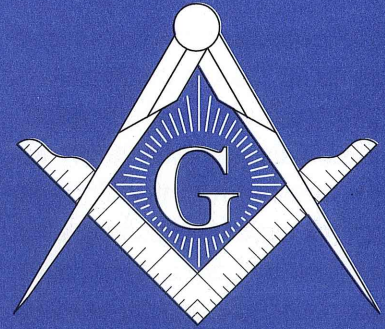


Free State Freemason



Winter 2006

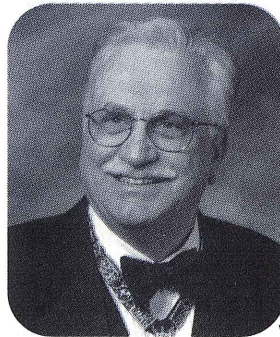
2006 Grand Line Officers

M.W. Grand Master - Ronald G. Bélanger
R.W. D.G.M. - John R. Biggs, Jr.
R.W. Sr. Grand Warden - Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
R.W. Jr. Grand Warden - Carl W. Todd
R.W. Grand Secretary - Herbert Y. Holcomb, III
R.W. Grand Treasurer - Wm. Raymond Bosley
R.W. Grand Marshal - Harold A. Garren
W. Grand Chaplain - Donald C. Stottlemeyer
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain - Elwood L. Ulmer
W. Asst. Grand Chaplain - Richard C. Oursler
W. Sr. Grand Deacon - Jay W. Hodges
W. Jr. Grand Deacon - Kerry P. Collins
W. Sr. Grand Steward - Jeffrey L. Schuster
W. Jr. Grand Steward - Paul C. Cornelius, Jr.
W. Grand Standard Bearer - C. Denning Wiggins
W. Grand Sword Bearer - G. Steven Shlagel
W. Grand Pursuivant - William E. Gyr
W. Grand Dir. of Ceremonies - Arthur R. Dickerson
W. Grand Tyler - Melvin E. Harrison
W. Asst. Grand Tyler - Richard H. Uren
W. Grand Lecturer - David L. Schneider
W. Grand Organist - Ronald L. Unger
W. Asst. Grand Organist - Kenneth C. Mars
R.W. Grand Secretary Emeritus - Jack R. Frazier
W. Grand Lecturer Emeritus - Edward B. Kraft

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

Ring In The New Year

From the Grand Master:



Brethren all: At this writing we are in the midst of commencing the new Masonic year. First let me thank you all once again for the opportunity and privilege to serve the Craft in this most honorable position, it truly is a humbling experience. As your Grand Master, I again pledge that I will attempt to serve the entire jurisdiction with my full attention and best effort and that my Cable Tow will extend its entire length to the far reaches of our great jurisdiction. You have bestowed upon this Master Mason the mantle of leadership and I will do my best to continue to earn the respect and trust you have placed before me.

I am pleased to share with each of you that the 219th Annual Communication was in most respects a huge success. I am disappointed and very concerned however that twenty one Lodges in our jurisdiction were not present and did not participate in the business of our Grand Lodge. That means we were without forty two (42) votes on the floor. While each of those Lodges may consider their respective two votes irrelevant, you must surely agree that forty two votes is a considerable number and may have "Made a Difference." My Brethren there is no "I" in Grand Lodge, Grand Master or Team. This is OUR Grand Lodge, yours and mine, and it requires a team effort for it to be successful. Please ensure your Lodge's participation at the Semi-Annual Communication in May by appointing delegates and proxies to be representatives of your Lodge and participate in the process of a successful communication. This, my Brethren, is an example of apathy raising its ugly head. We must not allow it to take over our Grand Lodge!

While the visitation schedule for January is lengthy and ambitious, rest assured your Grand Lodge Team is busily preparing for the Regional Meetings beginning February 4, 2006. The first of those meetings will be

(Continued on page 3)



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

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

John R. Biggs, RWDGM,
Editor
1222 Walker Road
Freeland, MD 21053
dgmmaryland@covad.net

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

Winter Issue – January 1
Spring Issue – April 1
Summer Issue – July 1
Fall Issue – October 1

Grand Lodge of Maryland
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030
410-527-0600 tel
410-527-1276 fax
FSFM@covad.net

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

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

© 2000 by the Grand Lodge of
A.F.&A.M. of Maryland.
All Rights Reserved.

NOTICE:

Brethren, your next issue of the Free State Freemason will arrive in March and will be in the form of an eight page insert inside of the Scottish Rite Journal. This is an experiment for now, and each Maryland Mason will be mailed a copy of the Scottish Rite Journal. The Scottish Rite will be absorbing all costs of printing and mailing which will be a considerable savings for the Grand Lodge. In addition, the Journal will be mailed once every two months instead of quarterly. Once you have seen this format, your comments will be welcome.

The cutoff date for these mailings will be the last day of March, May, July, Sept., Nov. and January. These are not flexible at all, therefore if you have something of a timely nature it must be in Grand Lodge to comply with these dates!

The Grand Lodge of Maryland Ballroom Rentals

Contact: Raymond J. Vogel, Ballroom Coordinator at 410.527.0289

E-Mail: glballroom@covad.net, Fax 410.527.0289

Office Hours: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Mon.-Fri., 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 see and feel the beauty of this facility.

Call us and come see our Ballroom in this beautiful Hunt Valley setting.

Article Submission

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

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

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

Pictures should have submitting individual's name on back.

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

Articles must be typewritten.

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



(Continued from page 1)

here in Cockeysville and there is much to be communicated and discussed. As your Grand Master, I will want to know your opinion on the possibilities of a "Trial Commission" to handle Masonic Trials within our jurisdiction. I will be meeting with Grand Lodge Council and have a better idea of how to best write this amendment which will be presented in May to be voted on in November. I need your input and consideration on this topic but, I feel we should as a Grand Lodge consider this path as trials are difficult and divisive causing great strain on our individual members and our Lodges. Please give this concept some thought and come prepared with your ideas. Our Deputy Grand Master will also be sharing his ideas for his term during this year's regional meetings and I'm sure it will be of interest to all. These are but two of the topics that will be presented at regional meetings this year and I trust you will come out and share in the experience.

I am pleased to report that the Masonic watch program that was initiated this fall has netted better than \$20,000 for the John Coat's Memorial Fund. I can only express my profound thanks and appreciation to the Craft for their support of this Grand Lodge fund raiser. The initial estimate stated we would net around seven to ten thousand dollars on the project. Once again Maryland Masonry has stepped up and exceeded all expectations. Thank you!

Masonic Charities of Maryland is initiating another raffle and yes, we have heard the message of the Craft. We're back to offering a

Harley Davidson motorcycle. While the boat met with limited success the Craft has spoken and we have reacted accordingly, so all you bike riders out there get ready. Further info on this year's raffle can be found in this publication.

I will continue to stress the importance of community involvement. We have several Lodges across the jurisdiction that have experienced a marked improvement in petitions because of community programs. Programs that allow the public and uninitiated to get to know who we are and what we are about. Here again the formula of identity plus image will equal membership seems to be holding true. I can only encourage all of you to at least try something different or something new in an attempt at making a difference.

The New Year is upon us my Brethren and this may be an opportunity time to set aside some of our old ways and embark on a new course to help promote the worlds greatest fraternity. Let us all be about promoting Freemasonry and "Making a Difference." Onward my Brethren, let us be ever Onward!

Ronald G. Bélanger
Grand Master

Memorial Wall of Honor

The Board of Managers has approved a fundraising effort to once more display our Masonic Heritage from the former Grand Lodge building at 225 N. Charles Street and to honor Maryland Masons who have served in the

nation's armed forces since 1775.

ALL FUNDS must be raised! There will be no Grand Lodge or Maryland Masonic Homes contribution.

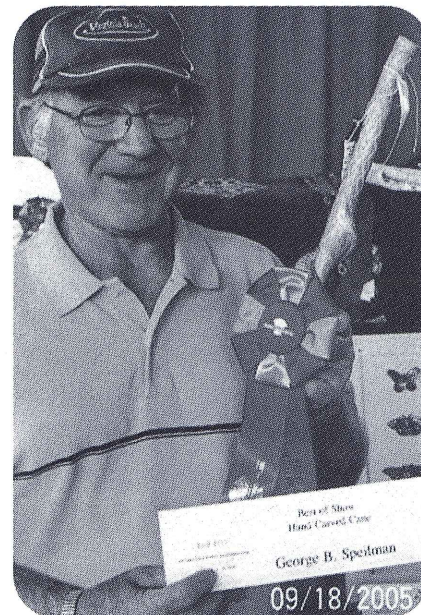
This Memorial Wall of Honor Project will display the dedicatory plaques created over 120 years to honor the Masonic Service of some of the "Giants" of Maryland Masonry.

The Memorial Wall will also collectively honor Maryland Masons who served in the conflicts of the nation over the 229 years of its existence.

Tax deductible donations to the Memorial Wall Fund can be made to: *Maryland Masonic Homes Memorial Wall Fund*

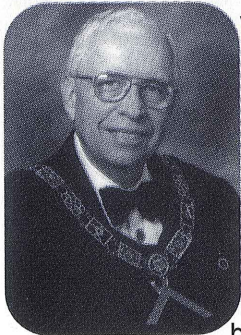
*304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030*

Below: Brother George Spielman, Sr. Deacon of Brunswick Lodge No. 191 won first place with his hand made Masonic walking sticks at the Greater Frederick Fair last year.





From the Deputy



Greetings Brethren; my best wishes to you and your family as we begin a new year in our fraternity and our lives. This should be an exciting time for our Lodges. We are in the process of installing officers who will guide their Lodge for 2006. The Grand Master and his Grand Line have already attended installations in several Lodges, and I have yet to see one that didn't have to put out extra chairs to accommodate the crowd. That is truly a pleasure to see.

Our Grand Master speaks regularly about the success of Lodges that are active in their community, and that is but one of the things we should pursue vigorously in some manner if we truly want to sustain our wonderful fraternity. Any Lodge that is not connected with its community needs to consider becoming involved for the following reasons:

Future members are in the community and when the Lodge is involved, they will discover what Masonry is all about. Future members demand that any organization they join be active in community projects. The community is the responsibility of everyone - including Masons. The Lodge is a perfect community-service organization. Masons will be proud of their role in the community. Any organi-

zation, to grow, needs to be able to involve all its members in some way. Community involvement is one way to do this. The best way to get members involved is to respond to a need in the community. Here are some ideas:

Members can man a booth at local events, distribute information and answer questions regarding Masonry. Give a Scholarship. Sponsor a Scout Troop. Host four events during the year on weekends for members and guests. Members can prepare food, run games and hold a collectibles auction. Meals on Wheels route - the lodge can adopt a route that would serve two meals a day for eight families for a year. Roadway beautification - Masons can join with youth groups (DeMolay, Jobies, Rainbow, etc.) to maintain a section of the roadway in town. Improve a playground. The lodge could take on the fix-up, paint-up, clean-up of a local playground.

We are not trying to turn Freemasonry into a service club. The real importance is not to change what the Lodge is doing, but to increase member interest, participation, awareness and pride through family and community involvement. Local government is trying to establish partnerships with organizations in the community that can solve community-related problems without a lot of fuss. Individuals in the community tend to evaluate the relevance of organizations by the degree of their involvement.

Some things that even a small

lodge with less than 100 men can accomplish are:

Sponsor a 4th of July celebration and picnic every year. Sponsor a grade school basketball tournament. Provide medical supplies for a local EMS unit. Provide funds and labor to renovate a local ball field. Sponsor a local youth to a Shrine Bowl Band Camp. Raise funds to assist a public library. Adopt a needy family at special holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The list can go on and on and is only limited by the imagination of you and your members. Get involved!

*John R. Biggs
Deputy Grand Master*

"Getting to Know You" Dinner

On 10/29, 93 family, friends and members of Highland Chapter No. 33, Henry Brecht No. 43, Patapsco Lodge No. 183, Royal Arch Chapter No. 19 and the Dundalk Rainbow Assembly attended a "Getting To Know You" dinner. We are all "Seeking a Future" for our organizations and each presented a short discussion on their group and the charitable contributions of the collateral bodies. It is estimated that daily the Masonic bodies throughout the nation contribute \$2 million. A decision was made to continue doing other joint efforts and plans are now underway. The evening was a success and filled with fun, food and fellowship.



Who Are These Men Called Masons?

Masonry (or Freemasonry) is the oldest and largest fraternity in the world. No one knows just how old it is because the actual origins are disputable even among historians of Freemasonry. It is generally assumed that Masonry arose from the guilds of stonemasons who built castles and cathedrals in the Middle Ages. Perhaps it was influenced by the Knights Templar, a Christian military group formed to protect the pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. To become a Master Mason in the guilds of stonemasons, it was necessary to spend several years of training in the art of masonry, where lessons were taught by means of allegories. Freemasonry uses the same methods. Originally, only the practitioners of the mason trade could become members of the guilds of Master Masons. Sometime later, men of good character, and not stonemasons, were admitted to these guilds, or lodges. Today, there are over 13,000 lodges in the United States alone, with a membership of nearly 2.5 million. There are nearly 6 million Masons throughout the world.

Some believe that Masonry is a secret society. Quite to the contrary or this article would not be written. Masons would not wear pins and rings proclaiming their membership, the lodges would not bear signs identifying them, etc. Masonry does have secrets, as do most fraternities. Masons have secret grips

and passwords. This comes from the stonemasons who needed such a means of positive identification as they traveled from site to site for employment.

What is our purpose? To make good men better. Freemasonry respects the religious beliefs of all its members. Freemasonry has no theology and does not teach any method of salvation. Freemasonry does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or social class. In a lodge, all men are equal. The solemn promises taken in Freemasonry are no different than the oaths taken in court or on entering the armed services. The much-discussed "penalties," judicial remnants from an earlier age, are symbolic, not literal. They refer only to the pain any honest man should feel at the thought of violating his word.

What do we do? Most everyone is familiar with the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children and Shriner's Burn Institutes, but are not aware that every Shriner is a Mason! They are also not cognizant of the philanthropic work of the Royal Arch Research Assistance program which funds research in Central Auditory Processing Disorders, the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation funding Vascular Biology Research in Arteriosclerosis (heart disease), the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, providing research, surgical assistance, and hospitalization (annual grants of \$10,000 - \$30,000 to the Wilmer Eye Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital), the Tall Cedars

of Lebanon supporting Muscular Dystrophy, the Scottish Rite Institute for Childhood Aphasia, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia (the Speech and Language Center at the Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore). The benefits of many of these programs are available, at little or no cost on an individual basis regardless of race, creed, or color. And let's not forget the Masonic Ladies, for they contribute to mankind in the following ways: the Social Order of the Beauceant support of the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Amaranth Diabetes Foundation, the Eastern Star Cancer Research Project plus their Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership, the White Shrine of Jerusalem "Rehabilitation" project, and the International Order of Job's Daughters (a Masonic order for young girls) Hearing Impaired Kid's Endowment Fund, to name just a few. Freemasonry in the United States contributes in excess of \$1.5 Million daily to philanthropic causes.

Who are some of these men who are, or were, Freemasons? To name a few: Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Roy Acuff, Irving Berlin, Ernest Borgnine, Ty Cobb, Arthur Conan Doyle, "Duke" Ellington, Gerald Ford, Benjamin Franklin, Clark Gable, Rudyard Kipling, Wolfgang Mozart, Roy Rogers, "Red" Skelton, and John Wayne.

Finally, a quote from Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, noted pastor: "To me, Freemasonry is one form of dedication to God and service to humanity."

*Joseph F. Chalker
RWPSGW*



Masonry in Italy

Brother Fred Laser, P.M. Charity Lodge No. 134, Freeland, Maryland in October took a vacation in Italy. Besides a private tour of the Vatican while in Rome, biking in Tuscany, hiking and swimming in Cinque Terra on the Italian Riviera with his new hip replacement and a seven day stay in an eight bathroom, 300 year old farmhouse turned villa in the commune of Certaldo in Tuscany with a certified slow cook (Italian counter reformation against American fast food culture), the highlight of his trip was a Masonic visitation to the district temple of the Grand Orient of Italy in Florence.

The meetings are held in an ornate building (in fact a palace) in old downtown Firenze reminiscent of the Charles Street Grand Lodge building with frescos hundreds of years old. There were rooms set up for Scottish Rite, O.E.S. and various degreed meetings of different lodges that night.

Brother Fred found Masonic meetings different in Italy as most

meetings start with a dinner around 7:30 with an open bar and the ever present carafe of wine. After being feted with an excellent multi-course meal there were introductions and presentations of Grand Master Ronald Bélanger's pins and the 2000 Maryland Masonic passports to all present. Brother Laser was presented with an Italian lapel pin and book giving a history of the building in Italian and excellent photographs! The lodge meeting continued with a guest speaker on the iconic symbolism of hieroglyphics as related to Masonry with an Italian brother next to Brother Laser to help in translation.

After several group pictures at 10:55 Brother Laser was whisked to the Florence train station where he ran to catch the last train to Certaldo at 11:07 some 50 km away without a ticket, but that's a different story! Obviously arriving home safely with many pictures, Brother Laser is willing to share his journey with any lodge as a guest speaker.



National Sojourners Camp News Lafayette Camp (Baltimore No. 7)

On October 19, 2005, four Heroes of the camp traveled to Sharon Lodge No. 182 in Reisterstown, MD and performed the "Building the Flag" ceremony before a near capacity lodge room. Eleven members of Harrisburg Lodge No. 629, PA were present as their part of the traditional annual visitation which both lodges have been enjoying for the past 19 years. It was the first ceremony using a new Flag Kit which was completed shortly before the opening of the lodge with final trim and touch-up. The ceremony was well received by a most appreciative audience.



Above, from Left: Brothers David Schneider, GI, No. 101; Donald Miller, PPNo. 7, CC; Dale Espenshade, WM, No. 629; Warren DeColigny, WM, No. 182; Craig Benson, No. 7, OOD; Oliver Strong, PPNo. 7, CS; and, seated, Ken Lewis, President No. 7.



National Sojourners

On Thursday, October 20th, at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Baltimore, MD, a regular meeting of Baltimore Chapter No. 7 was opened, immediately following a delicious Italian-style Luncheon provided by the Scottish Rite Cheer Club Kitchen Patrol. The main purpose of the meeting was to honor the past Mayor of Baltimore; the past Governor of Maryland; and the current Comptroller of Maryland, all of which are one in the same person, namely: Brother Col. William Donald Schaefer, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary as a Sojourner and a Hero of '76!



Attending the meeting were 3 Past Grand Masters of Masons in Maryland: MW Brothers William M. Clark; Bennie G. Owens; and John A. Young, Jr. Also in attendance was the Past Potentate of Boumi Shriners, Brother Albert Ruppertsberger who presented Brother Schaefer with a U S Congressional Plaque containing a laminated certificate honoring him for his Masonic affiliations and accomplishments over these many years. This plaque of recognition came from Brother Ruppertsberger's son, Brother U.S. Congressman Dutch Ruppertsberger of Maryland,

who could not attend. Many guests from the Masonic Homes of Maryland were on hand as well as members of the Scottish Rite Singers. Brother Schaefer received his 50 Year National Sojourner Medal from Pres. Kenneth Lewis. Afterwards, Brother Schaefer, pictured left, received his 50 Year Hero of '76 Medal from Past Pres. Oliver Strong. Brother Schaefer's remarks about his military, political, and Masonic experiences, made in his usual manner, were a pleasure to listen to and had everyone at ease and smiling. Other awards made at this meeting were a one-hundred dollar check to the Baltimore Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation; and the "Secretary" and "Marshal" Medal Bars to Brothers Carl Cicchetti and Richard Sackerman, respectively.

Maryland Masonic Homes

Mrs. Paula O'Neill
Executive Director



It has been an enjoyable four months since my return to MMH and I have renewed many friendships and acquaintances. A Happy and Healthy New Year to all!

During the last quarter, we received our annual Office of Health Care Quality Survey by the State of Maryland and two Baltimore County environmental surveys. All three surveys identified areas needing improvement. I

compliment our diligent, hard-working staff for their continued efforts to provide our residents with a superior quality of care.

Our census is growing with the help of our newly hired Admissions Coordinator, Shelly Lewis, whom we are very pleased to have as part of our team. Her charming personality coupled with five years of admissions experience brings an added benefit to the Homes' team of professionals.

The 2005/2006 Operational and Capital Budget process has been completed and approved. We have strengthened our preventative maintenance program and have begun numerous needed plant repairs and improvements.

Medicare D is proving to be a challenge to our residents and families. We are working closely with our contracted pharmacy and The Baltimore County Department of Aging to provide informational sessions and enrollment assistance to move this process forward as smoothly as possible.

We are renewing our focus towards enhancing and growing our volunteer program and plan to recruit volunteers to assist with resident one-on-one visits, trip companionship and general assistance to the Homes. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact our Recreation Director Terri Vaughan at 410-527-1111.

As The Grand Lodge and Maryland Masonic Homes walk hand in hand into 2006, may the Lord's blessings enter each of your lives with abundance.



Sharon Lodge No. 182

In 1985, the Masonic Charities of Maryland asked Sharon Lodge No. 182 to present a scholarship to a graduating senior of Owings Mills High School. Masonic Charities of Maryland said that they would reimburse Sharon Lodge for half the scholarship up to \$250.00. We continued to give two \$500.00 scholarships even after Masonic Charities of Maryland stopped the program.

For a few years we continued to present these two scholarships, then recently we increased these scholarships to two scholarships at \$1000.00. In 2004, we added two more scholarships of \$1000.00 to Sollers Point Technical High School in Dundalk Maryland. These two \$1000.00 scholarships were awarded to students that have finished the Allied Health program and have attained their Certified Nursing Assistants license. These recipients will go on to careers in health, such as nursing, physical therapy, radiology technicians, or possible physicians. In all we award \$4000.00 in scholarships. We are very proud of our scholarship program and will continue this very worthwhile endeavor.

Daylight Lodge No. 1

Grand Lodge of Maryland Daylight Lodge No. 1 was chartered on September 11, 1990 by then Most Worshipful Grand Master B. Hope Harrison. His intent for establishing a Daylight Lodge was to make it possible for those Master Masons residing at the Maryland Masonic Homes (Bonnie Blink) and other members unable to drive at

night, might once again attend a Masonic Lodge meeting. It was a successful venture from its very first meeting. Lunda W. Laird, Past Grand Chaplain Emeritus who passed away in March 2005, was appointed by Grand Master Harrison to be the Lodge's first Worshipful Master. He was truly the rock to build upon.

It was received by the fraternity with open arms. Some Maryland Lodges, as a show of their support, enrolled their entire membership as Chartered Members. The initiation fee and yearly dues were only \$1.00. Meetings were held in Fraternity Hall at Bonnie Blink on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and opened at 10:30 a.m. The initial monthly attendance was so strong that if you wanted to be seated you had best arrive before 10 a.m. It was not unusual to see Masons sitting on the temporary seating or standing at the back of the room.

Since moving to the new Grand Lodge building in 1995 monthly attendance has slowly declined. Perhaps the brittle thread of life of the unswerving ravages of time and the overall membership loss has taken its toll. Whatever the reason, Daylight Lodge needs your help. We are sure there are Masonic Brothers who can no longer drive at night and still wish to attend a Lodge with its ritual and Brotherly Love intact. Each Lodge should encourage its senior members to visit Daylight Lodge, hear its programs and enjoy Masonry again. They will be welcomed and pleasantly surprised to be in Lodge again. Remember we

meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except in July and August. We open at 10:30am. Lunch is at noon and cost is \$5 for soup and sandwich. We have a speaker at almost every meeting and the Ladies are welcome. Join Us – you will be glad you did.

*John A. Young, Jr.
MW Past Grand Master*

A Fraternity within a Fraternity

Philanthropic No. 168 New Market, Maryland is growing. While we may not be the largest, newest or fastest growing Lodge in the State, we have been growing at an impressive rate. This is no small way thanks to the Freestate Shield and Square team. They have raised nine of our current members and there are plans to have them raise at least four more Brothers over the next year. The Lodge currently is the home Lodge of nine Brethren whom are also Deputy Sheriffs with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office. In addition to these, there are also four more Deputies that have petitioned the Lodge for admission.

The Sheriff's Office currently has 21 Deputies who are Brothers from Lodges around Frederick County, Maryland and Adams County, Pennsylvania. The Freestate Shield and Square Club has raised most of them.

When the team raises a law enforcement officer they become a member of the club and are encouraged to assist in raising others. The Brothers sitting the Chairs were all raised by the Club, as were last years.



Bethel No. 35 Initiates 5 New Members

On Thursday, September 8th, Job's Daughters Bethel No. 35 of Bel Air, MD held their first meeting of the Fall. Honored Queen, Stacey Marley, presided. Deputy Grand Master Jack Biggs (pictured right) was on hand to witness the initiation of five new members into the Bethel. Job's Daughters is the only Masonic Youth organization that requires a Masonic relationship. Bethel No. 35 now boasts a full line of officers and a choir! If you know of any young ladies between the ages of 10 and 20 who may be interested in joining Job's Daughters please contact our Grand Secretary, Sandra Schlerf at 410-795-9038.



Potts Memorial

On Oct. 19th, Prince Frederick Lodge No. 142 held a special reception in memory of Bro. Henry Edward Potts, PM, PGI, WPJGD, Poet Laureate of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. A number of the Lodge members and their wives, along with Ms. Annie Potts, Ed's widow, her daughter Jackie, and Ms. Christine Harding of Calvert Hospice were in attendance. A portion of the proceeds from Prince Frederick Lodge's annual Charity Golf Tournament were set aside as a Memorial to Bro. Ed, who was the Past Grand Inspector for Prince Frederick Lodge and a tireless worker and friend of the Lodge. W.M. Joe Roberts presented a check for \$1000.00 to Annie

in memory of Bro. Ed and she in turn presented the Check and a Memorial Certificate to Calvert Hospice in Ed's memory. Hospice was a very dedicated and comforting service in Ed's final days, and the Lodge and Ed's family wanted to show their appreciation and thank them for all that they have done for our community and the families of many of our members.



Above, from left: Bill Kugel, PM; Doug Cooper, JW; Ms. Christine Harding, Calvert Hospice; Annie Potts; Mike O'Kelley, SW; Joe Roberts, WM; Gene Gullickson, JS.

Maryland Mason Weekly

The Grand Lodge ListServ is for Maryland Masonic related information to be passed to members of the Craft. Lengthy discussions or "statements of opinion on various subjects" ARE NOT allowed on this ListServ. JOKES and TRIVIA type messages are also forbidden on the Grand Lodge ListServ. Poems, rather Masonic in "subject matter" or not are not appropriate for this ListServ because of the volume of message traffic that they usually generate. The goal for the Grand Lodge ListServ is to keep the message length and volume of messages to a minimum for the benefit of the many brethren who receive their Masonic E-mail notifications through their office or "business" communication systems.

The Grand Lodge ListServ makes it easier for brethren to communicate. Participants can quickly

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

disseminate information as well as receive feedback and responses in a short amount of time by posting messages concerning Maryland Masonic news. To subscribe to GLMaryland ListServ, visit:

[http://mailman.listserve.com/
listmanager/listinfo/glmaryland](http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/glmaryland)

Deluxe Bull & Oyster Roast

Presented by
The Grand Lodge of Maryland

Date: Sunday - April 2, 2006

Time: Food - 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Dancing - 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Place: Grand Lodge Ballroom
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Price: \$25.00 per person, before
March 28, 2006. \$30.00 after
March 28, 2006.

For Tickets: Call Ray Vogel at 410-
527-0289, or call the Grand Lodge
Office at 410-527-0600.

Tables of 8 people available
No tickets sold at the door!



Above: The Officers of Howard Lodge No. 101 pose with member and Brother William Donald Schaefer, State Comptroller and former Mayor of Baltimore and former Governor after the presentation of his 50 year Masonic Service award.

License Plates

Masonic License plates are available to Maryland Masons, with vehicles registered in Maryland, as well as their wives, widows, and sons and daughters living at home.

You do not have to wait for renewal of registration. Call Ray Vogel at 410-527-0600 to find out how it works and how easy it is to put them on your vehicle. Ray is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

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

Chair Plaques & The Tree of Life

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

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

The Chair Plaques and the Tree of Life leaves cost only \$200.00 each. This provides you with up to four lines on either, with twenty-one characters per line. What a wonderful way to remember someone.

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

Regional Competition

The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Brother Ronald G. Bélanger, has made known his desire, to return to some form of Ritual Competition. The decline in the number of Lodges responding to the competition and the lack of officers has caused us to try a different approach. The competition will consist of all qualified members of subordinate lodges within a Region. The competition will be between the Regions and not each individual lodges. We feel this will allow all members to participate and create a larger base to form good competition.

Our objective is to create quality competition among the Regions throughout the state while increasing friendship and brotherly love within our membership. Also, we feel that during the rehearsals and actual competition the quality of our ritual will be preserved and hopefully enhanced. Finally, we hope that this type of competition will light a spark under some very qualified Masons and inspire them to join in their lodge as future officers.

This competition, we hope, will cause many of our very qualified members to join in a friendly competition. I call on each Deputy Grand Lecturer to assist in making this program successful. If you have any questions concerning the competition, please talk to your Deputy Grand Lecturer or call Dave Schneider, W.G.L. at 410-247-4039.



Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc. would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all of our Brethren who have generously supported and contributed to our continuing success story of Helping Our Young People throughout the year 2005.

During the year 2005, your charity continued to address the problem of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse among our young people through our sponsorship and partnership with the Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) of our public school system throughout the state. During this period, it is comforting to note that over 6,000 Maryland students with possible drug and/or alcohol related school problems were identified and more than 65% of these students had parent intervention meetings with one of our more than 300 MSAP teams consisting of over 2,000 volunteer members. These volunteer members who have been trained and supported through the partnership of MSAP and Masonic Charities of Maryland are doing the job to which they have committed. They are to be commended.

Masonic Charities Educational Grant Program for the year 2005 was completed and 48 scholarships of \$1,000.00 each have been awarded to deserving students within the public school systems throughout the state of Maryland. These programs demonstrate the

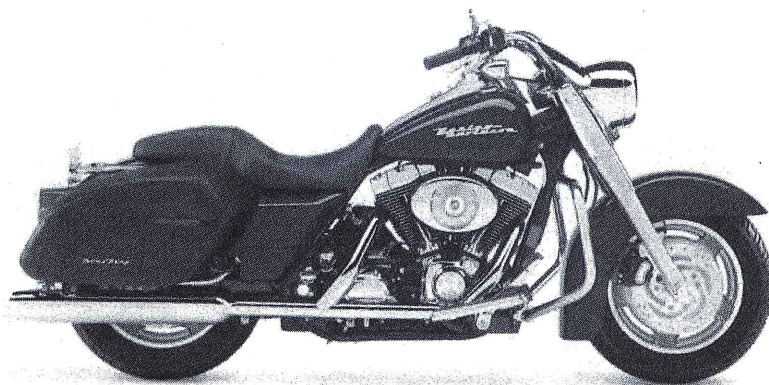
genuine interest that Maryland Masons have for the youth of Maryland and at the same time obtain favorable publicity for Maryland Masons.

Your Board of Directors is pleased to announce two new Board Members: Brothers Mike Codori, No. 195 and Larry Gerber, No. 173 - Welcome!

Golfers: The Seventeenth Annual Masonic Charities of MD Golf Outing at the Talbot Country Club in Easton will be held on June 5, 2006. Please mark your calendar for this annual event.

Contact Brothers C. David Haacke at 410-778-2999 or Vern Mules at 410-296-1015 for details.

Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.
presents
2006 Harley Davidson Road King Custom
with
2006 Custom Enclosed Bike Trailer



ONLY 1,000 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD
Winning ticket is based on the 3-digit Maryland State Lottery Evening
Drawing held on Saturday, June 3, 2006

PROCEEDS BENEFIT MASONIC CHARITIES
DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE PROGRAM
DONATION \$50.00

For tickets call: Wayne Wilson 410-320-5316 or
Ed Blake 410-255-7300 or
Mail Checks Payable to Masonic Charities of Maryland, Inc.
To: Mr. Wayne Wilson, 502 Sylvan Way, Pasadena, MD 21122

Please include the following information for the ticket stub:
NAME of PURCHASER, MAILING ADDRESS and PHONE NUMBER
Tickets will be mailed to address requested.

Maryland Masonic Calendar



Schedule of Events

February

4: Regional Meeting @
Grand Lodge 9:00am,
Coffee and donuts @ 8

11: Regional Meeting @
Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44

17-22: Conference of
Grand Masters of North
America - Tennessee

20: *President's Day*
Grand Lodge Office
Closed in Observance

25: Regional Meeting @
Wicomico Lodge No. 91

26: Wreath Laying
Ceremony - George
Washington Masonic
Memorial - 2:00pm

March

4: Regional meeting
Snow Date

11: Regional Meeting @
Hagerstown Lodge No.
217

18: Regional Meeting @
Centennial Lodge No.
174

April

2: Deluxe Bull & Oyster
Roast - 2:00pm

16: Grand Lodge Annual
Easter Sunrise Service
@ MMH Chapel - 7:30am

May

13: Grand Lodge of
Maryland Semi-Annual
Communication. 10:00am

Free State Freemason
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PERMIT NO. 108

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