



FREE STATE Freemason

A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2013

MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER GERALD E. PIEPIORA

Our 73rd Grand Master



FREE STATE FREEMASON ARTICLES AND ADVERTISEMENTS

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 and can not be changed due to printing schedules.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

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

PHOTOGRAPHS & ARTWORK

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 and address 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.

TEXT & COPY
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.

ADVERTISING

The *Free State Freemason* is now offering advertisement space for anyone wishing to promote their business in our publication. The printable area on each page is 7½" x 10"

Please use the following dimensions:

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- Full Page—7½" x 10"

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- Business Card - \$75.⁰⁰ \$250.⁰⁰ (Save \$50.⁰⁰)
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- 1/2 Page - \$400.⁰⁰ \$1,400.⁰⁰ (Save \$200.⁰⁰)
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The Maryland Free State Freemason is published four times annually for the members, families and friends of Ancient and Accepted Masons of Maryland. The views expressed in the Maryland Free State Freemason do not necessarily reflect those of the Grand Lodge of Maryland, or its officers.

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office@glmd.org

Submitted articles should be between 250 and 600 words, and whenever possible, relevant high-resolution images with proper credits should be included. Check details at the left hand panel. Articles are subject to editing and, if published, become the property of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland. No compensation is given for any articles, photographs, or other materials submitted or published.

FREE STATE Freemason

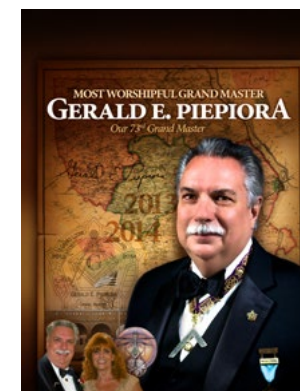
A PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF MARYLAND

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 4

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

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The Maryland Free State Freemason winter issue saluting our Most Worshipful Grand Master Gerald E. Piepiora and his wife Lady Deneise.

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FREEMASONRY is the oldest fraternal organization in the world. It is dedicated to promoting improvement in the character of its members. A Mason is taught to be a good citizen, to be of good character, to care for those less fortunate, and to give back to his community.

THE MASONIC FRATERNITY contributes over \$1 Billion each year to its philanthropic pursuits. Over \$750 Million of that in the United States alone. The Crippled Children's and Burns Hospitals sponsored by Shrine Masons are world famous for their ability to help those most in need.

FREEMASONRY traces its roots to the Middle Ages. It is from associations of stone masons, who built the magnificent cathedrals, castles, and monasteries of Europe that the fraternity started. Eventually, these groups began to accept members who were not actual working masons. At that time they adopted the term "accepted" Masons, and Freemasonry was born.





GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

As my first article for the *Maryland Freestate Freemason*, the topics seem almost endless.

I certainly would be remiss if I didn't express again my most sincere thanks for the brethren and their ladies for the wonderful turnout at the installation of officers on November the 17th.

With over 600 in attendance, regrettably I did not have the opportunity to greet each of you, but please know that the affect of seeing the Corinthian room filled to capacity was an image that will stay with me for a very long time. It is with great pride and humility I serve as your Grand Master. Please know you will have my absolute best effort.

In now our 226th year, there are several areas we need to keep uppermost in our minds.

In recent years, we have been exhorting the Lodge leaders and mentors to be conscious of the necessity for new members to be active somewhere in our Masonic family. Recently there have been a number of articles and columns being written by brothers on this subject. Again and again we read-find something that interests you and pursue it, whether it is in the Symbolic Lodges or another body in the Masonic family. Don't, however, forget your home Lodge.

Over the past 2 years, there have been approximately 1,500 men raised in our Lodges. They are now looking for meaningful Masonic experiences. By the time you read this, nearly all Lodges will have had new officers installed. I hope each Worshipful Master places a priority on ensuring that every member contributes in a way meaningful to his own goal and to our "family".

Regional meetings will again be held in February and March. Please see the Grand Lodge calendar for time and locations.

On April 6th, there will be an Open House. This year, the Grand Lodge of Delaware will be participating with us. All of their Lodges will be open on the same date. For our Brothers on the Eastern Shore, you should see a substantial increase in activity.

As nearly all of our Lodges are now in pretty good shape physically, our members should be focusing on increased participation from the brothers and appendant bodies. As nearly every Lodge has been more active in their respective communities, we expect prospective members to be better educated than ever about what we are about. The visitors are no longer window-shopping, but are genuinely interested in contributing. Do we have what they want? Can we answer their questions?

The CHIP program is something worth continuing. Although the membership approved a \$3.00 per year increase, we won't see any of those funds until the 2nd half of 2014. The committee is active in developing other possible donation sources. In the meantime, we may have to limit functions as our equipment is continuing to fail due to age and use. Any ideas for fundraising will be most welcome.

In closing, we have come a very long way in the past few years. With your support, we will continue to lay a physical and moral foundation upon which our children and their children can become better men and Masons.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Gerald E. Piepiora
Grand Master

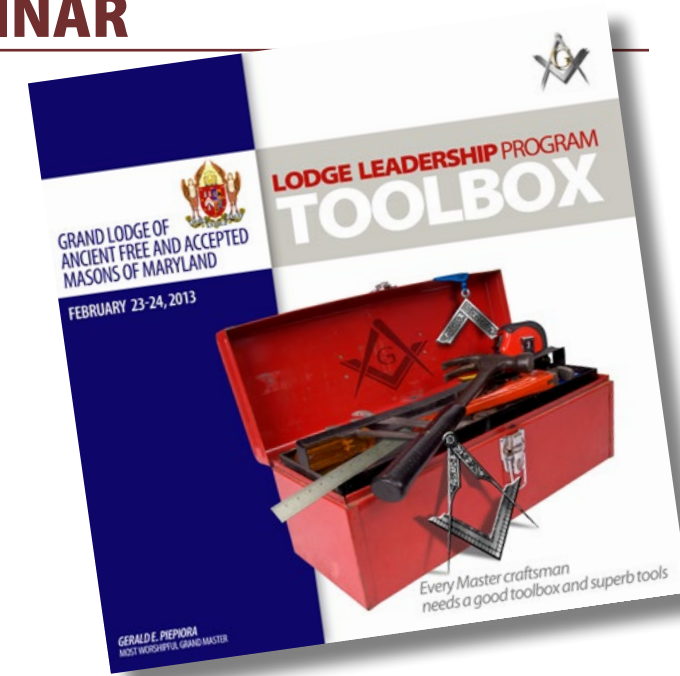
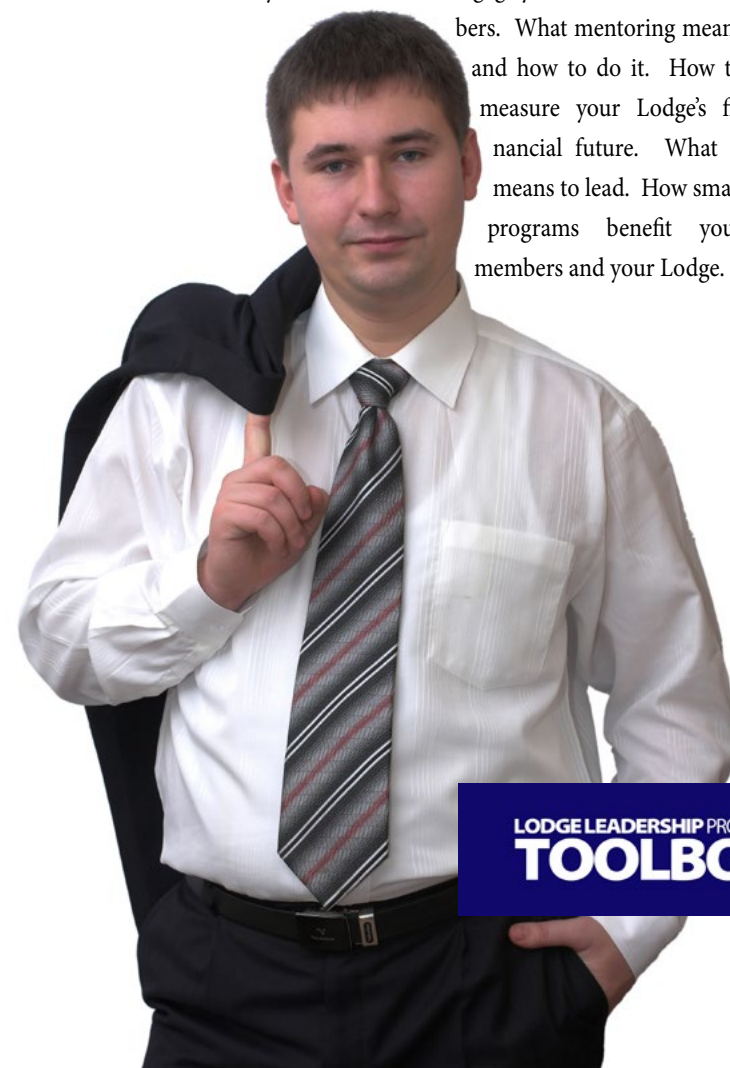
2013 LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Once a year, and only once a year, do you have the opportunity to develop skills to LEAD your lodge. As Masonry takes good men and makes them better, the Lodge Leadership Seminar makes officers into better leaders.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland is again sponsoring the Leadership Seminar. The 2013 program will be held at the Grand Lodge over the weekend of February 23-24. The five courses - *Management, Mentoring & Membership, Programs, Leadership and Finance* are being updated with several new ideas and concepts from prior attendees' comments, trends in the Fraternity and the Instructors' experiences. This year's "Saturday Evening Roundtable" will include information sharing and lively conversation on the Media Campaign, Communication and the Grand Master's Award Program.

Who should attend? Preferably Senior Wardens, Junior Wardens and officers who plan to ascend to the East in 2014 or 2015. Current Worshipful Masters and repeat attendees are also encouraged to participate. We have seats for one officer from each Lodge. Additional members will be accepted on a first come/first seated basis.

What will you learn? How to engage your officers and members. What mentoring means and how to do it. How to measure your Lodge's financial future. What it means to lead. How small programs benefit your members and your Lodge.



What it means to maintain membership, and how you can do it. What it means to be the Leader of your Lodge-to all of the stakeholders. How the Worshipful Master is also the chief Steward. And much more.

Saturday will be a day full of small group classes, lunch, dinner and the Roundtable. And the ideas are shared into the wee hours...an instance has been known! After Sunday breakfast, we will gather for a special presentation of *Powers & Prerogatives of the Worshipful Master*. This will be followed by several informational updates, feedback and conclusion by Noon.

How much does it cost? Only \$125 per person. This fee includes seminar materials, lodging and meals: Saturday - coffee & doughnuts, lunch & dinner and Sunday breakfast. Overnight accommodations will be at Courtyard by Marriott.

Why should I attend? This is an investment in your Lodge's future, as well as in the men who lead your Lodge. The experience will be useful in every aspect of your life. Past attendees continue to offer positive feedback on their experience and share how they have applied these concepts in their Lodges. These responses and the individual presentations are clear evidence that the Leadership Training is Making a Difference in Maryland Masonry...one Brother at a time.

What if I have questions? Contact the Grand Lodge or the Chairman, Ron Block blockntackle@comcast.net Cell phone 410.279.0849. ♣

LODGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
TOOLBOX FEBRUARY 23-24, 2013

GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS OF MARYLAND

MESSAGE FROM THE RW DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

First, allow me to thank you for the opportunity to serve you and The Grand Lodge of Maryland as Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master. Many great men have held this position and each of them has made the footprint wider and deeper – presenting a great challenge for all who follow them. I will use my utmost ability to meet your expectations and the responsibilities of this august office.

One of my favorite quotes comes from Charles F. Kettering who said, “My interest is in the future because that is where I will spend the rest of my life.” How true this is for all of us as we advance through life. Another of my favorites comes from King Solomon who declared that without a “Vision” the people will perish.

It is therefore most appropriate that my principle task will be to head the **2025 Long Range Planning Committee** which has been established to identify and plan for the challenges we will face as we advance Masonry in Maryland. The Long Range Planning Committee also helps define our “Vision”. Most Worshipful Grand Master Piepiora has been extremely successful in setting up the various committees and assisting them in defining specific goals and in accomplishing their several tasks over the past two years. But there is still more work to be done.

One of the most important tasks for us right now continues to be membership. We are experiencing a steady increase in petitions across the state, which is great. But there is an additional challenge associated with processing these new Masons from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason and beyond. Once we receive these anxious, enthusiastic men who are filled with curios-

ity and expectation, in order to keep them engaged, we must develop a meaningful “Mentoring” process with the goal of educating our new members in the values, traditions and other benefits our fraternity can offer them.

Mentoring is a process which can be studied, taught and learned just as we learn our ritual. Once it is laid out we can assist anyone who is interested in becoming a Mentor. The approach can be standardized, but not without flexibility, to assure that everyone mentored will receive similar instruction with the goal of motivating our new Masons to become more involved at some level.

I am anxious to hear from you if you have an interest in serving on one of our committees or if you have an idea you would like to share with us. Remember it is our combined effort which will assure the success of our craft as we work together to build and strengthen Masonry in Maryland.

—Kenneth Stuart Wyvill, Jr., RW Deputy Grand Master



Keith Nusinov
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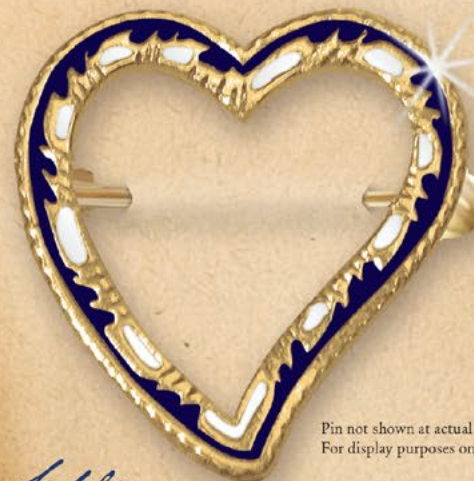
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George Washington
Was Never Without
Martha's
Heart



Pin not shown at actual size.
For display purposes only.

Safely tucked away in the Grand Lodge of Maryland's museum is a true treasure—a special pin that Martha Washington gave to her husband as a token of her affection. The family tradition is that George wore this pin on the inside of his jacket for nearly 30 years while serving his beloved country. Gifted to the museum in 1897 by a direct descendant of Martha Washington, it is there displayed as a striking memorial to Brother Washington.

Now YOU can own a
unique piece of history!

For the first time ever, the museum has issued an official reproduction—the “Martha’s Heart” pin. Crafted in the United States by master goldsmiths, and hand-enameled, these pins faithfully duplicate the priceless original. Offered in solid 14 karat gold or in sterling silver layered in 14 karat gold, the pin would become a valuable addition to your patriotic collection or as a meaningful symbol of your love and devotion.

Approved by the curators of Mount Vernon for sale in their gift shop, the pin is being offered directly to Freemasons and their families at a substantial savings from the regular retail price.



Approx. Size

Order your own Martha's Heart Pin Today! www.MarthasHeartPin.com

\$98⁵⁰ Plus S&H
Sterling silver layered with 14k gold with hand enameled

\$498⁵⁰ Plus S&H
Solid 14k gold with hand enameled

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. A shipping and handling charge of \$8.95 will apply. All proceeds from the sale of the Martha's Heart Pin will benefit the Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland, Inc.

HOW TO ORDER

Contact the Grand Lodge of Maryland to order:

410.527.0600

www.MarthasHeartPin.com



Notes from The Stephen J. Ponzillo, Jr. Memorial Library & Museum

WASHINGTON'S MARYLAND MASONIC TIES AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

By: Edward Heimiller, Curator

No American Freemason is more revered or remembered than George Washington. A number of books have been written on his Masonic membership, however, his association with Maryland Masons has not always been fully acknowledged. Interestingly many of these associations involve Washington as Commander-in-Chief.

Since 1895 the cornerstone of the museum's collection has been a desk known as the Clerk's Desk or the 'Resignation Desk.' This desk is recognized as the one on which Washington resigned his commission as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army in the Senate Chamber of the Maryland State House (now the Old Senate Chamber) on December 23, 1783. Today it is considered one

of the most significant Washington artifacts as a result of its tie to Washington's return to civilian life prior to being elected the first United States President.

Manufactured in Annapolis by John Shaw (1749-1829), Maryland's most renowned cabinetmaker of the period, the desk is of a unique design featuring an elliptical form with two writing slopes, plain tapering mahogany legs and rectangular outline stringing. The desk probably would have been placed directly at the foot of the three steps leading to the Presidential dais. The desk was later sold during a refurbishment of the State House and was purchased by Charles Thompson (1729-1824) who is reputed to have been the Clerk of the Maryland Senate at the time of Washington's resignation. Other items were

Geo. Washington

purchased by other Maryland politicians as souvenirs of their terms in office, including a pair of chairs acquired by Governor Charles Carnon Ridgely (1760-1829) now at Hampton National Historic Site, Towson, Maryland.

Despite Washington's return to civilian life in 1789, upon completion of the United States Constitution he was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States and reluctantly returned to public life. Incidentally that was the same year the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania finally relinquished the charters of our founding lodges to the Grand Lodge of Maryland. New Charters were issued for these lodges and Fells Point Lodge, No. 15 founded in 1770 under the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania became Washington Lodge, No. 3, Maryland's oldest lodge and the only founding lodge of the Grand Lodge of Maryland still in existence. After two consecutive four years terms as President, Washington retired in 1797 and returned to his home, Mount Vernon, in Northern Virginia.

However in 1798 with relations with France deteriorating and war appearing on the horizon, Washington was once again called upon to serve his nation. On July 4, 1798, President Adams offered Washington a commission as Lieutenant General and Commander-in-Chief of the armies raised or to be raised for service in a prospective war. He reluctantly accepted, and served as the senior officer of the United States Army between July 13, 1798, and December 14, 1799. He participated in the planning for a provisional army to meet any emergency that might arise. It was during the course of Washington's short return to the position of Commander-in-Chief that the Grand Lodge of Maryland warmly greeted Washington in Baltimore on November 7, 1798 on his way to Philadelphia to arrange the details and formation of this provisional army. A motion was carried unanimously for the Grand Master and Deputy and those who chose to accompany them to present an address "wishing to testify the respect in which the whole fraternity in this State hold the man who is at once the ornament of the Society and of his country" accompanied by a copy of the recently completed 1797 Maryland Ahiman Rezon and congratulating him on his reappointment as Lieutenant General and Commander-in-Chief. The next day, while in Elkton, Maryland, Washington wrote the following letter (now in the archive of the Maryland Historical Society):



"To the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free Masons for the State of Maryland. GENTLEMEN AND BROTHERS: Your obliging and affectionate letter, together with a copy of the Constitution of Masonry, has been put into my hands by your Grand Master, for which I pray you to accept my best thanks. So far as I am acquainted with the principles and doctrines of Freemasonry, I conceive them to be founded on benevolence, and to be exercised for the good of mankind; I cannot, therefore, upon this ground withdraw my approbation from it.

"While I offer my grateful acknowledgements for your congratulations on my late appointment, and for the favorable sentiments you are pleased to express of my conduct, permit me to observe, that, at this important and critical moment, when high and repeated indignities have been offered to the Government of our country, and when the property of our citizens is plundered without a prospect of redress, I conceive it to be the indispensable duty of every American, let his station and circumstances in life be what they may, to come forward in support of the Government of his choice, and to give all that aid in his power towards maintaining that independences which we have so dearly purchased; and under this impression, I did not hesitate to lay aside all personal considerations and accept my appointment. I pray you to be assured that I received with gratitude your kind wishes for my health and happiness, and reciprocate them with sincerity. "I am, Gentleman and Brothers, Very Respectfully, Your most Ob't Servant Geo. Washington"

Today many relics are preserved in a number of institutions as lasting testimony and reminders of Washington's actions and achievements. As previously mentioned the Clerk's Desk, the centerpiece of the museum's collection, is considered one of the most significant of these relics. His membership and ties to Maryland Masons and interaction with the Grand Lodge of Maryland established a unique legacy that is still cherished and one that no other jurisdiction can boast of.

A NEW LOOK

I have had the pleasure of visiting several of our Lodges over the past 10 months and speaking with the members about Bonnie Blink. This is proving to be a tremendous learning experience for all of us! As I reminisce with Lodge members, many times I am taken back to a time when the building was an infirmary, halls were dark and beds lined the fourth floor. This image, shared by many, has changed dramatically over the years and as our latest phase of renovations begin, I would like



to invite you back to take a look at the

Bonnie Blink of today.

Our 2012 Renovation Project began with the reconstruction of the Beauty Shop in October and will continue through the entire building. Our staff, guests, and most importantly, our residents are excited to see these beautiful enhancements taking place. Our Masons deserve the very best and we are making every effort to continue to provide you a quality, well-appointed community. Don't you think it's time to give Bonnie Blink a second look?



HUNT VALLEY'S BEST KEPT SECRET—REVEALED

Maryland Masonic Homes held its first publicly advertised Open House on October 4, 2012. The event was a huge success and was well attended by Masons and qualifying family members. Our guests gave many compliments to the beautiful setting, the gorgeous décor, and of course, the refreshments provided by our own Dietary Department. Our MMH team members went out of their way to answer questions, provide information about the services we provide, and to make our guests feel at home. Tours were provided and all but 2 of our showcased Independent Living Apartments were sold!

If you were unable to attend this event but would like to learn more for yourself, our doors are always open. Please contact Stacey Sedesse at 410-527-1111 ext. 3268, and find out what all the excitement is about!



MARYLAND MASONIC HOMES—WISH LIST

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

We have had a great response from members for donations to our 'wish list' and we thank you. Please consider a monetary donation so we may continue to provide superior care and services to Masons and their families. We need individual and Lodge support to upgrade equipment and enhance the community.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paula O'Neill at 410-527-1111, extension 3240

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5	Aromatherapy Diffuser with Oil	\$75. ⁰⁰
5	Specialized Eating Utensils	\$ 100. ⁰⁰
2	Batteries for Hoyer Lift	\$120. ⁰⁰
6	Three-in-one Commode Seat	\$150. ⁰⁰
2	Ear Thermometer	\$195. ⁰⁰
2	CD Players	\$200. ⁰⁰
15	Maintenance Free Outdoor Furniture (tables/chairs/benches)	\$300. ⁰⁰ -\$500.
10	Anti-lock Brakes for Wheelchairs	\$300. ⁰⁰
1	Digital Camera	\$300. ⁰⁰
10	Extra-wide, Deep Wheelchairs	\$500. ⁰⁰
2	High-Back Wheelchair	\$850. ⁰⁰
1	Low Air Loss Alternating Pressure Mattress	\$1,500. ⁰⁰
3	Linked Senior - a life enrichment tool (full portal digital entertainment system)	\$3,700. ⁰⁰
1	Touch to Play Interactive Computer System	\$4,395. ⁰⁰
1	Whisper Glider	\$5,395. ⁰⁰
1	Automated Wheelchair Accessible Eye Exam Chair	\$5,550. ⁰⁰

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE MCSA

I was honored on June 20th to be installed as the President of the Masonic Communities and Services Association (MCSA.) This Association currently has 35 members across the United States, including Masonic, Eastern Star and children homes.

I was thrilled to have Most Worshipful Grand Master Ponzillo and his lovely wife Marie, attend the banquet and installation.

MCSA members cultivate the rich Masonic traditions and heritage, simultaneously growing and progressing into the future so we may better serve our residents. Our mission is to assist member organizations become the best they can, and set a standard of care that others want to emulate.

The Association began in 1931 and has expanded and changed over the past 81 years. We have continued to build on the foundation of those who served before us. Currently, mem-

ber homes provide residential care, home health care, outreach, hospice, and acute hospital services.

Best practices are shared among the communities and allow members to learn from their peers in areas of administrative and clinical trends, Board training and government guidelines.

We have a strong partnership with the national Association, Leading Age and most MCSA organizations have been recognized by both state licensing boards and professional associations.

I meet this challenge with great enthusiasm and am excited to represent Maryland for the next two years as MCSA President.

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



MARYLAND MASONIC SERVICE AWARDS

In each issue of the *Free State Freemason* we recognize our Brethren who achieved service award status during the previous quarter. Sincere congratulations to these Brothers who reached 50, 60 and 70 years of service between September 1st and December 31st, 2012.



70 YEAR MEMBERS

Calvin Bolander	68
Calvin Clark, Jr.	123
Norman France	219
Julian Hyman	116
Frederick Kaufman	51
Samuel Patterson	88
Ralph Simmers, Jr.	51



60 YEAR MEMBERS

Edgar Bowen	89
Garrison Boyle, III	70
John Briddell, Jr.	230
Samuel Campbell, Jr.	145
Robert Dawson	213
Victor Eckman	116
William Eickelberg	182
Lynn Fisher	46
Earle Gerding, Jr.	116
Robert Hatcherson, Jr.	115
Clair Herb	116
Donald Higgins	188
Allen Hohman, Jr.	152
Robert Hosier	68
Albion Hutcherson	202
Paul Johnson	209
Harry Kogelschatz	158
William Koutrelakos	222
Elmer Ray Leppo, Jr.	123
John Magiros	152
Lawrence Martin	217

Joseph McClelland	198
John Payne	91
Charles Peacock	145
James Purdy	174
Zane Ross	208
Harold Rummel	51
William Ruppertsberger	182
George Ruppertsberger	116
John Scott, Jr.	112
Jesse Shehane, Jr.	213
Louis Shockley	91
Burton Sirkis	25
John Slack	115
Wilton Stallings	93
George Stauffer	58
David Stavely	102
William Thomas	218
Frank Weitzman	25
Robert Wilson	91
Bernard Youngman, Jr.	158
James Zentz	152
Samuel Zweig	195



50 YEAR MEMBERS

James Almoney	219
Thomas Anderson, Jr.	51
James Bair	51
Joseph Bazey	179
Harry Bowers	99
Horace Bray, III	116
Howard Cardin	25
Edward Daily, Sr.	183
Thomas Downs, Jr.	140

Verlon Dukes	138	John Mills, Jr.	58
Wilbur Edgar	3	Kermit Olinger	135
John Edwards	3	Louis Peterson	48
Raymond Efford	183	Jerome Powell	25
William Elliott	174	Rudolph Putz	116
Daniel Elliott	103	Byrd Raby	208
James Emge, Jr.	222	Edward Reihl	115
Crawford Ervin	101	Kermit Roberts, Jr.	44
Edward A. Foreman, Jr.	202	Arthur Robson	222
James Foust	183	Louis Rosenberger	183
Robert Geist	175	Karl Schmidt	227
John Gideon	131	Dennis Shambaugh	131
Wayne Gingrich	228	George Sharp	219
Samuel Glasgow	206	Roy Shepherd	183
Rev. Carroll Gunkel	123	Elwood Smeltzer	183
Charles Hachemeister, Jr.	112	Cecil Smith	227
Alfred Hahn	205	Richard Smith	68
Harry Hahn, Sr.	205	John Somers	106
William Harrison	89	William Soper, Jr.	198
David Henson	217	Gus Souris	208
Bryant Hopkins	188	Merrick Stecker	183
Leon Hubbard	172	William Steele	230
William Hymes	101	Patrick Stone	89
Sterling Jones	46	John Thrasher, III	161
Jacob Katz	25	Timothy Timlin	213
Roy Kelley	213	Jimmie Trowbridge	230
Carey Kerby, Jr.	195	Jay Turner	131
Robert Kinnear, Jr.	183	John Ullrich	153
Alan Knowles	91	John Vrhovac	183
Kenneth Krach	222	Sherman Weatherholt	100
Herbert Langenfelder	58	Robert Weber, Jr.	222
Glenn Lindman	179	George Whittington	183
Peter Loik	219	Irvin Willen	25
Kenneth Meals	177		
Everett Melson, Jr.	101		
William Mills	66		



This Is Not Your Father's Oldsmobile!

Oldsmobile, as a fabled brand, maker of the Rocket Eighty-Eight died using the ad "This Is Not Your Father's Oldsmobile". Oldsmobile was driven into oblivion by that commercial. All they had to do was an upgrade on the artwork. She sold me!

your Lodges. My talks vary in length from 5-20 minutes. Email: fredlaser@comcast.net

The Grand Lodge has provided ten 3'X8' banners acknowledging Freemasonry's sponsorship of the blood drive, with

graphic art and an Internet link to becoming a Freemason. These are to be prominently displayed at your blood drives. These banners will be distributed regionally.

In this article I've covered two of our three tenets: Brotherly Love and Relief. Equally important is Truth! The truth of the matter is that with a younger trending membership, we can give more. I still believe that an annual statewide goal of 2025 units is an attainable goal in 2025. Over the past 20 years we have donated over 25,000 units of blood. I encourage you to roll up your sleeve, give blood, have a stale cookie and some O.J. or soda and give again as soon as possible.

Fred Laser
Chairman, Maryland Masonic
Blood Donor Program

Hopefully, changes from the late PJGW Jack Hook's blood bank to the now Maryland Masonic Blood Donor Program does not destine this program to the ash can. It's just as important today.

There are differences. The concept of a blood bank no longer exists. No benefits are derived. You don't have credit for units given in the past or future. You will pay a processing fee to receive each blood unit if needed. The change is Federal law.

You give blood because there is a need and it fits our tenets of Brotherly Love and Relief. You give in the hope that is love. That love, that Gift of Life (blood), will be there for you when and if the need arises only if you give. Pay it forward if you would.

Second, individual accounting of each brother's donation is no longer necessary. There is no mechanism to record that individual donation at the Grand Lodge level. If the gallon pins are important to your donor, the American Red Cross will provide them.

It is my fervent hope that individual Lodges will recognize their donors in some way annually. I would appreciate an annual report from each Blood Donor Chairman. For each Lodge the report should include the total units donated, the number of blood drives sponsored and the number of non-Masons participating in those blood drives. This report is due no later than October 15 to one of five readers! I'm available statewide to promote the program at your Lodges particularly hoping you will start sponsoring blood drives in

The concept of a blood bank no longer exists. No benefits are derived. You don't have credit for units given in the past or future. You will pay a processing fee to receive each blood unit if needed. The change is Federal law.



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BE A PART OF MARYLAND'S MASONIC HISTORY

By Kevin Emery, PM, GI, 32°

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Maryland is forming a new Valley in Harford and Cecil counties. As a new valley hasn't been initiated in Maryland in over thirty years, this is an exciting endeavor to say the least. The new Valley will be comprised of a Lodge of Perfection and grow the Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh and Consistory as we are able and our membership grows. This new organization will be called the Susquehanna Valley, Chesapeake Lodge of Perfection, in the Orient of Maryland.

their membership in the Baltimore Valley's Chapter of Rose Croix, Council of Kadosh and Consistory.

Thursday, January 17th, the Formation Committee and the first line of officers met with the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, the Illustrious Marlin L. Mills 33° and finalized our plan and formally requested the Letters Temporary (basically a temporary charter). We expect to receive our Letters Temporary in a week or so and will operate under that until we receive our official charter a year or so later (if all goes well).

Be a Part of Maryland's
Masonic History Join Now and be a part of history!

Masonic history is about to be made with the formation of a new Valley in the Orient of Maryland. It has been over 30 years since the last time a Valley was formed here. Will **you** be a part of it?

Scottish Rite Freemasonry • Orient of Maryland

Lodges of Perfection are responsible for conferring at a minimum the 4th and 14th degree as well as the Feast of Tishri, and Chesapeake will be no different. We are targeting the Scottish Rite Fall class for our first conferral.

Once the Susquehanna Valley is formed and the Chesapeake LoP is up and running, Scottish Rite Masons in the Orient of Maryland will be allowed to join the Chesapeake LoP and will subsequently be required to demit from their current one (Baltimore is called Albert Pike LoP). These members would retain

Hopefully everything will go smoothly and quickly, and we are planning an open Installation of Officers at our first scheduled meeting, which will be February 21st. The new Lodge of Perfection will meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Mt Ararat Lodge in Bel Air, MD beginning at 7:00pm.

We are currently asking Harford and Cecil county Scottish Rite Masons to become active in this new Valley, and help with the degree work. If you would like to help us make history, then please contact Kevin Emery, PM at tigeremery@yahoo.com or 410-937-0628.

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BOUMI SHRINERS

By Jay Irwin Block, Chief Rabban, 2012



I am writing this as my first contribution to the Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite magazines. I want to thank them for allowing me the opportunity of contributing an article on behalf of our Boumi Shrine Masons. The purpose is not to talk about the events for 2013 but, rather, to review the year 2012. Sadly, this article should have been written by the Illustrious Sir, F. Carl Weiss, III but he is no longer with us. The Illustrious Sir put his heart and soul into his year but, unfortunately, did not survive long enough to enjoy its completion.

On September 11, 2012, F. Carl Weiss, III, beloved husband of Doris Weiss passed away. On that Friday night, he was hon-

ored with a Masonic Funeral Service led by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland, Stephen Ponzillo, III, at the Schimunek Funeral Home. Honoring Carl was a line of Grand Officers, the Boumi Divan, as well as a number of Shrine Masons and others of our Craft. The Divan gave him his final Salaam at the grave site

The Illustrious Sir's Boumi history is too extensive to review in this article but he will always be remembered in our hearts. Our sympathies continue for his wife and our first lady, Doris and his family. Yours in faith,

MA MICHAEL ANDERSEN
REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR

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