

Masonic Service Association

MSA Baltimore-VAMC volunteers exceed their goal for 2009 for cash donations for our Veterans. In addition to providing Hospital patient visitation programs and presenting comfort items on each visit, we started this year providing monetary donations to specific Veterans activities that were in need. This year, we selected the "Blind Veterans".

Many of these Veterans have been blinded by roadside bombs and need assistance. We hope by these cash donations will help our Blind Veterans cope with their unfortunate injury.

Our goal was to raise \$1,000.00. We presented \$1,855.00 to Dallas Renninger of the Baltimore-VAMC. Our goal for 2010 is \$2,000.00.



Anyone or any Lodge desiring to help our Veterans can do so by sending a check made payable to **MSA** (in the memo section of your check place "Baltimore-VAMC" with the numbers "1111". This will direct your donation to the "Blind Veterans") and mail it to David L. Schneider, 1114 Ingate Road, Baltimore, MD, 21227.

Our State Area volunteers continue to do an excellent job with their Veterans Programs. If you live near any of these representatives, please contact them and give them some much needed support. They are: Bob Perry, Columbia No. 58, (301) 898-7706; Anthony Pollygus, Mt. Ararat No. 44, (571) 243-8179; and Randy Schoch, St. Columba No. 150, (301) 567-6760

Our Lodges that made contributions this year were: Collington 230, Howard 101, Jephthah 222, Highland 184, Sharon 182, and Sincerity 181. Fourteen individual Brothers made donations, and one family (Bro. George Little, PM) gave a collective donation.

On behalf of our Baltimore volunteers and the countless men and women patients who have given all but their lives to keep us free, MSA says thank you.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID ELKTON, MD PERMIT NO 85

From the Grand Master

Brethren,



We have just finished the 2010 Regional Meetings which were highlighted by near record attendance. It was a wonderful feeling to see the sidelines at the meetings full with Brothers interested in the many topics that were presented during the morning session. It is my hope that this is a sign of renewed interest in our Fraternity and that we are beginning the long road to prominence in our communities that is so essential to our future.

Today, as I am writing this article, we are in the middle of the Leadership Seminar and I can tell you the comments I have heard thus far from the attendees have all been as positive as those

heard at the Regional Meetings. I thank each of the Instructors on the Leadership Seminar Team for their contribution to the success of this very important program. Special thanks goes to Jerry and Dee Piepiora and Jason Sentz for their hard work in preparing all the handout materials and coordinating the myriad arrangements that went into making this Seminar the huge success that it was. I hope that the information that was disseminated by the Instructors will be put to good use by the attendees in their Lodges and that the ladies who attended the Ladies session have gone home with a better understanding of the goals of our Fraternity and the time their spouses give.

There are many important issues that will be coming before the Grand Lodge at the Semi-Annual Communication in May. These will all be presented in your Lodge in the next month so it is my hope that you will take the time to familiarize yourself with them so that you can let your leadership know how they are to cast the Lodge's ballot. Some of these decisions will shape the future of the Grand Lodge and your Lodge in the coming years. These are important to our achieving our goal of 25,000 members by 2025.

We do seem to be experiencing a renewed interest in our Fraternity as evidenced by the number of candidates working in the Degrees which at last check was nearly 500 across the jurisdiction. That, coupled with the number of petitions received since the beginning of the year means that our Lodges are very busy making Masons. Although this is a good problem to have, I do not want our Lodges to forget that the existing members still need to have a reason to attend Lodge. If every meeting consists of conferring the Three Degrees, the members will soon become disenchanted and stop attending. Degree work interspersed with interesting programs will ensure their continued attendance.

I also have a concern that some Lodges are unable to confer the degrees or teach the catechisms because those who have done the work in the past are no longer able to perform these important tasks. The Ritual subcommittee of the Long Range Planning Committee is evaluating several options and will be making recommendations later. If you received a survey in the mail, you are participating in the process and I urge you to return your completed survey as soon as possible so your input to the process can be included in the evaluation.

I am also looking to you for your thoughts and recommendations for the Mason of the Term. This Brother is one who stands out among the rest of us as on who has made a notable contribution to the Fraternity. We have created the Dr. John Coats Award to recognize this Brother. He cannot be a current or past Grand Lodge Officer, or a recipient of a Grand Lodge award in the past. If you know of such a Brother, please obtain an application from your Lodge Secretary, complete it and send it to the Office of the Grand Secretary before the deadline. Your nomination will be considered along with all others received and a single Brother will be selected. The award will be presented at Grand Lodge in May.

Worshipful Masters and Wardens are reminded that you are the representatives of your Lodge at the Semi-Annual Communication in May and your attendance is required. If you find that you cannot attend due to urgent work or family reasons, you should arrange for a proxy to act on behalf of your Lodge. Call the Office of the Grand Secretary to obtain the procedure to follow for appointing a Proxy.

As we did at the Annual Communication last November, any Master Mason in good standing may attend the Semi-Annual Communication in May. The only attendees who are allowed to cast a vote are those listed in the Constitution.

I look forward to seeing you at the Semi-Annual Communication or in your Lodge in the near future.

Fraternally,
Tom Velvin
Grand Master

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 2nd week of these months.

Send mail to:
Free State Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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

FSFM@glmd.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.



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.

**GRAND MASTER'S BALL
July 24, 2010**

6:30pm - 11:00pm

Black Tie Event

302 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Entertainment by:

The Fabulous Hubcaps

RSVP by July 16, 2010

For tickets, call Linda Hagan at 410-527-0600

Tables of 8 or 10 available.

Only 300 Tickets will be sold.

**NO TICKETS SOLD
AT THE DOOR**

**Free State Freemason
Advertising**

The Free State Freemason is now offering advertisement space for anyone wishing to promote their business in our publication.

Each page is 10" X 13", and your ads should fit the following dimensions:

- Business Card - 5" X 3.25"
- 1/4 Page - 5" X 6.5"
- 1/2 Page - 10" X 6.5"
- Full Page - 10" X 13"

Single Issue

- Business Card - \$75.00
- 1/4 Page - \$200.00
- 1/2 Page - \$400.00
- Full Page - \$700.00

One Year - 4 issues

- Business Card - \$250.00 (Save \$50.00)
- 1/4 Page - \$700.00 (Save \$100.00)
- 1/2 Page - \$1400.00 (Save \$200.00)
- Full Page - \$2500.00 (Save \$300.00)

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Candidate for
Most Worshipful 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.

Louis F. Bandell, Jr.
Candidate for
R W Deputy Grand Master



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.

Clifton Friel
Candidate for
R W Deputy Grand Master



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.

Gerald E. Piepiora
Candidate for
R W Deputy Grand Master



Professional Career: Graduate, Mechanical Engineering Degree, Worcester Polytechnic Institute - 1970; United States Army, 1970-1976, rank of Captain; Owner (and now retired) of Wilson Associates, electrical manufacturers representatives 1970 - 2010. Served on several manufacturers' advisory committees and belonged to the IEEE and CPMR professional associations.

Blue Lodge: Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44 raised November 16, 1993; Worshipful Master 1999, 2000; Plural member, St. Alban Universal Lodge No. 233; Honorary Past Master, Jephthah Lodge No. 222; currently an instructor of officer training at Mt. Ararat No. 44.

Memberships: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, Conowingo Scottish Rite Club; Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Buomi Motor Corps, Knights of Mecca; Tall Cedars - Har-Ce Forest; Past Masters Association of Harford County; York Rite, Druid Royal Arch Chapter No. 28, Hiram Council No. 5, Monumental Commandery No. 3 Knights Templar.

Leadership Positions: Harford County Right Worshipful Past Master; President Past Master's Association of Harford County; Har-ce Forest, Tall Cedars - Trustee; Venerable Master, Albert Pike Lodge of Perfection, 2009; Worshipful Grand Marshal, 2000; Grand Lodge Education Committee - 2001, 2002; Board of Grand Inspectors, Grand Inspector 2001, 2002, Served as President of the Board of Grand Inspectors, 2003-2006; Board of Trustees - Investment Committee, 2001 - 2006; Chairman - Grand Master's Ball, 2002 - 2006, Sub committee chairman - Harvest Homes Day Parking 2001-2006, 2008, 2009; Activities Chairman, Northeast Conference Of Grand Masters, 2006, Hospitality Committee Chairman, Annual and Semi Annual Communications - 2005, 2006; Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden, 2007; Chairman - Lodge Leadership Training Program - 2009, 2010; Lodge Renewal Committee - 2009, 2010.

Honors and Awards: Grand Master's Award, 1999; Scottish Rite, Knights Commander Court of Honor, 2007, Thomas J. Shryock Award, November 2007

Thomas A. Keller
Candidate for
R W Senior Grand Warden



I am a member of Odenton Lodge No. 209, serving as Worshipful Master in 2006 and 2007. Elected and served as president of the Odenton Temple Holding Corporation since 2006 and currently serve as lodge Ritualist and Marshal.

Appointed to the 2008 Grand Line as Aide to the Grand Master and in the 2009 Grand Line as W. Grand Tyler, and currently serve as a Vice

President on the Board of Grand Inspectors and as an instructor at the law school. I am a member of the Grand Lodge Leadership team as well as the Grand Lodge long-range planning or 2025 committee.

Other Masonic activities; Boumi Shrine Knights of Mecca, York Rite Concordia Chapter and Council and Monumental Commandery, Tall Cedars of Lebanon Annapolis Forest 126 currently S.D.G.T.C., Scottish Rite member of the lighting crew, Master of Ceremonies for the Council of Kadosh, and coroneted Inspector General Honorary in Oct 2009.

I would consider it to be an honor to have the opportunity to serve the Brethren of the Grand Lodge.

Paul G. Shircliff
Candidate for
R W Deputy Grand Master



Masonic Resume: Cumberland Chapter DeMolay 1955-1959; Honorary member of Maryland DeMolay Foundation; Member of East Gate Lodge No. 216 - Worshipful Master 1974, 1979. Appointed Installing Marshal 1981-present. Elected Secretary 1989-1995, Treasurer 2001-2008. Scottish Rite Diplomat 2002-2008; Member of the Cumberland Masonic Board of Relief Association. President of Past Masters Association of Western Maryland in 1982.

Appointed Grand Inspector 1977-1982, Vice President for Western Region 1991-1993 & 1997-2003. Appointed Worshipful Grand Pursuivant - 1981. Elected RW Junior Grand Warden 1990. Appointed to Board of Managers 1992 and 2010.

Appointed Deputy Grand Lecturer 2003-2004. Public Relations Committee 2006-present.

Masonic Affiliations: Scottish Rite Cumberland 1968. KCCH - 1993, Inspector General Honorary - 1999. Appointed Executive Assistant to Personal Representative 1997-2000. Ali Ghan Shrine 1968, Member of Past Master's Unit since 1975. Salem Chapter No. 18 RAC, Salem Council No. 11 RSM, Antioch Commandery No. 6 KT. United Grand Imperial Council of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Saint Cyprian Conclave 1998. McKinley Chapter No. 12 OES 1989.

Gene L. Purkey
Candidate for the office of
R W Senior Grand Warden



Masonic Resume: Past Master of Potomac Lodge No. 100 in 2005, 2006. Treasurer of Potomac Lodge No. 100 in 2007. Lodge Secretary of Potomac Lodge No. 100 from 2008 to present.

Education: Executive MBA with emphasis in Marketing and Finance, Fairleigh Dickenson University. BA in Biology with chemistry, philosophy, and speech minors,

University of Denver.

Professional Experience: IBM Corporation (retired) for 30 years with 15 years in operational and middle management, corporate wide (all divisions) crisis management for last 5 years employed. Owner/President of Perky Vettes, Inc., a licensee of the Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors Corporation, for 21 years, provider of apparel to Chevrolet Corvette owners and to the major Corvette mail order/internet companies. Currently substitute teacher for Mineral and Hampshire counties, WV in science, English, social studies, history, and business education at the middle and high school levels.

Masonic History: Worshipful Grand Pursuivant 2006-2007; Vice President Board of Grand Inspectors, Western Region, 2008 - current; Grand Inspector Mountain Lodge No. 99 and Kemp Lodge No. 154, 2005 - current; Lodge Renewal Committee Chairman; Board of Trustees member, Maryland Masonic Homes; Budget Committee Chairman, Maryland Masonic Homes; Investment Committee member, Maryland Masonic Homes; Lodge Leadership Committee member with responsibility for Leadership Class; Grand Lodge Hospitality Committee member; 2025 Long Range Planning Committee member.

Masonic Affiliations: Scottish Rite; Board of Trustees member, Scottish Rite Foundation, Cumberland Consistory; Past Member Scottish Rite 32° team; York Rite; Ali Ghan Shrine AAON-MS Railroad Unit; Warren E. Sipe Honorary DeMolay Chapter.

Robert W. Chase
Candidate for the office of
R W Junior Grand Warden



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.

William D. Hooper, Jr.
Candidate for
R W Junior Grand Warden

Masonic Resume: Master Counselor of Belvedere Chapter - DeMolay 1957; Past Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 202 - 1990, 1994, and 2007. Trustee for Tuscan Lodge No. 202 - 1989-present. 32° KCCH Scottish Rite. Member of Phoenix Chapter No. 7 RAC, Jerusalem Council No. 2 RSM, Crusade Commandery No. 5 KT, and

Maryland York Rite College No. 58. Member of Boumi Shrine - Knights of Mecca Ceremonial Team, Golf Club Treasurer and Past President, Ambassadors, Towson Shrine Club, Co-Chairman of Boumi Golf Classic - 2009. Appointed Grand Marshal 2003-2004; served as Grand Inspector from 1993-1999; Chairman of the Grand Lodge Trial Committee 2007-present; Counsel to the Board of Managers & Trustees 2003-present. Counsel to the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library and Museum. Member of the Past Masters Association of Baltimore from 1991-present.

Professional: During Law School, I worked for the Travelers Insurance Company as a multi-line claims adjuster. Since 1963 I have been in private practice in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. From 1972-1975, I was County Attorney (chief legal officer for both branches of government) for Harford County, Maryland. From 1975-1979, I was a member of the Harford County Board of Education.

Dan B. Lane
Candidate for the office of
R W Junior Grand Warden



Masonic Resume: I was raised to Master Mason in 1991 and joined Kensington-Bethesda Lodge No. 198 in 2005. Served as Worshipful Master of Kensington-Bethesda Lodge No. 198 in 2006 and Worshipful

Master of Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 in 2009. Currently Treasurer of Silver Spring Lodge No. 215 and president of the Silver Spring Temple and Library Association. Member of Past Masters Association and will be appointed Junior Warden this coming December. Appointed Worshipful Junior Grand Stewart in 2008 and appointed Grand Inspector in 2009-2010 for Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 and Wheaton Lodge No. 228. District No. 5 Coordinator for MDCHIP Program.

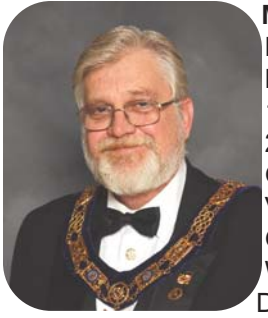
Masonic Affiliations: Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite (2008) (Knights of St. Andrew), Member of the 5th Degree team, Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine (2006)(Legion of Honor) and the Free State Shield and Square Club (2009); and National Sojourners' (2009).

Volunteer Service: Vice President of S.A.L.T. Meals on Wheels since 2002 and currently DAV Hospital Service Coordinator at the DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Annual Ice Cream Truck Social to the National Naval Medical Center for the "Wounded Warriors" and a member of the Masonic Services Association.

Professional: 20 year career U.S. Marine Corps and Certified Culinary Chef for the past 5 years.

Education: Currently working on B.A. at Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, MD, 2005 Culinary Program, L'Academie De Cuisine, Gaithersburg, MD and 1997 Campbell University (A.A.). Non-collegiate: Certified Food Service Manager, Supervisor's Instructor Training Course, Education Training Course for Formal Schools, Emergency Medical Technician, Environmentalist Course and Public Speaking Course.

Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
Candidate for Re-Election
R W Grand Secretary

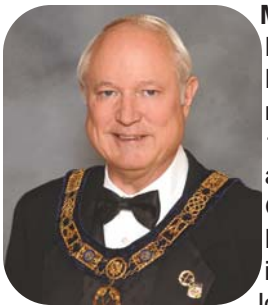


Masonic Resume: Past Master of Oriental Lodge No. 158 in 1982, 1989, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2003. Past Grand Inspector, Past VP of the Board of Grand Inspectors, Past Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon, Past Member of

the Board of Managers, Past President of the Past Master's Association of Baltimore City/County and currently is the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary. 33^o Inspector General Honorary.

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

William E. Gyr
Candidate for Re-Election
R W Grand Treasurer



Masonic Resume: 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; Current Worthy Patron Gleaner Chapter No. 49, OES; Past Associate Guardian, Bethel No. 48, IOJD, Reisterstown. Master of Tuscan Lodge in 2000. Honorary Past Master of Lebanon Lodge No. 175. Past Vice President of Grand Inspectors for the Central Region. Member of Masonic Veterans Association and Past President of the Past Masters Association, Baltimore. Member of Druid RAC No. 28, Hiram Council No. 5, and Monumental Commandery No. 3 KT. Appointed to serve as W. Grand Pursuivant 2005-2006. Elected Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer 2006-present.

Current Financial conditions require a watchful

and attentive approach to Grand Lodge Budget and Finance review. It would be my pleasure to address these issues and continue to serve as Grand Treasurer.

Ronald A. Block
Candidate for the
Board of Managers



Masonic Career: Member of Collington Lodge No. 230 –Past Master 1997, 2005, 2006;

St. Alban Universal Lodge No. 233 – charter member, Past Master 2003; Deputy Grand Lecturer – 2007 to present; Grand Inspector – 1997–2004, VP Southern Region 2003-2004; W. Junior Grand Deacon – 2000; W. Grand Marshal – 2009-2010; Lodge Leadership Program Instructor; Grand Lodge Vision 2025 Committee subcommittee member; Lodge Renewal Committee member; Chairman for the Committee on Masonic Halls; Chairman for the Committee on Public Relations; Member of the former Grand Lodge Land Lease Committee; Member of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Baltimore; Member of A.A.O.N.M.S., Boumi Shrine Center; Annapolis Shrine Club – Past President; Member of Odenton Chapter No. 29, O.E.S.

Professional Experience: Southern Maryland Insurance, Inc., Bowie, Maryland - Commercial insurance producer, 2009 – present; Gardiner & Gardiner General Contractors, Crofton, Maryland - Senior Vice President and C.O.O., 1998 – 2009; Vice President-Finance and C.F.O., 1987 – 1998; Behrens and Robson, CPAs, Richmond, Virginia - Consultant, special engagement on NYSE listed corporate audit 1987; SWA Development Corporation, Richmond, Virginia - Chief Financial Officer and General Manager, 1986 – 1987; Western Management Corporation, Washington, DC, Positions of Controller of Western Development to President of Western, Management (The Western" companies were the predecessor to The Mills Corporation.) 1981 – 1986; Gardiner and Gardiner, Inc., Crofton, Maryland; Various positions leading to Treasurer; 1972 - 1981

Education and Credentials: Property & Casualty Insurance License, State of Maryland; Certified Public Accountant, State of Maryland; Bachelor of Science Degree - Accounting, University of Maryland.

The winner of the drawing for \$500.00 raffled off on March 8, 2010 by Queen City Lodge No. 131 and Allegany County Human Services class was John Eberly, an Iraq Veteran who recently returned home for the birth of his child on March 5, 2010. The raffle was a great success. After the \$500 prize and \$587 expenses were deducted, the students received approximately \$2200 towards assistance to defray the cost of conference expenses. We would like to thank all who purchased tickets to help make this endeavor successful. Your support is greatly appreciated.

HOW GREAT IT IS TO BE AN ALI GHAN SHRINER !!



Brethren, Wouldn't it be FEZtastic if everything went according to plan? As nice as that may sound, the reality is that things do not always go according to plan, but is that really so bad? If everything went the way we anticipated, there

would be no pleasant surprises for us. In fact, we would probably become stuck in a rut. Many, including me, often benefit from some of the most delightful experiences by getting sidetracked.

Recently, I had some of my plans altered and yes, an abundance of delightful experiences surfaced. The experience encountered was being elected to serve, a second time, as Ali Ghan Shrine Potentate. Certainly not what I had planned and one Ali Ghan has never experienced in its 85 year history.

In such short span of time, since Installation, many thoroughly enjoyable and positive things have occurred including having dinner with MWGM Velvin & Lady Carol; modifying our budget for the 29th time; enlisting that last event chairman; meeting with RWPS-GW Jerry Piepiora; and, the list could continue. With all of these and more, one of the most satisfying experience has been the outstanding cooperation received from our Divan as well as, countless Nobles. As we realize, cooperation can make all the difference in the quest for achievement.

I'm reminded of the time spent in the Boy Scouts and one incident that highlights the significance of cooperation. While hiking one weekend, our patrol came across an old, abandoned section of train tracks. Each of us tried walking the rails, but always lost our balance and fell off. Deviously, two of us bet the others that we could walk the entire track without falling and, the bet was on !! My friend and I jumped on opposite rails, extended our hand to balance each other and off we went walking the entire length with no difficulty!! In this case, cooperation certainly lead us to achievement.

We do things better, accomplish much more and provide a better environment when we cooperate with each other. When we willingly assist each other, that spirit of TEAMwork has a way of removing any unpleasant aspect of the task at hand.

On behalf of the Nobles and Ladies of Ali Ghan Shrine, be it known our hands are extended to help MWGM Velvin, the Grand Lodge officers, area Blue Lodges and others when called upon. It is our desire to see a stronger Shrine-Mason relationship and yes, cooperation will make the difference if we are to achieve that desire.

Fraternally,
 Round 2- Here We Go Again !
 R. Francis "Fran" Shives
 Potentate- "Then & Now"
 Ali Ghan Shriners

Wicomico Lodge No. 91

On December 12, 2009, we raised 4 new brothers to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The Grand Master had issued a dispensation for us to be able to hold a special Saturday communication for this purpose.

We began at 1:00pm and did not close lodge until 5:15pm. It was a marathon lodge meeting! We brought all four FCs in, heard their catechism, ushered them out for the vote then began the degree work. We received them jointly up through the obligation, after which we conferred the second section in full form on each man individually. We then presented the lecture and charged them jointly. After this we had several presentations to make. We had almost thirty in attendance. Two of our new MM had Uncles in attendance. It is truly special when a Masonic family member can be there on the man's special day (keeping Freemasonry in the family). *Pictured below from left to right: Weston Park, David Long, Craig Scott, W.M., John Mendygral, and Kyle Heberle.*



What is most remarkable about this degree was that it was conferred by a veritable who's who of Freemasonry on the Eastern Shore and most participants were past masters and/or Grand Lodge officers. I was coming up short of officers to fill the critical chairs for this degree and put out the work to the other local lodges for help. I was overwhelmed by the support I was offered. It was truly heartwarming to be able to work with so many good friends and brothers and to know that they had voluntarily offered their services to help us. This was Freemasonry in action. I'd like to run down the list of names for you. Each and every man deserves a big "Atta Boy" pat on the back. I tried to be careful to thank them all. All did exemplary ritual work.

Fraternally yours,
Craig Scott, W.M.
Wicomico Lodge No. 91

A Family Affair at Montgomery-Cornerstone No. 195

When several members of the same family are received into Freemasonry, usually on separate occasions, it is an exiting circumstance. However, when the family members are initiated on the same night, it is a rarity, made even more unusual by the fact that they are father and son! On Tuesday, March 2, 2010, Montgomery-Cornerstone Lodge No. 195 welcomed to the Masonic fraternity, Roland Zumaran and his son, Michael. With over 35 Masons in attendance, including four visitors from Herndon (VA) Lodge, it was an inspiring ritual, with brotherhood abounding.

Bro. Roland Zumaran, who was born and raised in South America, has a valuable history of connection to Masonry in his early education. Not being from a Masonic family, he was sponsored to attend a private Masonic-funded school by a friend of his family. His early exposure to Masonry motivated him to renew his association with Masonry after he had resettled in Rockville, MD. His son, Bro. Michael, was inspired by his father's stories of the generosity and brotherhood among Masons and received his EA degree lecture next to his dad. This was not a meeting to have missed!

The George Washington Masonic Memorial Freemasons' White House Stones Exhibit

The George Washington Masonic Memorial opened a new exhibit in February featuring 45 historic White House stones. Each stone is marked by a Scottish stonemason who helped build the White House. The stones are reassembled for the first time since President Harry S. Truman sent one to every U.S. Masonic Grand Lodge in 1952.

Complementing the stones is a Minute Book from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Scotland. It lists members of the lodge, who in 1794, immigrated to help build the White House. Accompanying the Minute Book is the lodge's Mark Book, showing each stonemason's trade mark. By comparing these marks to the marks on the stones, visitors may identify the men who helped to build the President's House. The exhibit opened in conjunction with the Memorial Association's 100th Anniversary and will run through May 2011.

In 1789, first president George Washington and the U.S. Congress were determined to build a great capital city. By 1792, the site was chosen, designer Pierre L'Enfant's street plan was adapted, and work began. At the city's center would be the U.S. Capitol, the "People's House." The President's House would be located on Pennsylvania Avenue. Washington reviewed the site and personally selected architect James Hoban's design. The mansion's cornerstone was laid with a small civic and Masonic ceremony on October 13, 1792.

Although foundation work then began in earnest, the government soon discovered the young nation had an abundance of craftsmen, but few master stonemasons. What's more, those it did have were working on the U.S. Capitol. After a thorough search in America and Europe, agent George Walker traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland. By spring 1794, he had recruited at least eight stonemasons from The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8.

With the arrival of the eight Scots stonemasons, the White House walls rose to completion in 1798. During construction, the stonemasons, being Freemasons, joined the local lodge. Federal Lodge No.15 had been chartered September 12, 1793 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. James Hoban was its first Worshipful Master. Federal Lodge became the first lodge when the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was constituted in 1811. The exhibit also includes Federal Lodge's first Account Book listing the Scots stonemasons and White

House architect James Hoban as its first Master. Additional materials include a letter from President Truman, historic photographs and other items.



The White House stones were discovered soon after Truman became president in 1945. With major plaster cracks appearing and a piano dropping nearly through the floor, it was obvious that the executive mansion needed a complete overhaul. The First Family relocated to Blair House as work began. By 1950, only the White House facade and some of the original foundation stones remained. President Truman inspected the work often and during one tour he noticed a large number of stones engraved with mason's marks. Recognizing that they were made by Scottish stonemasons, he contacted the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and had more than 100 of them delivered to the Grand Lodge headquarters on New York Avenue—just three blocks away.

In 1952, President Truman asked the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia to send one of the marked stones to each U.S. Grand Lodge. Each stone had a small White House brass plaque affixed to it accompanied by a letter - framed of recycled White House wood - to the Grand Master. Additional stones were distributed to Canadian Grand Lodges, several Order of Eastern Star state Grand Chapters, a few local lodges, DeMolay International, the two U.S. Scottish Rite Supreme Councils, the Grand Lodge of Israel, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. Many were hand delivered by Truman or by Carl Claudy, Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia presented stones to the recently independent Grand Lodge of Alaska and Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

This unique exhibit of American and Scottish Masonic history is sponsored by the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Valley of Washington, Orient of the District of Columbia, and by the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia. It is also made possible by the cooperation and support of many U.S. Grand Lodges, the Grand Lodge of Scotland, The Lodge of Journeymen Masons No. 8 of Edinburgh, Federal Lodge No. 1 of the District of Columbia, and the White House Historical Association.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is a private, non-profit educational organization. Its membership is comprised of 52 Grand Lodges (50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico), representing nearly two million

Freemasons in the United States. The Memorial Association was created on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1910. Between 1922 and 1932, it built the George Washington Masonic Memorial through volunteer donations from American Freemasons. The Association's mission is: "To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country."

Mark A. Tabbert
 Director of Collections
 George Washington Masonic Memorial

Masonic Charities of Maryland SCHOLARSHIPS 2010

By this time, the applications for the forty-nine \$1,000 scholarships sponsored by the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) are furiously being completed by high school seniors throughout Maryland to meet the March 30 deadline in schools. Following a review by the scholarship review committee at each Lodge, those applications are reviewed again by an MCM review panel at the Grand Lodge to select the 2010 scholarship recipients. One of these winners, who stands out from the rest, will also be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship, named in memory of PGM C. David Haacke, MCM founder. The scholarships will be awarded at a banquet held at the Grand Lodge on Sunday, June 6, 2010, attended by the students and their parents.

As Maryland Masons, you should take pride in your support for this annual event. Also, please see that your Lodge receives and processes the applications in a timely fashion and sends them to the Grand Lodge within the time frame needed to finalize the winners. And, if and when a winner from your Lodge is identified, please make every effort to get on the presentation agenda and attend the winner's high school awards night to recognize the student. This is an excellent opportunity to foster awareness of Maryland Masonry and the generous work of the fraternity through the Masonic Charities of Maryland.

Founding Editor of the Free State Freemason

Brethren, It is our sad duty to inform you of the passing of Bro. Seymour H. Lipshitz, who has laid down his working tools and passed to the Celestial Lodge above. He passed away on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at the Bedford Court Healthcare Center Retirement Homes located in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Bro. Lipshitz took over as Editor for the Grand Lodge Newsletter in March of 1977 under the direction of Grand Master Roy H. Stetler, Jr. whose intention was to keep the membership informed as to what was happening with the Grand Lodge and the Blue Lodges throughout this Jurisdiction.

The name **Free State Freemason** didn't appear until the 2nd issue dated September 1977 after a "You Name It Contest" was run to name the new publication.

Bro. Lipshitz served as Editor until 1997.

Mid-Shore Seafood Festival

Saturday, August 28, 2010

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Held at the Tuckahoe Steam & Gas Show Grounds

Tickets in Advance - \$27.00 At the Gate - \$30.00 per person

(Kids 6-12 \$10.00 Under 6 free)

Sponsored by The Mid-Shore Masonic Lodges

Cambridge Lodge No. 66 - Centreville Lodge No. 180 - Chester Lodge No. 115

Choptank Lodge No. 138 - Coats Lodge No. 102 - Granite Lodge No. 177

Nanticoke Lodge No. 172 - Temple Lodge No. 128

Ticket Information - Call (410) 527-0600

Grand Lodge of Maryland's

New Years Eve Party - December 31, 2010

7:30pm - 12:30pm

Menu:

Hors d'ourves

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable display

International Cheese Extraveganza

Meatballs in Brown Gravy

Crab Dip/Fried Shrimp with cocktail sauce

Barbequed Ribletts

Spinach Salad

5oz. Filet Mignon & 4oz. Jumbo Lump Crab Cake

Ice Cream with Fresh Berries and Whipped Cream

Open Bar (After Midnight) & Champagne Toast

Dancing to the sounds of The Doug Sorensen Orchestra

Price:

Ticket sales begin October 1, 2010 - \$175.00 a couple

After November 1, 2010 - \$185.00 a couple

After December 1, 2010 - \$195.00 a couple

BALTIMORE'S BEST OKTOBERFEST

GRAND LODGE 2010 OF MARYLAND OKTOBERFEST

OCT. 9 '10

FROM 6:30 PM TO 10:30 PM
 Food Service from 7 PM to 10 PM

AT 304 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE
 COCKEYSVILLE, MARYLAND

Featuring

JOE WENDEL ORCHESTRA
 FROM EUCLID, OHIO
 THE AUERHAHN SCHUHPLATTLER VEREIN
 FROM OLEY, PA

RESERVATIONS FOR TABLES OF 8 OR 10 ONLY
 ALL OTHERS WILL BE OPEN SEATING
 FOR TICKETS SEND ALL CHECKS TO:
 (Checks Payable to Germania Lodge)

Children Up to 4 - FREE / Ages 5 - 13 - \$18.00

Tickets

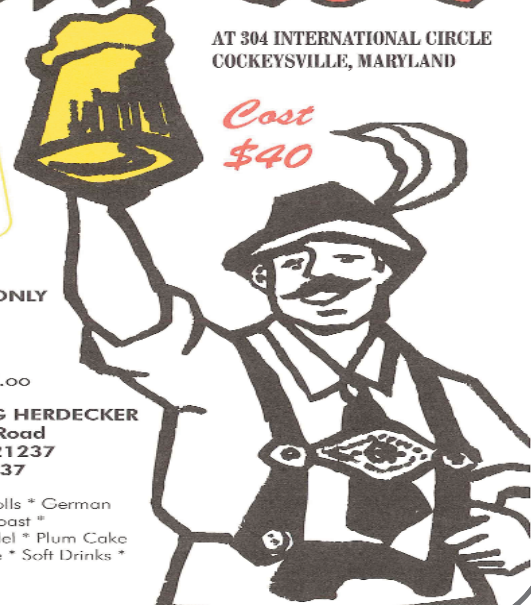
ROLF P. SORG
 11812 Meylston Drive
 Lutherville, MD 21093
 410-252-1386

WOLFGANG HERDECKER
 8419 Coco Road
 Balto., MD 21237
 410-391-2037

Menu

Bratwurst * Weisswurst * Wieners (long hot dogs) * Rolls * German
 Potato Salad * Egg Potato Salad * Sauerkraut/Pork Roast *
 Roasted Chicken - Halves * Soft Pretzels * Apfel Strudel * Plum Cake
 * Bienenstich * Coffee Service * German Beer * Wine * Soft Drinks *
 Water * Cash Schnaps & Brandy Bar

Catering by Old World Catering



Maryland Masonic Homes

"Bonnie Blink"

Resident Interview



The Maryland Masonic Homes is a home that Maryland Masons and their families can rely on being there when they need it most, and for Mrs. Betty Nelson, this was certainly the case. Not only did Mrs. Nelson grow up in the Hunt

Valley Area, her grandfather used to work on the Bonnie Blink Farm before the Homes was built. Mrs. Nelson now resides in a beautiful one-bedroom Independent Living apartment which overlooks the grounds she knew so well. As has been heard by many, Mrs. Nelson states, "If I ever had to find a place to live, I knew I would come to Bonnie Blink."

Mrs. Nelson grew up in a family that were part of the Masonic Brotherhood, her father was a long standing Mason of Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116 and her mother was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She and her late husband were also active members and she lights up when she recalls the good times shared at the many events with their group of friends. As part of the Boumi Motor Corps, one of many of these memories she holds so dear is riding on a motorcycle with her husband.

Being retired for over 14 years, Mrs. Nelson decided it was time to take the next step. Without even looking at another Retirement Community, she made the call to Bonnie Blink, visited and moved in without hesitation. The physical aspect of the move was daunting, but with the help of a dear friend, she was soon able to relax and enjoy her new home. She couldn't be happier with the staff and jokes that, "everybody knows me even if I don't know them." She highly recommends Bonnie Blink to friends of hers and knows that whatever may come, Bonnie Blink will always be home.

Greetings from the Hill!



What an incredibly challenging winter we have experienced. The snow events took their toll on our buildings and property. Our snow removal equipment took a beating as well and we are anticipating for the next budget year, several replacements.

You can be proud of the dedicated team and how they pulled together to continue providing the superior quality of care during the "snowiest February on record," in Maryland. There was no interruption of service for our residents. Those staff who participated in one or more of the snow events, celebrated at a breakfast March 12th, where we awarded t-shirts "I survived the Blizzard of 2010 at Maryland Masonic Homes." Each Department was honored for their personal commitment, dedication and performance. Four individuals were honored for "being the most fearless and daring," for either walking to work or driving when the Governor had closed the streets.

We recently received the results of the annual Maryland Health Care Commission Resident Family Satisfaction Survey. Once again, the Masonic Homes surpassed comparable health care facilities in Maryland with an overall rating of 96%. And 96% of the families said they would recommend MMH.

Each quarter, a 'featured' department is spotlighted. An important component to the operation at Maryland Masonic Homes is the Recreation Department. Everyone says this is the 'fun' department to work in. Facts are it is fun, but there is a lot of planning, preparation and hard work. Bingo, exercise, special events and holidays, music, singing, trips, card games, movies,

entertainment and many, many other activities are offered to our residents. It is a pleasure to work with this team of professionals!



Pictured Above (from left): Inez Woodson, Bonnie Collins, Director Barbara Katz, Kellie Vogt, and Stephanie Czech.

Residents and staff are anxious for Spring to start and as our census continues to grow, please stop by and visit us and discover why we are the premier retirement community in Maryland. Contact Stacey Sedesse, Admissions Coordinator for a tour.

Blessings,
Paula L. O'Neill, N.H.A.
Executive Director

Grand Lodge Bookkeeping

All bookkeeping, bill paying and invoicing for the following four entities is performed at the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland, 304 International Circle:

- Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland (FEIN: 52-0226260)
- Maryland Masonic Homes (FEIN: 52-0567507)
- Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of Maryland (FEIN: 01-0911124)
- Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. (FEIN: 52-1470411)

Please keep in mind a few things:

1. It is very important to identify your payments and or checks. Include invoice numbers or add a description in the Memo when making a payment. We can't always know what your payment is for.

2. Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library and Museum and Masonic Charities of Maryland are both classified as tax exempt 501(c)(3) entities.

3. Grand Lodge of AF & AM of MD and Maryland Masonic Homes are both classified as tax-exempt 501(c)(8) entities.

As always, please call if you have any questions about our billing or how to make a payment. We are here to assist you!

Rosie Frevel, Assistant Controller
Bettie Dunkin, Controller



MARYLAND
MASONIC
HOMES

Yes, I would like information about Maryland Masonic Homes

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-Mail: _____

Level of Care Interested In:

- Healthcare
- Assisted Living
- Independent Living

Mail to:
Maryland Masonic Homes
300 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030