the Masonic year. As a result, the long-range plan must be flexible. Some plan is better than no plan, because a plan necessitates thinking and communication - two keys to success and it will provide you with the foundation upon which to build a successful year. Be creative - plan variety and strive for an interesting balance between your degree and social programs. Degree work is fine, especially if you are blessed with a number of candidates.

Remember, "All work and no play makes Johnny a dull boy" - it also makes him a bored Mason, one who could turn away to other pursuits of enjoyment, and he may be lost to the Lodge forever. If you have lots of degree work, vary it, so that there are different degrees at regular meetings. Intersperse special interest programs. Invite other lodges to participate. It is important that the Lodge Officers know their work and work the three degrees, even if you have to borrow candidates from sister lodges, or exemplify certain degrees. This responsibility having been addressed, consider other special programs such as:

- A Past Masters Night, honoring an active Past Master by allowing him to conduct a degree team of other Past Masters.
- A Members Night, with a Past Master conducting a Degree Team consisting of members. What a wonderful way to keep their interest up and to uncover likely officer material.
- Special Degree Teams, such as the R.C.M.P. or the Masters Group of some specific year.
- Fraternal Visits by Lodges, either from within or outside your own District or Grand Jurisdiction with the visitors doing the work of the evening.
- Special programs of Masonic Education and/or Instruction.
- Special non-Masonic programs in the Lodge Room for family and friends of members.
- An Awards Night for the presentation of long service and other pins and certificates.
- Social functions, such as the annual Ladies Night, Christmas Party, barbecue, special functions for members and their families, and don't forget the widows of deceased members.

In preparing your long-range plan for the year, take full advantage of the expertise available. Just because you are the leader does not mean that you must carry the ball at each meeting. Use the resources of your own Lodge and do not forget to utilize the District talent available to you. There are District Officers in a number of disciplines who are anxious for the opportunity to participate in Lodge meetings. With your road map for the year completed, you are now ready to finalize its implementation. Recognize at the outset, however, that the long-range plan must be flexible to address changing requirements as the year progresses and, regrettably, that all your goals will probably not be achieved, unless you have set your sights too low!

Short-Term (Meeting) Plan - Develop your meeting plan (the detailed map) in a logical step by step manner, and write down an outline to which you can refer during the meeting. Do not try to commit everything to memory. A good plan for each meeting should include the following elements:

- Establish your objective. It may simply be to have a successful meeting.
- Set the goals necessary to achieve that objective. Perform the work of the evening with dignity and decorum to ensure a smooth-flowing

meeting and to end at a reasonable hour.

• Define specific tasks. Organize the business portion so that it is accomplished smoothly. Ensure that all participants in the work of the evening are well versed in their parts and know when to act. Ensure all Officers are aware well in advance of any special requirements expected of them, e.g. that the Deacons are aware that a ballot is to be conducted.

• Choose your strategies. Ensure all Officers are prepared by holding educational meetings and practices. Try to foresee anything that could arise during the meeting. Time all segments and ensure that they are smooth flowing.

• Assign responsibilities. As noted previously, you are the leader, so set the strategy. Assign tasks to the Secretary, Director of Ceremonies, other Officers and certain members. Let each one know what is specifically expected of him and establish controls to evaluate performance. Your map is only of value if you check it from time to time to ensure that you are still on course.

• Choose a capable Past Master to conduct practices and to assess actual performance during meetings. Encourage him to provide constructive criticism. Only in this manner can the Officers improve.

Maryland CHIP Program



Maryland Child Identification Program (MDCHIP) addresses the alarming fact that over 1,000,000 children are reported missing in the United States each year, according to the National Center

for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). On average, a child is reported missing every 43 seconds.

At MDCHIP EVENTS, the Masons provide the equipment, volunteers and materials necessary to generate identifying items of your child in "completed packs" (not kits to be filled out by you at home) for you to take home for safe keeping. In the event your child is missing, you then provide the MDCHIP PACK to law enforcement as an aid in recovery and identification. MDCHIP is a part of MASONCHIP which is recognized by the NCMEC as one of the most comprehensive child ID services available and all the identifying items in the pack are provided at NO COST to the general public.

No information nor data is retained by anyone involved with MDCHIP. Only the permission slip is retained to document the number of children served. No copies of any ID materials are kept on file by any of the organizers; the parents receive all ID materials and health information produced.

To find out the Maryland CHIP program, please send an email to mdchip@glmd.org or call the Office of the Grand Lodge at (410) 527-0600.

Quatuor Coronati Lodge Installs First American Worshipful Master

On Thursday, November 8, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076 of London, the premier lodge of Masonic research in the world, installed Ill. S. Brent Morris, 33°, Grand Cross, as its first American Worshipful Master. The lodge was consecrated in 1886, and in 1888 it began publishing its annual transactions, *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*, a collection of some of the finest and most scholarly papers on Freemasonry. Full membership in the lodge is limited to forty, though there are over 6,000 members of the Quatuor Coronati Correspondence Circle who receive all publications of the lodge.

Ill. Morris joined the lodge in 1993 as only the fourth American member. Three American Masonic scholars preceded Morris (and are now deceased) Ill. Dwight L. Smith, Indiana, Alphonse Cerza, Illinois, and Alex Horne, California. Bro. W. Kirk MacNulty, 32°, Virginia, is the only other living American member.



About seventy Masons attended the installation held at Freemasons' Hall on Great Queen Street. Four American Masons came to see their fellow citizen installed: Bro. Franz N. Stuppard, 32°, from Bro. Morris's lodge, Patmos No. 70, Ellicott City, Maryland, and Ill. Mark A. Tabbert, 33°, Glen A. Cook, 33°, and Ronald A. Seale, 33°, Sovereign Grand Commander. After the installation, Ill. Morris presented his inaugural address, "Itinerant American Masonic Lecturers," which will be published in *Ars Quatuor Coronatorum*.

Following the meeting, the members and guests retired to the Prince of Wales Pub for libations, dinner, and toasting. When addressing the brethren assembled around the festive board, Bro. Morris observed, "We Americans are well known for making declarations to our English friends...." Bro. Morris extends a special invitation to all American Masons to attend a meeting of Quatuor Coronati Lodge during 2008: February 21 (program and dinner open to non-Masons), May 9, June 26, and September 11.



Pictured seated center is Ill. S. Brent Morris, 33°, Grand Cross, newly installed Worshipful Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, the premier lodge of Masonic research in the world, with active members of the lodge.

Attention Civil War Buffs!

Stephenson Lodge, No. 135 in Darlington Maryland will be featuring Edward H. Bonekemper, III who will be giving a lecture entitled *A Fresh Overview of the Civil War* on May 7th, 2008. The lecture is open to the public and will begin at 8:00pm in the Lodge room, following a quick business meeting.

Mr. Bonekemper is a resident of Willow Street in Pennsylvania and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in American history from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He received his Masters in History from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and his J.D from Yale Law School in New Haven Connecticut.

Stephenson Lodge is proud to offer this educational lecture to all of the Members of the Craft and to the public in general. The Lodge's first Worshipful Master was in the Civil War as were many of the original members of Stephenson Lodge, providing a strong connection to the War. For more information please contact our Worshipful Master, Duane Duncan at 410-378-8696 or the Secretary at 410-457-5656.

The Maryland Travelers Camping Club, Inc.



The Maryland Travelers Club, Inc. is a group of people who enjoy camping and fellowship. They start off their fraternal year with a dinner in March, when the previous travel master is thanked for his year, and the gavel is

passed to the new travel master. They have seven camp-outs each year beginning in April and ending in October. They try to select camp-grounds no more than a two hour's drive for every member.

A travel master, elected each year, plans the schedule and activities. Normally the camp-out is from Friday through Sunday. However many of the members arrive on Wednesday or Thursday to allow more time to visit. On Friday evenings some go out to eat in a local restaurant. Later there is a large campfire.

Saturday mornings some visit yard sales. Others go sightseeing, shopping, or exploring followed by lunch together and bingo at 1:00. Saturday evening is the covered dish dinner, sometimes followed by wine and cheese, and ending with another campfire. Sunday morning has church services followed by coffee and sweets.

The Maryland travelers covers a wide area from Gettysburg, to Lancaster, pa. Past activities have included boat rides, a visit to a winery, a visit to a farmers market. While many enjoy the fellowship of organized activities, others enjoy sight seeing, shopping or exploring on their own. There is something for everyone, and the fellowship, friendliness, and helpfulness of the group bring many happy memories.

Perhaps you would like to join the Maryland Travelers. Add camping, fun, and new friends to your schedule. Come join them! For more information, contact Phil Short, Master of Travel at 410-374-3911.

I Have A Question.....

Can you ballot during the first or second degree with an EA or FC in the lodge room?

Although only Master Masons may vote, the lodge may be open on any degree as the Worshipful Master wishes. You can ballot on a petition for initiation, affiliation or re-instatement on the first or second degree whether an EA or FC is in the lodge room or whether he is not.

None but Master Masons may vote on any subject, and only those members who have received the degree upon which the lodge is open, may attend.

To carry this further, any business of the Lodge, other than a catechism examination or Degree conferral of a higher Degree, or the taking up of the GMW, may be done in any Degree.

Most Grand Masters do not have a problem with an enterprising EA or FC sitting in a chair occasionally, however they can't be appointed to a chair, nor can a Master Mason be elected to an office until he completes the catechism of the Master Mason Degree.

Worshipful Masters are encouraged to open as many meetings as possible in the lower Degrees, that their EA and FC members may attend, and feel a part of the Lodge.



Mountain Lodge No. 99 has three brothers all fifty-year member awardees. From left to right: William Earl Williams, Lowell Neil Williams, Ronel Neil William, and Earl Vernon Kroll (cousin and fifty year member.) Back Row: Wesley Vinton Kroll, Worshipful Master and Gomer Morgan, fifty year member and a Past Master of Mountain Lodge No. 99.