

2010 Grand Line Officers

<i>MW Grand Master</i>	<i>Thomas M. Velvin, Jr.</i>
<i>RW Deputy Grand Master</i>	<i>Stephen J. Ponzillo, III</i>
<i>RW Senior Grand Warden</i>	<i>Arthur R. Dickerson, Jr.</i>
<i>RW Junior Grand Warden</i>	<i>Jay W. Hodges</i>
<i>RW Grand Secretary</i>	<i>Herbert Y. Holcomb, III</i>
<i>RW Grand Treasurer</i>	<i>William E. Gyr</i>
<i>W Grand Marshal</i>	<i>Ronald A. Block</i>
<i>W Asst. Grand Marshal</i>	<i>Shawn R. Winpigler, Sr.</i>
<i>W Senior Grand Deacon</i>	<i>Charles L. Carmichael</i>
<i>W Junior Grand Deacon</i>	<i>L. Michael O'Kelley</i>
<i>W Senior Grand Steward</i>	<i>Carl A. Stahlman</i>
<i>W Junior Grand Steward</i>	<i>William D. Gunn</i>
<i>W Grand Tyler</i>	<i>Michael G. Faby</i>
<i>W Asst. Grand Tyler</i>	<i>Jay W. Cochrane</i>
<i>W Grand Standard Bearer</i>	<i>Avrum Tamres</i>
<i>W Grand Sword Bearer</i>	<i>George B. Little</i>
<i>W Grand Pursuivant</i>	<i>Roy M. Hodgson</i>
<i>W Grand Director of Ceremonies</i>	<i>Donald A. Fisher</i>
<i>W Grand Chaplain</i>	<i>Elwood L. Ulmer</i>
<i>W Asst Grand Chaplain</i>	<i>Jack R. George</i>
<i>W Asst Grand Chaplain</i>	<i>Randal A. Schoch</i>
<i>W Asst Grand Chaplain</i>	<i>Walter F. Burgess</i>
<i>W Asst Grand Chaplain</i>	<i>Edward E. Howard</i>
<i>W Grand Organist</i>	<i>Ronald L. Unger</i>
<i>W Grand Lecturer</i>	<i>Paul H. Fishell</i>
<i>W Asst Grand Organist</i>	<i>Kenneth C. Mars</i>
<i>W Grand Photographer</i>	<i>Mark E. Hartz</i>

From the Grand Master

Brethren,



A new Masonic Year has begun and the holiday season is upon us. I am happy to report the continued activity among most of our Lodges with the conferral of the three degrees. I am still hearing from Worshipful Masters from all over the jurisdiction that they are very busy and aren't sure how they are going to get all of the work done. On the other hand, there are some Lodges that are languishing and wondering when they will see a new petition. It goes without saying, that I am very happy to hear from the Lodges that are active and overwhelmed with work to be done. For those Lodges that are waiting for the volcano to erupt, my message is "don't wait too long." It is up to you to look within your walls to find

the energy that exists there to make your Lodge a warm, inviting place that does interesting things and reaches out to the community in which you live so the folks who live there will know who the Masons are, and that we are just like them. Try having an open meeting or a CHIP event that will attract non-Masons to your door. Once these men understand who we are and what we do for our communities, they will want to be a part of it. If you need some help organizing an activity, the resources of the Grand Master's Office are there for your use. All you have to do is ask.

During the month of December, it is our tradition to elect the Officers who will take on the leadership role of your Lodge for the ensuing year. It is my hope that those who are elected Worshipful Master will take seriously the job they have been chosen by their peers to do. Being Worshipful Master is a job that requires management skills, leadership skills, and some financial skills in addition to the requirement to be able to confer the three degrees of Craft Masonry, a working knowledge of Article XVI of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Maryland and having received the Past Master's Degree. It seems that we ask much of our Worshipful Master and, we do. It is not a job to be taken lightly as you should have learned in the Leadership Seminar held last April. The Worshipful Master is the representative of every member of his Lodge when actions affecting them and their Grand Lodge are being considered. He agrees to attend on ALL committees and communications of the Grand Lodge when properly notified. This duty is just as important as is paying one's dues in a timely manner with one exception. A Worshipful Master who finds that he cannot attend the meetings of committees he is assigned to or the communications of the Grand Lodge MUST appoint a proxy to become the representative of the members. This past November, all but three Lodges had representatives in attendance which is a significant improvement from the Semi-Annual last May. I am hoping the three Lodges whose representatives were absent will see fit to attend the Semi-Annual Communication next May.

The programs that were instituted in 2009 have been very successful thus far. We will continue our efforts to resuscitate Lodges that are on the verge of going dark, the highly successful Child ID program, the Long Range Planning Committee and other projects to revitalize our Lodges and increase our membership. Updates will be reported as needed at the Semi-Annual Communication and the regional meetings.

Worshipful Masters will soon receive a letter asking for the nomination of one of the Officers of the Lodge to attend the Leadership Seminar for 2010. Information about this seminar can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Free State Freemason. In addition to the Seminar, we are also beginning to plan for the annual round of regional meetings. I urge everyone who can, to attend at least one of these meetings. The agenda is the same for all of them. They begin with coffee and buns at 8:00 AM, followed by the meeting at 9:00 AM. We strive to present interesting and timely topics for your consideration and comment. There is always time for questions and comments from you who attend so that you have the opportunity to provide needed input to your Grand Lodge Officers. The schedule for the Regional Meeting will be posted on the Grand Lodge web calendar sometime before the end of December. Please make plans to attend.

On behalf of the Grand Lodge Officers, the Office Staff and our spouses, I wish each of you a Happy Hannukah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year or whatever you personally celebrate as we approach the December holiday period and the New Year. It is truly an honor and pleasure to serve as your Grand Master and I am looking forward to a busy and productive 2010 where we will see positive growth in our numbers for the first time in many years.

Fraternally,
Tom Velvin
Grand Master

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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.

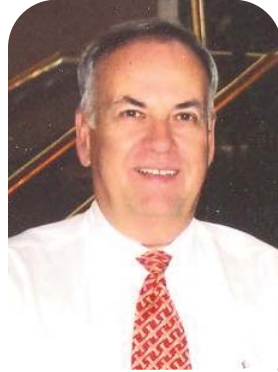
Catering: Approved list of caterers.

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.

The Lewis Jewel

Recently, the Grand Lodge office has been receiving calls in reference to the Lewis Jewel and the costs for the jewel. We have also had to issue refunds to members for overpaying for the jewel.

To assist you with your application, please remember these few pointers:

- To allow for shipping, a \$15.00 increase has been added to the cost of the jewel.

- The Basic Jewel has 2 names: the Father and the Son. The cost for the Basic Jewel is \$80.00

- To add additional names to the jewel, include an additional \$30.00 for each bar. A jewel with 3 names would be \$110.00; 4 names would be \$140.00

- The "Lewis", traditionally, is from father to son. Uncles and nephews are not eligible to be included on the jewel.

- The fathers of your wife or mother are not eligible to be included on the jewel.

See Page 6 for Lewis Jewel Application

Three Generations Receive Service Awards

Seat Pleasant Lodge No. 218 was honored to have three generations receive service awards in lodge on the same occasion. Brother Dan Kamm (grandson) received his ten year service award, Brother Ben Kamm (son) received his 25 year service award and Brother Bucky Kamm (father and grandfather) received his 50 year Grand Lodge service award.



Brother Ben promised to come back to lodge on a regular basis, we hope he does and brings back more of his clan.

Announcements for Election to Offices of the Grand Lodge

The following names are those Brethren who will be running for an elected office at the Semi-Annual Communication, May 2010 for the 2011 Term:

RW Deputy Grand Master

Louis F. Bandell - Warren Lodge No. 51
Clifton R. Friel - Temple Lodge No. 128
Gerald E. Piepiora - Mt. Ararat Lodge No. 44
Paul G. Shircliff - East Gate Lodge No. 216

Senior Grand Warden

Thomas A. Keller - Odenton Lodge No. 209

Junior Grand Warden

Robert W. Chase - Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 116

Board of Managers

Board of Trustees

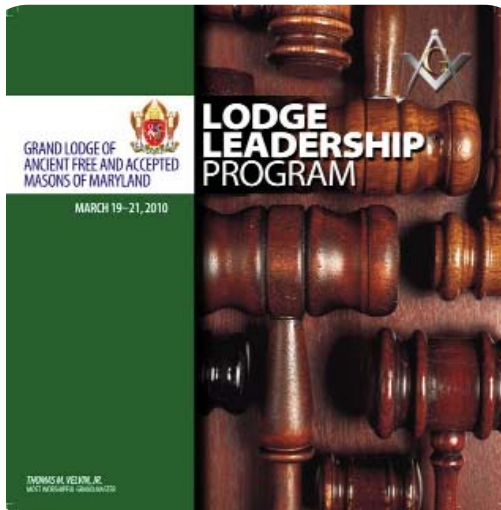
Board of Directors - SJP Lib/Mus

Board of Directors - MCM, Inc.

(All Board Positions Vacant)

LEADERSHIP IS BACK! We Are Looking For Many Good Officers!

Early next spring, the Grand Lodge of Maryland will again hold the Lodge Leadership Seminar. Each Lodge is encouraged to send one officer to this outstanding program. It will be similar to the one held in the Spring of 2009, but with several notable changes.



The Program was started in 2009 by MWGM Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. because he strongly believed that the Blue Lodges in our jurisdiction needed some additional help in making more knowledgeable Worshipful Masters. As is well known, our Deputy Grand Lecturers have done an excellent job in teaching ritual to our line officers. The Grand Inspectors also prepare our future Masters in the area of Constitutional Law. We did not, however, offer any training for the Leaders of our Lodges to actually become CEO's of their Lodges. As every Past Master knows, presiding over a Blue Lodge requires much more than learning the three degrees and being familiar with Article XVI of the Constitution. Proficiency in the ritual satisfies one of the two principal duties of our Masters – making Master Masons. The second of his major duties is to train his successor. To successfully accomplish that requirement entails many more responsibilities. The prescription for having an active Lodge with many programs and candidates and where the line of officers is strong is not simple or an easy task. Yet, without these traits, Lodges will find themselves in serious trouble.

In an attempt to provide valuable training for our senior officers, the Lodge Leadership Program was initiated in 2009 through a series of one day seminars in several areas of the State. Although the program was very well received, the committee took away from that first event a number of suggestions to improve it for 2010. As a result, we have a "new and improved" version for 2010.

It is going to be a one-time only event held over a weekend, instead of just a single day. The dates are March 19, 20, and 21, 2010. Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf resort will host the seminar. It is located in Flintstone, MD, just outside of Cumberland. The golfers might find the play a little challenging at that early date, however. Beginning with dinner and social time on Friday evening, through the final class and brunch on Sunday morning, the weekend promises to be challenging and fun for all.

The other major change is that we are inviting and encouraging the wives of the officers to attend. We always say how important our wives are to our success in the East. Just maybe we should help

them become a little more knowledgeable of our Masonic fraternity.

Who should attend? In Lodges where there is a full line, the ideal candidate would be either the Junior or Senior Warden. By participating in this program at least one year before his term, the Leadership Training Committee can really make a difference in his preparation as Worshipful Master. We recognize though, that not all Lodges are that fortunate. In some cases, the Worshipful Master may be the logical attendee, especially if he intends to repeat (or the Lodge needs him to repeat). It is the intent of this committee to return to each Lodge, an individual who is well versed in a number of topics which will allow him to much more effectively plan his year and to better train his successor. We will also provide him with a reference binder, or "Toolbox", which he can use throughout his term. This binder will contain a great deal more background material than we will have time to present.

Lastly, we are encouraging the wives to attend in the hope that not only will they better understand why her husband spends so much time with his Lodge, but that they can actually assist him in several social and planning functions. They may even become a fan of the Masonic family and wish to get involved with some of our collateral bodies.

As you can imagine, this is not going to be an inexpensive weekend. The Grand Master feels, however, that the investment by the Grand Lodge is well worth the expense. To help defray the total cost of the weekend, each Lodge will be asked to contribute \$200.00 for the attendee and wife (total). If any Lodge wishes to send an additional student, a cost of \$425.00 is required. That will cover the actual cost of the weekend.

How do we hope to accomplish the goals of this ambitious program? The weekend will comprise many activities – social functions, classroom instruction as well as workshops and break out sessions for the ladies as well as the officers, a keynote speaker, and, of course, more social functions...

The 6 classes and the instructors are as follows:

- The Responsibilities and Prerogatives of the Worshipful Master: MWPGM Ronald G. Bélanger and PM Harold A. Garren
- Lodge Management: RWPSGW Gerald E. Piepiora and RWPJGW Kostas Vourvoulas
- Lodge Leadership – PM Gene L. Purkey and PM Thomas A. Keller
- Membership and Mentoring – PM Frederick A. Spicer and PM Charles L. Carmichael
- Lodge Programs – PM Kenneth S. Wyvill and PM Richard P. Naegele
- Lodge Finances – RWGT William E. Gyr and PM. Ronald A. Block

There will be ample opportunity for questions and answers and most of the topics will also consist of workshops where the students will be individually challenged.

The keynote speaker for Saturday evening is Br. Christopher Hodapp, the author of *Freemasons for Dummies* as well as a number of other books and publications.

We are all busily putting the final touches on our presentations and eagerly await the 2010 Spring Class!

Fraternally,
Jerry Piepiora, Chairman

Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP) Training

On October 20 and 21, ninety-four school-based teachers, nurses, administrators, counselors, support staff, and health professionals gathered at the Grand Lodge to be trained in the Maryland Student Assistance Program (MSAP). Since its inception in 1987, facilitated by PGM C. David Haacke, the Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) has sponsored this training each year and, over the past twenty-one years, training more than 5,000 people in this intervention program. MSAP seeks to identify students having problems in school that may be related to use of alcohol and other drugs or other factors and intervene with their parents to raise their awareness of the problem and offer assistance for their child. All costs of the training are borne by MCM and a strong partnership has been forged between MSAP and MCM, who are jointly committed to helping our at-risk students. Through fund-raising enterprises, such as the MCM Golf Tournament, described herein, and other events, including individual contributions, MCM is able to carry on the work to help these at-risk students as well as provide scholarships for graduating seniors each year in June.



Participants at the MSAP training listen to presenters whose topics included substance use, bullying, violence, depression, and suicide, as factors, among others, affecting the health and well-being of Maryland students.

Montgomery Masons Serve the Troops

On Saturday, October 31, twenty-five Masons from the five Montgomery County Lodges, joined by three Eastern Star ladies and friends, arrived at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda and exhausted the Summer Delight ice cream supply by distributing sundaes and shakes to enlisted personnel, patients, and others at the hospital. Despite the overcast day, the 28 volunteers brought sunshine into the lives of those who receive and provide great care for our wounded veterans of the Navy and Marine Corps.



This is the second year for this event and all who attended expressed interest and determination to be there again next year for this inspiring activity. The photo above shows the many brethren and friends who participated on this enjoyable event. PM Dan Lane, Grand Inspector, who organized the event, is seen kneeling in the front row.

Masons Tee Off for Maryland Youth

On Monday, October 12th, 144 golfers, most of whom are Maryland Masons, gathered at the Rocky Point Golf Course to play 18 holes of golf with "Captain's Choice" as the rules of the day. With a shotgun start at 9:00am, fun and frolic ensued with brotherhood, great food and drink. The Masonic Charities of Maryland (MCM) was the beneficiary of their philanthropy, gaining \$5,900 for programs and scholarships for the youth of Maryland.



Bro. Bob Ivey, Bro. Bob Chase, and the members of Patapsco Lodge No. 183, did a great job in coordinating the event with the assistance of Deborah Chase and Roseanne Ivey for helping to set up and run the tournament. After a delicious meal of pit beef, ham and turkey and all the trimmings, prepared by Julius Poston, PM all the duffers left with full stomachs and good memories of a fun-filled and productive day.



The winning team was Ron McClucas, Manuel Alejandro, Chuck Ivey and Dan Marinelli

Maryland DeMolay

Greetings from Tommy Plourde, State Master Councilor and Bro. William Eppig, Executive Officer of MD DeMolay. Our last article was almost entirely dedicated to the Inaugural Class of The Warren Seipp Honorary Chapter. We are extremely excited to report to you that the inaugural class was a HUGE success! Maryland DeMolay initiated 53 Honorary DeMolays on October 11th in the Grand Lodge room including our very own MWGM Thomas Velvin, Jr. MWGM Velvin stood as the candidate for the Honorary DeMolay class along with several young men joining the order as active DeMolays. The Masons and families of the young men in attendance were treated to some of the best ritual work in Maryland. The members of the degree teams relayed the message of DeMolay in such a way that it is sure to have left a lasting impression on all who witnessed this wonderful presentation. Thank you to MWGM Velvin for bringing the idea for the Warren Seipp Honorary DeMolay Chapter and taking the message of DeMolay to the Lodges.

Many of the DeMolays in Maryland were able to make two more functions put on by the Grand Lodge. The Rushmore Presidents presentation was superb. The time and effort that goes into planning this event is not in vain. The actors who portrayed the Rushmore Presidents were compelling in their delivery along with the content and sheer knowledge of the person they portrayed. An interesting tid bit learned after the evening and while talking to the actor who portrayed Teddy Roosevelt was that the actor was raised as a Mason on the 100th anniversary of Teddy Roosevelt becoming a Mason. He was raised in the same lodge as President Roosevelt and was in Character while being raised. It is truly remarkable what causes a person to become a Mason.

The second event was the Grand Master's Halloween Dance held in the barn at Bonnie Blink. The youth groups cannot thank the Grand Master and Grand Lodge enough for this wonderful event that has been going on for several years.

November brought a very special event to Maryland. SGIG Hans Wilhelmsen opened the doors of the Scottish Rite Temple for a reception in honor of the International Master Councilor and the Grand Master of DeMolay. Both were in DC, along with most of the DeMolay International Line for a Communications Conference to be held that weekend in DC. The evening was an electric one for it had been many, many years since this amount of the International Line had been in Maryland. There were close to 100 people in the Grand Hall for this event. The Grand Master of DeMolay showed off his electric guitar made as a DeMolay emblem and specially carved acoustical guitar featuring all the DeMolay emblems through the years as well as a picture of Jaques DeMolay and all the Masonic Bodies emblems. Howie Damrom, Masonic crooner, entertained the crowd with his Masonic songs. The evening was topped off by the Grand Master of DeMolay awarding SGIG Wilhelmsen with his induction into the DeMolay Hall of Fame. SGIG Wilhelmsen will be there along with the likes of Walt Disney, Walter Cronkite and John Wayne.

On a sad note, DeMolay lost a Senior DeMolay from Frederick Chapter on November 7 in Farah Province, Afghanistan. Sgt. Charles Cartwright, 26 was a Past Master Councilor and Chevalier. "He joined the Marine Corps on Sept. 10, 2001 and was trained in reconnaissance. He had two previous combat assignments in Iraq. In 2006, he was promoted to sergeant and the next month joined the newly formed Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. His military awards include: two Purple hearts, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, two Combat Action Ribbons, Navy Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, two Marine Corps Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, two Iraqi Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, four Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, NATO Medal and two Certificates of Commendation." Charlie was awarded his third Purple Heart and rank of Staff Sergeant posthumously at his funeral in Union Bridge, Maryland. Charlie leaves behind many family and friends including his mom, dad and wife of 11 months. Charlie was an outstanding DeMolay and a true Patriot.

In closing, we would like to thank all of you who have expressed interest in opening up DeMolay Chapters throughout the State and look forward to helping you with those endeavors. Congratulations to the Grand Lodge Line on your most recent Installation and we look forward to continuing to grow with you and work with you toward making Masonry and DeMolay strong in Maryland. For further information on DeMolay in Maryland please visit our web site at www.mddemolay.org or www.demolay.org

Baltimore Forest Pancake Day

Baltimore Forest No. 45's 21st Annual Pancake Day was held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 serving about 1,050 guests. This event is held each year to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Baltimore Forest No. 45 gave MDA's local office a check for \$6,800.00 from this one fund raiser. The Tall Cedars support MDA nationally and each year they appear on Jerry Lewis Telethon. All monies go to research to find a cure for Muscular Dystrophy.



Pictured left to right- John Vogel-Warren Lodge #51, Paul Huber, Larry Daugherty, Mike Tumminello-Corinthian Lodge #93, George Little-Lebanon Lodge #175, and Bob Briscoe, #93



Pictured are Brenda Vogel, left and Sherry Tumminello at Baltimore Forest No. 45 Annual Pancake Day.

The Tall Cedars sponsored the MD CHIP program during Pancake Day. This was the registration desk that some 81 children started their process for getting the free service sponsored by the Grand Lodge of Maryland's Child Identification Program. This was the first time Baltimore Forest No. 45 held this along with their Annual Pancake Day and they look forward to doing the same next year.



Grand Master Thomas Velvin, Mike Tumminello, #93, and Bobby Tumminello #51 all working flipping pancakes

Greeting from the Boumi Oasis

Happy New Year to all and may it be a healthy and prosperous one for everyone. By the time you read this Boumi Shrine will be getting ready to install a new Potentate, so this will be my last article. I want to thank the Most Worshipful Grand Master for all the courtesies that were extended to me and Boumi this past year. I certainly enjoyed the many functions we have participated in together.

What a year this has been but where did it go. It seem that it was only yesterday that I took office as the Potentate and now I'm about to be retired. I must say that I have enjoyed not only the fun times at Boumi and the Conventions but being able to enjoy and get to know the Senior leaders of the various organizations throughout the fraternity. Getting to know each one of them and interacting with them for the betterment of our organizations has been very rewarding. I thank each of them for allowing me to be a part of this great family.

Without looking back, it is now time to look at the future and what each of us can do to continue to make our family and especially our own organizations better and more successful. By continuing to help each other and understanding who and what we are together, we can brighten our future. We must continue to be watchful and ever careful to work together and be visual of purposes toward which we strive.

With our new leadership here at Boumi, we will continue to strive to serve our Hospitals and see that we serve our youth with the best possible medical care available while having fun and working together. There will be many installations in the next couple of months and the Officers will be extremely busy.

My best wishes to the Most Worshipful Grand Master and his new line of officers for the coming year. We at Boumi wish that they continue to have an outstanding and safe year as they travel throughout the State with their regional meetings and other programs.

Fraternally,
James L. Davis, III - Potentate

MCM, Inc. Cruise to the Eastern Caribbean July 1 – 10, 2010

Ports of Call include: San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Thomas; Samana, Dominican Republic; Labadee, Haiti. Excursions include: Bacardi Rum Distillery; Magen's Bay; Los Haitises National Park; Labadee Bay

Pricing and Categories (includes Port taxes)

Category M (inside) \$1,299.89

Category L (inside) \$1,319.89

Category H (outside) \$1,569.89

Category G (ocean view) \$1,589.89

Category F (ocean view) \$1,749.89

Category D2 (balcony) \$1,949.89

A portion of the Cruise is tax deductible for charitable purposes.

\$250 per person deposit required with reservation. Final payment due March 31, 2010 (Travel Agency imposes a \$25 per person cancellation fee once the deposit is received) A passport is needed for travel into the Caribbean.

For further information contact Florence Littleton, Travel Agent for the Cruise Lady at 410-529-3553 after 6:30 pm.

100th Anniversary Celebration of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association

On February 22, 1910, George Washington's 178th birthday, Masonic leaders from across the nation met in Alexandria, Virginia and formed an association for the purpose of building a great memorial to honor America's foremost Freemason. February 22, 2010, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, will be a day of great festivities.

In honor of the occasion, the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, hosted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia, will be held in nearby Arlington. Delegates will attend the Association's Annual Meeting and celebrate the 100th Anniversary and Washington's 278th birthday at the Memorial. At the Annual Meeting, a new portrait of George Washington as a Freemason will be unveiled. Painted by local artist, Christopher Erney, the portrait will be a new interpretation of Washington.

Prints of the portrait will be available at the meeting. Complementing the portrait is a new video. It presents George Washington as the inspiration for the founding of America and explores the founding of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. Underwritten by the Masonic Charity Foundation of Oklahoma, it will be available on DVD and as a download from the Memorial's website for Masonic education. The Memorial's new logo to commemorate the occasion was also designed by local artist Christopher Erney. The logo combines the Washington Family Crest with numerous Masonic symbols. Its Square and Compasses is taken from the Memorial's 1923 cornerstone affirms the Association's motto "In Memoriam Perpetuum" as it supports Freemasonry in a new century of service.

Following the Annual Meeting, the International Order of DeMolay will rededicate the colossal bronze statue of George Washington in Memorial Hall and reaffirm the role of DeMolay young men in Freemasonry. The statue was a gift to the Memorial from the DeMolay and 2010 marks the 60th Anniversary of its unveiling by President and Past Grand Master Harry S. Truman. On display during the celebration will be the Trowel and Gavel used at the 1793 Cornerstone Laying of the United States Capitol by George Washington and the 1752 Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Bible upon which a young Washington took upon himself his Masonic obligations. The new White House Stones Exhibit will be inaugurated at the celebration. Each stone in the exhibit is marked by one of the Scots Masons who helped build the White House in the 1790s.

The stones were discovered during the restoration of the White House by President Harry S. Truman in 1948. President Truman had the stones labeled and one was sent to each U.S. Grand Lodge and other Masonic organizations.

The Exhibit reassembles nearly 50 stones. The Exhibit also includes minute books from Lodge No. 8 of Edinburgh recording the stonemasons' marks and noting those who have "gone to America." A matching Minute Book of Federal Lodge No. 1 will show those Scots masons forming the first lodge in 1793 on White House grounds. The exhibit is

supported 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.

A gala reception will be held in Grand Masonic Hall and while the Annual Meeting is being held the ladies will enjoy an entertaining program in the North Lodge Room. A Centennial Celebration souvenir booklet containing a brief history of the Association including historic and current photographs will be distributed and several commemorative gift items will also be available and on display.

2010 is a unique celebration year for the Memorial Association. Together we are celebrating 100 years of dedication to Freemasonry's greatest brother and honoring the countless brothers who built and sustain the Memorial. Equally important, 2010 marks a pledge of rededicated service, trusting in God that the century ahead will be filled with success and achievement.

Rushmore Presidents

On Wednesday, October 21st, the Grand Lodge of Maryland hosted four of the most prominent figures in American History in the Corinthian Room of the Grand Lodge.

Local area Middle and High schools were invited to meet with George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Each former President spoke about the condition of the United States at the time of his office and welcomed questions from the students and teachers.



An encore presentation in the evening was open to Masons, families, friends and the general public.

The four historic re-enactors performed for an almost full-house. There was captivating dialogue between the presidents and the guests. The question and answer portion of the event was the most enjoyable, as guests were able to interact with each of the presidents.



The evening ended with the actors finally breaking character (after 10 hours in character) and answering questions about portraying these notable figures.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland would like to thank everyone that helped in the morning and evening performance.



The Lewis Jewel Application Form

The Lewis Jewel may be worn by a Mason, if, at the time of his Raising, his father was a Mason in good standing. The Master Mason of a deceased father - in good standing at the time of his death - would also qualify. The Jewel comes in a wallet with a pocket holder. The father of a "Lewis" may also wear the jewel.

Please complete the following information (Please print clearly): **Quantity:** _____

Father's Name: First, M.I., Last: _____

Date of Father's Master Mason Degree: _____

Name of Father's Lodge: _____

Son's Name: First, M.I., Last: _____

Date of Son's Master Mason Degree: _____

Name of Son's Lodge: _____

Optional 3rd bar:

Grandfather's Name: First, M.I., Last: _____

Date of Grandfather's Master Mason Degree: _____

Name of Grandfather's Lodge: _____

(4th & 5th bars available upon request)

***Please mail the Jewel to:**

_____ Print the Name of the Brother to receive the Lewis Jewel

_____ Address

_____ City

_____ State

_____ Zip

Return Application and check made payable to **Grand Lodge of Maryland** to:

**Grand Lodge of Maryland
304 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030**

**Basic Jewel \$65.00
Add'l Bars \$30.00 ea
Shipping \$15.00**

Mayor's Christmas Parade

The Grand Master and his Grand Line Officers participated in the 37th Annual Mayor's Christmas Parade in Hampden on Sunday, December 6, 2009.



MW Grand Master Thomas M. Velvin, Jr. along with the Deputy Grand Master, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, Senior and Junior Grand Wardens and other appointed Officers try to keep warm as they march the 2.5 mile stretch of Falls Road and 36th Street.

Marching with the Grand Line were several Grand Inspectors, Deputy Grand Lecturers, officers and members of several Blue Lodges, and members from the Knights of St. Andrews in Western Maryland.

Baltimore Forest No. 45, TCL participated as the official Color Guard for the Grand Master.



(Pictured above: Raymond Vogel, Larry Daugherty, Jason Sentz, Mike Tumminello, and George Little)

Several members from Pickering Lodge No. 146 were volunteers for the parade. Trailing the Grand Lodge of Maryland was the Maryland Masonic Homes bus.

Howard Lodge No. 101 will be awarded Grand Master's trophy for having the most members participate in the parade.



Bro. Fred Spicer and Bro. Gene Purkey led the masonic family with the new parade banner featuring the emblems of our Collateral Bodies.

Maryland Freemasons were well received by the public, passing cheers, salutes, and holiday wishes.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland Deluxe Bull & Oyster Roast

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Food 2-6 pm, Music for Dancing 3-6 pm

Grand Lodge Ballroom
3024 International Circle
Cockeysville, MD 21030

Tickets are \$29.00 per person before April 14
\$35.00 after April 15, 2010

For tickets, call Ray Vogel at (410) 527-0289
or Jason at the Grand Lodge (410) 527-0600

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 Maryland Crab Soup, Meat Lasagna, Bar-B-Q chicken, Sauerkraut & Kielbasa, Macaroni & cheese, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas & carrots, Fresh fruit, Cole slaw, Potato salad, Assorted cheeses & crackers, Seasonal vegetables with dips, Pickled beets, Coffee & iced tea, Beer & soda, Sheet cake – last hour of food.

Tables of 8 or 10

NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR

Make checks payable to "Grand Lodge of Maryland" and mail to Grand Lodge of Maryland, 304 International Circle, Cockeysville, MD 21030

We will mail tickets to you. All tickets are assigned tables for seating.

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

Greetings from the Hill!

As we progress to the end of our 75th year, the residents and staff have taken a nostalgic look back at 2009. The difficult economic times have been challenging for all of us. We have reduced expenses, made necessary improvements as needed, and continued to provide superior care and services to our residents.

A renewed hope and promise awaits us for 2010 and the beginning of a New Year. Maryland Masonic residents and staff invites each of you to participate in one of the many events we have. Several Lodges and Chapters visit the residents on a weekly basis for Sunday Chapel service or Friday night entertainment. There are opportunities for members to volunteer and we encourage you to support and enhance the lives of our residents. Please contact Barbara Katz in Recreation for further information.

Each quarter a 'featured' department is spotlighted. In this edition is it our Protection Services Department. We have fourteen Security Officers employed at MMH. Many of the Officers have a law enforcement or military background. Protection Services operates 24/7 and provides many services to our residents and staff including: frequent shift rounds of the Homes, Grand Lodge and entire campus, oversight of key program, transportation assistance, new employee orientation, educational in-services to residents, mail and package delivery, investigations, and maintaining a secure and safe environment. It is a pleasure to work with this team of professionals!



Pictured: David Green; Joe Price, Security Supervisor; and Mike Horner.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2010! Stop by and visit us and discover why we are the premier retirement community in Maryland.

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

MMH Open House

On Thursday, November 12th, the Maryland Masonic Homes hosted an Open House event in which two of our available apartments were featured. Our Dining Services Department outdid themselves by serving an array of first-class appetizers and desserts.

Our Independent Living residents provided tours of the community to about twenty guests and gave them an 'insider's' view of living at Bonnie Blink. There were plenty of opportunities for our visitors to ask questions as a group and meet one-on-one with our residents. It was a tremendous success and we look forward to hosting another Open House in the spring. If you would like to visit the Homes for a personal tour, please contact Stacey Sedesse, Admission Coordinator at (410) 527-1111.

Maryland Masonic Homes

“Bonnie Blink”

Infection Control Practices At Maryland Masonic Homes



My name is Elé Lundgren and I am the Infection Control Nurse for the Masonic Homes. It is my responsibility along with all staff to ensure that we provide a safe and healthy environment for our residents. Earlier this fall we began the process of looking at the safety of our community related to the Influenza Season and the H1N1 Flu Virus. I thought it would be interesting to outline the practices in which we ensure infection control measures.

We spoke with the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene and followed their recommendation of screening all family, visitors, vendors, and contractors entering the community. We have posted in our lobby information pertaining to symptoms of the flu and have developed a simple Screening Tool that we ask each individual to complete prior to visiting with residents.

We have engaged Environmental Services to heighten cleaning procedures of handrails; elevator buttons, door knobs, and any surface areas that are frequently touched. Bottles of hand disinfectant gel are placed at all entrances to the community and individual smaller bottles are available to all staff. We have also posted signage throughout the community promoting proper hand washing and cough etiquette.

We believe our Flu Free environment has been a direct reflection of our infection control practices! From all the staff and residents of Maryland Masonic Homes we wish you a safe and healthy new year!

Maryland Masonic Homes Bonnie Blink Resident Council

To All Master Masons and Eastern Star

Members of Maryland:



In the last issue of the Free State Freemason, I wrote about the “Bonnie Blink Resident Council,” when it was formed, the officers, our meetings and our money-making projects. The money we make goes to donations for worthy causes. There is one donation we made to the Armed Forces Foundation that I would like to give you more details about.

My son, John Frech, is Vice President of Maryland Chapter IX of the Blue Knights. In his own words, he told us about our donations:

“The Blue Knights, Maryland Chapter IX is part of an international organization in which members of law enforcement can experience the enjoyment of riding motorcycles. There are two basic qualifications to become a Blue Knight: you must own a motorcycle and you must be an active officer in law enforcement or a retiree in good standing.

Maryland Chapter IX has been in existence for only five years. When initially started, we dedicated the chapter to honoring our wounded military soldiers. Since our inception, we have held an annual Purple Heart Ride in efforts to raise money. Each year the ride has been from Freedom Park in Sykesville to either Bethesda Naval Hospital or Walter Reed Hospital, where we make the presentation. Prior to the ride we try to get as many sponsors as possible. We are very fortunate that the Resident Council at the Maryland Masonic Homes has been one of our

sponsors for the past two years. One hundred percent of the monies collected have gone directly to the Armed Forces Foundation. This foundation assists the wounded soldiers and their families in their time of need, and just this past year our Chapter was able to donate over \$11,000 to the foundation.

Our chapter feels very appreciative to the groups that have sponsored our ride, as we as the individuals that show up in June for our PHR ride. This year we were able to show our appreciation in a small way. One of our members has a son who is currently serving his third tour in Afghanistan. We thought it would be nice if we delivered a few American Flags to him to fly during his mission. James Weiglen, Jr. was more than happy to do this. After they were flown during a mission, he sent them back home, and we were able to present them to a few of our contributors that have donated for at least two years running.

We realize that during these tough economic times, it is difficult getting people to contribute. The resident council at the Maryland Masonic Homes has been very gracious in donating \$500 each of the past two years. The Blue Knights, Chapter IX felt that it was an honor for us to bestow a flag and certificate as a small way for us to show them our appreciation.”



When John made the presentation of the flag and certificate to the Council, I was honored and proud because I wanted the Council to be recognized beyond our four walls and now we have reached half way around the world.

Brothers and Sisters, when you visit Bonnie Blink, stop and take a moment to see the flag and read the certificate, which are hanging on the wall in the main lobby.

In choosing our motto this year, “We Share Because We Care”, I think it is very fitting.

We ask for your continuing support and thank you for giving us this wonderful home.

Morley E. Frech, President
Bonnie Blink Resident Council
Oriental Lodge No. 158



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