

THE PENNSYLVANIA

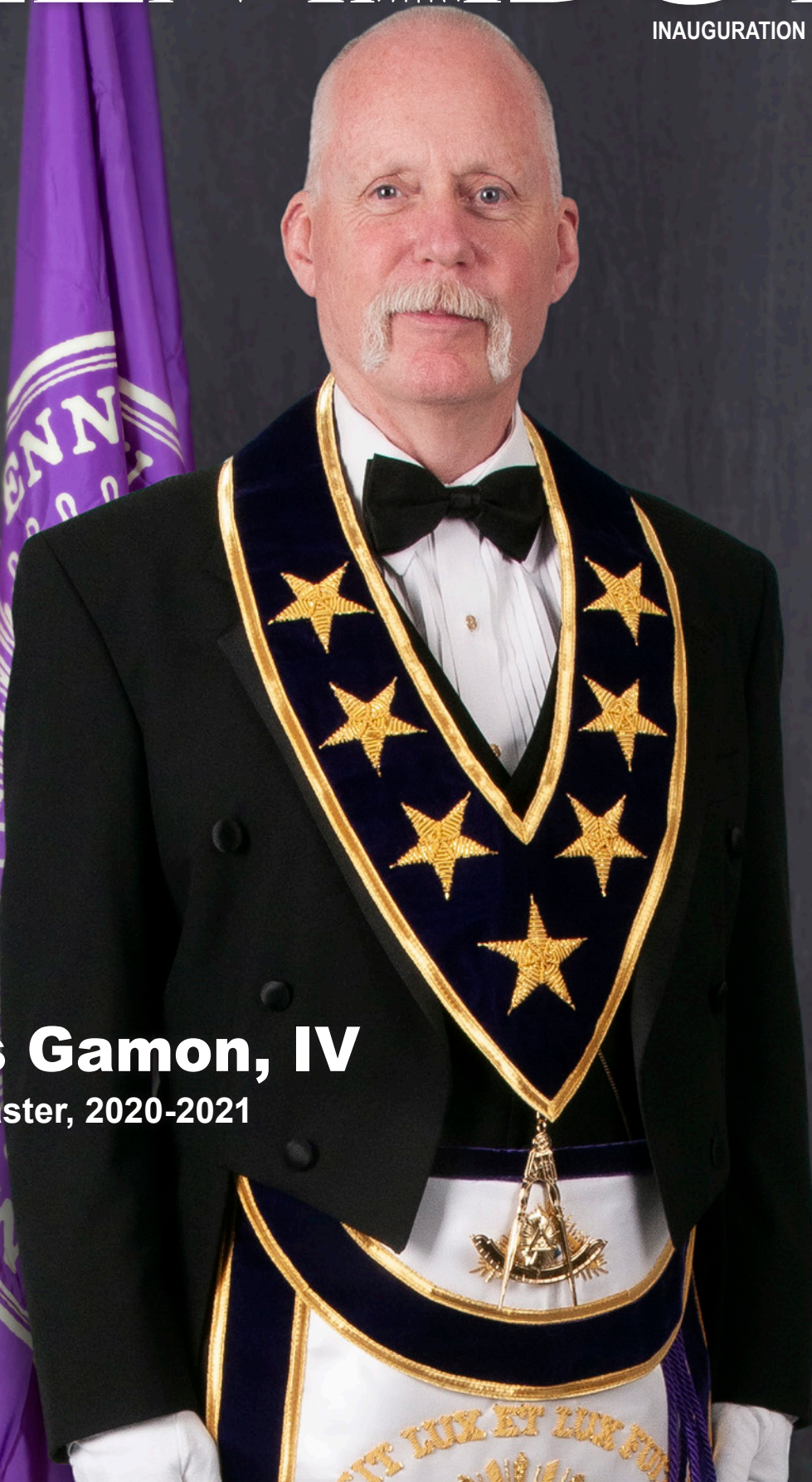
FREEMASON

VOL. LXVII, NO. 1

INAUGURATION EDITION 2020

Thomas Gamon, IV

R.W. Grand Master, 2020-2021





THE PENNSYLVANIA FREEMASON®

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We appreciate the many submissions we receive for consideration. We apologize, but due to space constraints we are not able to publish every submission we receive.

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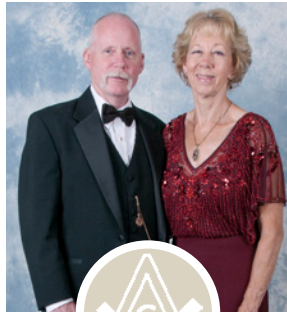
Thomas Gamon, IV, Editor

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3 Freemasonry Today

Grand Master's Message • Biography of R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon, IV • Your Grand Lodge Officers & Their Ladies • Newly Appointed Floor Officers, Aides to the Grand Master, District Deputy Grand Masters & Executive Directors

12 Membership

Outreach Services Expand • Replace Yourself! • Honoring First Responders • Priorities: Mentoring New Members & Learning the Ritual • Ritual Competition Winners • Masons Bike for Charity • PA Academy of Masonic Knowledge • 2020 Leadership Seminars

20 Philanthropy

Masonic Village Chaplain Earns Prestigious Award • Masonic Village Project Earns Historic Preservation Award • Welcome New Masonic Villages Staff • Help for Our Heroes • Honor Our American Heroes • The Education Institute of the PA Masonic Youth Foundation • Welcome New Rainbow Assembly • From Friends to DeMolay Brothers to Brother Masons • A Mission of Love Accomplished • A Touch of Masonic Class • Board Member Feature: Kim Jeffreys • Couple Surprises Community with Generous Bequests • Behind the Scenes of Your Masonic Temple

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THOMAS GAMON IV, R.W. GRAND MASTER

Ladies, Brethren and Guests, Good Afternoon.

Brother Gene, Lady Sally, congratulations on a job well done. Cheryl and I enjoyed traveling and working with you over the last six years, we will look back on these times with fond memories. We want to wish you both the very best in your future endeavors.

I am honored and humbled to stand before you as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. There have only been 122 men who have held this station in the 289 years of the Grand Lodge's existence, and I am grateful for the trust that has been placed in me. Please be assured that I embrace the responsibility of this office and will work diligently to advance the interests of our fraternity.

When I first entered the craft as a member of Perkiomen Lodge No. 595 in Red Hill, Pa., I had no idea that a Grand Lodge or even a Grand Master existed. My whole Masonic world consisted of my small country lodge and the great men who became my brothers. They instilled in me a love for our fraternity and the values and principles upon which it was founded so long ago and which remain the lifeblood of our organization today. It wasn't until I became more involved, and met more of our brothers across the Commonwealth, that I came to understand the role of the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master. My Masonic journey has enriched my life in so many ways, and I cherish the honor to serve you and our beloved fraternity as Grand Master.

Perhaps now, more than ever, the world needs our fraternity and the timeless principles of love and tolerance that we have espoused for hundreds of years. While the bonds we share may seem to some but a quaint reminder of days long gone, we must continue to always seek the high road – in our discourse and in our actions. While our Masonic values may be overlooked by some in the hustle and bustle of today's fast-paced society, we must be confident that our Way of Life has lasting value, and the

light we bear will help bring peace and happiness to our homes and communities.

Indeed, as Freemasons, we set a high standard for ourselves. Freemasonry is more than a fraternity – it is a Way of Life. R.W. Past Grand Master William Carpenter described our beloved fraternity this way: "Freemasonry is kindness in the home, honesty in business, courtesy in society, pity and concern for the unfortunate, resistance of the wicked, help for the weak, trust in the strong, forgiveness for the penitent, love for one another, and above all, reverence and love for God."

It is our job to make sure our institution – from turret to foundation stone – lives up to its billing. Therefore, my programs share a common theme: Encourage Pennsylvania Freemasons to find value in and to be proud of their Masonic membership through an emphasis on time-tested Masonic principles and values.

Of course, at the very heart of Freemasonry is the grassroots good works that our lodges and members do in their communities, through which we are rewarded with a profound perspective of our purpose. In this regard, we will encourage our lodges to continue looking out for their members and their families using their Almoner's Funds and enhanced resources that will be available through our Outreach program. Similarly, we will encourage lodges to stay in touch and be ready to assist the widows and dependents of our deceased brothers. We will also be re-instituting a "Random Acts of Kindness" program to encourage our members to go the extra mile to lend a hand to their neighbors and to provide examples for others to follow.

Since Grand Master Gardner's term, we have conducted the Help for the Heroes program, raising more than \$1 million to assist our service men and women. This wonderful program will continue and will be expanded to serve the needs of veterans.

Due to popular demand, the leadership training programs



will also continue. These programs are designed to help cultivate leadership skills in our professional careers, but can be applied to our work as volunteers within our lodges and other organizations.

We will also formalize programs and encourage support for the first responders who serve our communities. My Brothers, these organizations are under tremendous financial pressure, and we need to step up and help sustain these vital services.

As many of you know, for the last several years, we have revamped our membership software system from the ground up. Though still being refined, our new platform provides opportunities to improve and enhance the membership experience, and we will begin to test and roll out such features.

The generous support we have received from Pennsylvania Masons and their loved ones over the years have allowed us to establish our Masonic Villages, Masonic Library and Museum, Pennsylvania Youth Foundation, Masonic Charities Fund and Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program. These are truly exciting times for our charities. Like our blue lodges, our charities put into action our Masonic values every day. In the coming months, you will be hearing more about the amazing work they do.

Our Masonic Villages continue to provide substantial fraternal care and assistance to seniors without the resources to pay for their care, to our youth in our Masonic Children's Home, through home assistance and hospice services, and in so many other ways. In 2018, our Masonic Villages provided over \$46.8 million in fraternal care and subsidies as part of its continued Mission of Love.

We will continue to maintain and preserve our wonderful and historic Masonic Temple, Library and Museum, and

showcase our valuable collection of literature, art and artifacts. We will enhance our public and membership-based educational programs, as well as our efforts to sustain monuments of Masonic significance around the Commonwealth.

Through our Youth Foundation, we will continue support of our Masonic youth groups, expand our youth-oriented educational initiatives focused on youth safety, and our generous scholarship programs to develop the leaders of tomorrow.

Our Masonic Charities Fund will continue to assist those victimized by natural disasters around the world, support the George Washington National Memorial and the Masonic Service Association and other needs that may come to our attention.

The Masonic Blood and Organ Donor Program will continue its grass roots efforts through the selfless labor of many volunteers who facilitate blood donations and encourage organ donor participation.

Your Grand Lodge has prospered for so long by being prudent stewards of the generous financial support supplied by our members and their loved ones. Working with our Grand Treasurer, we will be fiscally responsible, transparent and accountable to you as we pursue our charitable and fraternal activities here in our Commonwealth.

There is much to be done, and I am optimistic that we can achieve success together. I believe in this great fraternity and the men who I call my brothers.

For the next two years, I ask you to join me in "Protecting our history to serve our future." I truly believe the best years for our fraternity are still to come!

Thank you, and God bless our great fraternity and the United States of America!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

THOMAS GAMON, IV, R.W. Grand Master

THOMAS GAMON, IV

R.W. Grand Master, and his wife, Cheryl

Grand Master's Medallion



Lady's Pin





BIOGRAPHY OF R.W. GRAND MASTER THOMAS GAMON, IV

Brother Thomas Gamon, IV, became a Pennsylvania Mason in 1991.

He graduated from Perkiomen Valley High School, earned an associate's degree in criminology from Montgomery County Community College and completed his Pennsylvania state apprenticeship in the electrical field. After working as an electrician for 10 years, in 1986, he founded Gamon Electric, Inc., a full-service electrical contracting firm for which he serves as President. He has earned several professional certifications and licenses and is an Assistant Code Inspector for Lower Frederick Township.

A member of Montgomery County Fire Chief's Association, Brother Tom has served his community in various capacities. Having joined Lower Frederick Fire Company in 1976, he served as Fire Chief from 1984-2002 and from June 2012-present, as well as Battalion Chief from 2010-2012. He has served as a PA State Police Assistant Fire Marshall since 1984, as Fire Marshall for Lower Frederick Township since 2000 and is a Past President of Red Knights Motorcycle Club Chapter #5. He has taught vertical rescue at many locations throughout the state.

A member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 105, Schwenksville, Brother Tom is an Order of the Arrow member and served as Committee Chairman for Troop 87 from 1994-1996.

Brother Tom served as President for Good Fellowship Country Club from 2008-2009 and has served as Secretary since 2010. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Children's Dyslexia Center in Reading.

Brother Tom and his wife, Cheryl, live in Schwenksville and are members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church. They are the proud parents of Brother Thomas, V, and Danielle, and the proud grandparents of Shelby Elizabeth and Thomas, VI.

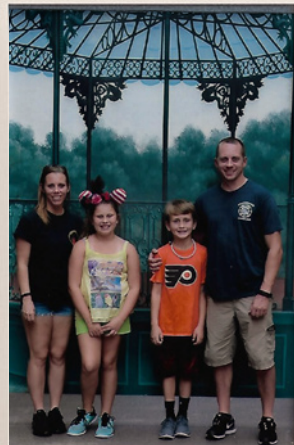
Brother Tom's favorite pastimes include hunting, fishing and motorcycle riding. Cheryl enjoys sewing, reading and selling fresh produce at her stand. Together, they enjoy antiquing and spending time at their hunting cabin in Tioga County.

Masonic Resume

A Past Master of Perkiomen Lodge No. 595, Red Hill, Brother Tom served as District Deputy Grand Master of District 40 from 2002-2010; as a Representative in Grand Lodge and an Aide to the Grand Master from 2012-2013; as a member of the Masonic Education Committee from 2010-2011, and on the Masonic Villages Board of Directors since 2013.

Brother Tom is a member of Royal Arch Chapter No. 198 and Nativity Commandery #71, both of Pottstown, and Palestine Council No. 8, Phoenixville. A Past Thrice Potent Master of the Reading Lodge of Perfection, he is a member of the Valley of Reading, A.S.S.R. Brother Tom is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council 33°, and a member of LuLu Shrine. He is also a member of Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Perkiomen Valley High Twelve No. 670 and Spring City Forrest No. 34, Tall Cedars of Lebanon. A charter member of Gnothi Seauton, Allied Masonic Degrees Council No. 501 and a past Sovereign Master, Brother Tom is also a charter member of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research and Hiram's Scottish Riders Motorcycle Club, as well as a member of Excelsior Mark Lodge No. 216, the Pennsylvania Masonic Shield and Square Club and the Royal Order of Scotland.

He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor and the Chapel of Four Chaplains Humanitarian Award.





YOUR GRAND LODGE OFFICERS



Jeffrey M. Wonderling R.W. Deputy Grand Master and his wife, Sharon

Brother Jeffrey M. Wonderling is a Past Master of King Solomon's Lodge No. 346, Connellsville. He is also a charter member of Lodge Ad Lucem No. 812, Pittsburgh, and a member of the Pennsylvania Lodge of Research. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of the 30th Masonic District, 2000-2005, as Principal of the 30th Masonic District School of Instruction and as a member of Masonic Villages Board of Directors, 2007-present.

He is a recipient of the Grand Lodge Century Award, the Grand Master's Outstanding Service Award and the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Jeff graduated from Gateway Senior High School and the LaDolce Academy of Real Estate. He is employed by Flynn's Tire Group as a Territorial Manager and has specialized in business development for over 35 years.

Jeff and Sharon are members of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Delmont, where he has served on the Church Council, the Mutual Ministry and Finance Committees, as an Assisting Minister and as Chairman of two capital campaigns. He also served on the Board

of Directors for the American Heart Association of Westmoreland County and as Secretary and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Better Business Bureau of Western PA.

Jeff has two stepsons, Thomas and Michael Bahney, and two grandchildren, Julia and Dylan Bahney.



Larry A. Derr R.W. Senior Grand Warden and his wife, Rochelle

Brother Larry A. Derr is a Past Master of Ashara-Casiphia Lodge No. 551, Mount Joy. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of Masonic District 1, 2009-2017; Representative in Grand Lodge, 2005-2008, and Masonic Villages Board of Directors, 2017-present. He is a recipient of the DeMolay Legion of Honor.

Larry graduated from Manheim Central High School and Northwest Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and drafting. After 40 years of construction management in commercial masonry, he retired as Vice President.

He served as a member of the Board of Directors for Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers #5 and Lancaster

County Vocational Technology Group, as Past Chairman of the Apprentice Committee for Associated Builders and Contractors Association and on the Board of Advisors for Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. He also coached youth baseball teams for the Mount Joy Athletic Association. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Mount Joy Borough Water Authority.

Larry and Rochelle live in Mount Joy and are the proud parents of a son, Dustin M. Derr. They are members of Saint John's Lutheran Church, where Larry was involved with the building committee.



Robert D. Brink R.W. Junior Grand Warden and his wife, Allison

Brother Robert D. Brink is a Past Master of Saucon Lodge No. 469, Coopersburg. He served as District Deputy Grand Master of District 9, 2012-2015, and as District Deputy Grand Master at Large, 2015-2019. He has served on the Grand Lodge Committees on Publications, Appeals, Fraternal Recognition, Internet Services and Finance.

Rob graduated from Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in electrical

& THEIR LADIES

engineering and Penn State University with a master's degree in electrical engineering. He began his career at AT&T Microelectronics, Allentown, and worked in a variety of positions in the telecommunication semiconductor industry for 22 years. He currently manages family businesses.

Rob and Allison reside in Coopersburg and are the proud parents of two adult daughters, Kathryn and Rachael.



Adam Heese
R.W. Grand Treasurer
and his wife, Kelly

Brother Adam C. Heese was appointed R.W. Grand Treasurer on June 9, 2018. He is a Past Master and past Trustee of Melita Lodge No. 295, Philadelphia. He is a member of the Masonic Villages Board of Directors and Chair of the Finance and Gift Planning Committee.

Adam is a member of the Grand Lodge Committee on Finance and Committee on Lodge Loans. He serves as a Trustee of Title to the Masonic Temple and other Real Estate of Grand Lodge, Trustee of the Consolidated Fund, Trustee of the Masonic Charities Fund and as an

Administrator of the Pension Plan.

Adam is licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania. He is employed as a Senior Manager of International Tax in Latrobe, Pa. He has previously held positions as a Tax Manager at Deloitte & Touche and as a Senior Tax Analyst at Air Products & Chemicals.

Adam earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Drexel University and a master of science in taxation from American University.

Adam and Kelly reside in Latrobe with their four children. He enjoys being involved in his children's activities, including serving as Treasurer and Assistant Den Leader for his sons' cub scout pack and volunteering with their sports related activities. He also enjoys doing DIY projects around the home and garden, shooting sporting clays and traveling with his family.



Mark A. Haines
R.W. Grand Secretary
and his wife, Karen

Brother Mark A. Haines is a Past Master of Reading Lodge No. 549 and is a dual member of Teutonia Lodge No.

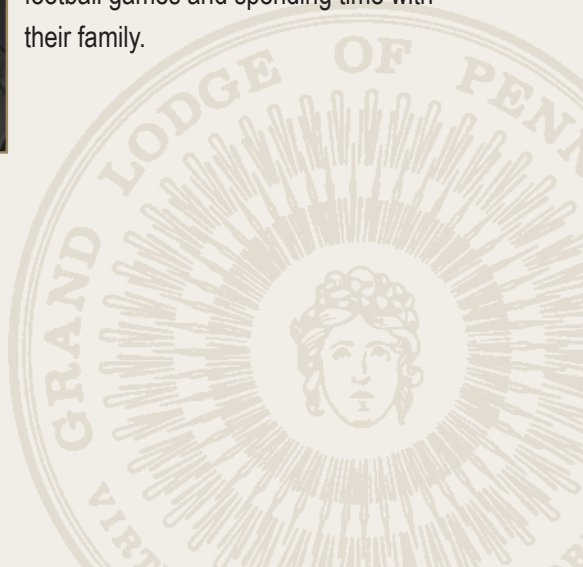
367, both of West Reading. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for the 7th Masonic District from 1998-2005. He serves as Trustee of the Masonic Charities Fund, Trustee of the Consolidated Fund, Director of the Masonic Library and Museum and as a member of the Masonic Villages Board of Directors.

Mark served as an advisor for the Reading Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and was awarded the DeMolay Legion of Honor. He also served as an advisor for Reading Assembly, International Order of The Rainbow for Girls.

Mark graduated from Penn State University with a degree in business administration.

Prior to being installed as R.W. Grand Secretary on Dec. 27, 2005, he was employed as Deputy Grand Secretary and held various management positions within the insurance industry. Mark was awarded the Pennsylvania Franklin Medal by R.W. Past Grand Master Stephen Gardner during the 2009 Annual Communication.

Mark and Karen have five children and three grandchildren. They live in West Lawn and attend Peace Lutheran Church. In their spare time, they enjoy going to football games and spending time with their family.





Newly Appointed Floor Officers



SENIOR GRAND DEACON
Timothy L. Shumar
Lodge No. 346, District 30



JUNIOR GRAND DEACON
Christopher R. Foy, P.M.
Lodge No. 595, District 40



GRAND STEWARD
Kenneth R. Good
Lodge No. 75, District 40



GRAND STEWARD
Paul W. Sacks
Lodge No. 310, District 6



GRAND SWORD BEARER
Thomas Gamon, V
Lodge No. 595, District 40



GRAND PURSUIVANT
William J. Guiseppe
Lodge No. 383, District 5



ASSIST. GRAND MARSHAL
Jeffrey S. Moyer
Lodge No. 43, District 1

Newly Appointed Aides to the Grand Master



Sean W. Haines
Lodge No. 549, District 7



Glen A. Houck, P.M.
Lodge No. 479, District 40



Timothy J. Gricks
Lodge No. 231, District 55

Newly Appointed District Deputy Grand Masters



Jeffrey R. Miller
Lodge No. 260, District 3



Scott A. Strawdinger
Lodge No. 469, District 9



Kevin J. Kuna
Lodge No. 291, District 13



Benjamin A. Beynon
Lodge No. 542, District 14



David McGuigan
Lodge No. 343, District 16



Charles L. Davis
Lodge No. 408, District 25



Jay A. McGuier
Lodge No. 447, District 29



Jeffrey J. Borosky
Lodge No. 499, District 59

Newly Appointed Executive Directors



Mike McKee
Executive Director
Masonic Library &
Museum of PA
Lodge No. 506, District D



Harry B. Rutter
Executive Director of
Grand Lodge Operations
Lodge No. 271, District A



Alexander S. Fizz
Executive Director
PA Masonic Youth
Foundation
Lodge No. 367, District 7



OUTREACH SERVICES EXPAND

Since 1995, the Masonic Outreach Program has provided free information, direction, referrals and education on community services, personal care and skilled care homes, or government and state programs. Over the years, the program has expanded to address specific, additional needs.

"I believe that, unfortunately, many of our members do not understand the breadth of benefits available to themselves and their families through their Masonic membership," R.W. Grand Master Gamon said. "That is why one of my major initiatives during my term will be to expand our outreach services. The Masonic Outreach Program coordinates many services to support our brethren, their families, widows and others in our communities. Strengthening our existing programs and adding needed services will not only improve our ability to honor our oath and obligations, but will allow us to better promote our good works. Combining the operations of our Masonic Charities will enable a more concerted and comprehensive effort to communicate all the services available to brethren and their families."

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

To ensure veterans are aware of the benefits available to them, the Outreach Program will coordinate programs with the Department of Veterans Affairs to offer clinics at our

Masonic Villages locations for veteran residents, members, employees and neighbors. Veterans Affairs representatives will discuss benefits veterans are entitled to and assist them in submitting claims and/or reviewing pending claims.

FRATERNAL CARE AT MASONIC VILLAGES

True to its Mission of Love, the Masonic Villages provide millions of dollars worth of fraternal care (over \$10.8 million in 2018) and subsidies (almost \$36 million in 2018) to residents who are unable to afford the services they need.

HOME ASSISTANCE

Pennsylvania Freemasons, with five years' membership in good standing, and their wives or widows who are experiencing financial hardship, may be eligible for temporary financial assistance. In 2018, more than \$93,300 worth of support was provided through this program. Over the next two years, we will expand our home assistance and home and community-based care services, including home health and hospice.

BLOOD AND ORGAN DONOR PROGRAM

Pennsylvania Masons, their families and Masonic youth group members are eligible for membership in the program, which offers cost-free blood replacement on a nationwide basis. In addition, the program provides support



and education to members and their families going through the organ transplant process and encourages Pennsylvania Masons and others to consider becoming organ donors.

PANEL OF ATTORNEYS

Brethren, who are attorneys, volunteer to offer direction for distressed brethren, their spouses and widows who are unable to retain counsel. Attorneys on the panel may also be able to assist individuals needing legal advice who have the ability to retain counsel.

PANEL OF FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Brethren, who are financial planners, volunteer to help brethren and their family members who need assistance developing or improving budget skills.

LOAN CLOSET

Located at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown, the free Loan Closet offers durable medical equipment (such as walkers, wheelchairs, canes, shower chairs, etc.) on a temporary basis to individuals in need.

DEMENTIA CAREGIVER SUPPORT & EDUCATION GROUP

During a monthly meeting, this support group, which is affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association, provides caregivers an opportunity to share experiences and learn about various resources. The group meets monthly at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown.



SUPPORTING MASONIC WIDOWS

In 2018, more than \$48,000 worth of support was provided to widows of Pennsylvania Masons in need. In addition to providing widows access to all Outreach Program resources, the Widows' Guild recognizes and assists the widows of Pennsylvania Masons with a dependable resource of information and direct support. Members receive a Masonic Blue Slipper pin, a membership card which lists many available services, a quarterly newsletter and invitations to local events.

MASONIC OUTREACH PROGRAM

www.MasonicOutreach.org

Phone: 1-800-462-7664 or 717-361-5080

Email: outreach@masonicvillages.org





REPLACE YOURSELF!

"The legacy given to us by the generations of brethren who came before us is a great responsibility," R.W. Grand Master Tom Gamon said during his Inaugural address. "We must do everything in our power to ensure that when every current Mason is gone from this earth, the Masonic ideals and values we hold so dearly and that society needs so desperately, will live on through future generations. Our world needs Freemasonry, and it is our charge to ensure it lives on to benefit the world and serve the craft for eternity.

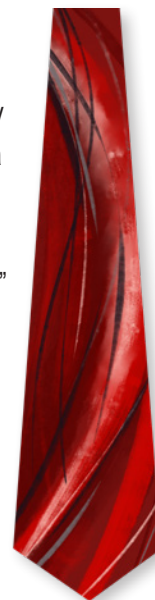
"Freemasonry is not for everyone, and we should not try to be all things to all people. We should be mindful of the words of one of our predecessors, who in 1915, wrote: 'The desire for numbers may easily result in permanent injury to the fraternity.' If we want our beloved fraternity to flourish for perpetuity, we must emphasize quality over quantity regarding membership. Or, as Past Grand Secretary Tom Jackson put it: 'We do not need more members; we need more Freemasons.'

"Over the last year, we have adopted and implemented the ***Not Just a Man. A Mason.*** awareness campaign to increase understanding of who we are, what we believe and what we do. We will use this campaign, an increased presence on social media, *The Pennsylvania Freemason* and other channels to get the word out about the work Pennsylvania Freemasons do every day to improve our communities. Increased awareness, especially when combined with selective invitation, will certainly

lead to inquiries from persons with whom our tenets and actions resonate.

"Although I will not have a statewide One Day Class, if a lodge or district would like to organize a class, I will provide the appropriate dispensation. I do, however, challenge each Mason to replace himself by introducing a friend to our brotherhood."

R.W. Grand Master Gamon launched the "Replace Yourself" effort by presenting a signed petition to his lodge during the Annual Grand Communication. During his term, every new Mason will be given a new tie to wear to lodge – or anywhere else he wishes – with pride.



The ***Not Just a Man. A Mason.*** pride and awareness campaign consisted of a redesigned website, a brochure for prospective members and a concerted social media strategy from Sept. 9 to Nov. 30, 2019. During that time frame, the Grand Lodge social media channels grew in followers, reach and engagement; traffic to the website increased significantly; and 280 prospective members made direct inquiries about membership. Efforts continue, as lodges follow up with inquiries and potential candidates.



HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS



Serving on the front lines of dangerous and traumatic events, first responders work tirelessly during times of crisis, often putting their own lives at risk to save others.

"These dedicated professionals deserve appreciation for their sacrifices every day, but I am asking PA Masons to celebrate their dedication, courage and sacrifice during the month of October," R.W. Grand Master Gamon said.

The following list is just a sampling of ways to show appreciation to the exceptional career and volunteer firefighters, police, emergency medical technicians and paramedic workers in our communities.

1. JUST SAY "THANKS!" Just saying a simple, "Thank you for your service" is a great way to show first responders you respect and appreciate them. If your lodge has a sign outside its building, consider posting a message of recognition on it during October. Or, gather letters from brethren and their family members and deliver them to the station personally.

2. OFFER A MEAL. For first responders, day-to-day life can be stressful and their schedule irregular, meaning that home-cooked meals may be a luxury. If some of your brethren and/or their ladies would be willing to bring a home-cooked meal to the local station, it would be a much appreciated gesture. Of course, since an alarm can sound at any time, it is best if the meal is one that can be returned to later, if necessary. Some lodges have hosted special dinners to honor first responders. If an entire

meal is too much to organize, baked goods would be a welcome treat. Or, consider dropping off some free tickets to your lodge breakfast, BBQ or spaghetti dinner.

3. DONATE TO A GOOD CAUSE. There are numerous charity drives in any given community to support fire departments, police forces and more. A gift to one of these causes can make a material difference in the lives of first responders and their family members. If you are unable to make a big donation, offer to organize or volunteer at a drive or other event.

4. DROP OFF PRACTICAL GIFTS. Thoughtfully customize a basket with gift cards to restaurants in the local area, allowing first responders to relax and unwind with good food between their high-stress assignments. Or, assemble individual appreciation bags for first responders to "grab and go," containing items such as gum, protein bars, crackers or pretzels, candy, mints and hand sanitizer, decorated with labels thanking them for their service. Have lodge members purchase items and fill them assembly-line style. Include ladies and children if you wish for a fun, meaningful family-friendly community service activity.

Regardless of how you choose to honor first responders in your community, share your efforts on social media. This not only expands the audience for your expression of appreciation, but may encourage others to show their support, too.



PRIORITIES: MENTORING NEW MEMBERS & LEARNING THE RITUAL

"In our blue lodges, we will encourage our officers and members to participate in the ritual and attain ritual proficiency," R.W. Grand Master Tom Gamon said during his Inaugural address. "Our ritual cements our bonds to each other, and to past and future generations of Freemasons. To do this, we will work with the Schools of Instruction on proficiency requirements; continue district, region and state-wide ritual competitions; and recognize those among us who demonstrate leadership in the ritual through their excellent work or mentorship of others.

"Engrained in our ritual and symbolism is the fundamental

concept that the reward of our fraternity is achieved only through our labors in service to God and humanity. One of the most inspiring and valuable aspects of our brotherhood is the beauty of our fraternal bonds. Many of those begin and grow while a mentor and his mentee spend quality time learning the work, talking about life, their families, their jobs, their ambitions and their dreams. These are friendships and bonds that are forged for the rest of our lives! For this reason, we will continue to encourage lodges to adopt mentor programs, and make sure good tools are conveniently accessible to them for this purpose," he said.

FLORIDA

Masonic Reunions

WILL NOT be held in 2020

Any Pennsylvania Mason residing in Florida who would like to receive his Masonic Service Emblem may attend one of the receptions listed below with Brother Alvin Blitz, Chief Gift Planning Officer for the Masonic Charities. For more information, call 1-800-599-6454.

Jan. 28 - Englewood, Florida

Jan. 29 - Estero, Florida

Jan. 30 - Cape Coral, Florida

Feb. 18 - The Villages, Florida



RITUAL COMPETITION WINNERS

The Ritualistic Competition, during which each team had to exemplify the first, second and third degrees, was held on Sept. 12-14, 2019. Congratulations to the following district teams!

FIRST PLACE:

DISTRICT 10

First row, l-r: Brothers David M. Howells, Jr., Jordan-Martin Lodge No. 673, Allentown; Ralph H. Slider, Sr., Greenleaf Lodge No. 561, Allentown; Raymond E. Reppert, Lehigh Valley Day Lodge No. 813, Macungie; Richard Bacon, Jr., New Temple Lodge No. 720, Allentown; Lloyd L. Roberts, Jordan-Martin Lodge No. 673; and Ralph H. Slider, Jr., Greenleaf Lodge No. 561. Second row, l-r: Brothers Linford S. Bastian, Lehigh Lodge No. 326, Macungie; and Thomas J. Bailey, Greenleaf Lodge No. 561. Third row, l-r: Brothers Gerald C. Berger, Slatington Lodge No. 440; Guy R. Bieber, Lehigh Lodge No. 326; Earl H. Kreglow, Jr., Greenleaf Lodge No. 561; John J. Rome, III, Lehigh Lodge No. 326; Guy A. Herring, Sr., Greenleaf Lodge No. 561; and Mark D. Gall, The Kite and Key Lodge No. 811, Allentown. Not pictured:

Brothers Herbert A. Cook and Robert B. Kehm, Jordan-Martin Lodge No. 673.

SECOND PLACE:

DISTRICT 29

First row, l-r: Brothers David E. Tumm, Washington Lodge No. 164; John M. Breitigan, Sunset Lodge No. 623, Washington; Robert J. Carr, Claysville Lodge No. 447; and David C. Runco, Chartiers Lodge No. 297, Canonsburg. Second row, l-r: Brothers David L. Moore, Beallsville Lodge No. 237; Richard Knox, Valley Lodge No. 459, Masontown; Jay McGuire, Claysville Lodge No. 447; John Milikin, Washington Lodge No. 164 and Clark Hayes, Chartiers Lodge No. 297. Third row, l-r: Brothers Leslie D. Moore, Beallsville Lodge No. 237; Jacob W. Beabout, Sunset Lodge No. 623; Patrick Mounts, Claysville Lodge No. 447 and Scott R. Carlson, Chartiers Lodge No. 297.

THIRD PLACE:

DISTRICT 2

First row, l-r: Brothers Temple Blake, Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg; Jayme Paluskiewicz, Brownstone Lodge No. 666, Hershey; Clarke Madden, Perseverance Lodge No. 21, Harrisburg; Stephen Kiessling, Prince Edwin-Spring Creek Lodge No. 486, Middletown; G. Jeffrey Knous, Robert Burns Lodge No. 464; and Dave Ravegum, Harrisburg-Snyder Lodge No. 629, Harrisburg. Second row, l-r: Brothers Gregory Pappas, Harrisburg-Snyder Lodge No. 629; Morgan Santo, Prince Edwin-Spring Creek Lodge No. 486; Jay Sayre and Jonathan Nalepka, both of Robert Burns Lodge No. 464; Mark Bostdorf, Lowther Manor Lodge No. 781, Camp Hill; and Lee Pisano, Prince Edwin-Spring Creek Lodge No. 486.



MASONS BIKE FOR CHARITY

Last summer, several Freemasons participated in the 32nd Annual The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour, a 65-mile charity bike ride from Philadelphia to Atlantic City, N.J.

All proceeds from The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour went to the Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation, which supports the families of fallen first responders and children's charities in the Philadelphia and South Jersey area.

Three brothers from Carbon Lodge No. 242, Jim Thorpe, and three from Slatington Lodge No. 440 made up the "Jim Thorpes" team, raising nearly \$70,000 to support the Children's Foundation. (Jim Thorpe is a town in eastern Pennsylvania.) The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour as a whole raised more than \$1 million.

"My involvement started this year based on a challenge from my dad, a Mason and a member of the 'Jim Thorpes' team," said Brother Bo Rodrigues, Worshipful Master of Slatington Lodge. "Our team captain was a police officer and he took [the Foundation's mission] to heart. The team did pretty well. The experience was awesome."

"I've done the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics, and I help out a lot with our local Special Olympics in Carbon County," Bo added. "I try to do as much as I can to give back."

Brother Dave Howells Jr., D.D.G.M.-10, said he was proud of his brothers who participated in the bike ride and helped raise money for charity. "The mission of the Grand Lodge is that Masons also help in the community, so I'm really happy that they decided to help in this manner," he said.

Brother Jason Robbins, Worshipful Master of Carbon Lodge No. 242, Jim Thorpe, said this was his third year riding in the event. He said the "Jim Thorpes" have been the second highest earners in fundraising for the past few years. Because of that, the team received \$1,000 to help them plan their Safe Kids Day, an event held each May in Jim Thorpe.

"The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour is a big event, but it trickles down locally, and that's what drives me to do it," Jason said. "Our Safe Kids event teaches kids about fire safety, how to safely enter a building if the doors are hot, how to use a fire extinguisher and the importance of wearing sunscreen. All the events are based around educating children to make sure they are safe as they go through childhood."

PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF MASONIC KNOWLEDGE



The 2020 Spring Symposium of the Academy of Masonic Knowledge will be held on Saturday, March 21, in the Deike Auditorium of the Freemasons Cultural Center at the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. Registration will open at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m. A lunch (for a requested contribution of \$10) will be served at noon, and the program will be completed by 3 p.m. All Masons are welcome to attend. Dress is coat and tie.

Pre-registration is required, either at www.pamasonicacademy.org/meetings/

or through your Lodge Secretary. If you pre-register and subsequently determine that you will be unable to attend, please have the Masonic courtesy to cancel your reservation by the same method and providing the same information.

On the day of the symposium, the event will be live streamed via the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania YouTube Channel.

Save the date! The next Academy Symposium will be held Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! 2020 LEADERSHIP SEMINARS



The Grand Lodge Leadership Seminars provide valuable information in an interesting, interactive format, followed by breakout sessions that promote a more intimate environment.

In 2020, the seminars will be held:

March 7 Masonic Conference Center,

Masonic Village at Elizabethtown

March 28 Scottish Rite Cathedral, Allentown

April 4 Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center, Pittsburgh

Registration will open at each site at 7:45 a.m., with a continental breakfast offered. The seminar will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a full lunch served at each location. The cost is \$25 per attendee and may be paid by the member's lodge if properly motioned and approved by the membership.

Those interested in attending may register online at www.pagrandlodge.org/seminars/.



MASONIC VILLAGE CHAPLAIN EARNS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Rev. Brother Paul Hansen, Williamson Lodge No. 307, Womelsdorf, Spiritual Care Associate for Masonic Village at Elizabethtown and a major in the U.S. Army Reserves, 336th Expeditionary Military Intelligence Brigade, was awarded the Four Chaplains Medal on Sept. 4, 2019, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

This award, approved by the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains, recognizes chaplains who best exemplify courage, sacrifice, teamwork and sacred values in dealing with soldiers, commanders, families and the U.S. Army. Recipients must have demonstrated collegial selfless behavior while rendering religious support to the military community, regardless of faith or race, in keeping with the spirit of the Four Chaplains' sacrifice.

The Four Chaplains were four U.S. Army chaplains who gave their lives to save other civilian and military personnel as the troop ship U.S. Army Transport (USAT) *Dorchester* sank on Feb. 3, 1943, during World War II. The Four Chaplains each helped military members board lifeboats and gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out. The chaplains gathered on deck, joined arms, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship went down.

Rev. Hansen attended SUNY Maritime College in Bronx, N.Y., and the Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia.



The Masonic Village at Elizabethtown received the Landmark Property Rehabilitation Award from the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County for demonstrating a long-term commitment to conservation and building maintenance best practices to maintain the historic significance of the Grand Lodge Hall building.

The Grand Lodge Hall was constructed from 1911-1913 at the cost of \$370,000. A 1913 award-winning master plan prepared by Zantzinger, Borie and Medary Architects showed it as a central hub, but over the years as the campus expanded, more than one activity center emerged. To return to the original plan and functionality of the building, a Main Street concept was developed to convert underutilized spaces into modern day attractions such as a pub; multiple dining venues including formal, casual and terrace options; continuing education spaces; and many other amenities intended to attract residents and recreate a vibrant, active, convenient activity hub on the campus.

Throughout the transformation, it was a requirement to retain the historical character of the building. Many features, such as the stained glass windows in the large formal dining room and the original wood paneling, were incorporated into the redesign. Materials were carefully selected to be both sustainable and to match or complement the existing historical materials to meet Masonic Villages' practical preservation policy requirements. Wohlsen Construction helped bring the concept to fruition.

WELCOME NEW MASONIC VILLAGES STAFF



MIKE ROWE has been named Executive Director for Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. He is responsible for providing direction and oversight for matters that affect residents, employees and customers in all lines of services provided by Masonic Village. This includes budget preparation and management and occupancy and community relations.

Previously, Mike served as Executive Director of Patriots Colony Life Plan/ Continuing Care Community, located in Williamsburg, Virginia, which houses more than 500 residents. Mike has a bachelor of science in business administration from Florida State University and earned his master's of healthcare administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.



MATTHEW MAYO has been named Assistant Executive Director/Nursing Home Administrator (NHA) for Masonic Village at Elizabethtown. With more than 15 years of experience, Matthew is responsible for ensuring all health care policies, procedures, systems and programs are in compliance with state and federal regulations. He will also direct the planning process for the implementation of new health care services and ensure successful financial performance from health care departments.

Previously, Matthew served as the NHA for ManorCare Laureldale, a 198-bed facility in Berks County, and was formerly a Regional Director of Operations for 10 buildings in Central Pennsylvania. Matthew graduated with a bachelor of science in long-term care administration. He holds a master of business administration from York College of Pennsylvania.



LINDA JACKSON recently joined Masonic Villages as the Relationship Administrator for the Widows Guild Program. Formally established in 2016 by the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the purpose of the guild is to strengthen relationships, recognize and assist widows of Pennsylvania Masons.

In her new role, Linda's goal is to continue growing the guild, which is nearly 1,000 members strong, by communicating a heartfelt message of care and support so that no widow feels alone or out of options. We want to assure widows that services, such as those offered through the Masonic Outreach Program, are only a phone call away.

Linda would love to hear from you! If you are a Masonic widow or know of a widow who would like to become a member of the Widows Guild, please reach out to Linda at 1-800-599-6454.



HELP FOR OUR HEROES



Over the past 11 years, the Help for Our Heroes program has developed relationships with key personnel at regional military bases to determine how Pennsylvania Masons can show their appreciation for the sacrifices our service men and women make daily for our nation. Needs and situations vary, but what has remained constant is the dedicated support from both individual members and the fraternity as a whole toward this worthwhile and meaningful mission.

After Brother Sgt. Tom Long, Brotherhood Lodge No. 126, Philadelphia, was notified on Aug. 9, 2019, that a soldier out of Pittsburgh had a problem with a leaky roof, he contacted Brother Robert J. Slater, D.D.G.M.-47, who sent out a district-wide email requesting assistance. A few days later, Brother Brian Versetti, Omni Lodge No. 582, Pittsburgh, responded, promising go out to the home the following week to evaluate the issue. Brian made small repairs to the roof at no cost to the soldier and left his contact information should any problems with the roof

return in the future.

This is one example of how the program has aided our American heroes over the years. Since R.W. Past Grand Master Stephen Gardner initiated the program, over \$1 million in donations have helped service men and women and veterans, primarily from Pennsylvania. Donations so far have provided calling cards for Pennsylvania troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq and to injured soldiers in hospitals, reconstruction of a serviceman's home after it was destroyed by fire and financial support for baby showers for military mothers-to-be hosted in conjunction with the March of Dimes, providing many supplies needed for a baby's first year of life.

"Through the Help for Our Heroes program, my vision is to provide more support for our veterans, especially those who are suffering, oftentimes silently, with homelessness, post-traumatic stress disorder and other financial and health issues," R.W. Grand Master Thomas Gamon said.

Please, keep those donations coming in support of our heroes!



HONOR OUR AMERICAN HEROES

In November, to honor Veterans Day at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown, nearly 7,000 American flags cascaded up to the Veterans Grove as a memorial to each of the military service members who has died in combat since 9/11. The National Sojourners-Harrisburg Chapter No. 76 created the Massing of the Colors memorial in 2004 and has displayed the flags at Masonic Village since 2011. Volunteers from Masonic Village, the Sojourners and the community helped with the display.

The Veterans Grove is comprised of 268 oak trees planted in 1920 by Robert Burns Lodge No. 464, Harrisburg, as a living representation of the Masons who died serving our country during World War I.

Walking paths and picnic tables are provided for family and friends to take time to remember, honor and pray for those currently serving in our Armed Forces and pay respect to all veterans.

At one edge of the grove is the Eternal Flame monument, built and dedicated in 2014. It remains lit 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. A plaque on the front of the eternal flame states: "This Eternal Flame, Dedicated September 20, 2014, Honors All Active Military and Veterans. All Gave Some — Some Gave All." Adjacent to the monument stands an American flag and close to 1,500 pavers surrounding the site, engraved with names of those who have served or are serving our country, as designated by loved ones.

If you wish to be part of this beautiful and sacred place of remembrance and to honor someone who has or is currently serving in our Armed Forces, please complete the coupon below and mail it, along with your check, to the address listed. Or, donate online at MasonicVillages.org/donate-now. Pavers are \$250 or \$500, depending on the size and location. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-599-6454.

VETERANS GROVE PAVER DONATION FORM

Cut reply form and mail to Masonic Charities at One Masonic Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Please complete this form and send it along with your check payable to the "Masonic Charities"

Name (donor) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Email _____

Please print paver inscription below exactly as you would like it to appear; spaces are included in character count.

CHOOSE A PAVER SIZE:

☐ 12"x18" Paver (\$500) will accommodate
5 lines with no more than 20 characters per line

☐ 8"x12" Paver (\$250) will accommodate
4 lines with no more than 14 characters per line

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ Check (payable to: Masonic Charities)
☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account No.: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-digit Security Code: _____



THE EDUCATION INSTITUTE OF THE PA MASONIC YOUTH FOUNDATION

For more than 15 years, Pennsylvania Masons have provided professional development and education workshops and seminars for educators, human service professionals and school administrators throughout the Commonwealth. These high quality trainings have given schools and communities the tools to empower youth, enhance safe school environments, prevent drug and alcohol use in children and build long-lasting assistance programs. The most powerful growth in recent years has been the addition of direct student and youth programs, bringing the voice of young people to the forefront as they address the issues facing our world and their future.

In 2020, the Education Institute of the Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation is proud to introduce a new aspect to this incredibly valuable program, Parent Forum. The focus will be on creating an environment where parents can hear from experts, connect with other parents and find support. The conversations will place attention on practical strategies that parents can use to help their children continue to grow and thrive.

If your lodge or Masonic body is interested in hosting a Parent Forum, please contact Amy Nace at 1-800-266-8424, ext. 2, or ALNace@PADeMolay.net.

WELCOME NEW RAINBOW ASSEMBLY

One of the many ways that the Masonic youth groups are able to grow in size is through the formation of a new affiliate group in areas without existing youth programs. A new Rainbow Assembly is forming in Mount Joy, with the assistance and generosity of Ashara-Casiphia Lodge No. 551. Several of the members of the lodge have been serving on the Advisory Board of the new Assembly to ensure its success. The Assembly started as a Pledge Group over four years ago for girls between 6-11 years of age. Rainbow helps young ladies from ages 12-20 become leaders and good

citizens in their communities. They accomplish this through various activities built around fellowship, service and charity.

The Assembly will induct its first members on Jan. 25, 2020, at the Masonic Conference Center-Patton Campus in Elizabethtown, and is excited to hold its first Installation of Officers early in 2020 at Ashara-Casiphia Lodge in Mount Joy. Congratulations to the new Assembly, and welcome to the Masonic family!

For more information about Pennsylvania Rainbow, visit www.parainbowgirls.org/.

Scholarship Season is Here! Get Your Masonic Scholarship Resource Guide at www.pmyf.org/scholarships or call 1-800-266-8424, ext. 2.

From FRIENDS to DeMOLAY BROTHERS to BROTHER MASONS



On Oct. 15, 2019, Brother Ryan Kraus, a Mason of only six months, conferred the Master Mason's degree on Brother Zak Kineston, his best friend. Both young men are active members of the Erie Chapter, Order of DeMolay, and now, of Oasis Lodge No. 416, Edinboro.

Petitioning the lodge immediately after his 18th birthday, Ryan was among the youngest brothers to join the fraternity. He is also one of the youngest to confer the Third Degree - the highest and most challenging degree in Freemasonry.

"It usually takes several months or years for most members to even begin learning it, let alone master it so quickly," said Ryan's father, Brother Peter Kraus, P.D.D.G.M.

Ryan said he was motivated by the idea of conferring the degree on his friend, but he was also blessed with his father's memorization skills.

"From my previous experience memorizing ritual for DeMolay, it made it easier for me," he said. "I already knew how to memorize and internalize things."

Ryan joined DeMolay in 2013, following in the footsteps of his father, who assisted the chapter while serving as District Deputy Grand Master.

"I watched the installation of [DeMolay] officers and thought it was really cool," Ryan said. "Seeing the amazing ritual work, I immediately wanted to join the organization."

Ryan has served in various leadership roles in DeMolay, including Master Councilor, and this past year, as the Scribe. He's currently the Region A Representative for Pennsylvania DeMolay.

"I've always wanted to help people with their ritual, regardless of what position I held in the chapter," he said.

Ryan and Zak have known each other since the eighth grade, when they were introduced by a mutual friend, who was a member of the Order of DeMolay. Zak, who also held the Master Councilor role for one term, joined Oasis Lodge after learning that several of his advisors in DeMolay were also Masons.

"Just knowing the advisors and understanding the kind of people they are, I knew it was something I wanted to be involved with," Zak said. "They are all just really good people."

When Ryan conferred the degree on Zak, it was a moment that both men said they will never forget. "It was a great moment; I was showing my best friend some of the coolest stuff that Masonry has to offer – the general morals and standards and rituals, as well," Ryan said.

Zak agreed, "It was pretty special and enjoyable for me. It felt a lot more personal coming from someone I knew very well."

Peter is very proud of both Ryan and Zak, whom he now calls brothers. "These young men exemplify the values of Freemasonry and DeMolay," he said.





A MISSION OF LOVE ACCOMPLISHED

BROTHER JOSEPH E. MURPHY RETIRES AFTER 45 YEARS, LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITHFUL SERVANT LEADERSHIP TO THE MASONIC VILLAGES AND THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA

People have asked me over the years why I came to and stayed so long at Masonic Villages. The answer always comes back to the people we serve and the team that provides our Mission of Love every day.

To be quite honest, I came for what I thought would be a couple of years while I finished college, but then staff, residents, board members, volunteers and donors taught me how important our Mission of Love is to so many people and their families.

I have seen or heard about staff members doing things they thought of as an ordinary part of their day, but residents and families saw them as extraordinary and special. Sometimes it is as simple as offering a smile or hug, an ear to listen or a hand to hold. At other times, they are specific actions such as the compassionate provision of care, bereavement or spiritual services; guidance and support; or a myriad of other meaningful deeds. This is why my wife, Barb, and I are honored to contribute to the Helping Hands Fund, to ensure our staff members at all locations who fall on hard times receive the support they need so they can

continue to make a difference in the lives of our residents.

I often hear how beautiful our campuses are and the difference the Mission has made in someone's life. No matter where I have gone, people want to share their positive experience at Masonic Villages with me.

Over my 45 years, I have observed staff members support each other because they see each other as family. I have witnessed residents work together to help and express appreciation to employees. I have watched volunteers give selflessly of their time and energy, while receiving friendship and fulfillment in return. I have seen board members stay focused on a vision and values and prioritize our residents and team members as a core part of our Mission.

My family is blessed to have been a part of this tremendous Mission over the last 45 years. God bless all of you!

Joseph E. Murphy



Growth of the Masonic Villages Under Brother Joe Murphy's Leadership

	Then (1983)	Now
Operating Revenue	\$10.7 million	\$180.5 million
Non-operating Revenue	\$11.8 million	\$33.7 million
Operating Expenses	\$16.4 million	\$221.1 million
Charitable Care & Services Provided	\$2.9 million	\$46.8 million
Total Assets	\$47.1 million	\$1.1 billion
Retirement Living Units	225	1,568
Adult Residents	630	3,005
Child Residents	24	40
Staff	650	2,452



Brother Joseph E. Murphy, N.H.A., Abraham C. Treichler Lodge No. 682, Elizabethtown, joined the Masonic Homes of Elizabethtown in 1974. He served as Executive Director/CEO for the Masonic Homes from 1983 to 1997, when he was promoted to Chief Executive Officer. Under Joe's leadership, the now Masonic Villages have grown from one to five locations across the Commonwealth, offering home and community-based services, outreach services and management and consulting services.

Throughout his career, Joe has been a catalyst for continuous quality improvement, expanding the Masonic Villages' Mission of Love to ensure vital services meet the evolving needs and expectations of its customers. He has overseen the building and renovation of beautiful homes into active and vibrant places to enjoy life. Yet even more important than spurring bricks and mortar growth, he has been the architect of culture, building communities and teams dedicated to caring for and serving residents, employees and the greater Masonic family across Pennsylvania and throughout the United States.

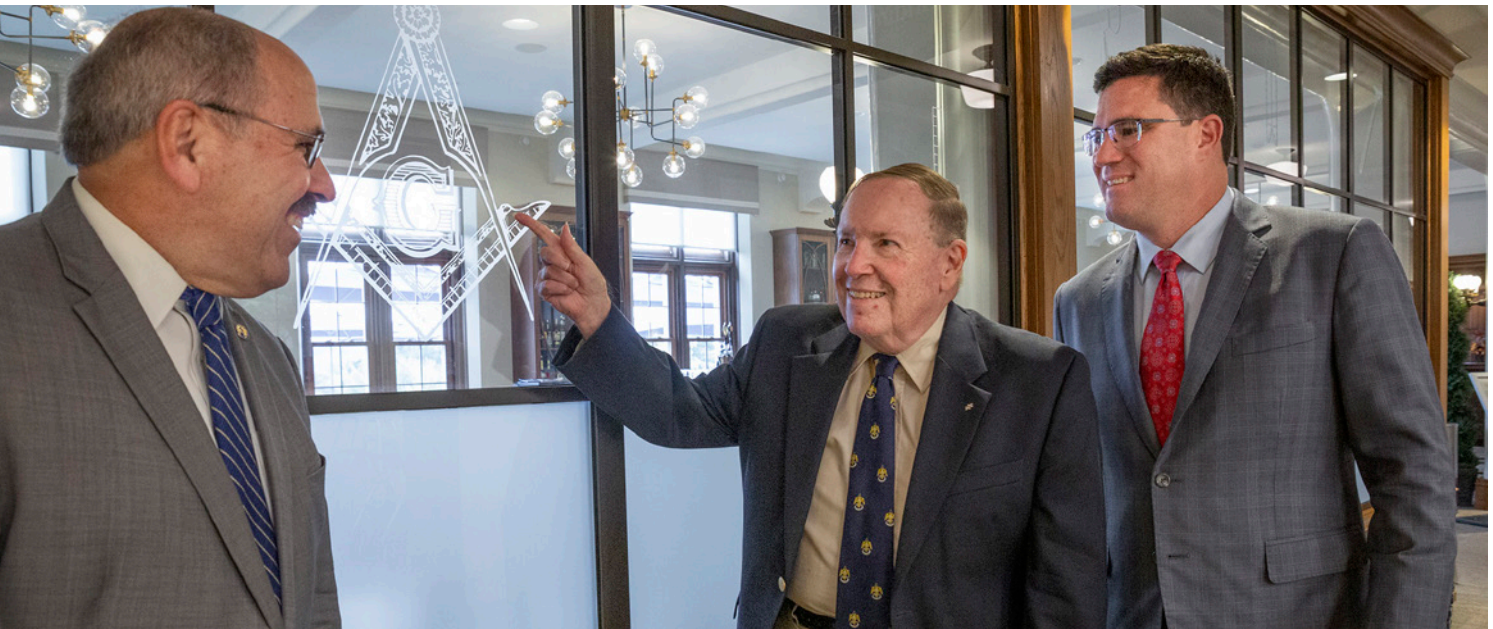
Joe's selfless dedication is apparent both in the beauty of the Masonic Villages' campuses and in the quality of care received by each resident. His success can certainly be measured in numbers, but more importantly, it is visible in the expressions of joy on the faces of the adults and youth served across the Commonwealth.

Joe has defined the values that have and will guide decision-making for decades because he has built an organization of leaders and employees who embrace and execute a shared vision of excellence. He has set an example and expectation that the Masonic Villages operate with the highest level of integrity.

Joe has served as a motivational leader, an encouraging mentor, a staunch advocate, a compassionate coach, a champion of servant leadership, a generous benefactor and a faithful friend.

Best wishes to Joe Murphy and his wife, Barb, for the greatest of health, happiness, love and blessings as they embark on a well-deserved retirement!





A TOUCH OF MASONIC CLASS

Part of the Grand Lodge Hall, the first building constructed on the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown campus, the Trexler Terrace bears the name of Brother C. DeForrest “Chuck” Trexler, a former Masonic Village board member-turned resident and generous donor. The terrace connects the Goose & Gridiron Tavern to the breathtaking views of the Formal Gardens.

Having retired from his legal profession and from his volunteer role on the board has not stopped Chuck from continuing as a consultant to Masonic Villages leadership. With an in-depth understanding of the organization, both from his years in the boardroom and his current experience as a resident, Chuck continues to consult Masonic Villages leadership on matters important to residents.

Recently, Chuck shared with now-retired CEO Brother Joseph “Joe” Murphy that a contingent of residents wished to see their Masonic heritage more prevalently displayed in the

hub of activity for the campus. Together, they discussed some ways to incorporate the residents’ concepts into the decor of the tavern, which gets its name from a popular Masonic meeting place in London during the early 1700s.

“Brother Chuck mentored me during his years on the board, and now, he’s a valuable resource and advisor to Brother Bill [Kingsbury, CEO],” Joe said. “Hopefully Bill will be easier to train than I was, seeing as they speak the same language, both being attorneys,” he added in jest.

“I appreciate when residents come to us not only with challenges, but also with suggested solutions,” Bill said. “We sincerely appreciate Brother Chuck’s generosity in making a gift to help us incorporate Masonic symbols into the decor of the tavern.”

Above: Recently retired CEO Brother Joseph Murphy smiles at Brother Chuck Trexler and CEO Bill Kingsbury in front of the Goose & Gridiron Tavern’s newly inscribed windows.



The name of the Goose & Gridiron Tavern pays homage to the history of Freemasonry. In 1666, the Great London Fire had destroyed much of the city, and operative Masons came from all over England to rebuild, specifically the famous St. Paul’s Cathedral, which took almost 40 years to complete. Many Masons joined the Lodge of St. Paul out of convenience, but in 1710, when the great cathedral was complete, many lodges disbanded as Masons returned to their hometowns.

Although London had become the largest city in Europe, only four lodges remained. On June 24, 1717, the Rummer and Grapes, the Crown, the Apple Tree and the Goose & Gridiron London lodges (named after the alehouses and coffeehouses where they met) gathered to discuss the future of Masonry in England. They met at the Goose & Gridiron alehouse in St. Paul’s Churchyard and declared themselves a Grand Lodge – the first Grand Lodge in the world.

BOARD MEMBER FEATURE:

KIM JEFFREYS



Brother Kim W. Jeffreys has a passion for volunteering. Whether it is serving on the boards of the Masonic Villages of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Masonic Youth Foundation or Shriners Hospitals for Children, Brother Kim enjoys giving back to the community and having a little fun along the way.

"I got my work ethic from my Dad, my passion for volunteering from my Mom and my sense of humor from my brother and five sisters!" he said.

Kim is a member of Western Star Lodge No. 304, Albion, where he served as Worshipful Master, Secretary and Representative to the Grand Lodge. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 25th Masonic District and has been an Aide to the Grand Master since 2006. He is also currently serving as chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Temples Halls and Lodge Rooms.

A retired Vice President of Construction Services, and currently Principal Emeritus of Weber Murphy Fox Architects

and Construction Managers with offices in Erie, State College and Cleveland, Ohio, Kim spent the last 20 of his 40 years in the construction industry with the firm.

When Kim had the opportunity to merge his vocation – construction management – with his avocation – our Masonic Villages – he jumped at the opportunity. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Masonic Villages from 2001-2008, then returned in 2016 to serve a second term. He currently chairs the Building and Grounds subcommittee.

When asked why he continues to serve, Kim explained that he has served in various leadership capacities and on multiple boards over the years. "Our Masonic Villages' Board of Directors and our staff are the best group of professionals I have ever worked with," he said. "I consider it an honor and a privilege to continue to be able to offer my time and talents to our Mission of Love."

"Kim is a great listener," Brother Joseph E. Murphy, Masonic Villages' recently retired CEO, said. "He listens to what people are saying and values their input ... he brings professional knowledge and servant leadership to the table. He cares about the Mission – both the people we serve as well as the people doing the serving. In all of the things we have done over the years, he has always looked at the greater good first, and made sure we focused on our Mission."

Kim's wife, Krista, supports his volunteerism; however, she has recently informed him that the next board he volunteers for will be the ironing board!

Kim and Krista have four children, three grandchildren and a large extended family.



COUPLE SURPRISES COMMUNITY WITH GENEROUS BEQUESTS

Brother Irvin Edler and his wife, Charlotte, knew how to leave a lasting legacy.

Having spent their earliest years during the beginning of the Great Depression, the Edlers knew the value of a dollar. The couple married on June 21, 1958, and resided most of their lives in North Bend, Pa. They were both long-term employees of Bell Telephone, Charlotte as an operator and Irvin as a “combination man,” one who installed and serviced telephone lines. The led modest lives while serving their community. Irvin, a Past Master of Renovo Lodge No. 295, joined the Masonic fraternity on May 5, 1959.

Irvin passed away on Aug. 11, 2013, at age 84, and Charlotte passed on Sept. 9, 2018, at age 85. The couple planned their estate so the charities they were committed to would enjoy their fiscal prudence and careful estate planning.

Attorney and executor of the estate, Brother Robert H. Lugg, distributed over \$2 million of their savings among charities on Sept. 18, 2019, during a presentation at the Chapman Township Fire Company in North Bend, Pa.

The Masonic Villages received more than \$1 million; the other beneficiaries received \$200,279 each, including the Chapman Township Fire Company, United Methodist Church

of North Bend, Trinity Episcopal Church of Renovo, Clinton County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Clinton County Community Foundation to benefit the Renovo branch of the Ross Library.

The Edlers also had a \$10,000 charitable gift annuity with the Masonic Village to benefit the Tree of Life Fund, and Charlotte had provided a gift to the Masonic Children’s Home in memory of Irvin soon after his passing.

Photo, l-r: Brothers Robert Lugg; William Probst, S.M.C.; William Kingsbury, CEO for the Masonic Villages; Millard Long, J.W.; Adam Heese, R.W. Grand Treasurer; Richard Grenell, Chaplain; William Bauer, W.M.; Dave Reinart, P.D.D.G.M.; Steve Gee, D.D.G.M.-17; John Stewart; Tom Campbell, P.M.; and Roy Schoonover, P.M., Renovo Lodge

For more information about including one or more of the Masonic Charities in your will or living trust, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at 1-800-599-6454 or giving@MasonicCharitiesPa.org.



BEHIND THE SCENES OF YOUR MASONIC TEMPLE

The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia has been called one of the great “wonders” of the Masonic world. Interestingly, some of the most fascinating sights are behind the scenes.

Inside the south tower of the national historic landmark is a rarely seen, hard-to-manuever cast iron staircase that leads all the way up to the highest point of the Masonic Temple. On the first landing there are four concrete slabs that used to hold the water tanks for the building.



Brother Mike McKee, Executive Director of the Masonic Temple, said, “In this area, there was a giant water tank that was filled with rainwater to supply the entire building with its water using a gravity-fed system.”

At the top of the staircase, you’re blinded by the light from outside, but rewarded with a magnificent view of the city.

A photograph from the archives shows the Masonic Temple under construction around 1868; the field in front of the building is where City Hall currently sits.

“City Hall was just a mere lot [before its completion in 1901] – a crossroads to travel through the city,” Mike said.

The Masonic Temple had at one time been the highest peak in the city. It still proudly holds its place as one of the most iconic sights the city has to offer.

Another vantage point that few visitors have ever seen is from the rafters above the stained glass window that adorns the grand staircase, surrounded by the millions of bricks that helped erect the great temple.

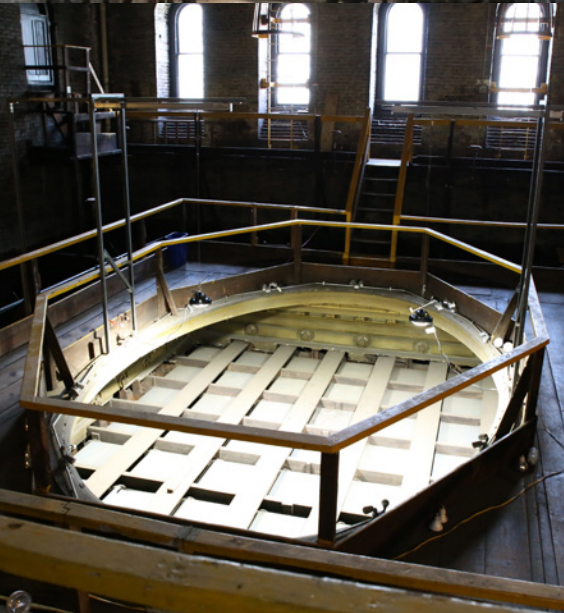
Above Renaissance Hall, you can see the intricate work that makes up the beautifully designed ceiling and huge lay light at the center in the shape of the Seal of Solomon. Above Corinthian Hall, you can view the motors that lower the chandeliers for replacement and cleaning, as well as the remains of the original manual mechanisms.

“At one time, above our stained glass windows, there used to be skylights that would let the sun and moon light in,” Mike said. “The moonlight was significant back when there was no lighting in the city. Some lodges to this day still meet only on the full moon – they are called ‘moon lodges.’”

The Masonic Temple’s archives are a living history of the Freemasons, including an impressive collection of unique items. One of the favorites is a copy of the life mask of Abraham Lincoln.

“Made in 1860, ironically enough, it was taken when he [Lincoln] was the presumptive nominee for the Republican Party for President of the United States,” Mike said.

For a virtual tour of the behind-the-scenes treasures within the Masonic Temple, watch the video on the Grand Lodge YouTube channel. In-person tours are available Tuesday-Saturday at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Advance notice is requested for large group tours.



Guaranteed Lifetime Income

What Is It?

- A "Charitable Gift Annuity" – a special type of irrevocable charitable gift that pays donors for life.

What Are The Benefits?

- Guaranteed, fixed lifetime income
- Tax Savings

Who Has Participated?

- Hundreds of Masonic and non-Masonic donors

Why?

- Payouts benefit the donor; and
- After the donor passes on, whatever is left in the gift annuity goes to the Masonic Charities.

What Are The Minimums?

- \$5,000 gift in cash or appreciated securities
- Age 65

Where Can I Get Information?

- Call Masonic Charities at 1-800-599-6454 or mail the reply form.

COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM TO:

Office of Gift Planning, One Masonic Dr., Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Telephone 1-800-599-6454

I would like more information, with no obligation. Please:

☐ Send me a Charitable Gift Annuity illustration.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

My birth date _____ Spouse's birth date _____ (if two lives)

Dollar amount(s) to be illustrated (up to three amounts) _____

If using appreciated stock, estimate cost basis _____

☐ Call me to answer my questions. Phone () _____

SAMPLE GUARANTEED LIFETIME RATES

For One Life

For Two Lives

Age	Rate	Age	Rate
70	5.6%	70 & 75	5.2%
75	6.2%	75 & 80	5.7%
77	6.6%	85 & 85	7.3%
81	7.5%	85 & 90	8.0%
85	8.3%	90 & 90	9.1%
90+	9.5%	90 & 95	9.3%

Note: This is a partial listing. Rates exist for any combination of ages.

www.MasonicCharitiesPa.org

Financial information about Masonic Charities can be obtained by contacting us at 1-800-599-6454. In addition, Masonic Charities is required to file financial information with several states. Colorado: Colorado residents may obtain copies of registration and financial documents from the office of the Secretary of State, (303) 894-2680, <http://www.sos.state.co.us/>. Florida: SC No. 00774, A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, WITHIN THE STATE, 1-800-HELP-FLA. Georgia: full and fair description of the programs and activities of Masonic Charities and its financial statement are available upon request at the address indicated above. Illinois: Contracts and reports regarding Masonic Charities are on file with the Illinois Attorney General. Maryland: For the cost of postage and copying, documents and information filed under the Maryland charitable organizations laws can be obtained from the Secretary of State, Charitable Division, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (800) 825-4510. Michigan: MICS No. 11796 Mississippi: The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Mississippi Secretary of State's office by calling 1-888-236-6167. New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION AND THE PERCENTAGE OF CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHARITY DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD THAT WERE DEDICATED TO THE CHARITABLE PURPOSE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BY CALLING (973) 504-6215 AND IS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/ocp.htm#charity. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. New York: A copy of the latest annual report can be obtained from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General by writing the Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271. North Carolina: Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. Pennsylvania: The official registration and financial information of Masonic Charities may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Virginia: Financial statements are available from the State Office of Consumer Affairs, P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218. Washington: The notice of solicitation required by the Charitable Solicitation Act is on file with the Washington Secretary of State, and information relating to financial affairs of Masonic Charities is available from the Secretary of State, and the toll-free number for Washington residents: 1-800-332-4483. West Virginia: West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. REGISTRATION IN THE ABOVE STATES DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION OF MASONIC CHARITIES BY THE STATE.