

The Florida Mason



Grand Lodge of Florida

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Grand Lodge Officers 2007 - 2008

GRAND MASTER

M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr.
(St. Augustine)

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

R.: W.: Joe Fleites
(Miami)

SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig
(Clermont)

JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez
(Tampa)

GRAND TREASURER

M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, PGM
(Orange Park)

GRAND SECRETARY

M.: W.: Richard E. Lynn, PGM
(Jacksonville)

All submissions for future
issues of *The Florida Mason*
should be sent to,
Larry Scott, Grand Lodge,
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M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr.,
Grand Master

please send them to Grand Lodge. This is your newsletter! Use it and enjoy it!

It has been my great honor and pleasure to have served the Masons of the Grand Jurisdiction of the State of Florida as an Elected Grand Lodge Officer. I take this opportunity to thank God for the opportunities He has presented to me, and I thank the Craft for the privilege you have entrusted to me.

God Bless you all, our great Fraternity, and the United States of America.

Fraternally and Respectfully,

Robert P. Harry, Jr.,
Grand Master

A Message From The Grand Master

Dear Brethren:

Welcome to the reintroduction of the Grand Lodge publication of the Florida Mason Newsletter. This issue is largely dedicated to bringing Proposed Legislation to the Craft as a whole. I hope that you will find this information interesting, informative and helpful. Please be aware that Proposed Legislation can change or be withdrawn before it gets to the floor of Grand Lodge for a vote. Sponsors may correct or rescind legislation, and what is finally introduced may be different from what you are about to read. This will be especially evident in the Proposed Budget. The budget figures in this newsletter and in the booklets the delegates will be given at Grand Lodge are nine month figures. The full year's figures are not yet available. You have the most recent information available at this time. Most of the Proposed Legislation will not change, and as long as you realize that some of it might change (as it does every year) by Grand Lodge, and act accordingly, this article will have served its purpose.

Throughout my year as Grand Master, I have encouraged Florida Masons to submit articles to Grand Lodge for inclusion in this newsletter. If you want your Lodge's news articles included in future issues,

Expect More, Do Not Settle For Less.



R.: W.: Joe Fleites
Deputy Grand Master

A Message From The Deputy Grand Master

Dear Brethren:

As your Deputy Grand Master I want to thank you for your continued support of the Grand Lodge of Florida and the Masonic Home. I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to serve you, the members of Grand Lodge, as your Deputy Grand Master, and meet so many fine Masons from around our great State.

It is because of you, the members of our Great Fraternity, that the Masonic Home is one of the finest facilities in the nation. The care given to our Residents is second to none. Let us all renew our obligation to take care of our worthy distressed Brother Master Masons, their wives and widows. Our Administrator, Mrs. Lisa Tsotsos, and her staff should be commended for doing an excellent job at the Masonic Home in managing our money and taking excellent care of our residents. Your Grand Lodge Officers and members of the Board of Trustees have your Masonic Home and the Residents' best interests at heart.

This year I, along with the other Grand Lodge Officers, will be talking about the Independent Living Program at our Masonic Home. This is a great program, and provides for the future that will allow us to grow. I, as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, along with the Long Range Planning Committee, will be putting together a five-year plan. Look for a new updated proposal at this coming Grand Lodge Communication.

I have been fortunate in being able to travel around our Great State attending the district meetings with our Grand Lodge Officers. I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of you at your Master and Wardens Associations and Lodges. I have seen the love that you all have for our Fraternity, and I know that it is in good hands.

My Brothers, ask yourselves why you joined the Fraternity. Was it because you wanted self-satisfaction, because your friend was a Mason and it looked like fun, or was it in the belief that in helping others you would help yourself?

No one Mason can go it alone; it takes the effort of all of us to make the difference. Remember that you owe it to those who came before us and those who will come after us to uphold the dignity and reputation of our Fraternity. It is the visionary who looks ahead and is the team player who can change the direction of our Fraternity for the better. We can make the difference. I urge each and every one of you to stay involved in your Lodge and help the younger members become the Masons of tomorrow. Remember that in all the things we do in life, "You get out of it what you put into it."

God bless you all, our Fraternity, our service men and women wherever they serve, and this great Country of ours, the United States of America.

Fraternally,

Joe Fleites
Deputy Grand Master

Messages continued

2008-09 Deadlines:

submission date print date

The Florida Mason

Vol. 1, Issue 2: September 30, 2008..... October 25, 2008
Vol. 2, Issue 1: March 15, 2009..... April 10, 2009

Masonic Lifestyles

Winter 2008: November 15, 2008..... December 12, 2008
Spring 2009: March 31, 2009..... May 1, 2009



This photo was taken
at Boca Del Ray's
100th anniversary
celebration.
From l to r: Robert
Harry, Jr. GM;
Dale I. Goehrig, SGW;
J. Dick Martinez, JGW;
and
Danny R. Griffith,
Grand Marshal.



R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig
Senior Grand Warden

A Message From The Senior Grand Warden

“How can we retain interest and participation of new members after completion of the Master Mason degree?”

We will look briefly at seventeen areas that can be addressed, modified and expanded to assist in filling the chairs and sidelines of our lodges. This is not a comprehensive list by any means but can be a starting point for the individual lodges to help make the fraternity a meaningful part of the new member’s life.

The first and foremost is TIME. We are in competition for a new Brother’s time. The young Masons have more commitments at home than older Masons do, and they maintain a busier lifestyle. Many have children with all their activities: soccer practice, cheerleading practice, little league games, school activities, social life, and even starting a new household. Many work long hours and are tired when they

get home, and it is easier just to relax than to go to Lodge. In most young families, both husband and wife have careers and just want to spend their leisure time together. Our older new members all have similar demands on their time. Of course there is the opportunity for the Lodge to provide activities for the family to spend their time together in a Lodge setting; family picnics, interesting PROGRAMS either during a Lodge meeting or an open meeting such as lectures or forums by noted authorities on interesting topics, sponsoring a YOUTH GROUP, be it one of ours, Rainbow for Girls, DeMolay, Job’s Daughters or a scout troop or little league. These are all opportunities for the new Brother to participate in a leadership role or to demonstrate his particular skills or talents.

Just as important as TIME is INTEREST. Why did this Brother join a Masonic Lodge instead of one of the many other community groups, such as the Rotary, Kiwanis, Elks, Moose or Jaycees? He may belong to one or more of these groups already; so then we are already competing for his TIME. We have to make sure that we are giving him what he is looking for. One way to do this is to surround him with Brothers with like interests. This may require a subtle suggestion to the new Brother to spark an interest in joining the Lodge through conversations with his PEERS, be they extended family, work associates or his social circle. As each new Brother comes in, the PEER pressure can be replicated, expanding your membership and building a Community within your Lodge. So often, the only contact that our members have with each other, is the one or two meetings a month at the Lodge. During the few months prior to becoming a Master Mason, your new Brother probably spent many hours with an instructor learning his Catechism and then standing his proficiency. We need to maintain this time commitment on his part by involving him in a meaningful task or ASSIGNMENT within the Lodge. This can be as part of the greeting committee for members arriving for a Lodge meeting, as an INSTRUCTOR for the new members going through the degrees (this will help to build a strong core of instructors for the new members as they go through their catechism), as part of the kitchen crew, part of the degree team conferring the degrees (again, who better to exemplify the degrees, than one who just went through and has it fresh in his mind), a Pro Tem officer in the line, or part of a COMMUNITY SERVICE project in your area, such as Child ID or community beautification. Humans for the most part are social creatures and want to create and maintain a BOND with his fellow creatures. The more opportunities we give him that are Lodge connected, the more chance we have of maintaining that tie and retaining an active Mason

As long as I have been an officer in the Lodge, which includes four lodges in three states, it has always been a basic premise that a successful lodge must be active in the community. Reading the minutes, paying the bills, and listening to the sick report at the Lodge MEETINGS are all necessary parts of our Lodge work, but hardly enough to maintain the attention of the quality men we are seeking and wish to retain. We must do something outside the four walls of the Lodge room. We all have been to Lodge MEETINGS where we were excited about what they were doing for the fraternity and the community, and challenged to take the ideas and projects back to our own lodges to build a fire under our members. The new Brother can be part of a new project. Include him in the planning, which makes him part of it. Take him with you on you next visit to another Lodge. This shows him the universality of Masonry and can make him comfortable enough to visit a Lodge on a business trip or during his travels. His report to the Lodge when he returns should be very informative regarding how the visited Lodge operates and how the work in a foreign jurisdiction differs from yours. Your Secretary can provide him with Lodge names and locations near where he will be visiting.

One of our affiliate groups, the Shriners, has seized on two of these ideas. One is their philanthropy, the crippled children’s hospitals and burn units. The other is insisting that each new Shriner join a Unit or Group of the Shrine. This creates a bond with like-minded Nobles and allows them to participate in their area of INTEREST. It gives them a reason to go to the Stated Meetings and Unit meetings. They have a great philanthropy and have fun at the same time. The Blue Lodge obviously cannot have fun in the same way as the Shriners, at our meetings, but community service projects and family oriented gatherings can produce a high level of enjoyment for all involved.

Assigning a MENTOR to the new Brother is essential. First, this shows the Brother that the Lodge is interested in him enough to commit some of their resources to his well being and EDUCATION. A well chosen MENTOR, preferably not a line officer, can add two sideliners to your meeting. He can also lead the new Brother through our Grand Lodge’s EDUCATION program. The Grand Lodge of Florida has a comprehensive set of booklets to disseminate the “Light” that each one of us sought when we began our journey to the East. One of these is the “Mentor’s Manual”, a 36 page guide covering the basic tenants of Freemasonry and the symbolism of the three degrees. This is followed by four booklets entitled “The Lodge System of Masonic Education”; one given to the Candidate prior to the first degree, and one after each degree. Three additional booklets are given, one after the completion of each degree explaining the ritual he just went through. The use of these booklets can help to establish the “BOND” that is required between the new Brother and the Fraternity, not just the Lodge he joined, but the Universal Lodge composed of all the recognized Grand Lodges throughout the world.

The EDUCATION process needs to be continued after the completion of the Master Mason degree. Again, the Grand Lodge of Florida has additional training material for this purpose; the Lodge Training Course, Modules I, II, and III and the Master Mason Exam. And then, when the new Brother steps into the line of Officers, there is an Officers Training Course. As all of you are aware there are many sources today for

information, such as the many books written on Freemasonry, monthly publications and now the internet. As M.: W.: Bob Trump says, “An Educated Mason is a Dedicated Mason.” All of this EDUCATION material is of no value if it is not used on a regular basis. Each Lodge should have a library where the new member can borrow a book to learn more about Masonry at his leisure. You might check with your membership to see if they have a Masonic book that they will donate to the library. At a Brother’s passing, you might ask the family if there are any Masonic books that they would like to donate in his memory. It would be a shame for them to be disposed of through an estate sale. Remember, his tie to Masonry was through your Lodge. What better legacy can he have, than to have his name inside the cover of a Masonic book for a Brother to see 25, 50 or 100 years from now. You can make your library a project and request each member to purchase a book if he does not have one to donate. The new Brother can be part of the team establishing and maintaining the library.

One meeting a month can include a five or ten minute report on one of the books in your library. Your new brother can be one of the presenters, discussing what he has learned about the history of Masonry and dispelling some of the myths about Masonry. We have to make sure that the negativity about Masonry that is out there in the public domain does not dampen his enthusiasm or create doubts as to the value of our basic tenants and beliefs. This will better equip him when he is discussing with his friends, why the Lodge is important to him and what it can mean to them.

Part of your EDUCATION program can be included in a Lodge WEBSITE. Most of our younger members and hopefully, most of the rest of us, are computer literate and can utilize this wonderful method of communication. This can be the responsibility of a new Brother who is adept at posting new information and maintaining the WEBSITE. Take a poll of your membership to see how many would prefer to receive the monthly trestleboard or newsletter via E-mail or on a WEBSITE instead of by mail. This can be a cost saving to the Lodge for mailing expenses. A WEBSITE also allows members of other lodges in your area to stay informed of special events which they might like to attend and bring others, helping to fill the sidelines. If you make the EDUCATION portion interesting enough, it will help to maintain a link with your entire membership, not just the new Brother.

We have touched on involving the new Brother in various activities in the Lodge. The Master should search for a meaningful ASSIGNMENT for him, to make him feel needed. After spending the TIME, money and effort, he will not want to let the Lodge down. Make him feel that he is contributing to this great fraternity that he has just joined, and is part of the plan to improve its stature in the community. His INSTRUC-TOR and MENTOR may be able to help in determining the right ASSIGNMENT. Whatever is chosen, it should carry with it some RESPONSIBILITY, so that when the task is completed, he can feel a sense of accomplishment and take pride in contributing to the well being of the Lodge.

The return on his investment in the fraternity can be RECOGNITION for his contributions and accomplishments. This can be as simple as a “Thank You” in Lodge or the newsletter or on the WEBSITE, a Certificate of Appreciation, which our Grand Lodge offers, or a letter of RECOGNITION from the Worshipful Master. A COMMUNITY RECOGNITION night honoring the local community leaders can also include recognizing the new Brother’s accomplishments and involvement, to let the community know what we do.

Planning your meeting PROGRAMS with your new Brother in mind can give you a new perspective on the same old things the Lodge has been doing the past few years. Are they informative? Can they hold the interest of most of the attendees? Is there a better way to increase attendance? What resources in the Lodge and outside the Lodge can we tap? How can we make an open MEETING interesting for the PEERS of our new Brother?

In a study by The Philalethes Society of Lodge members who did not attend Lodge regularly, six areas generally needed improving to address the lack of attendance:

1. A lack of Masonic programs at the stated meetings
2. Poor degree work
3. No Lodge library
4. A lack of communication with the members
5. No Masonic education program
6. The Lodge is not a vital part of the community

Their recommendation is a rededication of the officers of the Lodge to improve each area, one at a time. This of course, cannot be accomplished overnight, so a good place to start is with each new Brother. Be enthusiastic and excited about your membership in the greatest fraternity in the world and pass it on the each new Brother. And then do the same thing with those who have not been attending. Have the new Brother bring one or more to Lodge. Keep everyone involved.

The seventeen areas we have covered to try to retain the new Brother are:

TIME: Be respectful of the Brother’s time and don’t waste it.
INTEREST: Why did he join?
INVOLVEMENT: Must start immediately.
COMMUNITY SERVICE: Get him involved in a project.
EDUCATION: The key to understanding our fraternity.
NEEDS: Determine what he needs from the fraternity.
RECOGNITION: So important to him and all the Brothers.
MENTOR: Crucial at the beginning to answer his questions.
BOND: Make sure it is strong, so you will never lose him.
MEETINGS: Give him a reason to attend immediately.
ASSIGNMENTS: Give him a meaningful job early.
INSTRUCTOR: Give him a good one, make him a good one.
RESPONSIBILITY: Give him as much as he can handle.
PEERS: An opportunity for new members.
PROGRAMS: Make them relevant and interesting.
YOUTH GROUPS: One of the keys to our future.
WEB SITE: Promoting your Lodge to him and the world.

In order to succeed, you must take the first step. Training the new Brother properly can be that first step toward a more vibrant Lodge. You are the person to do this and today is the day.

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<div><div>RESOLUTION</div><p>WHEREAS, it is the duty of every Grand Master to appoint a knowledgeable Brother from each District to serve that year as a District Instructor, and</p><p>WHEREAS, the District Instructors are responsible to the Grand Master for the instruction of the Adopted Forms and Ceremonies to the Particular Lodges in their respective Districts, and</p><p>WHEREAS, the continuation of the proficiency in our ritual is a product of the performance of these District Instructors, and</p><p>WHEREAS, these District Instructors dedicate many hours of arduous labor, sacrificing time with their families to provide this instruction, and</p><p>WHEREAS, these District Instructors are some of the most respected Masons in their respective Districts, and</p><p>WHEREAS, these District Instructors should be recognized for their position and the distinctive contribution to the Particular Lodges and to The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida.</p><p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the lifetime title of “Right Honorable” be awarded to the District Instructors of our Grand Lodge, past, present, and future. The abbreviation of this title shall be R H , in the case of a Brother serving as District Instructor after he has served his District as District Deputy, the title of “Right Worshipful” would still be used and considered proper.</p><div><div>Respectfully submitted by:</div><div>R.: W.: David A. Blate, <i>Zone 7 Chairman, Committee on Work</i> R.: W.: Thomas D. Howard, <i>State Chairman, Committee on Work</i> R.: W.: Jeffrey L. Miller, <i>Vice Chairman, Committee on Work</i> R.: W.: Frederick J. Latsko, <i>Zone 4 Chairman, Committee on Work</i> R.: W.: Walter S. Graham, Sr., P.D.D.G.M., <i>Past Member of the Committee on Work</i></div><div>DISTRICT INSTRUCTORS</div><p>10.10 The Grand Master is authorized to appoint one District Instructor for each Masonic District, which districts shall not exceed thirty-six (36) in number, for a term of one year, to work in their respective Districts under the Supervision of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work, subject to the approval of the Grand Master. (1995)</p><p>Each District Instructor shall hold a minimum of a Blue Card certificate of proficiency, provided, however, a Brother appointed as District Instructor who does not have such minimum requirement shall be permitted ninety (90) days within which to achieve such degree of proficiency.</p><p>The title of a District Instructor shall be “District Instructor” “<u>Right Honorable District Instructor</u>” and title of all Past District Instructors shall be “<u>Right Honorable Past District Instructor</u>” for life. District Instructor may be abbreviated “D.I.” and <u>Right Honorable</u> Past District Instructor may be abbreviated “<u>R.: H.:..P.D.I.</u>”.</p><div>(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)</div></div></div>	<div><div>RESOLUTION FOR MANDATORY BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION OF CANDIDATES</div><p>WHEREAS, in today’s society, there exists the necessity to maintain the integrity of our Fraternity for future generations; and</p><p>WHEREAS, due to the transient nature of our society, it has become increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to possess more than a casual knowledge of a Candidate’s background, and</p><p>WHEREAS, due to the increasing number of petitions being received as a result of the renewed interest in our Fraternity, the character and quality of candidates is paramount to our future existence and reputation; and</p><p>WHEREAS, a standardize approach to an in-depth investigation of prospective candidates is required not only to ensure the character and quality of candidates, but to assist the individual Lodges with the process of investigations;</p><p>NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that all candidates shall be required to undergo a criminal background investigation to be obtained by the individual Lodges at the expense of the candidate from a vendor selected by the Grand Lodge; and</p><p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following provisions of the Digest be amended as reflected below:</p><div><div>CHAPTER 31.</div><div>CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREES</div><div>As to Fees for the Degrees, see Chapter 32. As to Petition for the Degrees, see Chapter 33.</div><div>QUALIFICATIONS</div><div>GENERAL</div><div>Constitutional Provisions</div><p>Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, free born, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the Several Degrees. (Art. XIII, Sec. 2(g)). (1992)</p><div>Regulations</div><p>31.01 Every candidate for Freemasonry must be a man, freeborn, of lawful age, being under the tongue of good repute and well recommended, and, unless Dispensation is granted by the Grand Master, having no maim or defect of body that may render him incapable of learning the art or of being advanced to the several Degrees. (1991)</p><p>31.02 It is a safe rule in these days, though its antiquity may be greatly doubted, that a candidate should be able to read and write.</p><p>31.03 A Lodge may not receive a petition for the Degrees of Freemasonry from any person who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been restored to full civil rights.</p><p>31.04 A Lodge may not ballot on a petition until the Investigation Committee (formally referred to as the “Character Committee”) has reviewed a criminal background investigative report.</p></div></div>
<div><div>RESOLUTION ON LODGE BALLOTING FOR OFFICERS</div><p>WHEREAS, the stated verbiage in the Masonic Digest, Chapter 24, Regulation 7.02, “There shall be no nominations; nor electioneering” creates confusion as to who to vote for in such situations as an interruption in the normal progression of Officers for the incoming year, newly made Master Masons not knowing everyone’s name, uninformed Brethren due to non-attendance and various other reasons. Which often leads to inquiry as to who to vote for.</p><p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the verbiage be changed to: Manner and Method of Election. In the election of Officers, the ancient regulations shall be observed. There shall be no nominations, nor electioneering; and a majority of all votes cast, respectively, shall determine. In each succeeding ballot for the same office, when more than two members are voted for, the names of the Brother or Brethren having the lowest number of votes, shall by order of the Master be dropped; and all votes cast in derogation of said order shall not be counted. The ballot will contain the name of the interested Brother or Elected Officer in normal rotation to the elected position being balloted on. As well as space for a write in choice other than the one stated for the purpose of presenting an informed choice and be in conformity with the method used at the Annual Grand Lodge Session.</p><div><div>Submitted by:</div><div>W.: Thomas Stuto, P.M., Pineland Lodge No. 86 Plural Member, Lake Lodge No. 72</div><div>W.: Mark E. Wilson, P.M., Pineland Lodge No. 86 P.M., Lake Lodge No. 72</div><div>Please note this Resolution was supported by 27 additional members of the 13th Masonic District.</div><div>(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)</div></div></div>	<div><div>Digest of Masonic Law</div><div>CHAPTER 32.</div><div>FEES FOR THE DEGREES AND REFUNDS THEREOF</div><div>AMOUNT AND PAYMENT</div><div>Constitutional Provisions</div><p>No Lodge in this Jurisdiction shall confer the Three Degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, for a less sum than One Hundred Dollars, of which a minimum fee of fifty dollars shall be required for initiation <u>in addition to the fee for a criminal background investigation</u> must accompany the petition. The fee received for initiation shall to be returned to the candidate if rejected, <u>however the fee received for the criminal background investigation shall be retained by the Lodge.</u> The fee for passing or raising must be paid to the Secretary before the Degree is conferred; <i>Provided</i>, that any Lodge may remit monthly or annual dues to members of the Lodge, who from bodily infirmities or misfortune, have become unable to pay them. (Art. X, S. 13). (1986)</p><div>Regulations</div><p>32.01 A Lodge cannot by By Law or otherwise require a candidate for the Degrees to present, with his petition therefore, advance fees for the F.C. and M.M. Degrees, and any existing By Law conflicting therewith is void.</p><p>32.02 A petition having been received, and favorably acted upon, the fee becomes the property of the Lodge and can only be returned as a donation or gift, but such action would in no way change the relation of the candidate to the Lodge or the jurisdiction of the Lodge over him.</p></div>

32.03 When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee paid for the purpose of a criminal background investigative of the candidate shall not be required to be refunded.

32.04 When a worthy man petitions a Lodge for the Degrees and is elected; and before the Degrees are conferred he has a severe illness which would result in the impairment of his memory and mental faculties, the Lodge should not confer the Degrees, and if, after waiting a reasonable time for a cure to be established, the mental condition is not cleared, it would be just and proper to return the fee.

32.05 When, after a candidate has been duly elected to receive the Entered Apprentice Degree, objection arises against conferring the Degree upon him, the Master shall cause an order arresting the progress of the candidate to be spread upon the minutes, which shall have the same force and effect as rejection at the ballot box, and the fee accompanying the petition shall be returned.

CHAPTER 33.

PETITION FOR THE DEGREES AND PROCEEDINGS THEREON

THE PETITION

Constitutional Provisions

Every candidate for initiation should read and approve the By Laws of the Lodge, and must present his petition in writing vouched for by two members of the Lodge at a Stated Communication, which must lie over at least one month for the Brethren to make due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate and review a criminal background investigative report of the candidate. And a petition thus presented cannot be withdrawn, but must be acted upon, and if rejected, cannot again be presented within six months. But rejections for passing and raising, and for membership, shall not be required to lie over six months, but may be renewed at any subsequent Stated Communication of the Lodge. (Art. X, Sec. 14) (1995)

Regulations

33.01 The word "month" in Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution, means from a Stated Communication of a Lodge to a corresponding Communication in the next succeeding calendar month.

33.02 Particular Lodges which may desire to print their own form of Petition for the Degrees must first submit the prepared form or copy to the Grand Secretary for his approval as to form and wording. In addition to the Petition, a statement of consent by the candidate to have a criminal background investigation ordered by the Lodge in addition to an understanding that the Brethren will be making due inquiry into the character and standing of the candidate. It shall be the responsibility of the Lodge Secretary to order the criminal background investigative report. No copies of the criminal background report shall be made nor shall its contents be revealed by or other than to the members of the Investigation Committee. The complete criminal background investigative report shall be returned to the candidate regardless of whether the candidate is accepted or rejected and a receipt obtained by the Lodge and made a part of the Lodge record.

33.03 The Secretary shall present to the Lodge at its next Stated Communication all petitions for the Degrees received by him, unless deferred by the Worshipful Master for good cause. After the Lodge receives a petition and the statement consenting to the criminal background investigation report, they become a permanent record of the Lodge and should be filed by the Secretary after the Committee reports. A petition, after being received by the Lodge, cannot be withdrawn, even by unanimous consent of the Lodge, except in case of death or severe accident, that would render the applicant ineligible to receive the Degree in such cases. The Worshipful Master should order abatement of the proceedings in regard to such petitions so received by the Lodge.

33.04 If a Lodge for any cause refuses to receive a petition for the Degrees, it may be again presented at any Stated Communication of the Lodge. It is not a case of rejection, and a delay for six months is not necessary. (1995)

33.05 When a petition is refused, or a candidate rejected, the fee must be returned. Any fee received for the purposes of a criminal background investigation shall not be required to be returned.

33.06 If any Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction receives a petition for the Degrees which shows that the petitioner has been rejected in a Sister Grand Jurisdiction, then such petition must be submitted to the Grand Master for his attention and action before any action can be taken by the Lodge.

33.07 When a candidate for the Degrees removes, after his petition is received by the Lodge, said candidate remains the material of and under the jurisdiction of the Lodge that received his petition. The Lodge shall act on the petition in the usual way and if elected, the candidate is entitled to receive the Degrees in or by request of that Lodge.

COMMITTEE

Regulations

33.08 The Worshipful Master of each Particular Lodge shall appoint a committee of not less than three and not more than seven members to be known as the Petitions Committee, the duties of which shall be to cause each applicant for the Degrees, before his petition has been received by the Lodge to appear personally before the committee and to be interviewed and give such information to the Committee as may be requested. The Committee shall then make its report to the Worshipful Master after which the petition shall follow the usual Masonic procedure.

33.09 Applications for the Degrees of Freemasonry of applicants, both members of the armed services and civilians, who have moved to this state from a Foreign Grand Jurisdiction and who have been in the state only long enough to come under the terms of the Regulations of this Grand Lodge concerning residential qualifications, shall be investigated by the Particular Lodges by inquiry addressed to the Lodge nearest to the former home of such applicant in such Foreign Jurisdiction; and the petition shall not go to ballot until the investigation is completed and report made to the Lodge.

33.10 A ballot spread, inadvertently or otherwise, upon any petition for initiation before the Investigating Committee reports, is null and void and proceedings abate. Each member of the Committee should investigate independently, and may submit his report in writing or authorize some Brother to report for him, if unable to be present in person. The Committee may submit a unanimous report, or it may submit a divided report, but whether unanimous or divided, the Committee is automatically discharged when it reports, and the petition reported on must go to ballot, but the time of spreading the ballot is the Worshipful Master's responsibility, and a motion to spread the ballot is out of order. The Committee, or any member thereof shall not, after having made its report, disclose any information which was received by the Lodge concerning the criminal background investigation.

33.11 The Lodge is the judge of eligibility of a petitioner for the Degrees and of an applicant for affiliation, and the Secretary of the Lodge shall accept for presentation to the Lodge each, every and all properly completed petitions for the Degrees, and each, every and all properly completed applications for affiliation without regard to the Secretary's opinion as to eligibility of the petitioner or applicant.

Respectfully Submitted:
M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Stephen R. Gladstone, General Counsel
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

Applicant Background Waiver

Name:

FirstMiddleLast

Current Address:

StreetApt/Suite

CityStateZip Code

Date of Birth:

Month/Day/Year

Social Security No.:

I hereby authorize the Masonic Lodge (Lodge) to which I have submitted a Petition for the Three Degrees of Freemasonry, for Dual Membership or for Affiliation, to contact any company or individual they deem appropriate to investigate my background, criminal and civil court history, character and qualifications and I give my full and complete consent to their review of any and all information they obtain as a result of this investigation. I give my consent for the Lodge to conduct this/these investigation(s). I understand that any material found that is or may be associated with me and is deemed inappropriate by the Lodge as having possible adverse effects on the fraternity is justification for my immediate disqualification as a petitioner. In addition, I hereby waive my right to bring any cause of action against the Lodge, its officers or members for defamation, invasion of privacy or any other reason arising from their investigation and decision.

I agree that if I am accepted as an initiate to the fraternity I will abide by all of the bylaws, rules and regulations as set forth by the Lodge and Grand Lodge.

SignatureDate

I acknowledge receipt of the original background investigation obtained by the Lodge this ____ day of _____.

Signature

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE DIGEST OF THE MASONIC LAW OF FLORIDA TO PERMIT THE GRAND MASTER TO AUTHORIZE THE REPRODUCTION AND PLACEMENT OF A DUPLICATE COPY OF THE “FORMS AND CEREMONIES” IN EACH DISTRICT

WHEREAS, During the 164th Annual Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of Florida in 1993 the Craft adopted by written ballot a resolution to place a duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” in each District, pursuant to, and conditioned upon, a satisfactory contract and agreement between the Grand Lodge of Florida and the District requesting the copy and that the requesting District would be required to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction and provide a safe house the “Books,” and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the placement of these copies was to facilitate and provide the maximum opportunity, with the least inconvenience and travel, for the majority of the Lodges and the Craft to have access and availability to the official written “Work” in order to improve their proficiency, and

WHEREAS, This resolution was never implemented into the “Constitution” and “Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida”, and

WHEREAS, Several Districts have requested that a duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” be placed in their respective Districts,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate changes be made to the “Constitution” and “Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida” to permit the Grand Master to authorize that duplicate copies be produced by the Grand Lodge of Florida and be distributed to the requesting Districts. The receiving Districts will be required to follow the procedures for opening the safes containing the duplicate copies of the “Work” as delineated in Chapter 38.04 of the “Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida.” The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge of Florida in Jacksonville shall be used as the “Master” for producing the duplicate copies.

Submitted by:
R.: W.: Fred Latsko, Chairman, *Committee on Work*
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE “CONSTITUTION” AND THE “DIGEST OF THE MASONIC LAW OF FLORIDA”

Constitution, Article XV, Section 2, paragraph 1, page 76

CURRENTLY READS:

There shall be one (1) original and twelve (12) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

CHANGE TO READ:

There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

Constitution, Article XV, Section 2, paragraph 3, page 76

CURRENTLY READS:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

CHANGED TO READ:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the “Books”. The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.

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Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38, paragraph 2, page 283

CURRENTLY READS:

There shall be one (1) original and twelve (12) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

CHANGED TO READ:

There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38, paragraph 4, page 283

CURRENTLY READS:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

CHANGE TO READ:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the “Books”. The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38.04, paragraph 1, page 286

CURRENTLY READS:

There shall be one original and nine duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

CHANGE TO READ:

There shall be one (1) original and up to thirty-five (35) duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies described herein.

Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, Chapter 38.04, paragraph 2, page 286

CURRENTLY READS:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except upon appropriate Resolution of the Grand Lodge and any such Resolution of the Grand Lodge shall set forth in detail the conditions of such removal.

CHANGED TO READ:

The duplicate copies of the Forms and Ceremonies shall be permanently bound in such number of volumes as the Grand Master may from time to time direct by Edict, and may be moved to a Committee room in the Grand Lodge Building, but shall not be removed to any other building or place except by direction of the Grand Master and only after the requesting District has signed a satisfactory contract and agreement with the Grand Lodge of Florida and agreed to pay the cost incurred in the reproduction of the duplicate copies and provides a safe to house the “Books”. The duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” retained at the Grand Lodge Building will be used as the “Master” for producing those duplicates.

(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO DEFINE ACTION WHEN A DARK BALLOT APPEARS FOR A CANDIDATE

WHEREAS, any Brother Master Mason has a right or duty to drop a black cube for clearly Masonic reasons, thereby disqualifying a petitioner for membership in the Masonic Fraternity, and

WHEREAS, the dropping of a cube for non Masonic reasons or malicious intent damages an innocent candidate’s reputation and standing and causes harm to the Lodge by preventing growth of the Lodge and impugns the good reputation of the Fraternity and

WHEREAS, several and Particular Lodges are having ongoing problems with the ballot box due to disgruntled and unhappy members and members who are attempting to control how the Lodge will function, by habitually dropping black cubes ballot after ballot on any and all petitioners and

WHEREAS, the Digest of Masonic Law does not provide a remedy or solution for a problem of this magnitude and

WHEREAS, several other Grand Jurisdictions in other states have suffered the same problem and have addressed the problem by changing the procedures for balloting,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the best interest of the Craft and the several and Particular Lodges with this type of problem, that Article X, Section 16 of the Constitution, pages 64a and 65 and Constitutional provisions, Chapter 35 - Balloting page 269 which now read:

Balloting for initiation, passing, raising and membership must be unanimous; but when only one black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot it is final, as it shall be when two or more black balls appear on the first ballot. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Stated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master, be amended to read:

Balloting for initiation, passing, raising and membership must be unanimous; but when a black ball appears, the ballot should be spread again to guard against mistakes; but if a black ball appears on the second ballot, the ballot shall be held and the person dropping the black ball shall within twenty-four hours anonymously state in writing, the reasons for so doing and deliver this document or have it delivered to the Master of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master shall ensure that the correspondent remains completely anonymous. Said reasons must be provable beyond reasonable doubt upon further investigation. Not more than one Degree shall be conferred on the same candidate at the same Sated Communication, unless under a Dispensation from the Grand Master.

1. If no written reasons are forthcoming the Worshipful Master shall declare the ballot clear at the next stated communication.

2. Should written reasons be forthcoming, the decision on the ballot shall be held pending the outcome of the investigation and a determination made as to the veracity of the allegations, at which time the Worshipful Master will declare the ballot either clear or dark.

3. If the Worshipful Master cannot determine if the reason(s) is/are Masonically valid, he will forward the letter and the results of the investigation to the Grand Master and Jurisprudence Committee with his comments. The Grand Master will render a decision on the ballot.

This amendment is not meant to be used to circumvent or change the occasional dark ballot, but to help provide a solution or remedy to the continued dropping of a black cube of each and every petition brought before the Lodge.

Submitted by:

W.: Charles E. Reichert, Sr., W.M., Brandon Lodge No. 114

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION THAT ALL FLORIDA ENTERED APPRENTICES AND FELLOW CRAFTS BE POSTHUMOUSLY RAISED FOR MASONIC RITES

WHEREAS, Masonic traditions and tenets have origins truly unknown developing (and evolving) during centuries of time emphasizing the adaptation of the craft of stone masonry, many facets of which are presently used; however, numerous times situations and educational advances have encouraged necessary variations.

WHEREAS, a candidate for our Fraternity is elected, being of good character and meeting bona fide criteria upon his initial obligation, is rightfully called “Brother” and he is encouraged and required to advance into the fraternal system, not unlike the Middle Ages’ craft of stone masonry.

WHEREAS, at present only Master Mason is entitled to receive Masonic funeral services, there is no consideration of a Brother Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft, according to Masonic Law, governed by the Grand Lodge of Florida. Yet, there are instances of Brothers being called to the Celestial Lodge above as Entered Apprentices or Fellow Crafts, while serving his country and community as a member of the Armed Forces defending our nation or in the capacity of law enforcement or Fire Department or similar tasks and services for communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that every Brother, whether a Master Mason or an advancing candidate called to the celestial grandeur when endorsed by Lodge action requesting the special consideration, the candidate meeting Lodge requirements and the Lodge requests the Grand Lodge of Florida to grant the individual called to the Celestial Lodge and evident proof of his desire and he being worthy be posthumously elevated to the sublime degree of Master Mason for the specific purpose of being granted the right to a Masonic Funeral Service. All references in the Florida Masonic Digest and other publications be modified properly or stricken. (Page 107, paragraph 1).

Authorizing and empowering the Grand Master to execute the intent of this resolution.

Every good Brother is deserving of remembrance and attention.

Every Lodge conducting degrees should be notified that a Lodge action can vote that the deceased Brother be properly honored and the Brother’s family be invited to attend. If a Brother has no known family, close friends should be considered.

Submitted by:

W.: Homer Allan Cundiff, P.M., Brandon Lodge No. 114

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION FOR FLORIDA MASTER MASONS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Florida has a limitation on Master Masons to be exempt from Grand Lodge per capita assessment while on active duty, to wit:

Chapter 27.04 states, “*But members of Particular Lodges in Florida who are in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, and receiving less than \$50.00 per month in salary, shall while the United States is engaged in war, be exempt from Grand Lodge per capita assessment, provided, that the Particular Lodges of which they are members take similar action, notifying the Grand Secretary of such action.*”

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the Grand Lodge of Florida to assist men and women in the armed forces, particularly Brother Masons,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the section of the paragraph, “and receiving less than \$50.00 per month in salary”, be removed, to wit:

Chapter 27.04 states, “*But members of Particular Lodges in Florida who are in the Armed Forces of the United States of America shall while the United States is engaged in war, be exempt from Grand Lodge per capita assessment, provided, that the Particular Lodges of which they are members take similar action, notifying the Grand Secretary of such action.*”

Respectfully submitted,

Brother Richard C. Brooks, Senior Warden, Sutherland Lodge No. 174 F. & A.M.

W.: Christopher H. Schlenker, P.M.

P.M., Dunedin Lodge No. 192 F. & A.M.

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION FOR PROFICIENCY

WHEREAS, A Master Mason should be knowledgeable in the Esoteric Work for the Fraternity; and

WHEREAS, Several proficiency card certificates are issued for different portions of this knowledge, and

WHEREAS, A proficiency card certificate should be available to a Master Mason when he is proficient in the opening and closing of the Lodge in all three degrees of Masonry and

WHEREAS, A Master Mason should be issued such card certificate from the Committee on Work upon his demonstration of this knowledge:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Committee on Work now be authorized to issue a Yellow Card of Proficiency to a Master Mason exhibiting this knowledge and this authority be indexed as Section 37.16 (i) if the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida.

Respectfully submitted:

R.: W.: Joseph F. Basler, P.D.D.G.M., Hurricane Lodge No. 401

W.: George Faust, P.M., Hurricane Lodge No. 401

(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A RITUAL PROFICIENCY PROGRAM FOR INCOMING WORSHIPFUL MASTERS OF PARTICULAR LODGES

WHEREAS, Regulation 26.17 of the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida states, “It is the duty of every Master Mason to become proficient in the work and lectures of the Three Degrees of Freemasonry as soon as possible after being raised,” and

WHEREAS, Regulation 20.05 of the Digest of Masonic Law of Florida states, “The Worshipful Master guides and controls all the work and business of the Lodge, opens, closes, dispenses, calls off and calls on, at his pleasure,” and

WHEREAS, only authentic and genuine Forms and Ceremonies of the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida are authorized for use by any Subordinate, Particular or Individual Lodges of said Grand Jurisdiction (Art. XV, Sec. 1).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Lodge of Florida through its subordinate Committee on Work, establish a Ritual Proficiency Program for incoming Worshipful Masters of Particular Lodges in the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida.

This Ritual Proficiency Program shall require any Master Mason who is elected to the office of Worshipful Master of a Particular Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Florida to qualify and possess a Bronze Proficiency Card BEFORE he can be installed as a Worshipful Master in the Lodge in which he has been elected; *provided further*, that in the event a Master Mason is installed in error as a Worshipful Master of a Particular Lodge without meeting the requirements of this regulation, the Grand

Master may in his discretion order the office vacated and a new election and installation held.

The Bronze Proficiency Card shall be in force for Five (5) Years. It shall be issued to any Master Mason who is proficient in the opening and closing ceremonies (Long Form) of the Master Mason Degree, the Worshipful Master’s ritual part only.

There may be four different examinations for the Bronze Proficiency card. The first examination shall be conducted by the District Instructor of the District of the Brother seeking to be qualified. If not proficient, the second examination shall be conducted by the District Instructor and District Deputy Grand Master of the District of the Brother seeking to be qualified. If not proficient, the third examination shall be conducted by the District Instructor, District Deputy Grand Master, and Zone Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work of the District of the Brother seeking to be qualified. If not proficient, the fourth examination shall be conducted by the Grand Master of Florida assisted by the State Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Work. In all examinations, where there is more than one examiner, the decision to issue the Bronze Proficiency Card shall be unanimous, with the exception of the last or fourth examination, as the Grand Master’s authority and decisions are Supreme in Fraternal Matters.

Respectfully submitted,
R.: W.: David A. Blate, P.D.D.G.M., *Zone 7 Chairman, Committee on Work*
(Jurisprudence recommends rejection.)

RESOLUTION TO RELOCATE PENSACOLA RITUAL BOOKS

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida has approved the placement of duplicate copies of the written “Forms and Ceremonies” in various zones throughout the state, and

WHEREAS, one copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” for Zone 1 is currently housed in the Scottish Rite Masonic Center located at 2 East Wright Street, Pensacola, FL, and

WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite Masonic Center in Pensacola is currently in the process of being sold to an adjacent church, and

WHEREAS, the Pensacola York Rite and Pensacola Lodge No. 42, which shares facilities at 189 West Airport Blvd., Pensacola, FL, has agreed to house the duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” now located at the Pensacola Scottish Rite Masonic Center and to provide adequate security, facilities, storage, access and parking as provided by the other location where the duplicate copies of the Work are now housed, and be pursuant to and conditioned upon a satisfactory contract and agreement between the Grand Lodge of Florida and Pensacola York Rite Bodies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in the best interest of the Craft and the Brethren of Zone 1, that the duplicate copy of the “Forms and Ceremonies” now housed at Pensacola Scottish Rite Masonic Center be relocated to the Pensacola York Rite building at 189 West Airport Blvd., Pensacola, FL.

Respectfully submitted,
R.: W.: Larry W. Thomas, *Zone 1 Chairman, Committee on Work*
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW 18 YEAR OLDS TO BECOME MASTER MASONS

WHEREAS, the decline of our membership has been a factor in the closure and/or consolidation of many Lodges and will continue to have an adverse impact upon both the Particular Lodges and the Grand Lodge, and,

WHEREAS, the average age of Florida Masons is 66 and Florida Masonry has experienced a loss in membership in excess of 25,000 Brothers over the past 20 years and the decline is becoming greater each year, and as a Fraternity and a Corporation we must be willing to put to the test every thought and/or suggestion which does not compromise the core values of Masonry or lower the standards by which we select new members in our effort to arrest and reverse the steady decline in membership, and

WHEREAS, in our society, unlike 50 or 75 years ago, we have men who today at the age of 18 are more educated, can serve on city councils, own a business, hold elected office, sign legal binding contracts, vote, serve, defend and die for our country in the armed service, and

WHEREAS, many of our youth are sons of Master Masons, “Eagle Scouts,” DeMolay, and these are good men in many colleges along with other potential candidates who attend military academies or are members of “ROTC” organizations throughout our great state, and

WHEREAS, a man 21 years of age or older does not necessarily make them “more mature” or “a better man,” and this resolution would contribute to a slowdown of the continued steady progression of membership losses, and good men 18 years of age would have to follow the same investigation and balloted course of action to become a Master Mason of our aging Fraternity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all the applicable Rules, Regulations and By-Laws of this Grand Jurisdiction be amended to allow 18 year old men become Master Masons with all the rights, benefits and privileges appertaining thereto,

Respectfully submitted by:
Brother Ron Blaisdell, Indian River Lodge No. 90
R.: W.: George Malone, P.D.D.G.M., District 26, P.M., Brevard Lodge No. 113
R.: W.: Greg Davis, D.D.G.M., District 26, P.M., Indian River No. 90
R.: W.: Bill Macken, P.D.D.G.M., District 26, P.M., Indian River Lodge No. 90
R.: W.: Fred Baker, P.D.D.G.M., District 26, P.M., Harbor City No. 318
W.: Bruce Laubenheimer, Sr., P.M., Canaveral Lodge No. 339
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE AMPLE FORM CLOSING

WHEREAS, the Adopted Forms and Ceremonies of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Florida provides an approved Short (Ample) Form Closing Ceremony for the Grand Master, and

WHEREAS, Past Grand Masters are often given the honor of performing the Closing Ceremonies in Particular Lodges, and

WHEREAS, the Adopted Short Form Closing Ceremony for a Past Grand Master is very similar to the Adopted Short Form Closing Ceremony for the Particular Lodges and would be very confusing to the Craft, and

WHEREAS, the Past Grand Masters desire to be expedient and proficient in the Closing Ceremony.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Past Grand Masters use the same Short (Ample) Form Closing as the Grand Master and the Committee on Work be directed to change the title on Page 732, Volume 5 of the Adopted Forms and Ceremonies from Short Form Closing by the Grand Master to read Short Form Closing by the Grand Master or Past Grand Master.

Respectfully submitted,
M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
M.: W.: Elmer Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer
M.: W.: Roy Connor Sheppard, P.G.M.
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)
RESOLUTION FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home of Florida has been a part of our Fraternity since the Home’s inception in 1902 and was created by Brother Albert Walter Gilchrist who in 1912 became our Grand Master and Governor of the State of Florida at the same time, and

WHEREAS, after many years of planning and fund raising the Masonic Home was finally dedicated on April 7, 1919, to be used as a Masonic Home and Orphanage, and

WHEREAS, the Masonic Home of Florida is situated on eighteen acres of land that was purchased over the years for the intended use of caring for our aging Masonic Brothers, their Wives or Widows, and

WHEREAS, there is a suitable amount of land available for the Masonic Fraternity to create Independent Living units thus allowing our Brothers, their Wives or Widows the opportunity to live in a Masonic environment yet remain independent, and

WHEREAS, an Independent Living Program will create additional income which will help defray the constant rise in expenses both now and well into the future, and

WHEREAS, the Brethren at the 178th Grand Lodge Communication expressed in a straw vote the desire to explore further the process and procedures required to continue with an Independent Living Program, and

WHEREAS, after many meetings with architects, designers and marketing firms it is the consensus of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home and the Corporate Board of the Grand Lodge of Florida that this is a program with great potential, and

WHEREAS, other Grand Jurisdictions (Kentucky, Indiana, New York, California and New Jersey to name just a few) are currently successfully involved with Independent Living Programs, and

WHEREAS, this venture will require more planning, research and the associated expenses to acquire site plans, drawings, surveys and preliminary approvals from the City of St. Petersburg,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Grand Lodge of Florida expend the capital necessary to meet the City of St. Petersburg’s requirements for an independent living facility up to the permitting phase which will allow the preconstruction sale of one hundred two (102) units. This initial phase will be financed from funds generated by the private pay program. Construction will begin thereafter.

M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master, Chairman, Board of Trustees
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer
M.: W.: Roy Connor Sheppard, Past Grand Master
R.: W.: Jim J. Harris, Member of Board of Trustees
R.: W.: A. Gary Cavanaugh, Member of Board of Trustees
R.: W.: Nicholas L. Canora, Member of Board of Trustees
R.: W.: Phillip A. Hudson, Member of Board of Trustees
R.: W.: Dwight S. Wilkes, Member of Board of Trustees
R.: W.: Cecil P. Englebert, Member of Board of Trustees
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION FOR EXPULSION FROM THE FRATERNITY

WHEREAS, every Mason is charged with the responsibility for being “a quiet and peaceful citizen” and to “patiently submit to legal authority” and in his “outward demeanor, [to] be particularly careful to avoid censure and reproach” and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida prescribes the procedures for the administration of Masonic Justice, and

WHEREAS, Chapter 44 of the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida does not provide for the immediate expulsion of a Mason from the Fraternity, and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of Florida has the duty and obligation to protect the reputation of the Fraternity, its members and families from those who commit heinous crimes, and

WHEREAS, the violation of State and Federal Law as to Murder, Attempted Murder, Sexual Battery, Child Molestation, Terrorism or the use of a Firearm during the commission of a Felony are so repugnant to God and Humanity, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Grand Master shall enter an order for Expulsion from the Fraternity for any member who is “convicted,” of any of the following crimes or who when charged with any of these crimes enters into a “pre-trial Intervention program” or who joins in any “plea bargaining” in which one of the stipulations is that he admit his guilt or who enters a plea of anything other than “not guilty” when charged with Murder, Attempted Murder, Sexual Battery, Child Molestation, Terrorism or the use of a Firearm during the commission of a Felony.

M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Joseph L. Meketsy, Chairman, Penal Affairs Panel
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR LIFE CARE

WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 2005 “that the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home be allowed to allocate a portion of the rooms available at the Masonic Home for use by Master Masons from any Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida on a pay as you go basis only.” and

WHEREAS, this resolution was implemented and put into effect resulting in a significant increase in the number of residents at the Home under the pay as you go basis, hereinafter referred to as the Private Pay Plan, and

WHEREAS, this has significantly increased the financial solvency of the Masonic Home, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home of Florida and the Corporate Board were authorized to adopt procedures necessary to implement the provisions of that Resolution, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Order of the Eastern Star voted at their Grand Chapter Session in 1994 to no longer sponsor any new residents to the Masonic Home,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Masonic Home Rules and Regulations, Chapter 6 and 7, found on pages 363 through 369 in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida be amended to reflect and clarify those Rules and Regulations applicable to the traditional Life Care Plan and the Private Pay Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master
R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
R.: W.: Phillip A. Hudson, P.D.D.G.M., Member of Board of Trustees
(Jurisprudence recommends adoption.)

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R. W. J. Dick Martinez
Junior Grand Warden

A Message From The Junior Grand Warden

I would like to thank you the Craft for your support and for electing me to be your Junior Grand Warden. As your Junior Grand Warden my responsibility is Chairman of The Endowment Procurement Committee, which entails MH-100, Wills & Gifts and Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents. It is also my responsibility to oversee the current year’s budget and propose the upcoming year’s budget for our Masonic Home. Your Masonic Home is in the very capable hands of Mrs. Lisa Tsotsos, our Administrator, and Mrs. Debbie Neveitt, our office manager. They have done a phenomenal job remaining within the budget, but most importantly they and the entire staff have extended the care we have come to expect for our Residents. The entire staff deserves a heartfelt Thank You every time we see any of them.

You are Grand Lodge, and it is with great honor and humility that I serve you, the Craft.

Below is an excerpt from an e-mail that I received. I feel this might be appropriate reading for all Master Masons.
“Quoted from Masonic Matters”

The Purpose of Freemasonry

It has been said that the purpose of Freemasonry is the pursuit of excellence. All of the teachings of Masonry are directed to excellence in performing our duties to God, our country, our neighbors and ourselves. The continuing effort to improve oneself is the true mark of a Mason.

This principle is well stated: "We must constantly remember that in every moment of our life - in public - at work - at pleasure - with our families - even when you are alone - You are a Mason! "

The non-masons who know us will judge each of us and Masonry itself by the way in which we conduct ourselves. We have in trust the reputation of Masonry. Let us not betray that trust! Masonry will flourish if we follow the tenets of Freemasonry, which are: the dogmas; principles, beliefs, doctrines; teachings of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. "Before we can expect to attract good men to the fraternity by our conduct and reputation in public, we must learn to conduct ourselves with propriety in the Lodge. One of our first duties is loyalty to the fraternity and obedience to its laws. This is a fundamental requirement.

"Propriety is not the result of law, but rather of tradition, custom and usage.

“It is not from the lack of desire to learn that the Craft suffers, but rather from the lack of instruction.”

Masonry does not exist for the mechanics of ritual alone. Just as important is the learning, the interpretation and exemplification of that ritual and the basic principles of our Order. Equally important, too, for the candidate and for every member, is the need to fully understand these principles, as well as our responsibilities as Masons. What is required of every single one of us is the dedicated and devoted application of the high moral principles of Masonry. By these simple methods, we develop the character that guarantees our own self-improvement and discharges our duties to God, our country, our neighbors, and ourselves.



M. W. Richard E. Lynn, PGM
Grand Secretary

A Message From The Grand Secretary

It is with mixed emotions that I accepted the Office of Grand Secretary. Most Worshipful Roy Connor Sheppard, a truly fine Gentleman, served all of us with a high degree of honor, affability, leadership and skill as our Grand Secretary for almost thirteen years. You, the Craft, have my solemn promise to endeavor to fill the void that M. W. Roy’s retirement leaves in the Grand Lodge.

The Office of Grand Secretary and all of our dedicated employees are committed to serve you, the Particular Lodges and our elected Grand Lodge Officers. In recognizing that so many of our Lodge Secretaries and Brethren now have computers with email, we will endeavor to save you money by implementing a move towards paperless mailings. Those Lodge Secretaries and Brethren who have the capability of receiving the mailings electronically, will be requested to do so. The savings in postage and staff hours will enable our staff to concentrate on additional services to your Particular Lodge.

Please do not hesitate to call or email the office with your problems, cares and concerns. We serve at the will and pleasure of the Craft. Therefore, we wish to optimize our resources to meet your needs and answer your requests.

I look forward to spending good quality time with you at our Annual Grand Communication in Orlando. Please come by the Satellite Grand Lodge Office on the second floor of the Rosen Plaza Hotel.

Most Sincerely and fraternally,

Richard Lynn, PGM
Grand Secretary



M. W. Elmer Coffman, PGM
Grand Treasurer

A Message From The Grand Treasurer

Brethren,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for honor you have bestowed upon me by allowing me to continue to serve as your Grand Treasurer. This is a position I truly enjoy, as it provides me with a wonderful opportunity to remain involved in our great Fraternity. It also allows me to work with a group of dedicated Grand Lodge Officers who are all working toward the one common goal of the betterment of Freemasonry in Florida. We have in place a team of Grand Lodge Officers who are working very diligently along with the Long Range Planning Committee, to ensure the success of Masonry in Florida for many years to come.

Over the past few years we have seen many positive changes occur in our Fraternity which have proven to be very beneficial, not only to our Grand Lodge, but to the Particular Lodges as well. We are beginning to see an influx of new candidates in our Lodges statewide, and Lodges are becoming more active, not only inside the Fraternity but in the local community as well. I think we are beginning to see a tremendous turn-around in Masonry, and we can all be excited about being a part of this and seeing Florida Masonry continually on the move.

I urge you to attend the legislative meetings held in your area and to carefully study the proposed legislation for our upcoming Grand Lodge Communication. Many of the proposals will have a significant impact on us as Masons and our Fraternity, and we must be well informed delegates when we cast our votes.

I encourage you to stop by and visit us at the Grand Lodge building in Jacksonville, and plan on spending some time in your Grand Lodge Museum as well. Here you will find hundreds of interesting historical Masonic items on display, many dating back to the founding of our Grand Lodge in 1830. We would be happy to assist you with a tour of the building and the museum and point out some of the more interesting items and facts about Florida Masonry. While you are here we would also like to share some of the good fellowship that we as Masons are famous for. You may also want to consider spending some time in the Grand Lodge library to either enjoy some casual reading or for research on your own Particular Lodge or Masonry in general.

Finally, I would say that we are here to serve you, the Craft. And certainly if I can be of any assistance to you or your Lodge, please do not hesitate to call. Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Grand Treasurer, and may God richly bless you all.

Elmer Coffman, P.G.M.
Grand Treasurer

The Florida Masonic Child ID Program

Kid's Day, Grand Key Resort, August 18, 2007 By W.: Greg S. Eppy, Anchor Lodge No. 182

Over 800 thousand children are reported missing in the United States each year, meaning one every 40 seconds. Imagine every single citizen of Key West disappearing over a two week period. That is scary! There is typically over a two hour delay in making the initial missing child report, and the majority of the abducted children who are murdered are dead within three hours of the abduction.¹ There are estimated to be about 100 cases per year in the US where a child is abducted and murdered. The victims of these cases are "average" children, leading normal lives, and living with normal families, typical low-risk victims. The majority of them are girls, with the average age being slightly over 11 years of age. In 80% of cases, the initial contact between the victim and killer is within 1/4 mile of the victim's residence.

In our small community in the last couple of months, the headlines of the newspaper reported several sexual predators being arrested. On August 25th, in Key West, 39 year old Michael Carroll was arrested for a sex offense against a child under 16; he was a registered sexual predator. In our little town, at the end of the road, in what most call "Paradise", there are over 70 registered sexual offenders.²

When I was a teenager in New York, back in the late 70's, I remember the headlines of the paper reading of a boy named Etan Patz, who disappeared not far from my house. I couldn't believe it. I always thought and hoped he would turn up back home with his family. I remember what he looked like, his pictures were everywhere. He didn't look much different than I did at his age and not much different than my son looks today. He was only 6 at the time of his disappearance and was never found. In 2003 Jose Ramos was charged with his kidnapping and murder.

About two years ago, after feeling there was a lack in our community for a program of this kind, I put together what I felt would be something to fill the void. There were and are other Child ID programs in our area, but none as comprehensive as what I have established. None even come close. After many months of research, and a grant from the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, the Florida Masonic Child ID Program was born. For those who are unaware, the Masons are the World's oldest Fraternity. Formally established in 1717 in London, there are now over four million members worldwide. Key West has had a Masonic Lodge since 1845. Most people have a family member or friend who is a Mason and nearly everyone knows the Shriners, who are also Masons.

The Florida Masonic "Child ID Program" is now in full swing. Since its inception, just a month and a half ago, we have attended three events, providing ID kits for 217 children. The kit includes digital photos of the child, a digital video, digital finger prints and a full description all on a CD. We also provide a DNA sample and two laminated ID cards (one for the parent and one for the child). The kit is contained in a standard DVD case and has printed information inside on how to protect your children and keep them safe. All local law enforcement agencies' contact information is provided, and since everything is in digital format, all the information can be disseminated very quickly in an emergency. No information is ever retained by the Masons, and a single hard copy is provided to the parents. All digital records are destroyed and papers shredded before proceeding



to the next child. Best of all, we provide this kit completely free of charge to all families who attend. Our booth has constantly been the busiest one at these events, and we took these cues to expand our program. With a very generous donation from Nick and Suzie Trivisanno, we were able to purchase two new Child ID Computers, a color laser printer, a medical scale, as well as many of the expendable supplies used in the kits.

We are now working on getting two trailers. A cargo trailer has been ordered for transporting all the equipment. We are also hoping to get a travel trailer donated to create an indoor, air conditioned place to provide the program during outdoor events. Our next event is Children's Day on October 28th. We expect to ID 200+ children that day, and I have set a goal of ID'ing 1000 children before the first of the year. We will offer this service to all the families of Monroe County.

I will be working with Randy Acevedo, our school superintendent, to bring the program directly to our schools. Parents will be notified by the "Tuesday Newsletter," the county's voice messaging system. This will give us the opportunity to work with greater numbers of children in a convenient location. Our goal is to ID 4000 children by 2009, about half of the registered school children of Monroe County. We will be providing this program to over 4000 children annually. Since children's appearances change very rapidly, we recommend that the kit be updated every year. With this in mind, the program can only grow and will go on indefinitely.

This program is extremely important to our community. Although in itself it will not prevent a child from

disappearing, it is a tool parents can use to talk to their children about the dangers around them. Families have waited in line for well over an hour to get the kit. We know it is important to them. Expansion is our future. We are currently working on providing information and instructional videos to help families prevent their children from ever becoming a victim. The areas we are concerned with are sexual predators, child abductors, and our newest threat, Internet predators. We will work diligently to provide this information to keep our children safe.

I hope this has shed light on the progress we have been able to make. Many members and businesses of our community have come forward to help. I would like to thank the following, Manny Madruga who has been instrumental in this program's success. The Monroe County Sheriff's Dept., Nick and Suzie Trivisanno, Dade Masonic Lodge No. 14, Dr. Felix Varela Masonic Lodge No. 64, Anchor Masonic Lodge No. 182, Marathon Masonic Lodge No. 323, Florida Keys Masonic Lodge No. 336, Key West P.A.L., Appraisal Co. of Key West, Thomas Tucker, Key West Chevron, The Community Foundation of the Florida Keys and more especially my Masonic Brothers and Sisters who supported me and worked with me hand in hand to achieve this important goal. I also have to thank people like you. Without your support this program would eventually end. The Masonic Child ID Program is absolutely a continuing endeavor, and we will always need support and donations, so please spread the word to your friends and business associates. I am confident the families of our community will acknowledge the importance of this free service and will appreciate our continued need for support.

¹Source: Attorney General of the State of Washington, who did a study of cases reported to law enforcement in 1997

² <http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us>

Fellow Craft Degree Presented at Bradford Lodge No. 35 Free and Accepted Masons

On January 30, 2008, Ron Ratliff, acting Worshipful Master of Bradford Lodge No. 35, presented the Fellow Craft Degree to Charles Stewart Browning, Larry Wayne Douglas, and Donald Eugene Hicks. The 'Friendly' 10th District's Degree Team assisted Bradford Lodge for this degree work. Worshipful Mike Nolan delivered the Fellow Craft Lecture.

Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Charles Browning, Ed Heise, Larry Douglas, Ron Ratliff, Don Hicks, Noah Davis, and Sandy Huff. In the back rows are: Coy Pacetti, Colin Coody, Bob Moody, Mike Nolan, Ernest Beman, Tom Adams, Tom Erickson, John Watterson, Gerald Anderson, Leaman Alvarez and Bruce Kirby.



Union County Student Essay Winners Present Their Thoughts On Why They Love America

Lake Butler Lodge hosted the Americanism Essay Winners on February 18, 2008. Parents, teachers, school children, friends and the Freemasons of Lake Butler Lodge enjoyed a delicious covered dish supper. Gary Ranard, Lake Butler Lodge’s Junior Warden, and Janice Alvarez, the wife of Leaman Alvarez, Worshipful Master of Lake Butler Lodge, coordinated the meal. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the three best Americanism Essays from the Elementary School students and the Middle School students of Union County. The first, second and third place winners from the Elementary School included: Courtney Jenkins, Carmon Dobbs, and Phillip Brown, respectively. The Middle School winners included: Blade Stith, Tina Hoffman, and Sentoria Robinson, respectively. Mary Ann Davis was the sponsor from the Elementary School and Kim Shaw was the sponsor from the Middle School. Comments made by the teachers and parents were very positive and one grandparent summed up the audience’s feelings with his thank you by saying, “my cup runneth over.” Obviously, we can all be very proud of our Union County School System and the excellent students our school system produces.

Colin Coody, the Senior Warden of Lake Butler Lodge, began this Essay Contest with the two schools in November 2007. The teachers and parents encouraged the students, and the results were outstanding. Lake Butler Lodge is celebrating Americanism for the month of February 2008 and the essay contest was the culmination of the



productive work on the part of the students, teachers, and parents working together.

Prior to the essays’ being presented by the students and in two cases by the sponsors, Leaman Alvarez asked Ted Barber to present an impromptu short talk about Lake Butler Lodge and Freemasonry. Barber began by explaining who occupied the different chairs in the Lodge Room. He told the guests that the 100 plus photos on the South wall were the Past Master Masons since the Lodge was chartered in 1861. The photos on the North wall represented perpetual members. Those who paid twenty times their dues were active members and those who were deceased at the time they became perpetual members were funded at \$200 each. The interest earned each year is returned to the Lodge forever to assist charitable and other local activities. Barber told the audience that many of our nation's founders were Freemasons, including George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere. The French, British and Scottish Military units brought Masonry to America. The ideals of the dignity of the individual, public education and the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God are very important concepts to Freemasons. Today North America’s Masonic Fraternity provides fellowship for over 1.5 million members. Our charitable assistance to the 22 Shrine Hospitals for children, the fantastic results from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, New York (heart disease prevention and equipment), the speech and language clinics and many local people provide charitable assistance.



We encourage patriotism and are very proud of the Union County Veterans Monument located on the southeast corner of the Lake Butler Lodge property. The Veterans Monument provides a centralized location to honor our veterans, their families and friends on Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year. As active Masons, Barber told the guests, the Lodge meets every first and third Monday evenings of each month for their regular meetings. Sometimes the Lodge holds special meetings for degree work (Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason levels). Normally when this happens, Barber related, many members from the other lodges in the “Friendly” 10th Masonic District join in to assist.

The essay presentations on why these students love America were very special, and we are all very proud of our students, teachers and families that made the evening possible. Lake Butler Lodge believes that our youth are our future, and we know that Union County can be very proud.

Fifth Annual Joppa Lodge Outdoor Degree

To all of the Brothers who attended our 5th Annual Joppa Lodge Outdoor Degree, thank you so much, and I hope that the hospitality and fellowship was to your liking! We had approximately 200 Brothers from all over our Great State in attendance, and it’s always nice to make new acquaintances as well as see Brothers who come each year to enjoy the good food and fellowship.

To our Grand Master and his Grand Line, as well as our



W.: Wade Landrum being his 25 year award from M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master:

Most Distinguished Past Grand Masters in attendance, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being with us to celebrate our Annual Event. I sincerely hope that the meal was to your liking and the hospitality extended to everyone was acceptable.

To those Brothers who could not be with us for this wonderful event, we can only say that you were missed and we really hope that you can be with us next year! You can



R.: W.: Joe Fleites, (Deputy Grand Master enjoying a good cigar before the start of the Degree!

mark your calendars now because it is scheduled for March 28th, 2009. Our goal is to make every year better than the last, so please plan to be with us.

Fraternally,

Eric Daniels,
Joppa Lodge No 4



M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master (in white hat and blue shirt) talking with M.: W.: John Kavanaugh. R.R. Robert (Stretch) Liekefet (seated) just enjoying the day.



Sanderson Lodge No. 122 Passes Three Brothers to the Fellowcraft Degree

Rod Davis, John Crockett and Tim Alford were passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft at Sanderson Lodge No. 122, Free and Accepted Masons, on Saturday morning January 12, 2008. Several members of the “Friendly” 10th Masonic District came to Sanderson to assist in the Degree. Mike Nolan, Past Master of Middleburg Lodge No. 107 delivered the degree’s lecture, and Ted Barber, Past Master of Lake Butler Lodge No. 52 and Past District Deputy Grand Master, read the Charge.

Front row (l-r): Rod S. Davis, John Crockett, Tim W. Alford, Joey Delacruz, and Preston Davis. Back rows (l-r) : Mike Nolan, Brian Poole, Larry Scott, Galen Williams, Mike Fountain (WM), Ted Barber, Tom Adams and Cleaton Jones.

“G. Rodman Porter Day” A Day of Learning and Fellowship

By, R.:W.: Jorge L. Aladro, pictures by R.:W.: Joseph Meketsy

Recently retired, I was invited by R.:W.: Joe Meketsy to accompany him to Apalachicola, a quaint little town in Franklin County along the beautiful Gulf coast. Its winding roads and picturesque little towns along Route 98 are breath-taking with beautiful sunsets behind the fishing boats and bridges along the peaceful, serene coast of Old Florida.

I was told to attend the G. Rodman Porter Day hosted by Apalachicola Lodge No. 76 F. & A.M., and soon after arriving I discover the real reason why R.:W.: Brother Joe, R.:W.: Dick Martinez and M.: W.: Givens recommended I attend this event whenever possible. It is for their GREAT FELLOWSHIP, GREAT FOOD, and the FRIENDLIEST group of Brothers from all over the panhandle of Florida meeting to work, eat and have fun - especially, the Brothers of Apalachicola Lodge who hosted the event.

If you have ever heard of rolling out the welcoming wagon, these Brothers do that and more. They roll out their hearts; they are just plain folk, no airs, just making one feel comfortable and at ease, and if you are on a diet, look out! This place will be a temptation impossible to resist. These Brothers put out the food for you, and I mean good food.

This is the Oyster capital of Florida, just a little piece of heaven on earth, which the Brothers shared with us, including their delicious oysters, little mouthfuls with saltine crackers, hot sauce or just plain, freshly harvested from the local waters and chucked by an expert who would not mind doing it ‘till your heart’s or stomach’s content. Then he is sure to give you a few extras while discussing Masonic history and current events.

We were treated to a fresh bag of oysters at our motel pool by W.: Billy a tall friendly Brother who welcomed us to the area and gave us the run down on the activities for next couple of days. The next day, as scheduled, we met at Lynn’s Quality Oyster around 9:00 AM. We were there early to enjoy the fellowship and new friends. We proceeded to scale and fillet the freshly caught mullet which was to be our main course on Saturday. There we were taught how to clean this local delicacy by Worshipfuls Billy, Tiny, Darryl and Leroy. Needless to say the fellowship was great, and the folks at Lynn’s were just outstanding. After our lesson in fish cleaning we prepared them for the next day by icing them down and later gathering all the necessary cooking materials we needed before retiring to our room for a while. Later that afternoon we set up a tent where the fish and hush puppies would be prepared the following day. We attended a meeting that evening where once again we were hosted to a fine dinner and outstanding dessert. That meeting was well attended by Brothers from all over the 6th District. Needless to say, at every opportunity a fresh bag of oysters, saltine crackers and hot sauce were made available to all.

The next day we were up early and looking forward to the day’s events with Brothers from all over the Panhandle. The G. Rodman Porter Day is an event held for the sole purpose of practicing the esoteric work by exemplifying all Three Degrees of Freemasonry including the floor work. The reward for your attendance was the knowledge imparted by all present, great fellowship and a delicious lunch.

The fires were on, the grease getting hot and the food plentiful and of course oysters for all who cared to partake. By mid-morning some of the backbones and the hushpup-



Standing back row: l to r: Brother William Scott; R.:W.: Jim Harris; W.: Leroy King; W.: John “Tiny” Carroll; R.:W.: Jorge Aladro; W.: Rocky Moore; W.: Woodrow Duncan; Front row: R.:W.: Joe Meketsy; R.:W.: Richard Lavigne; W.: Charlie “Billy” Moses.



l to r: R.:W.: Jorge Aladro; W.: Charlie “Billy” Moses (waving); W.: Leroy King; W.: Daryl Segree; W.: John “Tiny” Carroll. “Four Past Masters of Apalachicola No.47”

pies were fried, and we all had smiles on our faces as we were invited to help ourselves. They were still steaming hot as they were recently dipped onto the tray to be cooled, a tasteful precursor of what was to come for lunch.

Meanwhile, Masonic work had begun in earnest inside the Lodge with Harry Jackson Lodge No. 314 exemplifying the Entered Apprentice Degree, St. Andrews Lodge No. 212 the Fellow Craft Degree and Pythagoras Lodge No. 358 the Master Mason Degree. All of this was done under the watchful eyes of several experts on work including M.: W.: John R. Givens, PGM, R.:W.: Larry Thomas, Zone 1 Committee on Work, R.:W.: Lindy Whitehurst, Returns & Credentials, R.:W.: Buddy Akers, D.I of the 30th Masonic District, R.:H.: Dudley Herrington, D.I of the 1st Masonic District and R.:H.: Joseph Anderson, D.I of the 6th Masonic District, who headed the program as Master of Ceremonies. Other dignitaries present were R.:W.: Joe Paul, D.D.G.M. of the 6th Masonic District, R.:W.: Jim Harris, Junior Grand Deacon, R.:W.: Joe Meketsy, Chmn. of Penal Affairs, R.:W.: Robert Bohannon, Chmn. of Returns & Credentials, R.:W.: Joe Pippin, P.D.D.G.M., R.:W.: Jim Gillis, Zone 1 Chmn. Child ID and W.:M.: of Jay Lodge No. 176. Worshipful Masters present were W.: Lynn Griner from Apalachicola Lodge No. 76, the host Lodge, W.: Tony A. Brown from Harry Jackson No. 314, W.: Jack Lloyd from St. Andrews Lodge No. 212, W.: Kevin Brackins from Pythagoras Lodge No. 358, W.: Ronald Killary from Pace Lodge No. 349, W.: Michael Milty from Parker Lodge No. 142, as well as many other Past Masters, Lodge Officers and Brothers of District 6 and the panhandle area. More than 60



Front l to r: R.:W.: Jim Harris, Junior Grand Deacon; M.:W.: John R. Gives P.G.M; Member of Corporate Board; R.:W.: Jorge Aladro, Jurisprudence Committee; W.: Darryl Segree, P.M. of Apalachicola No. 76; Background: R.:W.: Richard Lavigne



W.: Charlie “Billy” Moses and W.: Rocky Moore frying hushpuppies

Brothers attended this day of learning and fellowship. M.:W.: Gilbert Rodman Porter, was elected Junior Grand Warden in 1956, Senior Grand Warden in 1957, Deputy Grand Master in 1958, and Grand Master in 1959. Brother Porter was initiated in Apalachicola Lodge No. 76 Free and Accepted Masons on

Brother G. Rodman Porter was raised to the Degree of Master Mason on March 3, 1925. Brother Porter was elected Junior Warden of his Lodge in 1926 and served through 1928, Senior Warden in 1929, and four years as Worshipful Master, 1930 through 1933. After a brief hiatus of two years he was elected Treasurer in 1936 and served continuously for thirty- seven years.

Worshipful Brother Porter was appointed District Deputy Grand Master of the Fifth Masonic District and served in that capacity for the next five years, 1934 through 1938. He was also Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of New Mexico.

Our Most Worshipful Brother died at his residence, in Apalachicola, Florida on March 13, 1975, nearing his 82nd birthday. He was laid to rest on March 16, 1975, in the Magnolia Cemetery of Apalachicola, Florida. His grave is marked with an upright stone monument bearing the Masonic Emblem, indicating that he was Grand Master of Masons in Florida in 1959.*

*The biographical information of M.:W.: Gilbert Rodman Porter was taken from “THE GRAND LODGE OF FLORIDA FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS HISTORY VOLUME THREE PAST GRAND MASTERS” Author by J.ROY CROTHER, P.G.M. Grand Historian.

King Solomon’s Temple Presentation

By Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman



Aaron Dukes

Right Worshipful George Barber’s second Official Visit as the District Deputy Grand Master to Lake Butler Lodge was held on Monday evening, February 4, 2008.

Most Worshipful Elmer Coffman, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Florida, made a presentation about King Solomon’s Temple to members of the Lodge, Freemasons from other lodges in the “Friendly” 10th District and many guests.

The historical presentation was well received and the information presented came mainly from the Old Testament. The traditions and romance of King Solomon’s Temple are of great interest to all who read the Bible. The Temple is the outstanding symbol in Freemasonry, and the building of the legendary Temple forms the fundamental basis of the Masonic rule and guide for a Mason’s conduct.

Aaron Dukes, a senior at Union County High School, presented his paper on ‘What Education Means to Me.’ This

paper was sent to the Grand Lodge of Florida for a possible monetary prize. His thoughts showed the audience that he is a free-thinker who appreciates the opportunity to learn. His demeanor and sincerity were well appreciated by all in attendance. His mother, Kelly Dukes, was there to support him, and I could see the pride she had in her son. Colin Coody is to be commended for challenging students like Aaron Dukes to produce their thoughts on paper and compete for scholarships for higher education.

Also present at the Official Visit were the members of the Rainbow Assembly No. 75 based in Dawkins Lodge No. 60 in Macclenny, Florida. Brian Poole of Sanderson Lodge made the introductions for each member of the Rainbow Assembly and mentioned that a Demolay Chapter may soon be established in Baker County. A collection was taken to help support the Rainbow Assembly No. 75 to send their members to the Grand Assembly this year.

Preceding the presentations a delicious supper was served in the Lodge Dining Room. Gary Dwayne Ranard, the Lodge’s Junior Warden provided the members and guests with fried chicken from Spires IGA that complemented the outstanding covered dishes and desserts.

Leaman Alvarez, Lake Butler Lodge’s Worshipful Master for 2008, did an excellent job as the master of ceremonies. Worshipful Alvarez is serving as Master of Lake Butler Lodge for the second time. He first led the Lodge in



Elmer Coffman, PGM

1982 and because of his love for the fraternity is serving a second time.

<div>CHAPTER 6</div> <div>ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE MASONIC HOME AND NON-RESIDENT RELIEF</div> <div><p>6.01 (a) Those eligible for admission to the Home under the Life Care Plan are distressed, needy, worthy Master Masons, dual members, their wives and widows, subject to the conditions, limitations and restrictions set forth in the Rules and Regulations. (2005)</p><p>(b) Those eligible for Non-Resident Relief are distressed needy, worthy Master Masons, their wives, and widows, subject to the conditions, limitations and restrictions set forth in the Rules and Regulations.</p><p>(c) Distressed, needy, worthy female members of the Eastern Star may be admitted to the Home subject to the conditions, limitations and restrictions set forth in these Rules and Regulations; subject to any additional Rules and Regulations as may be adopted by the Grand Lodge.</p><p>(d) Admission for residency <u>under the Private Pay Plan</u> in the Masonic Home of Florida shall be allowed based upon a monthly fee schedule, which will be established by the Board of Trustees and will be comparable to fees charged by commercial life care establishments doing business in the State of Florida. Residents admitted under this program will not be obliged to convey any of his property interest to the Grand Lodge except for the monthly fees <u>and entry fee deposit</u>. (2003)</p><p>6.02 No person shall be admitted to the Home who is suffering from any communicable disease; or is of unsound mind; or who is intemperate or addicted to narcotics or alcoholic liquors; or is of such disposition that he cannot live in harmony with other Residents of the Home or whose general mobility condition is not acceptable to the Board.</p><p>6.03 Qualifications of a Master Mason, his wife or widow to be admitted to residency of the Masonic Home.</p><p>(a) The Master Mason <u>under the Life Care Plan</u> must have become a member or dual member of a Florida Lodge before he attained the age of Seventy (70) years. (2005)</p><p>(b) The Master Mason <u>under the Life Care Plan</u> must have been a member or dual member in good standing in a Florida Lodge for not less than ten (10) years, the last three (3) of which must have been continuous, and in the event he became a member of a Florida Lodge by affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction, he also must have been a bona fide resident of the State of Florida for ten (10) years after such affiliation.</p><p>(c) The ten-year requirement may be waived under the following circumstances:</p><p>(1) Applicant was raised in a Florida Lodge and has been a member in good standing continuously to date of Application and meets all other requirements, and by unanimous vote of all Board Members present, and by approval of the Grand Master.</p><p>(d) The wife or widow of a Master Mason is only eligible for residency in the Home based on the Master Mason’s Lodge membership.</p><p>(e) The Board of Trustees of the Masonic Home may allocate a portion of the rooms available at the Masonic Home for use by Master Masons, <u>their wives or widows</u>, from any Grand Jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Florida on <u>the Private Pay Plan, a pay as you go basis only. These Master Masons must meet the same requirements as to membership in their Grand Lodge as Florida Masons</u>. Florida Masons, their wives and widows, will have preference for admission to the Masonic Home of Florida. (2005)</p><p>6.04 The qualification for a Master Mason, his wife, or widow to receive non-resident relief shall be the same as (a), (b), (c) and (d) of Section 6.03.</p><p>6.05 The qualifications of a female member of the Eastern Star to be admitted as a resident of the Home shall be:-</p><p>(a) Her membership in the Chapter must be predicated or based on the membership of a dues paying Master Mason in good standing at the time of her initiation into the Chapter.</p><p>If her membership is based on a deceased Master Mason membership, the Master Mason must have been a member of a Lodge in good standing at the time of his death.</p><p>(b) She must have joined a Florida Chapter before she attained the age of seventy (70) years. (2003)</p><p>(c) She must have been a member in good standing in a Florida Chapter for not less than ten (10) years, the last three (3) years of which must have been continuous, and in the event she became a member of a Florida Chapter by affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction, she also must have been a bona fide resident of the State of Florida for ten (10) years after such affiliation.</p><p>(d) The ten year requirement may be waived under the following circumstances:-</p><p>(1) Applicant was initiated in a Florida Chapter and has been a member in good standing continuously to date of application and meets all other requirements, and by unanimous vote of all Board Members present and by approval of the Grand Master.</p><p>(e) A female member of the Order of Eastern Star, making application for residency in the Home, shall file application through the Masonic Lodge, if she is eligible, to come into the home on a living or deceased Master Mason’s membership.</p><p>6.06 All admissions to the Home or to the Non-Resident Relief roll shall be made at the discretion of the Board of Trustees and not as a matter of right.</p><p>6.07 No change, alteration or amendment shall be made in the provisions of this Chapter except by direct action of the Grand Lodge in Annual Grand Communication.</p></div>	<div>call upon the services of the Case Investigator for completion of the financial information and for such other advice as may be warranted by the particular circumstances of the application.</div> <div><p>(c) The completed applications from Lodges – duly signed by the Worshipful Master and the Secretary and bearing the seal of the Lodge and the signature of the Case Investigator – shall then be presented to the District Deputy Grand Master for his further review, and upon his approval and signature, shall then be presented to the Chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Masonic Home.</p><p><u>Applications from Eastern Star Chapters shall be duly signed by the Worthy Matron, the Chapter Secretary and the Case Investigator and shall then be presented to the Grand Chapter for certification. Thereafter, the application shall be delivered to the District Deputy Grand Master for his further review and upon his approval and signature, the application shall be delivered to the Chairman of the Admissions Committee of the Masonic Home.</u></p><p>(d) All Applications for Admission to the Masonic Home or Non-Resident Relief shall be received by the Chairman of the Admissions and Non-Resident Relief Committee at least ten (10) days prior to the next regular meeting of the Board.</p><p>7.03 (a) The Chairman of the Admissions Committee shall refer all proper applications <u>under the Life Care Plan</u> to the Committee, who shall make such investigations as may be necessary or required, and the Committee shall present such applications to the Board at the next meeting following completion of such investigation together with the recommendation of such committee. After considering the report of the Admissions Committee, the Board may approve or disapprove the admission of the application to the Home, or grant such other relief as may be justified. When approved by the Board and Grand Master, the applicant may be admitted to the Home or placed on the Non-Resident Relief roll.</p><p><u>(b) The Administrator of the Home shall receive all applications under the Private Pay Plan and refer them to the appropriate department heads for recommendation for acceptance or rejection regarding fraternal, financial, health and mobility eligibility. The Administrator will refer the application with recommendation to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for his approval with the concurrence of the Grand Master.</u></p><p>7.04 (a) Every applicant who is accepted for admittance to the Home <u>under the Life Care Plan</u> who owns any property, real, personal or mixed, shall be required to convey all of his or her interest in such property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home, except that a member of a Particular Lodge may assign, give, bequeath, donate, transfer, or by any other means or device, convey up to but not to exceed thirty-three and one third percent (33 1/3%) of his entire estate to a Particular Lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Florida and/or to the Grand Lodge of Florida, and retain eligibility for residency in the Masonic Home of Florida, provided however the following provisions shall apply: (2000)</p><p>(1) Said applicant shall be permitted to retain the use and disposition of ten percent (10%) of all of his or her liquid assets in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for his or her personal use and disposition. Said ten percent (10%) allocation shall apply to all assets subsequently liquidated and/or after acquired.</p><p>(2) Grand Lodge shall create and maintain separate ledger accounts reflecting the disposition of the liquid assets of the residents. The first ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) shall be credited to the Resident Members Trust Account. The balance of the residents liquid assets shall be divided and credited as follows: ninety percent (90%) to the Resident Members Trust Account, and ten percent (10%) for the use and benefit of the Resident. The amount held for the use and benefit of the Resident may be withdrawn by the Resident at any time and from time to time and used in any manner the Resident determines. The balance remaining in said account at the death of the Resident shall be transferred to the Resident Member’s Trust Account. Quarterly statements reflecting the balance in each of these accounts shall be provided to the respective residents. Ten percent (10%) of the Residents monthly excess income over maintenance cost <u>to</u> be deposited in the Resident’s personal account and 90% of the excess to be deposited in the Resident’s Trust Fund. (2003)</p><p>If the property of the applicant is held in an estate by entireties the Board with the written approval of the Grand Master shall require:</p><p>(1) Conveyance by applicant and spouse of all such property to the Grand Lodge for use and benefit of the Home, or</p><p>(2) Conveyance by applicant and spouse of any part or portion of such property to the Grand Lodge for use and benefit of the Home, or</p><p>(3) Conveyance by applicant and spouse of all or any part or portion of such property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home subject to life estate of applicant’s spouse in such property or a part or portion thereof, or</p><p>(4) Compliance by applicant and spouse with any combination of the above requirements.</p><p>Any conveyance of any property in which applicant’s spouse retains a life estate shall provide that said life estate shall terminate in the event such spouse shall sell, convey, assign or transfer or attempt to sell, convey, assign or transfer said life estate to any other person and shall further provide that Grand Lodge shall not sell or convey the property subject to said life estate until after termination of such life estate.</p><p>The provisions of this section shall apply to all current and future residents of the home.</p><p>(b) Subject to the provisions of Section 7.04(a), every applicant shall sign an agreement to transfer, convey and deliver any and all moneys or property to the Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Home which may come to him after admittance to the Home and shall execute and deliver power of attorney to facilitate such transfer, conveyance and delivery. (1994)</p><p>(c) All residents of the Home shall be required to sign an agreement, to agree to, and comply with, and support all Rules and Regulation, now in effect or as may be hereafter adopted by the Grand Lodge. (2007)</p><p>(d) It shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge or the Worthy Matron of the Chapter and District Deputy Grand Master processing an application to advise the applicant and family of all provisions of these Rules and Regulations.</p><p>(e) All deeds, bills of sale, checks, assignments and abstracts, title insurance policies, life insurance policies, casualty insurance policies and all other papers and documents affecting and bearing on the right, title and interest of the applicant in and to all property being conveyed, transferred or assigned shall be transmitted to the Administrator immediately after such applicant has been tentatively approved by the Board for admission together with a letter from the sponsoring Lodge or Chapter in triplicate, itemizing such papers and documents. The applicant may retain cash and other items being used for living expenses until admitted into the Home at which time such items and the balance of any cash shall be delivered to the Administrator upon arrival of the applicant at the Home, which are to be turned over to the Grand Secretary to be credited in accordance with Regulation 7.04(a). (1994)</p><p>(f) All real and tangible personal properties coming into the possession of the Board shall be turned over to the Grand Lodge Properties Committee for disposition. Said property shall be sold or handled for the best interest of the Grand Lodge <u>for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home</u>; and proceeds thereof to be credited to the Resident Members Trust Account.</p><p>g) Any applicant for admission to the Home or for relief funds who has deeded or disposed of property in any manner within five (5) years prior to making application shall be ineligible unless it is</p></div>
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<div>CHAPTER 7</div> <div>PROCEDURE FOR ADMISSION TO THE MASONIC HOME AND FOR NON-RESIDENT RELIEF</div> <div><p>7.01 The form of application blanks for admission to the Home, for Non-Resident Relief or for Emergency Relief, or aid from the Hospital Fund shall be prepared by the Board and presented to and adopted by Grand Lodge.</p><p>7.02 Applications to the Masonic Home <u>under the Life Care Plan</u> and Non-Resident Relief.</p><p>(a) Every application for admission to the Home must be initiated and sponsored by the Lodge or Chapter of the person on whose membership the application is based and who has met the membership requirements.</p><p>(b) Every application for Non-Resident Relief must be initiated and sponsored by the Lodge of the person on whose membership the application is based and who has met the membership requirements.</p><p>All applications must be in writing upon prescribed forms furnished to the Lodges and Chapters by the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic District. Each District Deputy Grand Master shall procure from the Grand Secretary and keep on hand, at all times, at least one set of application forms.</p><p>The initial preparation shall be the responsibility of the Worshipful Master of the sponsoring Lodge or the Worthy Matron of the sponsoring Chapter. The Master or Matron, as the case may be, shall</p></div>	
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established that such property was disposed of for adequate consideration in order to secure funds to care for such applicant or applicant’s dependent, or said property is re-conveyed to applicant and/or conveyed to Grand Lodge for the use and benefit of the Masonic Home; or said property was/is conveyed to a Particular Lodge and/or Grand Lodge and does not constitute a part greater than thirty-three and one third percent (33 1/3%) of applicants estate. (2000)

(h) Whenever title to real property is being conveyed to the Grand Lodge by any applicant, if requested by the Board of Trustees, and deed shall be accompanied by abstract certified or recertified to date, a title insurance policy in a reputable company designated by or approved by the Grand Master, or other acceptable evidence of title. It shall be the responsibility of the Lodge or Chapter to see that this is provided.

(i) Whenever any papers and documents are to be recorded in the public records of any county or state, such recording shall not be done until the applicant has entered the Home as a Resident thereof.

(j) After six months from the date of entry to the Home of a new Resident, or upon a proper waiver of the six months or in the event of such new Resident’s demise after being admitted to the Home but before the expiration of said six months period, then all property conveyed to the Grand Lodge by such Resident is subject to such disposition as the Grand Lodge or its authority may determine.

If any boats, automobiles, trailers, furniture or any other personal property of whatsoever kind or nature are involved, they should be disposed of as soon as practical and the funds be credited to The Resident Members Trust Account.

7.05 When the Board has approved the admission to the Home of an applicant under the Life Care Plan, the following shall be the procedure to further process the application:

(1) Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees shall deliver to the Legal Advisors of the Board of Trustees said application signed by the Secretary and dated the day of approval.

(2) Said Legal Advisors shall review for legal sufficiency the application and any papers relative to deeds to real estate, personal property, bank saving accounts, insurance policies or anything else accompanying the application.

(3) Said Legal Advisors shall then forward the application with all papers attached with their comments to the Grand Master.

(4) When the Grand Master has satisfied himself that everything is in order he will sign the application and forward to the Administrator with instructions to admit the applicant to the Home as soon as possible.

(5) The Administrator shall notify the sponsoring Lodge ~~or Chapter~~ by letter to bring the applicant and any requirements concerning assets to the Home. If the applicant is not presented within thirty (30) days from date of Administrator’s letter, it will be necessary to file a new application unless the Board extends such time in its discretion.

(6) When the Administrator has completed all of his paper work and secured the information needed for his office, he shall transmit the application along with all official papers to the Grand Secretary for permanent file.

Upon receipt of the notice of approval by the Grand Master, of an applicant for admission to the Home, the sponsoring Lodge ~~or Chapter~~ shall provide transportation to the Home for the applicant and if required, provide attendants, in order that the applicant shall be delivered to the Home at the time designated by the Administrator.

7.06 The responsibility of the Lodge ~~or Chapter~~ for the welfare of a resident admitted to the Home under the Life Care Plan does not cease upon such admission, but is a continuing responsibility, and the Lodge ~~or Chapter~~ must assume full responsibility in any situation when notified thereof by the Board or Administrator.

7.07 All applicants for non-resident relief approved by the Board and the Grand Master shall be on a month to month basis, and shall be certified to the Grand Secretary each month. The Grand Secretary shall make remittances to the applicant or to the one designated by the Board to receive the assistance for the applicant. The Board shall from time to time request the sponsoring Lodge and District Deputy Grand Master to make investigation and to certify to the Board that further assistance is needed. A Lodge having knowledge of any change in the condition of a recipient of relief funds shall immediately report the same to the Board.

7.08 (a) Worthy applicants for Non-Resident Relief are not always indigent. It is the duty of this Board to recover, if possible, the moneys granted for non-resident relief, so that it might be available for those less fortunate.

(b) When the applicant for Non-Resident Relief owns real property or other valuable assets, the Board shall have the authority to require of the applicant security for the repayment for the money granted.

The Board shall exercise this authority upon Masonic principles of right and justice, and shall have full discretion as to the requirement thereof, and the method, time, etc., in the administration of same.

(c) All action by the Board pursuant to Section 7.08 (b) shall be subject to the approval of the Grand Master.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

To: Particular Lodge Delegates
Elected Grand Lodge Officers
Past Grand Masters

Date: February 23, 2008

Pursuant to Chapter 14.12, 2(d) in the Digest of the Masonic Law of Florida, the proposed budget for the 2008 2009 Grand Lodge year is attached. Below are summaries of the expenses anticipated and income needed to fund both the Grand Lodge Administrative Budget (“A” Budget) and the Masonic Home of Florida Budget (“D” Budget) for the Grand Lodge year ending March 31, 2009.

GRAND LODGE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

The proposed Grand Lodge Administrative Budget for 2008 2009 totals \$1,723,218. This is an increase of \$89,794 over the 2007 2008 “A” Budget of \$1,633,424. The major portion of this increase is for roof repairs (\$40,000) and the Florida Mason Publication (\$30,000). Excluding these two figures results in an increase of \$19,794 (1.2% over the previous year). This is primarily a cost of living increase for the employees of Grand Lodge.

Despite our continuing decline in membership and the resulting decrease in funds received from the per capita assessment, the Grand Lodge Administration Budget remains on a sound footing thanks to the increase in per capita passed several years ago.

The Grand Secretary and his staff, along with the Grand Treasurer, are to be commended for the continued efficient, constructive and helpful work they do for us in the operation of Grand Lodge.

MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA BUDGET

The Masonic Home investments showed a slight increase from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, despite several market fluctuations.

The proposed Masonic Home of Florida Budget for 2008 2009 totals \$7,420,472. This is a decrease of \$32,484 over the 2007-2008 “D” Budget of \$7,452,956. Final Revenue figures are not yet available. It is anticipated that when they are, the Transfer from Endowment amount will be reduced from the \$1,125,000 figure reflected under “Projected Income 2008-2009”. These reductions will include “Unexpended Funds” from the 2007-2008 Budget and any additional “Capital Gains” from the Endowment Funds.

The Administrator and her staff, your Junior Grand Warden, and the other Grand Lodge Officers are to be commended on a job well done. They should be congratulated for their efforts in holding the line on the cost of running the Masonic Home, while maintaining the highest quality care possible for our residents.

The Endowment and Investment Committee is to be commended for their diligence and hard work all year long.

Your Grand Lodge Officers will continue to review the proposed budget until our Grand Lodge Communication in May 2008, when the Finance and Accounts Committee will finalize any changes in the revenue and expense figures.

These proposed budgets have been reviewed and recommended by the undersigned members of the Corporate Board of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida, and is presented to the Particular Lodges and their Delegates for consideration and approval.

Respectfully submitted,
s / Robert P. Harry, Jr., M.: W.: Robert P. Harry, Jr., Grand Master
s / Joe A. Fleites, R.: W.: Joe A. Fleites, Deputy Grand Master
s / Dale I. Goehrig, R.: W.: Dale I. Goehrig, Senior Grand Warden
s / J. Dick Martinez, R.: W.: J. Dick Martinez, Junior Grand Warden
s / Elmer G. Coffman, M.: W.: Elmer G. Coffman, P.G.M., Grand Treasurer
s / John R. Givens, M.: W.: John R. Givens, P.G.M.
s / Danny R. Griffith, R.: W.: Danny R. Griffith, P.D.D.G.M.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR "A" GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 2009 APRIL 1, 2008 THRU MARCH 31, 2009		
	INCOME ANTICIPATED 2007-2008	INCOME AVAILABLE 2008-2009
REVENUES:		
CURRENT ASSESSMENTS	647,230	609,532
G.W.N.M.A. @ \$5 EACH INITIATION	7,305	7,305
FEES COLLECTED	900	900
COMPUTER SERVICES	12,917	17,117
SALE OF PUBLICATIONS	29,253	28,287
SALE OF MERCHANDISE	4,519	1,545
MISCELLANEOUS	5,117	5,749
CHECK & SAVINGS INTERESTS	1,946	8,312
PARKING LOT RENT	24,000	28,200
POSTAGE REIMBURSEMENT	10,302	10,807
INVESTMENT INCOME G/L ENDOWMENT	-0-	-0-
GAINS GRAND LODGE ENDOWMENT	-0-	-0-
INVESTMENT INCOME "F" FUND	22,241	18,732
INVESTMENT INCOME BUDGET (CASH MGMT FD)	5,651	6,687
INVESTMENT INCOME "C" RESERVE (CASH MGMT FD)	13,120	-0-
INVESTMENT INCOME CURR REV (CASH MGMT FD)	2	-0-
CASH MGMT GAINS/LOSS	4,287	-0-
SUB TOTAL	788,790	743,173
DUE FROM MASONIC HOME/GRAND LODGE ADMINIS.	513,315	530,045
UNEXPENDED FUNDS	331,319	450,000
FUNDS FROM "F" ACCOUNTS	-0-	-0-
FUNDS FROM STORE	-0-	-0-
PROCEEDS FROM LOAN	-0-	-0-
LESS:		
PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP TRF TO G/L ENDOW.	-0-	-0-
RETURN OF INVESTMENTS TO ENDOWMENT	-0-	-0-
REPAYMENT OF LOAN FROM MASONIC HOME	-0-	-0-
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR "A" GENERAL FUND	1,633,424	1,723,218

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR "A" GENERAL FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 APRIL 1, 2007 THRU MARCH 31, 2008		
	BUDGET 2007-2008	PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009
ADMINISTRATION:		
A-1 GRAND COMMUNICATION EXPENSES:		
101 P/D & MILEAGE REPRESENTATIVES LODGES	57,000	57,000
102 P/D & MILEAGE COMMITTEES	25,000	25,000
103 P/D & MILEAGE GRAND LODGE OFFICERS	18,000	18,000
104 OFFICERS & DDGM'S TO BE INSTALLED	3,577	3,577
119 G.S. PERSONNEL & COURT REPORTER	6,000	6,000
121 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ROOMS	6,000	6,000
122 GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET & LUNCHEONS	19,000	26,000
123 GRAND MASTER'S BANQUET ENTERTAINMENT	400	1,200
125 LADIES ENTERTAINMENT	4,400	5,000
126 AUDITORIUM & BUS RENTAL	2,000	2,000
120 PRINTING, SUPPLIES, RENTALS & OFFICE SPACE	9,000	12,000
TOTAL GRAND COMMUNICATION EXPENSE:	150,377	161,777
A-2 GRAND OFFICERS EXPENSES:		
200 GRAND MASTER	14,800	14,800
201 GRAND MASTER'S SECRETARY	5,600	5,600
202 DEPUTY GRAND MASTER	7,200	7,200
202A DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S SECRETARY	2,800	2,800
203 SENIOR GRAND WARDEN	6,000	6,000
204 JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN	6,000	6,000
205 GRAND SECRETARY	6,000	6,000
206A GRAND TREASURER	6,000	6,000
206 OTHER GRAND LODGE OFFICERS	3,600	3,600
208 D.D.G.M. EXPENSE ALLOWANCE	3,500	3,500
209 D.I. EXPENSE ALLOWANCE	3,500	3,500
207 D.D.G.M. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING	5,200	5,200
211 MASONIC CONFERENCES OF NORTH AMERICA	7,500	9,500
210 SOUTHEASTERN MASONIC CONFERENCE	4,500	4,500
TOTAL GRAND OFFICERS EXPENSE:	82,200	84,200

A-3 EXPENSE OF COMMITTEES:			CAPITAL GAINS FROM "E" FUND	2,044,595	1,014,421
301 CORPORATE BOARD	4,400	4,400	INVESTMENT INCOME "F" FUND (60/64FD)	10,879	5,613
302 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS	800	800	INTEREST CHECKING/SAVINGS (40/50FD)	26,645	23,208
303 MASONIC JURISPRUDENCE	1,500	1,500	INTEREST NOTES RECEIVABLES 50 FD	934	519
303A FOREIGN RELATIONS	800	800	INVESTMENT INCOME "C" FUND	100,423	104,891
304 COMMITTEE ON WORK	3,000	4,000	CAPITAL GAINS/LOSS "C" FUND	5,594	14,439
305 DISTRICT INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL	300	300			
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	INVESTMENT INCOME "C" FUND (CSH MGMT FD	20,102	11,964
	2007-2008	2008-2009	INVESTMENT INCOME BUDGET FUND (CSH MGMT FD)	10,610	12,181
			INVESTMENT INCOME CURRENT REVENUE (CSH MGMT)	-0-	-0-
			CASH MANAGEMENT GAIN/LOSS	8,038	17,917
307 MASONIC EDUCATION	2,500	2,500	INVESTMENT INCOME MH ENDOWMENT FUND, INC.	518,868	517,263
308 PUBLIC EDUCATION & CITIZENSHIP	1,000	1,000	GAINS/LOSS MH ENDOWMENT FUND INC.	920,302	577,880
309 MUSEUM AND HISTORY	1,000	1,000	INT NOTES REC'D/INT CHECK 90 FC	-0-	-0-
310 MASONIC YOUTH ACTIVITY	1,000	1,000			
311 LEGAL ADVISORY PANEL	5,400	5,400	SUBTOTAL	<u>6,973,377</u>	<u>6,302,776</u>
312 WORKSHOP FOR LODGE SECRETARIES/OFFICERS	500	500			
313 PENAL AFFAIRS PANEL	800	2,000	UNEXPENDED FUNDS PREVIOUS YEAR	406,883	-0-
314 MASONIC YOUTH ASSOCIATION	2,000	2,000	TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENTS	-0-	1,125,000
315 MASONIC YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP	11,500	11,500	TRANSFER FROM "F" ACCOUNTS	90,000	0
316 PUBLICITY COMMITTEE	2,000	2,000	LESS:		
319 GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY	500	500	EA INITIATION HOME BLDG. (REG. 14.03)	(7,305)	(7,305)
321 PERPETUAL MEMBERSHIP	200	200	RETURN OF EARNINGS ENDOWMENTS	-0-	-0-
323 INSURANCE COMMITTEE	200	200			
325 G.L. FRATERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE ENDOWMENT	1,000	1,000	SUBTOTAL	<u>7,462,955</u>	<u>7,420,471</u>
328 WARDENS SEMINAR	1,000	1,000			
329 MASONIC MEDICAL RESEARCH LAB	500	500	FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR "D" MASONIC HOME	<u>7,462,955</u>	<u>7,420,471</u>
330 CHILD ID	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>			
<u>TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSE</u>	<u>43,400</u>	<u>45,600</u>	PROPOSED BUDGET FOR "D" MASONIC HOME AND RELIEF FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 - 2009 APRIL 1, 2008 THRU MARCH 31, 2009		
A-4 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE:					
400 SALARY GRAND SECRETARY	51,100	55,000			PROPOSED
402 SALARY GRAND TREASURER	5,512	7,500		BUDGET	BUDGET
403 OTHER SALARIES	423,135	429,482		2007-2008	2008-2009
409A TAXES MED FICA	6,957	7,257	D-1 ADMINISTRATION:		
409 TAXES FICA	29,745	31,030	100 SALARY ADMINISTRATOR	123,600	125,454
410 TAXES UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	2,166	2,166	103 OTHER SALARIES	135,000	137,025
410A WORKERS COMPENSATION INS.	2,068	1,563	409A TAXES MED FICA	3,372	3,806
419 EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE	51,320	44,376	115 TAXES FICA	14,415	16,273
424 EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT FUND	8,566	9,431	114 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	1,166	907
425 EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMIN	5,688	7,269	114A WORKERS COMPENSATION INS.	13,400	5,150
430 TRAINING AND EDUCATION	1,500	1,500	118 EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE	29,204	26,351
416 AUDIT	9,000	9,000	116 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND	3,317	7,486
428 COMPUTER CONSULTANT & MANAGEMENT	40,000	40,000	117 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND ADMIN.	3,421	3,748
418 JEWELS, BADGES, APRONS	33,000	33,000	125 TRAINING AND TUITION	2,000	2,000
413 RELIEF ASSOCIATION DUES	500	500	124 EMPLOYEE INCENTIVES	5,000	5,000
414 MASONIC SERVICE ASSOC. OF U.S.	3,500	3,600	119 EMPLOYMENT RECRUITING	10,000	8,000
421 MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS	6,000	6,000	119A DRUG TEST	4,000	3,000
427 GRAND LODGE LIBRARY	625	625	122 AUDIT	22,000	22,000
432 G.M. CONFERENCE FOREIGN RELATIONS	100	100	108 LEGAL FEES AND EXPENSE	2,500	2,500
415 GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL ASSN.	7,300	7,500	107 TRUSTEE EXPENSE	8,000	8,000
417 OTHER EXPENSE	3,540	4,000	113 DUES/PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS	5,000	6,000
499 DEPRECIATION PROVISION (ART. XIV, SEC. 9)	2,000	2,000	128 COMPUTER CONSULTANT	2,000	2,000
423A OFFICE SUPPLIES & EXPENSE	9,900	9,900	131 MH PUBLICATION	32,000	40,000
			132 ADVERTISING	-0-	3,000
	BUDGET	PROPOSED	123 GRAND LODGE ADMINIS. CHARGES	513,315	530,045
	2007-2008	2008-2009	105 OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,000	6,000
			105A OFFICE EQUIPMENT	2,500	2,000
429 COMPUTER SOFTWARE	10,000	10,000	105B OFFICE EQUIPMENT, LEASE & MAINT.	9,000	10,000
423 COMPUTER SUPPLIES	5,000	5,000	104 POSTAGE AND SHIPPING	5,000	5,000
406 POSTAGE & SHIPPING	40,000	40,000	106 TELEPHONE	28,000	28,000
404 TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH	26,000	36,000	112 TRAVEL EXPENSE	3,500	3,500
408 NEW EQUIPMENT	20,000	20,000	109 FACILITY INSURANCE PREMIUM	600,000	600,000
411 RENTAL/LEASE EQUIPMENT	16,000	23,000	120 LICENSE AUDIT LIFE CARE	500	500
422 REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE OFFICE EQUIPMENT	6,000	6,000	121 LICENSE FEE CITY, COUNTY, STATE	10,000	10,000
405A PRINTING ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS	8,000	8,000	110 LIFE INSURANCE RESIDENT GUESTS	4,500	4,500
405B PRINTING GRAND LODGE PUBLICATIONS FREE	28,000	28,000	111 BURIAL EXPENSE	30,000	25,000
405C PRINTING G/L PUBLICATIONS FOR RESALE	24,000	24,000	130 EMPLOYEE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	<u>2,200</u>	<u>2,200</u>
405D PRINT SHOP	23,000	23,000			
407 FLORIDA MASON PUBLICATION	0	30,000	<u>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE</u>	<u>1,633,910</u>	<u>1,654,445</u>
437 TRAVEL	500	500			
420 INSURANCE PREMIUM	30,000	30,000			
412 BOND PREMIUM GRAND LODGE/LODGES	2,500	2,500		BUDGET	PROPOSED
436 CORPORATE FILING FEE	<u>500</u>	<u>500</u>		2007-2008	2008-2009
<u>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE</u>	<u>942,722</u>	<u>999,299</u>	D-2 DIETARY:		
A-5 GRAND LODGE BUILDING & GROUNDS:			200 SALARY	510,000	522,750
501 ELECTRICITY	20,000	20,000	115A TAXES MED FICA	7,395	7,580
502 WATER AND SEWAGE	3,400	4,500	115 TAXES FICA	31,620	32,411
503 GAS FURNACE/FUEL	3,000	3,000	114 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	3,332	2,722
506 AIR CONDITIONER MAINTENANCE	15,000	15,000	114A WORKERS COMPENSATION INS.	26,428	21,458
512 PLANTS AND LANDSCAPING	1,300	1,700	118 EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE	94,362	77,975
510 JANITORIAL SERVICE	6,250	6,250	116 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND	11,350	13,289
509 SUPPLIES	1,700	1,700	117 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND ADMIN.	4,297	5,550
505 REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE/ALTERATIONS	20,000	60,000	209 TRAINING AND TUITION	500	500
504 INSURANCE	25,000	25,000	208 UNIFORMS	6,000	3,500
511 TAXES: STATE AND COUNTY	<u>16,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>	203 KITCHEN AND DINING ROOM EQUIP.	7,500	7,500
			207 LEASED EQUIPMENT	-0-	-0-
<u>TOTAL G.L. BUILDING & GROUNDS EXPENSE</u>	<u>111,650</u>	<u>153,150</u>	201 STAPLE FOOD	285,000	299,250
			202 REPLACEMENT OF EXPENDABLES	4,000	4,120
SUBTOTAL:	<u>1,330,349</u>	<u>1,444,026</u>	204 PAPER AND PLASTIC SUPPLIES	12,000	14,000
A-6 CONTINGENCY:			205 CLEANING SUPPLIES AND CHEMICALS	11,000	11,000
600 BUDGET RESERVE	<u>264,227</u>	<u>279,192</u>	206 LINEN RENTAL	-0-	-0-
GRAND TOTAL:	<u>1,594,576</u>	<u>1,723,218</u>	<u>TOTAL DIETARY</u>	<u>1,014,784</u>	<u>1,023,605</u>
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR "D" MASONIC HOME AND RELIEF FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 APRIL 1, 2008 THRU MARCH 31, 2009			D-3 NURSING:		
	INCOME	ANTICIPATED	300 SALARIES	1,521,971	1,567,630
REVENUES:	2007-2008	2008-2009	409A TAXES MED FICA	22,070	22,731
RESIDENTS FEE EARNED	1,808,106	1,952,821	115 TAXES FICA	94,362	97,193
PRIVATE PAY	311,692	800,000	114 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION	8,996	8,316
EA INITIATION HOME BUILDING	7,305	7,305	114A WORKERS COMPENSATION INS.	78,866	63,883
MISCELLANEOUS	41,710	39,980	118 EMPLOYEES GROUP INSURANCE	220,993	162,095
OES DECEASED GUEST BALANCE	778	-0-	116 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND	25,886	32,946
RESIDENT GUEST ADMISSION FEE	10,000	8,500	117 EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT FUND ADMIN.	11,487	13,051
GRAND CHAPTER OPERATIONS	133,694	147,504	302 MEDICAL DIRECTOR STIPEND	18,000	19,200
INVESTMENT INCOME "E" FUND	993,102	1,046,371	301 PHYSICIAN CONSULTING SERVICE	60,000	60,000
			306 REQ. SCHOOL TUITION	3,000	3,000
			303 PRESCRIPTION DRUGS	280,000	250,000
			304 MEDICAL SUPPLIES	50,000	45,000
			305 HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT SERVICE	4,000	2,000
			307 MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	8,000	4,000
			308 MEDICAL OFFICE SUPPLIES	5,000	3,500



The Big Picture

but to a bunch of 10 year olds, it seemed like a pretty good idea. There were no limits or restrictions. As long as they kicked the can they would get paid. The kids accepted the offer and began to kick the can. In less than thirty minutes, they became bored. They were paid the money as promised, and went on their way.

A few days later, the psychologist returned to the same group of kids on the same playground carrying the same tin can. This time however, he described a game that involved kicking the can. He explained the rules, the boundaries, how to keep score, how to pick teams, winning, losing, etc. And this time there was no mention of money. The kids agreed to play the game and as it turns out, they played for several hours before being asked to stop. They also agreed to return the next day to play some more.

This story is a great illustration of big picture thinking. In the second scenario game, the kids kicked the can for hours. They enjoyed doing it and even wanted to do more. They knew why they were kicking the can. In essence, they saw the big picture and ran with it literally. In the first scenario there was no big picture – no purpose – only monetary compensation. And as this little story points out, that won't get you very far.

Big picture thinking is critical to fraternal success. It is one of the keys to empowering membership, establishing high trust referral relationships and creating raving fan members. I hear stories about Worshipful Masters who are frustrated with line officers who make the same mistakes over and over again. Not just in ritual work, but with their positions responsibilities. It is not that these people don't "get it." In most cases, it's that they have overlooked the importance of big picture thinking for themselves and for the people around them.

Ironically, most Worshipful Masters and team leaders do see the big picture. In many cases it's their picture, their idea, their vision. Where it usually breaks down is that they think the people around them automatically see it too. Not true. Stop thinking that people can read your mind – they can't. True success occurs when people around you know where you are going and more importantly why you are going there. When that happens, line officers start making good decisions on their own, membership gets on board, and your lodge begins to function as one cohesive unit, moving toward that picture, idea, vision.

The purpose for this is to get you to understand the importance of big picture thinking in three specific areas of our fraternity:

1. internally, with your own line officers;
2. with your membership, your only referral source for new members;
3. with your new members, potential petitioners and members who have been Masons for a short period of time.

Due to the limitations of space, I am not able to go into detail in these areas, so I will just stick to the big picture.

Internal team members your Line Officers, include anyone who is involved in the day to day process/operation of your lodge. From the Junior Steward to the Worshipful Master, the key to incorporating big picture thinking with your team is written duties and responsibilities. "Written" is the operative word here and this simple concept cannot be overstated. Would you believe that the duties and responsibilities for each line officer is already available and described in "Lodge Officers Manual" GL210 available from Grand Lodge?

The basis for effective big picture thinking with respect to our referral source, our membership, is discovering its highest value needs and continually providing solutions to satisfy those needs. Sounds easy enough but in reality it is a challenging process that requires keen communication skills and practice. Do you know what their highest value needs are? Their core values? Their goals and dreams? Figuratively speaking, these things are the canvas on which the big picture is painted. If you want to experience truly higher levels of success, learn what is important to your membership and provide them with ideas and solutions that are meaningful to them. Without the big picture, you and your membership will be doomed to live in the little picture world.

Big picture thinking is crucial at the membership level. For the average member, the process of obtaining a petition can be daunting and complicated. Effective big picture thinking at the member level is simply making sure they under-

stand how to approach a prospective petitioner and complete the petition. In this context, big picture thinking is literally showing the petitioner the process as it pertains to them and their goals. This includes a detailed description of how their petition will progress from start to finish, introductions to all line officers, answers to the frequently asked questions and specifically letting them know what will be required of them and when. Lodges which are successful at getting their membership to see the big picture are usually the ones which are respected by their membership and ultimately have a smoothly operating lodge.

Action Plans: The formula for effective big picture thinking for internal team members, your line officers, is simple – write it down in detail, roll it out to everyone and review it on an on-going basis. For your membership, it's the old cliché- they don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. Learn what is truly important to them, create a dossier for each, and help them to understand the big picture of a meaningful and valuable partnership between you and the membership. By embracing big picture thinking, you will empower your members, you will create high trust relationships with your petitioners, and you will have new participating members for life. Without it, you are just paying people to kick a can around.

To quote Marrianne Williamson and read by Nelson Mandela in his Inauguration Speech, May 1994, *"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking, so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the Glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberate others."*

Brethren, this is how we as a Fraternity, and a Master Mason should have the world at large thinking about us. We need to strive for perfection. Will we ever attain that goal? Probably not, however, there is no reason why we should not strive for perfection.

Fraternally submitted,

J. Dick Martinez,
Junior Grand Warden

The article shown below was compiled by Brother Artur Nistra as a final project in college. He was assigned the project to illustrate his ability to collect the information and layout the article with the subject of his choice. He chose Masonry, and during the research portion of the project, decided Masonry was something he wanted to be a part of, and he is now a Master Mason at Orange Park Lodge No. 267.

Who are the...

FREEMASONS?

by Artur Nistra

That's not a surprising question. Even though Freemasons are members of the largest and oldest fraternity in the world, many people aren't quite certain just who Masons are or what Freemasonry is about.

FREEMASONRY EXPLAINED - WHAT IS IT?

No one knows just how old Freemasonry is because the actual origins have been lost in time. Probably, it arose from the guilds of stone masons who built the castles and cathedrals of the middle ages. Possibly, they were influenced by the knights templar, a group of Christian warrior monks formed in 1118 to help protect pilgrims making trips to the holy land.

In 1717, Freemasonry members created a formal organization in England when the first Grand Lodge was formed. A Grand Lodge is the administrative body in charge of Freemasonry in some geographical area. In the United States, there is a Grand Lodge of Freemasonry in each state and the district of Colombia. In Canada, there is a Grand Lodge of Freemasonry in each province. Local organizations of Freemason are called Lodges. There are Freemasonry Lodges in most towns, and large cities usually have several. There are about 13,200 Lodges in the United States.

THE ANCIENT STONE MASON PERSPECTIVE

Freemasonry draws much imagery from the history and construction of King Solomon Temple (945 BC) by masons from the Phoenician city of Tyre; it seems fanciful to claim direct Stone-Mason links from that era. Nevertheless, skills in the manipulation of stone had been well established by then and had been handed down through the ages and through the hands of many peoples including craftsmen from the Greek, Byzantine and Roman Eras.

Certain present day Masonic words and meanings seem rooted from the time of the early Egyptians of this era: The virtues of truth and justice were said by them to be "on the square". Confucius in 500 B.C. referred to the squareness of actions; even Aristotle in 350 BC associates square actions with honest dealings. The square and its symbolism is very old and has maintained a remarkable consistency of meaning over the centuries. However, it does not necessarily follow that Freemasonry began in those eras any more than trying to assert that Euclid was a Freemason because his 47th Proposition (as shown on the WM's jewel) has relevance in modern Freemasonry!

Legend next informs us that Athelstan, having subjugated most of the minor kingdoms of England, gathered together many skilled masons and established York Rite Masonry in 926 A.D. by granting them a Royal Charter. The charter enabled the stonemasons to meet in general assembly once a year and seems to have been a catalyst for a host of construction projects including numerous abbeys, castles and fortresses. Athelstan's importance to Stonemasons is mentioned in both the Regius and Cooke Manuscripts.

The answer is simple. Freemasons are members of a fraternity known as Freemasonry or Masonry. A fraternity is a group of men (just as a sorority is a group of women) who join together because:

- There are things they want to do in the world.
- There are things they want to do "inside their own minds."
- They enjoy being together with men they like and respect.

THE KNIGHTS' TEMPLAR

Masonic legend and some tradition is borrowed from the fanciful stories of the Knights Templar, an enigmatic and powerful military Order of fighting monks set up by Hugues de Payens in 1118. Their illustrious history has been the subject of numerous fascinating books and their effect upon the course of world history, religion and commerce is much greater than generally recognized. They were also responsible for the erection of many churches (eg Middle Temple on the Embankment in London shown on the left) and the assembly of numerous large estates and would themselves have employed a great many stone masons.

"As every man progresses in life by education, so every Freemason is taught how he can be a better Man"

The Knights Templars ostensible purpose was the protection of pilgrims on their journey from the coastal port of Jaffra to Jerusalem. Initially however, there were too few of them to be an effective escort. In any event, for the first nine years of their existence, they were far too busy purposefully digging under the ruins of King Solomons Temple to be offering any support to Pilgrims. It seems clear that during their excavations they discovered something of immense spiritual or material value for they swiftly became very rich and powerful and enjoyed this position for nearly two hundred years until the fall of the Holy Lands. The Knights Templars were effectively extinguished on Friday 13th October 1307 by King Phillip of France who, broke at the time, stole their lands and possessions (a fate he inflicted upon French Jews two years earlier) and with collusion from the Pope, instructed the Inquisition to torture any Templars he managed to round up to gain evidence to legitimise his grand theft. Many of the fit and able Knights (and their entourage) and most of their wealth managed to escape. It is from their exodus from France and other parts of Europe that much of Masonic folklore stems.

Given a background of organized secrecy, could it have been possible that Stonemasons guilds became convenient, if not unwitting, conduits of social refuge through the ages? Templars, who required

a degree of privacy from State or Church in their thoughts, discussions or travel arrangements would have found stonemasons guilds attractive. History however, contains virtually no written references linking KT and Freemasonry until the 18th C. Most serious historians believe that a link with the Knights Templars only came about through marketing skills displayed by Ramsay in his Oration in 1737 when he attributed (in error) the origins of Freemasonry to Crusaders and the Knights of St John. Ramsay, a talented self-publicist, would have known that such a pedigree was bound to impress the French audience whom he was addressing. Robert Brydon, in his book The Masons and the Rosy Cross, informs us that Alexander Duechar confused the issue still further by his attempts to revive Scottish Templarism and integrating it within the ambit of Freemasonry.

PRINCIPLES

BROTHERLY LOVE is the concern which each Freemason has for his Brother, which is readily shown by tolerance and respect for the beliefs, opinions and practices of his fellows and his willingness to care for his Brother and that Brother's dependants.

RELIEF The Freemason is by nature a charitable man. He will cheerfully and kindly assist those less fortunate (whether Freemasons or not!). He will care for and support his community - local, national and international.

TRUTH The Freemason believes in Truth in all things in honesty and integrity in his personal, business and public life, in fair dealings and in firm standards of decency and morality.

EDUCATION As every man progresses in Life by education so every Freemason is taught how he can be a better Man. For a Mason this is done by a series of degrees - each degree educates him and answers some questions but leaves a door beyond. When the candidate has grasped the teaching of one degree, that door is opened by his progress to the next degree. Freemasonry is believed to have begun its evolution 500 or more years ago among the bands of working, skilled builders known as "Masons".

FREEMASONRY & RELIGION Freemasonry is an ancient and honorable Society. Its principles are just steady standards of life and conduct in a changing world. The practice by the Freemason of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and the other principles of the Craft will go a long way to making a good man better.

A WAY OF LIFE

There are about 4 million Freemasons under more than 100 "regular" Grand Lodges worldwide. Membership of the Craft is open to every respectable man who believes in his personal Supreme Being - usually known in Masonic terms as the Great Architect of the Universe, Grand Geometrician of the Universe or Most High. These descriptive names show the importance the Freemason places on his Supreme Being in the order of things in Life.

Based on the rich historic facts and the promise of real friendship based on solid moral conducts, the author of this humble article joined the fraternity on April of 2007 and since then I had have learn valuable lessons, that will guide me thru life. ■



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Orange Park Lodge No. 267 travels to Springfield Lodge No. 440, Springfield, Georgia



Front Row: l to r: W.: Jack Welkenbach; W.: Charlie Frey; W.: Ronnie Boatright, Worshipful Master, Springfield Lodge No. 440, Springfield, Georgia;
R.: W.: Pat Farrell; R.: H.: Jerry Austin.
Back Row: l to r: R.: W.: Danny Griffith, Grand Marshal; M.: W.: Elmer Coffman Grand Treasurer; R.: W.: Rudy Boatright; W.: Wayne Williams.

Several members of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 traveled to Springfield Lodge No. 440 in Springfield, Georgia to attend the Installation of W.: Ronnie Boatright, who is the twin brother of R.: W.: Rudy Boatright, the present District Deputy Grand Master of District Twelve.
W.: Ronnie Boatright is also a Dual Member of Orange Park Lodge No. 267 and frequently travels from the Savannah area to attend Lodge in Orange Park.

The Florida Mason

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Welcome to the Grand Lodge of Florida



Expect More, Do Not Settle For Less.