ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY

FALL/WINTER 2005
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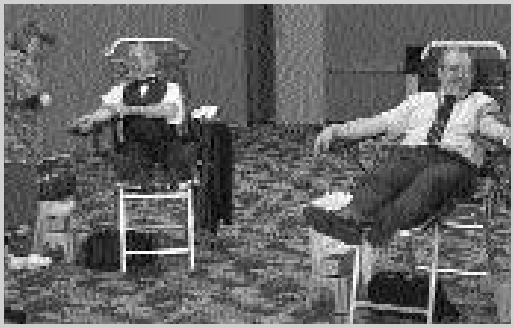
GRAND LODGE SPECIAL REPORT

- ✦ 1,500 assemble in Springfield for 166th Annual Communication
- ✦ M.W. Grand Master Noel C. Dicks outlines his visionary 'wish list'
- ✦ Award of Excellence, Eureka Challenge champions crowned
- ✦ Lifetime Achievement, Mason of the Year, Patriot Awards presented
- ✦ Grand Lodge introduces ILCHIP: new child identification program
- ✦ Coins for Children showcases lodge generosity to local kids

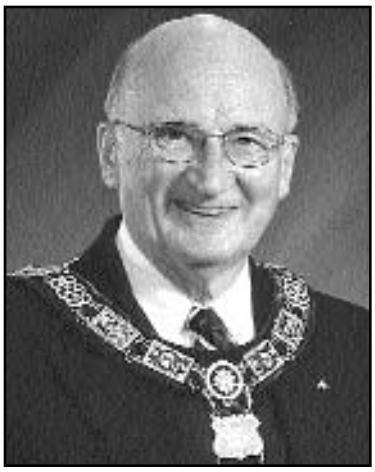


GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

'My Wish List'

I'd like to express my gratitude to the brethren of Illinois for the honor of allowing me to serve as your Grand Master for the ensuing year. I look forward to working with lodges and members to advance the purposes of the Craft in their local communities.

Now, use your imagination for a moment as I present my "wish list." I trust the rationale for each wish will be self-evident and hope you'll agree that, with a little initiative, we can make these wishes come true.



M.W. Bro. Noel C. Dicks
Grand Master of Illinois

I sincerely wish. . .that every lodge be clean inside and out, and appealing to brethren and guests; that every lodge building be well-lighted and identified as such; that local residents are aware of the lodge and, when asked, can provide directions to it; that every temple be maintained so as to make a good impression in the community.

I wish. . .that every lodge could open its meetings and receive the District Deputy Grand Master in proper form; that every lodge be able to confer the Degrees with dignity; that each district host a monthly "Workers' Club" or "Standard Club" to provide a forum for instruction and inter-lodge fellowship; that more members attain proficiency in our ritual and ceremonies and accept the challenge of becoming commissioned instructors.

I wish. . .that every lodge elect a new Worshipful Master each year – without repeats; that every lodge require of its candidates, at the very least, the alternate catechism; that every lodge have a net increase in membership for the year; that every lodge fully investigate the circumstances before suspending a member for nonpayment of dues; that every secretary submit all necessary forms to the Grand Secretary on time; that every lodge have a quorum for each scheduled meeting.

I wish. . .that every lodge invite all new members to meetings on a regular basis; that every lodge offer "non-ritualist" members the opportunity to participate in special projects; that all lodges present an educational or entertaining program at a stated meeting at least once a month; that every lodge pay a group visit to a neighboring lodge that they have not visited before.

I wish. . .that every lodge make a special effort to cultivate Blue Lightning and Festival candidates and invite them to attend meetings, that they may fully enjoy the benefits of membership; that every lodge participate in the Grand Master's Award of Excellence in order to promote unity and harmony among its members; that all lodges participate in Masonic Community Days and thereby present a positive image to the public; that every lodge compete in the Lodge Proficiency program as a challenge to improve its ritualistic work.

I wish. . .that the average member's age be lowered by bringing in young, energetic men; that more lodges utilize the Invitation to Petition program to extend membership to those who mistakenly believe they are not considered worthy because no one ever asked them to join; that more members accept the fact that it is not a Masonic sin to ask a man if he would consider petitioning; that we can now talk openly about Masonry and encourage our sons, grandsons and friends to join our great Fraternity.

I wish. . .that all lodges and members promote public awareness of our charitable endeavors; that wills, trusts, insurance policies and direct donations benefiting our Masonic Foundations increase and that the investment income fully support our Homes and charities.

I wish. . .that more qualified Past Masters realize the tremendous opportunity and satisfaction of serving as a Grand Lodge officer and apply for the position of Junior Grand Deacon.

I wish. . .that every Master Mason live by his obligation.

I wish. . .that all Illinois Masons will join with me as we strive to make our wishes come true.

And my final wish: *May Brotherly Love Prevail!*

On the covers . . .

Front cover: Upwards of 1,500 brethren from lodges across the state gathered in Springfield for the 166th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois A.F. & A.M. Just a few of the venues included (counter-clockwise, from top right): the National Sojourners present the U.S. Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance; Grand Master Noel C. Dicks gives his formal address; the Grand Lodge Procession; brethren balloting on legislative amendments; reception of Illinois Appendant Body dignitaries; the Area Deputy Grand Masters; the Grand Bethel Honored Queen of Illinois Job's Daughters Michelle Rolen; and Masons donating at the Grand Lodge Blood Drive.

Back cover: Blue Lodge officers and members alike enjoy the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge – a chance to renew old acquaintances while making new friends, elect Grand Lodge officers and help set the Craft's course for the future.

Illinois Freemasonry Publishing Schedule

Vol. 12, No. 1 - Winter/Spring 2006
Deadline for submissions: Jan. 15
· General Grand Lodge Programs
· Eureka Challenge Preview
· Informational Features/Lodge News

Vol. 12, No. 2 - Spring/Summer 2006
Deadline for submissions: Apr. 15
· Grand Lodge Program Results to Date
· Masonic Community Days Preview
· Upcoming Grand Lodge Activities

Vol. 12, No. 3 - Summer/Fall 2006
Deadline for submissions: July 15
· Grand Lodge Annual Meeting Preview
· Masonic Community Days Roundup
· Summer Grand Lodge Programs/Events

Vol. 12, No. 4 - Fall/Winter 2006
Deadline for submissions: Oct. 15
· Grand Lodge Annual Meeting Report
· Lodge Award Recipient Profiles
· New Programs/Event Schedules

In the case of late submission requests, please contact the Editor prior to submitting such content for publication.

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Bro. Nelson A. Ferry, Sr.

Grand Lodge Photographer
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ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY

FALL/WINTER 2005

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1,500 gather in Springfield for 166th meeting of Grand Lodge

Brethren from the 550 lodges across the state gathered in Springfield Oct. 7-8 for the 166th Grand Lodge of Illinois Annual Communication and the election and installation of their newest Grand Master, Bro. Noel C. Dicks of Arthur Lodge No. 825.

Held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Worshipful Masters and Senior and Junior Wardens from each Constituent Lodge had the opportunity to elect Grand Lodge officers, including Past Grand Master David W. Miller as Grand Treasurer and Senior Grand Deacon Terry L. Seward as Junior Grand Warden, the traditional starting point in the advancing line to eventually be elected Grand Master. Members also heard reports on Grand Lodge initiatives, voted on by-law amendments, acknowledged award recipients and socialized with each other and Grand Lodge officers.

Wor. Master Keith Welling of Newton Lodge No. 216 receives the Grand Master's Award of Excellence Golden Trowel Award Traveling Trophy.

There was an overwhelming response to the Masonic Blood Drive held in conjunction with the meeting, with 64 members and ladies presenting themselves to donate, compared to 37 last year. A total 53 units were collected and there were 36 new donors compared to 24 last year. Each donor will receive a lapel pin and donor card pending receipt of a finalized list.

Bro. Tom Lucchesi, Blood Sharing Committee Chairman, observed that, as a group, Masons are among Illinois' largest blood donors and that each unit can save up to three lives. "The Central Illinois Community Blood Center was most grateful to the Masonic fraternity for donating these lifesaving gifts," he noted.

Newton, Trio lodges awarded trophies

Newton Lodge No. 216 received the 2005 Grand Master's Award of Excellence Statewide Golden Trowel Traveling Trophy for meeting the most criteria in the annual program that sets performance requirements spanning a host of Masonic, community, social, educational and charitable activities. All Award of Excellence recipients received certificates.

In addition, Oriental Lodge No. 33 received the State Champion Award in the Lodge Officers' Proficiency Competition and Trio Lodge No. 57 received the State Champion Pythagoras Traveling Trophy in the Eureka Challenge (see page 5 for Round #3 results).

2005 Grand Master's Award of Excellence Recipients

Statewide

Newton No. 216	4S

Area

Pleiades No. 478	Northeastern
Arthur No. 825	Eastern
Alpha No. 155	Western
Newton No. 216	Southern
Wilmington No. 208	Northern

Northeastern Area

Euclid No. 65	14NE
Rising Sun No. 115	2NE
Millburn No. 127	1NE
Old Glory No. 141	9NE
Dundee No. 190	17NE
LaMoille No. 270	12NE
North West No. 271	6NE
Palatine No. 314	3NE
Triune No. 422	13NE
Pleiades No. 478	9NE
Monitor Lounsbury No. 522	4NE
Calumet No. 716	12NE
Ravenswood No. 777	5NE
Ben Hur No. 818	4NE
Riverside No. 862	10NE
St. Cecilia No. 865	5NE
Wilmette Park No. 931	7NE
Integrity No. 997	5NE
Lombard No. 1098	14NE
Villa Park No. 1113	15NE
Clarence P. Schwarz No. 1163	8NE
Neighbor No. 1169	12NE
Evergreen Park No. 1171	11NE

Northern Area

McHenry No. 158	5N
Star in the East No. 166	3N
Wilmington No. 208	18N
Horicon No. 244	7N
Raven No. 303	11N
Walnut No. 722	15N

Eastern Area

Bloomington No. 43	6E
Prairie No. 77	15E
DeWitt No. 84	10E
Arthur No. 825	14E
Villa Grove Camargo No. 885	14E
Normal No. 673	6E

Southern Area

Vienna No. 150	19S
Newton No. 216	4S
Cobden No. 466	18S
Columbia No. 474	12S
Herrins Praire No. 693	16S
May No. 718	15S
Gothic No. 852	5S
West Salem No. 866	8S

Western Area

Alpha No. 155	5W
Gillespie No. 214	20W
T. J. Picket No. 307	4W

Meritorious Award

Oriental No. 33	5NE
Sequoit No. 827	1NE
Wayfarers No. 1001	7NE
Argo-Summit No. 1133	10NE
Empire No. 126	2E
Mattoon No. 250	18E
South Macon No. 467	13E
Nunda No. 169	5N
Rock Falls No. 936	10N

Honorable Mention Award

Hesperia No. 411	6NE
Prophetstown No. 293	10N
Dunlap No. 321	10N
Rock River No. 612	10N
Erie No. 667	10N
O'Fallon No. 576	10S
Hardin No. 44	11W

Address of Grand Master David W. Miller, Grand Master's Banquet, Oct. 7, 2005, honoring Masonic members of the Armed Forces in Illinois as Recipients of the Great American Patriot Award

The United States and its allies have been engaged in combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq for the past 3-1/2 years. A large number of the troops called on to participate in both fields of operation were National Guard units from across America. Illinois was no exception.

Over the 2-1/2 years the U.S. has been engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq, several Illinois units have been activated and have been engaged in combat. One such unit is the 1544th Transportation Battalion of the Illinois National Guard based in Paris, Illinois.

The 1544th was placed on active duty in December 2003, and returned home to east central Illinois in late February 2005.

During that time, they suffered very heavy casualties. Five members lost their lives defending us and the citizens of Iraq. They were Spec. Charles R. Lamb, Sgt. Shawna M. Morrison, Sgt. Ivory Phipps, Spec. Jeremy Ridlen and Spec. Jessica Cawvey.

Staff Sgt. Bro. Raymond Keith Butler was presented with the 2005 Great American Patriot Award on behalf of all Illinois brethren serving in the Armed Forces.

The recipient of this year's Great American Patriot Award has been a member of the Illinois National Guard for 12-1/2 years. This brother was born in Killeen, Texas, in 1974. He became a member of the Illinois National Guard in 1993, at the age of 18.

He was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason in Prairie Lodge No. 77 in Paris, Illinois, on April 22, 2000.

Here tonight, representing all of the Masons who are members of the Armed Forces from Illinois, to receive the Great American Patriot Award on their behalf is Staff Sgt. and Brother Raymond Keith Butler.

Brethren honored for exceptional service to the Craft

R.W. Bro. Dr. William E. Alwerdt received the Mason of the Year Award for 2005.

He was raised in George A. Sentel Lodge No. 764 in 1990 at the age of 58, where he served as Master in 1994. He has been lodge secretary since 1999.

He was commissioned a Certified Lodge Instructor in 1995 and a Grand Lecturer in 1997, and has served as a Grand Lodge Instructor since 1998. He travels central Illinois whenever requested to provide instruction. In the past five years, he has driven 130 miles round trip every month to the 15th Eastern District Workers' Club to teach in a district where no instructor is available.

He has been a member of the Board of Managers of the Illinois Masonic Foundation since 1996. He was appointed a Grand Steward by Past Grand Master Sullins and served during his term.

Since 2003, he has served in the key role of coordinating Grand Lodge ceremonies as Grand Marshal, handling 32 events during the past two years as well as scheduling the Grand Master's and Junior Grand Warden's receptions.

Bro. Alwerdt has accomplished all this while working full-time in his dental practice in Sullivan and playing frequent rounds of golf. He epitomizes the expression, "If you want a job done right, find a busy person to do it."

R.W. Bro. Mohsen G. Modaressi received the Lifetime Achievement Award for 2005.

He was raised in Sincerity Lodge No. 982 in 1967, which consolidated with Providence No. 711 in 1968. He became a plural member of Evans No. 524 in 1984, King Oscar No. 855 in 1993 and North West No. 271 in 1999. He served as Master of Providence Lodge in 1983 and Evans Lodge in 1986.

He has been a member of the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago since 1980, where he holds the Meritorious Service Award and is an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council 33rd Degree.

He is a member of the National Sojourners and was appointed a Grand Steward for the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1990-91. He served as Chairman of the Masonic Homes Endowment Committee in 1991-92, and has been the Grand Representative to the Grand Lodge of Iran in Exile since 1983.

Commissioned a Grand Lecturer in 1993, he has been the instructor for several lodges in the Northeastern Area, helping one of his lodges, North West Lodge No. 271, win first place in the State Lodge Officers Competition in 2003.

But Bro. Modaressi is best known around Chicago for his work with veterans. Beginning in 1983, he has served as a Masonic Service Association Representative in the Hospital Visitation Program in Chicago, and since 2001, has served as State Coordinator for that program.

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL MEETING

Bro. Terry L. Seward of Horeb Lodge No. 363 elected Junior Grand Warden

Born in Canton, lll., on May 7, 1947, Terry Seward resides in Canton with his wife of 35 years, Letha. They have two sons, Troy, who lives in Canton, and Ward, who lives in Elgin. They are proud grandparents of one granddaughter, Ami, and one grandson, Quincy.

Terry received his formal education in the Canton public schools. After high school, he went to work for Caterpillar Tractor Co. in Peoria in 1965 and worked there one year before enlisting in the Army. He served on active duty 1966-69 as a combat medic and EKG technician, and was a cardiovascular technician when honorably discharged.

He then returned to Caterpillar and worked in various positions, retiring in 1996. He has since worked for Seward Construction in Canton, currently as corporate secretary.

Raised as a Master Mason at Horeb Lodge No. 363 in Elmwood, Ill. on Aug. 31, 1983, he took his first chair as Junior Steward in 1985, served as Master in 1991 and as Secretary for four years. He became a plural member of Morning Star Lodge No. 734 in Canton in 1994, served as Master in 1999 and currently serves as Secretary.

He was commissioned a Certified Lodge Instructor in May 1991, as a Grand Lecturer in November 1992 and appointed to the Board of Grand Examiners in October 1994, serving until October 1995, when he resigned because of family health problems. Reappointed to the Board of Grand Examiners in October 1998, he served as Chairman during 2004 and was appointed Senior Grand Deacon later that year.

Bro. Seward is a member of Eureka Chapter No. 98 Royal Arch Masons in Yates City, where he served as High Priest twice; a member of Illinois Council No. 1, Cryptic Masons, in Knoxville; Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of Peoria; Mohammed Shrine in Peoria; and St. Helena Conclave, Order of the Red Cross of Constantine.

Grand Lodge Officers for 2005-2006

M.W. Grand Master . . . . . .Noel C. Dicks
Arthur Lodge No. 825

R.W. Deputy Grand Master . . . . . .Daniel C. Yandel
Walnut Lodge No. 722

R.W. Senior Grand Warden . . . . . .Rick Swaney
Vienna Lodge No. 150

R.W. Junior Grand Warden . . . . . .Terry L. Seward
Horeb Lodge No. 363

R.W. Grand Treasurer . . . . . .David W. Miller
South Macon Lodge No. 467

R.W. Grand Secretary . . . . . .Benny L. Grisham
Springfield Lodge No. 4

R.W. Grand Chaplain . . . . . .Greg Clark
Bloomington Lodge No. 43

R.W. Grand Orator . . . . . .Martin P. Starr
Oriental Lodge No. 33

W. Deputy Grand Secretary . . . . . .Franklin E. Cline
Jacksonville Lodge No. 570

W. Grand Pursuivant . . . . . .G. Robert Stahl
Centennial Lodge No. 747

W. Grand Marshal . . . . . .William E. Alwerdt
George A.Sentel Lodge No. 764

W. Grand Standard Bearer . .Charles W. Fleming Jr.
Mattoon Lodge No. 260

W. Grand Sword Bearer . . . . . .Walter E. Davison
Chatham Lodge No. 523

W. Senior Grand Deacon . . . . . .Barry D. Weer
Bloomington Lodge No. 43

W. Junior Grand Deacon . . . . . .Anthony R. Cracco
Landmark Lodge No. 422

W. Grand Steward . . . . . .Kenneth N. Overturf
East Lodge No. 504

W. Grand Steward . . . . . .Jay Sade
Herman Lodge No. 39

W. Grand Steward . . . . . .A. William Swope
Peotone Lodge No. 636

W. Grand Steward . . . . . .James O. Thompson
East Lodge No. 504

Bro. Grand Tyler . . . . . .William L. Coe
Carlock Lodge No. 904

Bro. Asst. Grand Tyler . . . . . .Joseph A. Ward
Comet Lodge No. 641

Grand Historian . . . . . .R.T. "Jack" Gladin Jr.
Effingham Lodge No. 149

Grand Organist . . . . . .Thomas R. Osborne Jr.
West Englewood Home Lodge No. 1074

Assistant Grand Organist . . . . . .Jackson D. Cline
Russell Lodge No. 154

R.W. Grand Treasurer Emeritus . . . .Roy L. Wyckoff
Bodley Lodge No. 1

R.W. Grand Secretary Emeritus . . . . . .Robert Kalb
Springfield Lodge No. 4

Grand Chancellor . . . . . .Howard L. Graff
Oriental Lodge No. 33

Results of Proposed By-law and Constitutional Amendments at Grand Lodge

PASSED

Code 139 F - Allows title of Certified Lodge Instructor Emeritus to be granted to certain Certified Lodge instructors.

Code 422 B-F - Deletes codes relating to Grand Master's Lodge.

Code 123 I - Allows reduction of lodge annual reports to one copy for lodge records with electronic copy kept in Grand Secretary's office.

Code 132 - Relates to DDGM rights, privileges and discipline.

Code 166 B, C & E - Deletes codes which allowed the Grand Master to charge for dispensations.

Code 183 - Increases mileage reimbursement from $.20 to $.30/mile.

Code 289 - Requires only one signer of Invitation to Petition to have known the proposed candidate for two years or more.

Code 291 - Requires only one of the three signers of a petition for membership to be a member of lodge being petitioned. Other two must be members of lodge under jurisdiction of our Grand Lodge.

Code 325 - Requires five members of a lodge to be present and voting to ballot on a petition. Previously seven were required.

Code 355 - Allows a Senior or Junior Warden of a lodge to resign from his office without requesting a dispensation from the Grand Master to resign. (A dispensation for a special election is required to replace the Warden.)

Code 399 - Allows requests for dispensations to confer degrees to be requested without utilizing seal of the lodge.

Code 421 - Changes spelling of "indorsed" to "endorsed."

PROPOSALS to change Codes 103 A, 105 A, 125, 186 A, 189, 215, 221, 269, 333, 355, 357, 366, 435 and 442 received the required 20 seconds and will be held over until next year.

PROPOSALS to amend Articles No. 2 R, 15 and 16 of the Constitution were seconded and a ballot will be sent to the lodges for a vote.

EUREKA CHALLENGE

2005 State Championship awarded at Grand Lodge

Questions for 2006 competition on Grand Lodge Constitution and By-laws

Five Area Champions squared off in the final round of the Eureka Challenge in the Springfield Hilton on Fri., Oct. 7, at Grand Lodge. Vying for State Champion were the top lodges from each area: Blue Mound No. 682 (E), Trio No. 57 (N), Flat Rock No. 348 (S), Pleiades No. 478 (NE), and Rushville No. 9 (W).

When the final scores were tallied, Trio Lodge No. 57 claimed the Pythagoras Traveling Trophy with a score of 100 and a crisp time of 4:50.

The 2005 Eureka Challenge State Champion, Trio Lodge No. 57, receives the Pythagoras Traveling Trophy from Grand Master David W. Miller, including Ronald Fullerlove, Chris Cowles, Neal Bunce and Leroy Dost. Other third-round team members not pictured included Gary Morrison, Kevin Farmer and Don F. Farmer.

Grand Master David W. Miller praised all the teams' efforts and encouraged every lodge to try the fun and enlightening Masonic knowledge proficiency game.

He noted, "The questions for 2006 will be on Grand Lodge Code, including the by-laws and constitution, an often overlooked subject that every lodge should become more familiar with. With greater participation than ever before, next year's competition promises to be educational as well as entertaining."

The Lodge Programs Committee, which coordinates the Eureka Challenge, reminded lodges of several changes and improvements based on suggestions and feedback.

How to enter: Due to high participation levels, entry forms have been eliminated. Lodge secretaries will be mailed a packet of 1st round materials by mid-January. A lodge must conduct Round #1 no later than March 31 and mail completed materials postmarked no later than March 31, 2006. Lodges not wishing to participate may keep materials for future educational use.

2005 ROUND #3 RESULTS

Name & number	*Area*	*Score*	*Time*
Trio 57	**N**	**100**	**4:50**
Pleiades 478	**NE**	**100**	**7:58**
Blue Mound 682	**E**	**90**	**5:22**
Flat Rock 348	**S**	**90**	**11:52**
Rushville 9	**W**	**85**	**8:43**

Scoring: +5 points will be awarded for each correctly answered question, with zero points for incorrect or unanswered questions. Maximum score is 100 (20 questions x 5 points). There will be no points deduction for incorrect answers. Winners will be determined by 1) score, 2) time, and 3) days (date conducted vs. postmark).

Question format: A pool of 100 all-new questions will be used in each round to keep the game challenging and educational. In response to lodge requests, topics for each round will pertain to a specific aspect of Masonry and will be announced in advance so members may study subject matter beforehand. Questions for each round are drafted by a "Eureka Challenge Scholar" who is an authority on that subject. At the discretion of the Master, visiting brethren may also participate on behalf of a lodge.

Answer keys: Following conclusion and publication of the results of each round, participating lodges will be mailed their used cards along with an answer key to enable them to see which questions they got right or wrong, thus allowing for follow-up discussion and an educational activity.

Topics for 2006: The theme of the questions next year is "Grand Lodge of Illinois Constitution and By-Laws." Round #1 will focus on the section of the Grand Lodge Code dealing with lodge by-laws; Round #2 the section on Masonic discipline; and Round #3 on the Grand Lodge by-laws and constitution. Amendments passed at the 2005 Annual Communication will be included. Every lodge should have a copy of the Grand Lodge Constitution and By-laws book. To obtain additional copies, contact the Grand Secretary's office.

New website: Linked to the Grand Lodge website, www.eurekachallenge.com serves as a central resource for scores, instructions, rules and winners. Participants should check the site periodically.

Forward inquiries or suggestions to: eurekachallenge@msn.com.

COINS FOR CHILDREN

Lodges continue important legacy of helping local youth

For the 2004-2005 year, the Coins for Children Program matched $8,673.60 contributed by 32 lodges supporting local youth, a 4 percent increase over the prior fiscal year and averaging $260 per participating lodge or $220 per application approved.

Lodges receiving matching funds provided financial support for school and city playground equipment, books and equipment for school libraries, educational enrichment camps, educational and enrichment experiences for underprivileged children, substance-free post-prom parties, transportation costs for student ambassador programs, national competitions and medical expenses.

Seventeen lodges provided copies of local publicity, and the program received thank you notes from several individuals and organizations.

A total of 129 lodges, two appendant bodies and nine individuals contributed $11,329, an increase of 2.4 percent from the previous year. The last three years' contributions ($31,515) have exceeded the corresponding matching dollars ($28,075) by 12.3 percent. In reviewing applications during the forthcoming year, two major considerations will be that the lodge has a fundraising activity other than donations and supports a youth or program different from one previously supported.

"The committee expresses its appreciation to the lodges and brethren whose ongoing support makes this special program possible," said Bro. Jim Grimm, who is retiring as Coins for Children Chairman after seven years.

"Coins for Children exemplifies the good things Masons do in the community by focusing resources on assisting local youth. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of many children and fulfilled one of the tenets of Masonry. My hope is that every participant will continue to embrace the Coins for Children Program wholeheartedly."

2004-2005 Coins for Children Lodge Applications Approved

Lodge Name & No.	Amt.	Recipient	Purpose
Bodley No. 1	$500	Randy Royalty Family	Assist medical costs for 3 children afflicted with Batten disease
Temperance No. 16	$400	Vandalia Head Start Program	Purchase clothing for underprivileged children
Hancock No. 20	$373	WOW Park	Assist repairs and improvements at Community Children's Park
Cass No. 23	$50	Beardstown Minor League Softball	Purchase softball equipment for girls' minor league softball
DeWitt No. 84	$300	Dr. Donald Gordon	Assist with eye exams and glasses for underprivileged children
Metropolis No. 91	$400	Metropolis Public Library	Purchase children's books
Mackinaw No. 132	$250	Mackinaw District Library	Purchase children's books
Old Glory No. 141	$500	Children's Oncology Services	Enable children with cancer-related diseases to attend camps
Alpha Lodge No. 155	$343	Coldbrook Christian Church Youth Group	Assist underprivileged children attend summer camp
Staunton No. 177	$25	Mt. Olive Post-Prom Committee	Support post-prom party
La Harpe No. 195	$100	People to People: Mercedes Seats	Assist expenses: People to People Student Ambassador to U.K.
Gillespie No. 214	$50	Gillespie High School Post-Prom Cmte	Support post-prom party
	$250	Gillespie Welfare Park	Purchase playground equipment for city park
Newton No. 216	$100	Sunrise Youth Center	Replace worn-out sports equipment
	$100	Kids' Fair: Amanda Bain & Vaneta Andrews	Support underprivileged children to attend "Kids Camp"
	$300	Jasper County "CHILD" Program	Purchase clothing and school supplies for needy children
Pana No. 226	$500	Pana Community Soccer League	Purchase equipment for Pana Soccer League
Prophetstown No. 293	$200	Unit District No. 3	Purchase books for high school library
Hermitage No. 356	$412	Albion Public Library	Purchase computer for children using library
Mendon No. 449	$50	Unity High School Post-Prom Committee	Support post-prom party
Maroa No. 454	$200	Maroa Youth League Equipment/Supplies	Purchase equipment and supplies for Maroa Youth League
	$200	Maroa Forsyth Grade School	Purchase art materials for grade school art classes
Cobden No. 466	$75	Cobden High School: FFA Chapter	Assist in formation and activities of new FFA Chapter
Gordon No. 473	$200	Don Bosco Children's Center	Purchase clothing for orphans
Pleiades No. 478	$500	Jeremy Johnson Medical Fund	Assist with medical costs for Jeremy Johnson
Cuba No. 534	$500	Cuba Cub Scout Pack #102	Purchase Pinewood Derby Track
Virginia No. 544	$300	Jenny Marr Dunaway Memorial Park	Purchase concrete ball diamond pavilion floor
	$200	Summer Daze Youth Program	Support locally sponsored learning program for youth
Plum River No. 554	$25	Stockton High School Post-Prom Cmte	Support post-prom party
	$25	Warren High School Post-Prom Cmte	Support post-prom party
Princeton No. 587	$100	People to People: Adrienne Kunkel	Assist expenses: People to People Student Ambassador Europe
Herrin's Prairie No. 693	$48	Herrin Fire Department	Assist with fire safety education program for children
Hutton No. 698	$100	Fraternal Order of Police #88	Assist "Shop with a Cop Program" for underprivileged children
Morning Star No. 734	$500	Lincoln School Supporters	Purchase playground equipment for Lincoln School
Crete No. 763	$100	Crete-Monee M.S. Odyssey of Mind Team	Support participation in national competition in Boulder, Colo.
Potomac No. 782	$50	Potomac Library	Purchase books for children's summer activity
Frank N. Nicol No. 1070	$35	Daisy Troop No. 605	Purchase uniforms and badges for underprivileged Girl Scouts
Grandville No. 1093	$113	Grandville Lodge No. 1093	Pizza party for Natl. Honor Roll students at Putnam Cty. H.S.
Pontoon Beach No. 1177	$200	Granite City High School	Assist high school student activity funding

ILCHIP PROGRAM

Illinois lodges asked to help launch new child I.D. & recovery service

The Grand Lodge of Illinois is joining 14 other Grand Lodges in implementing one of the country's most comprehensive child recovery and identification programs using the MASONICHIP system developed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Known here as ILCHIP, lodge coordinators are needed to develop the skills and volunteer network necessary to raise abduction awareness and prevention by conducting events in their local communities.

At an ILCHIP event, each child progresses through several stations, which takes a total of about 10 minutes. Masons help generate complete child identification packages that are then given to the parent to take home for safekeeping (we retain nothing but the permission form).

Parents are reminded to take the packages on trips and vacations so it can be immediately provided to authorities to aid in recovery of a missing child.

No charge to parents – ILCHIP is provided free of charge to the public. All of the identifying items generated during the event are given to the child's family.

Toothprint dental impression – Teeth, like fingerprints, are unique. Even with a child who is losing and gaining teeth, a dental imprint gives accurate and important information for identification purposes.

DNA sample – Cheek cells in saliva provide DNA, which can uniquely identify anyone. Saliva also provides a trace scent that tracking dogs can use to find lost children.

Color photo – Amber Alert is in operation in Illinois. A color photo can be circulated by police to the media statewide within two hours of an abduction.

Fingerprints – Perhaps the best-known tool for investigation and identification, everyone's fingerprints are unique, and resourceful parents should keep a set for each child on hand should the need arise.

Recorded interview – A brief video interview is invaluable to an investigator. The ILCHIP interview captures the appearance, speech, mannerisms and important personal characteristics of a child. This interview, which can be quickly distributed via the media, is the cornerstone tool of ILCHIP.

Brethren interested in protecting kids in their community should volunteer to serve as a lodge coordinator by contacting their District Deputy.

For general program information visit www.masonichip.org or contact ILCHIP Chairman Cary Willis at: willis_cary@hotmail.com.

Rainbow Girls seek charitable support, greater Masonic involvement

The 2005-2006 Grand Worthy Advisor for Illinois Rainbow Girls is Miss Vicky Wehrli. She comes from a Masonic family. Her grandfather, Paul Skirha, was a strong supporter of the Masonic youth groups. His son was a Boy Builder, and when the Builders was no longer is existence, he turned his interests to DeMolay. His daughters also were members of Rainbow and he actively supported their involvement and that of his granddaughters for the rest of his life.

This year, Vicky is asking the Rainbow Girls to work for the American Kidney Fund, which she has chosen as her Grand Charity. The girls raised money to have their logo appear in the American Kidney Fund calendar, which is distributed worldwide.

Illinois Rainbow's Victoria Wehrli, Grand Worthy Advisor 2005-2006, urges Masons and lodges across the state to support Rainbow Girls and their charitable causes.

In addition to having the Rainbow Girls' logo in the calendar, the American Kidney Fund invited Vicky to speak at a dinner in Washington, D.C., honoring the young artists whose pictures were selected to appear in the calendar.

It was a wonderful opportunity for Vicky to raise awareness of Rainbow Girls and their good works. In addition to the calendar, money will be collected to help send young kidney patients to camp for a week. It costs $700 for each youngster to attend camp.

Vicky asks all Illinois lodges and Masons to support Illinois Rainbow as they celebrate their 75th Grand Assembly session July 7-9, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield.

For session or charity information, visit www.iliorg.org, or e-mail: Mrs. Marie Renda, Supreme Worthy Associate Advisor and Supreme Inspector in Illinois, at mamarenda@aol.com.

Young Masons' musical event helps hurricane victims

Upon seeing the overwhelming need for assistance by victims of Hurricane Katrina, brethren from Oriental Lodge No. 33 decided to use their resources to sponsor a benefit event on Oct. 2, 2005, at the nightclub Subterranean in Chicago.

With proceeds going to the Salvation Army's hurricane relief effort, Bros. Howard Crawford, 1st Ward Alderman Manuel "Manny" Flores and musician John Haines coordinated an evening of jazz, hip hop and rock/pop performances that also served as a Masonic Community Awareness event. The bands and vocalists who donated their talents and time helped raise upwards of $1,000 for hurricane survivors.

Masonic hurricane benefit fundraiser supporters, from left: Fabian Perez, Howard Crawford, Robert Gomez (club owner), Manuel "Manny" Flores, Todd Newton, Clayton Roberson and John Haines.

Other sponsors included State Rep. Maria A. "Toni" Berrios and Subterranean club owner Robert Gomez, as well as Altavista graphics, which provided printing services.

The evening's performers included Rachel Charson, jazz vocalist (rachelcharson.com); Paul Kogut, jazz band (www.paulkogut.com); CleanRay, five-piece rock-and-roll band (www.myspace.com/cleanray), Marizen, power-pop band (www.marizen.com), Simmering, modern rock band formed by Bro. John Haines of Oriental Lodge (www.geocities.com/simmeringtheband) and FiveStar Boogie Dancers, dance group specializing in urban styles (www.fivestarboogie.com).

Brethren trek to Katrina, Rita relief areas

Distance proved no obstacle for members of Flat Rock Lodge No. 348, led by Past Master Don Goupil, who traveled to hurricane-stricken areas in early October to deliver supplies to needy victims.

Upon their arrival in Southaven, Miss., to drop off a portion of their 18 tons of goods, they were redirected to southwest Louisiana, namely, Lake Charles, Cameron, Sulphur and then east of Port Arthur, Texas.

While they were enroute to Bay St. Louis, Miss., to perform reconstruction work, hurricane Rita came through and devasted everything west of New Orleans for a second time. The brethren camped there and worked a full week using chainsaws and their own equipment despite no electricity, water, phones, gas stations or grocery stores.

Ambassadors for Christ Worldwide Missions Inc., which has offices in Biloxi, Southhaven and DeQuincy, La., accepted their supplies, including water and nonperishables and distributed these throughout the Gulf area. Also assisting were Brother Nobles from Jersualem Shrine (La.) and Joppa Shrine (Miss.).

The Illinois brethren transported the remaining nine tons of supplies to Louisiana and checked in with the members of Sulphur Lodge No. 424, where the temple's roof had been completely blown off. Working in 100 percent humidity the entire week, the team of 11 Illinois brethren worked to make repairs, even losing one member who had to return home after suffering heat exhaustion.

Everyone receiving assistance was most grateful, with many non-Masons expressing amazement that men could go to such exhaustive lengths on a volunteer basis to help others – especially strangers in neighboring states.

Responded Bro. Goupil, "That's what Masons do, and they've passed that behavior down through the generations. If you were one of us, you'd see that charitable tradition of brotherly love in action first-hand all the time."

Masonic Hurricane Relief Fund Information

A Sept. 2, 2005, memo from the Grand Secretary's office reminded all lodge secretaries that Masonic hurricane relief funds are being coordinated by the Masonic Service Association on behalf of the Grand Lodges of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Until further notice, because the full extent of the damage is still undetermined, donations will be divided equally between those three Grand Lodges. (There is a separate appeal for Florida.)

Specific gifts will go to the Grand Lodge designated. Other gifts will be divided equally among the three Grand Lodges.

All contributions in whatever amount from Grand Lodges, lodges, individuals or appendant bodies will be gratefully acknowledged in writing by the Masonic Service Association.

Checks should be sent to:

MSA Disaster Relief Fund
8120 Fenton St., Suite 203
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785

For further information, contact the MSA at (301) 588-4010 or via e-mail at: msana@ix.netcom.com.

'Podcaster' harnesses popular audio format to promote Craft

What is being called a new worldwide voice in Masonic media originates right here in Illinois. Bro. Eric Diamond of Oriental Lodge No. 33 (Chicago) has started X-Oriente, the first Podcast dedicated to Masonic issues and philosophy while promoting understanding and appreciation of the Fraternity.

A Podcast is audio content that can be downloaded to a computer or iPod audio player for listening whenever the user wishes. The format is similar to audio books but the content is refreshed periodically, more like a magazine.

Why an audio show about Masonry? "I realized that while some lodges struggle to survive, there are others that are thriving," said Diamond. "My background is in communication, design and technology, and I thought that this was a medium that could bring together younger, more technology-oriented brethren."

After Bro. Diamond purchased digital audio equipment and learned how to record on the computer, his Podcast was born: "X-Oriente: the New Voice of Brotherhood." He was encouraged to find that the audience was not just national but global, with listeners logging on from nearly every continent. So far, the audience spans India, Brazil, Japan, Australia, Europe, Poland and Tanzania.

Such a diverse audience is both a privilege and a responsibility, because content must be relevant not only to Illinois Masons, but to Freemasons everywhere. Currently, most of the interviews feature brethren from Illinois since Bro. Diamond resides here, although he hopes to expand the program beyond that.

There are three episodes already available. Episode #1 explores what makes a man worthy and well-qualified. Episode #2 covers what Masonry offers young men today. Episode #3 is an Illinois Grand Lodge Special, featuring an interview with Past Grand Master David W. Miller. The fourth episode will examine the effect of the Dan Brown novels on public perceptions of Masonry.

The website is www.xoriente.com. Subscribe to the RSS feed at http://ediamond.audioblog.com/rss/xoriente.xml. The show can also be found on Apple's iTunes Music Store, under the Spirituality section of the Podcast directory. Bro. Diamond invites content or production assistance. His e-mail is: xoriente@gmail.com.

For a Grand Lodge, what's in a name? A great deal, masonically speaking!

The Grand Lodges named here include unrecognized (whose charters are not recognized by other duly recognized Grand Lodges) and/or irregular (not adhering to the ancient landmarks). This list was compiled from various sources, including Masonic researcher Paul Bessel (http://bessel.org/glsusa.htm) and research done by a member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois and Jurisdiction, which entered into a mutual recognition agreement with our Grand Lodge in 1998.

All the Grand Lodges listed here (some of which "preside" over a single, clandestine lodge) are believed to have operated in Illinois at one time or another, though not all exist currently. Many are of Prince Hall origin. Some charge unsuspecting candidates excessive fees to experience "degrees" that are little more than hazings. None of these so-called Grand Lodges has ever been recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England.

This helps explain why the public can be confused about what we consider to be "regular" Freemasonry. It also demonstrates why an unknown visiting brother should be investigated and his lodge verified in the Book of Recognized Lodges, and why a Blue Lodge's written communications should use the notation "A. F. & A. M." after the lodge's name. It is also one of the reasons why our ritual strictly adheres to our Grand Lodge's official incorporated name: *The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois.*

Unrecognized/irregular Grand Lodges include:

1. American Co-Masonry/American Federation of Human Rights
2. Ancient Free and Accepted Masons - Working In and For the USA, Its Dependencies, Territories, Canada and the Free World
3. Hiram Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
4. King David Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
5. Moses Grand Lodge
6. Most Worshipful John A. Belle Grand Lodge of Illinois
7. Most Worshipful St. Ezra Grand Lodge
8. Most Worshipful St. John Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
9. Most Worshipful St. Paul Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Modern Masons
10. Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the USA - Regular Masonic Succession, Instituted A.D. 1901
11. Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Illinois Inc.
12. St. James Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
13. St. John's Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.
14. St. Mark's Grand Lodge F. & A.A.Y.M. (National Compact) Prince Hall Origin
15. Shadrach Grand Lodge
16. The Original Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of Illinois, A.F. & A.M.
17. William Banks Grand Lodge International F. & A.M.
18. W.T.M. Grant Jr. Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M.

MASONIC COMMUNITY DAYS

Public awareness becomes year-round priority

Masonic Community Days moves into a new phase in 2006 as a program Illinois lodges may use all year long to spread the word about the Craft.

Since its inception four years ago, nearly half of the lodges in the state have conducted one or more events under the Masonic Community Days banner. And because of this, many more of our friends and neighbors are aware of Freemasonry and our lodges' activities than ever before.

The need for, and value of, a continuing public awareness program for our fraternity has been clearly demonstrated. This is why changes have been made to make it possible for all lodges in the state to *conduct Masonic Community Days events at any time of the year* instead of during a specific time period.

It is expected that more lodges than ever before will be able to conduct Masonic Community Days events that will qualify for the 2006 Grand Master's Award of Excellence. Some lodges are already planning several Masonic Community Days activities during the coming year.

This year there will be three Masonic Community Days periods for lodge activities and events.

- **Fall/Winter: Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2005**
- **Spring: Jan. 1 – April 30, 2006**
- **Summer: May 1 – Aug. 31, 2006**

Lodge events that comply with the other program guidelines may be held within any of these time periods for full credit.

Each Masonic Community Days event *must be registered in advance* with the Masonic Awareness Committee with the name and address of a contact individual. Registrations may be made by mail or e-mail using a registration form (shown below).

All Masonic Community Days activities *must be public in nature and sponsored by a Masonic lodge.* Both members of the fraternity and non-Masons should participate. If several lodges work together on an event, each lodge must be registered individually.

Every Masonic Community Days event *must be clearly identified as such* in signs and publicity with the theme and logo.

A full and complete *report must be completed* and returned to the Masonic Awareness Committee as soon as possible after the event.

The Grand Secretary is handling the distribution of all supplemental Masonic Community Days materials for lodges. (Some of these items are available at no cost, others may be purchased from his office.)

This year, individual coordinators throughout the state will work with lodges after they have registered their Masonic Community Days activities. Each lodge registration will be acknowledge and the coordinator assigned at that time.

Please register these 2006 Masonic Community Days events for my lodge.

Lodge name and number _____ City or town _____ District _____

Fall-Winter – Sept.-Dec. 2005

Date _____ Type of event _____

Spring – Jan.-April 2006

Date _____ Type of event _____

Summer – May-Aug. 2006

Date _____ Type of event _____

Contact name _____

Street address _____

City, state, zip code _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Mail to: Masonic Comunity Days, PO Box 2266, Des Plaines, IL 60017-2266

Masonic Community Days Coordinators

Northeastern Area
Bro. Pat Antos, Palatine 314

Western Area
Bro. Bill Gabbert, Cass 23

Eastern Area
Bro. Mike Fowler, Wade Barney 512
Bro. Tom Barrett, Potomoc 782

Southern Area
Bro. Charlie Beckett, Gothic 852
Bro. Skip Hamilton, Hermitage 356
Bro. Greg Wasuleski, Vienna 150

Masonic Awareness Chair
Bro. Clarence Casson, Old Glory 141

Send registration forms to:
Masonic Comunity Days
PO Box 2266
Des Plaines, IL 60017-2266

MASONIC SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION

School schedule and locations announced

Northern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
11-2-05	7:00 p.m.	Livingston #371	Dwight	1	17-18
11-5-05	8:30 a.m.	Excelsior #97	Freeport	3	1-2-6
11-15-05	7:00 p.m.	Marseilles #417	Marseilles	1	11-16
11-21-05	7:00 p.m.	Rockford #102	Loves Park	1	3-5
12-8-05	7:00 p.m.	Chadwick #867	Chadwick	1	6-10
12-14-05	7:00 p.m.	Plum River #554	Stockton	1	1-2
12-19-05	7:00 p.m.	Trio #57	Rock Island	1	12-13
1-7-06	8:30 a.m.	Star in East #166	Rockford	3	3-5-7
1-11-06	7:00 p.m.	Friendship #7	Dixon	1	7-15
1-18-06	7:00 p.m.	Wenona #344	Wenona	2	17-18
1-24-06	7:00 p.m.	Jeruslm Tp #90	Aurora	2	11-16
2-1-06	7:00 p.m.	Fulton City #189	Fulton	2	6-10
2-4-06	8:30 a.m.	Occidental #40	Ottawa	3	11-15-16-17-18
2-9-06	7:00 p.m.	Genoa #288	Genoa	2	3-5
2-27-06	7:00 p.m.	Lena #174	Lena	2	1-2
3-9-06	7:00 p.m.	Buffalo Pr #679	Buffalo Pr	2	12-13
3-20-06	7:00 p.m.	Walnut #722	Walnut	2	7-15
4-8-06	8:30 a.m.	Stewart #92	Geneseo	3	10-12-13

Northeastern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-22-05	8:00 a.m.	Matteson #175	Joliet	3	11-12-13-16-18
10-29-05	8:00 a.m.	Glenview #1058	Glenview	1-2	5-6-7-8
11-05-05	8:00 a.m.	Westchstr #995	Westchester	1-2	9-10-14-15
11-19-05	8:00 a.m.	Batavia #404	Batavia	1-2	1-2-3-4-17
12-3-05	8:00 a.m.	Oaklawn #1166	Oaklawn	1-2	11-12-13-16-18
12-17-05	8:00 a.m.	Arlgtn Hts #1162	Arlngtn Hts	3	1-2-3-4-17
1-7-06	8:00 a.m.	Grove #824	Dwners Grv	3	9-10-14-15
1-21-06	8:00 a.m.	Union Pk #610	Elmwd Pk	3	5-6-7-8

Southern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
11-5-05	8:30 a.m.	Blazing Star #458	Carrier Mills	1-2	17-18-19-20
12-3-05	8:30 a.m.	Newton #216	Newton	3	3-4-8-9
1-7-06	8:30 a.m.	Edwardsville #99	Edwrdsville	1-2	1-2-5-10
1-14-06	8:30 a.m.	Metropolis #91	Metropolis	3	17-18-19-20
1-28-06	8:30 a.m.	Sumner #334	Sumner	1-2	3-4-8-9
2-4-06	8:30 a.m.	Hope #162	Sparta	3	12-13-16
2-18-06	8:30 a.m.	Marion #130	Salem	1-2	6-11-14-15
3-5-06	8:30 a.m.	Polk #137	McLnsboro	3	6-11-14-15
3-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Herrin's Pr #693	Herrin	1-2	12-13-16
3-25-06	8:30 a.m.	O'Fallon #676	O'Fallon	3	1-2-5-10

Eastern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-22-05	8:30 a.m.	Illinois #263	Peoria	3	1-2-6-10-13
10-22-05	8:30 a.m.	Mound #122	Taylorville	1-2	16-17
11-5-05	8:30 a.m.	Normal #673	Normal	1-2	6-7
11-19-05	8:30 a.m.	Mattoon #260	Mattoon	3	14-16-17-18-19-20
12-10-05	8:30 a.m.	Taylor #98	Washington	1-2	1-2
12-17-05	8:30 a.m.	Urbana #157	Champaign	3	4-5-7-8-11-12-15
1-14-06	8:30 a.m.	Kankakee #389	Kankakee	1-2	4-5
1-14-06	8:30 a.m.	DeWitt #84	Clinton	1-2	10-13
2-25-06	8:30 a.m.	G.A. Sentel #764	Sullivan	1-2	14-18
2-25-06	8:30 a.m.	Further Lt #1130	Danville	1-2	8-11
3-18-06	8:30 a.m.	Prairie #77	Paris	1-2	12-15
3-18-06	8:30 a.m.	Casey #442	Casey	1-2	19-20

Western Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-12-05	7:00 p.m.	Monmouth #37	Monmouth	1	4
10-19-05	7:00 p.m.	Tyrian #333	Springfield	1	15
11-3-05	7:00 p.m.	Macomb #17	Macomb	2	8
11-11-05	7:00 p.m.	Gillespie #214	Gillespie	1	20
11-18-05	7:00 p.m.	Full Moon #341	Grafton	1	19
11-18-05	7:00 p.m.	Pacific #66	Knoxville	2	6
11-19-05	9:00 a.m.	Kewanee #159	Kewanee	3	1-2-4-5-6
12-08-05	9:00 a.m.	Harmony #3	Jacksonville	2	14
12-14-05	7:00 p.m.	Cass #23	Beardstown	2	9
1-7-06	9:00 a.m.	Rushville #9	Rushville	3	9-10-14-15
1-13-06	7:00 p.m.	Bodley #1	Quincy	1	12
1-20-06	7:00 p.m.	Denver #464	Denver	1	7
2-10-06	7:00 p.m.	Horeb #363	Elmwood	1	6
2-20-06	7:00 p.m.	Aledo #262	Aledo	1	1
2-23-06	7:00 p.m.	White Hall #80	White Hall	1	17
2-24-06	7:00 p.m.	Perry #95	Perry	2	16
2-28-06	7:00 p.m.	Pawnee #675	Pawnee	2	18
3-9-06	7:00 p.m.	Delavan #156	Delavan	2	10
3-11-06	9:00 a.m.	Lima #135	Lima	3	7-8-12-16
3-18-06	9:00 a.m.	Benjamin #297	Camp Pt	2	11
3-22-06	7:00 p.m.	Wyoming #479	Wyoming	1	2
4-22-06	9:00 a.m.	Gillespie #214	Gillespie	3	17-18-19-20

2005-2006 Grand Lecturers' Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-22-05	8:30 a.m.	Fellowship #89	Marion	3	GL's & CLI's
11-12-05	8:30 a.m.	Urbana #157	Champaign	1-2	GL's & CLI's
12-10-05	8:30 a.m.	Springfield #4	Springfield	3	GL's & CLI's
1-14-06	8:30 a.m.	Mrning Str #734	Canton	1-2	GL's & CLI's
1-28-06	8:30 a.m.	Moline #1014	Moline	1-2	GL's & CLI's
2-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Libertyville #492	Libertyville	1-2	GL's & CLI's
2-25-06	8:30 a.m.	Temperance #16	Vandalia	1-2	GL's & CLI's
3-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Grove #824	Dwnrs Grv	3	GL's & CLI's
3-25-06	8:30 a.m.	DeKalb #144	DeKalb	3	GL's & CLI's
4-1-06	8:30 a.m.	Morton #362	Morton	3	GL's & CLI's

Types of Schools

1 - Opening lodge in form 1-2-3, floor movements, due guards and signs, deacons' and stewards' movements, receiving DDGM, closing on 3rd Degree short form.
2 - 1st Section of 2nd Degree, ties and similarity between degrees, floor work.
3 - 2nd Section of 3rd Degree including all ties and floor movements.

Grand Lecturer & Certified Lodge Instructor Exams

11-19-05	8:00 a.m.	Mattoon #260	Fall Exam Candidates
5-20-06	8:00 a.m.	Mattoon #260	Spring Exam Candidates

Lodge Proficiency Competition (1st Section of 1st Degree)

6-3-06	9:00 a.m.	TBA		Area Finals
6-10-06	9:00 a.m.	TBA		Area Finals
6-24-06	9:00 a.m.	Masonic Home	Sullivan	State Finals

NOTE: Starting this year, *all* members of a lodge in good standing are eligible to participate on behalf of their lodge in the Proficiency Competition without incurring a penalty. Every lodge is strongly encouraged to enter the competition!

News from lodges around the state

Collinsville Masonic Temple has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Home to Collinsville Lodge No. 712, the classic Greek revival architecture style building was built in 1913 for $13,000 using bricks made locally at the Hydraulic Press Brick Co. The interior features a 40-foot by 60-foot lodge room with 20-foot coffered ceilings, elaborate mouldings and antique light fixtures. The historic preservation reflects members' commitment to maintaining one of the city's great landmarks.

The First Annual Bowl-a-thon was sponsored by the 5th Southern District on Sept. 24, 2005, at Saint Clair Lanes in Fairview Heights. Bowlers were asked to find sponsors to pledge an amount per pin or a flat donation for the three games bowled. Bros. John and Mick Brown of Gothic Lodge No. 852 spearheaded this effort along with members from Collinsville No. 712 and Marine No. 355, plus several non-Masonic teams. The event raised more than $1,600 for the Murphysboro Masonic Children's Home, the Masonic Home at Sullivan and the Coins for Children Program. Brother Buddy Cox, a resident of the Masonic Home in Sullivan, came down to take part in this fundraiser.

A Third Degree at Princeton Lodge No. 587 featured a father raising his son and his son's best friend. From left, PGM James Durbin, candidates Eric Swenson and William Lawson, Bro. George Lawson, Wor. Master Larry Lawson and PDDGM Richard Speer.

Blue Lightning events continue to attract good men to the Craft

Blue Lightnings continue to be used to full effect throughout the Southern Area. Clockwise, from top right: Cobden No. 466, Columbia No. 474, May No. 718, Metropolis No. 91 and New Columbia No. 336.

News from lodges around the state

A Masonic sign built by members of Vermont Lodge No. 116 was recently towed atop a trailer in the Astoria Homecoming Parade.

A float (top) built by Doric Lodge No. 319 and manned by members of the 12th Northern District appeared in the 4th of July parade in Silvis, Ill. Doric Lodge also recently awarded scholarships to, from left, Sarah Cooper, Margaret Wiborg, and Rowdy Frederiksen. Wor. Master Robert Bushong is third from left.

Third Degree at Palatine Lodge No. 314 on Sept. 27, 2005, for Bro. Bradley Craig Johnson (center) was conferred by three generations of Masons, from left, Ken Helgesen, Howard Helgesen and Alfred Helgesen.

Bake sale by Prophetstown Lodge No. 293 raised $280 for local Girl Scouts' Camp Fund. Pictured are Veronica Stafford and Wor. Master Daryl Drennen.

Half-century membership recognition by Lewiston Lodge No. 104 for, from left, Bros. Robert Blackwell, Marion Rasmussen and Virgil Paul, with Wor. Master Larry Eskridge.

Final official lodge ceremony conducted by Grand Master David W. Miller was the 150th anniversary rededication of Wabash Lodge No. 179 (Mattoon) on Sept. 17, 2005.

Free school supplies (above) were provided by Newton Lodge No. 216 through CHILD, a local charitable group, plus free hot dogs and popcorn at a Kids' Fair. The lodge also raised a total of $600 from a Strawberry Fest Breakfast along with matching funds from the Coins for Children Program (below).

To have your lodge's activities considered for inclusion in *Illinois Freemasonry*, send a description of the event and a good-quality photo, including the date, event, names and titles of those in the photo, to *Illinois Freemasonry*, P.O. Box B, Hinsdale, IL 60522. Attachments totaling no more than 5MB may be e-mailed to: IllinoisFreemasonry@msn.com. Due to space limitations, only recent events (those occurring within the last six months) can be considered for inclusion. For archived back issues, plus photo and content submission guidelines, visit: www.illinoisfreemasonry.org.

Membership anniversaries occurring October 1 - December 31, 2005

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the interest of fairness, accuracy and timeliness, Illinois Freemasonry *only publishes lists of members attaining anniversaries of 50 years, 75 years and above during the current quarter as reported by the Grand Secretary. Due to space limitations, these lists appear in lieu of individual pin and/or certificate presentation photos (including other year anniversaries). Lodges are encouraged to submit these to their trestleboards and local newspapers for publication.*

50-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1955)

Lodge No.	*& Name*	*Member Name*
3	Harmony	Hamm, Elmer L. Jr.
3	Harmony	Paddock, Raymond A.
7	Friendship	Johnson, Charles R.
17	Macomb	Elder, Homer W.
17	Macomb	Flack, Charles H.
17	Macomb	Shult, Robert N.
17	Macomb	Smejkal, Kenneth L.
20	Hancock	Duffy, Gilbert J.
24	St. Clair	Berndt, Arnold A. J.
24	St. Clair	Hopfinger, Charles W.
24	St. Clair	Ritter, Leonard R.
24	St. Clair	West, Billy B.
24	St. Clair	Young, Robert W.
25	Franklin	Becker, Cecil E.
25	Franklin	Bull, Robert F.
25	Franklin	Kolditz, John W.
25	Franklin	Long, Robert C.
27	Piasa	Ducommun, Lawrence A.
27	Piasa	Stephenson, William F.
37	Monmouth	Zachmeyer, Cornelius H.
43	Bloomington	Homer, John O.
43	Bloomington	Rust, Lee Roy W.
43	Bloomington	Zimmerman, Robert C.
46	Temple	Ptasnik, Thomas J.
50	Stuart E. Pierson	Bushnell, Curtis E.
50	Stuart E. Pierson	Camerer, Roy E.
57	Trio	Allen, Charles O.
57	Trio	Andereck, Jesse R. Jr.
57	Trio	Hogan, James W.
64	Benton	Harris, Edward L.
64	Benton	Wall, Gordon E.
65	Euclid	Conklin, Thomas G. Jr.
66	Pacific	Perry, William H.
75	Roscoe	Stenholm, Clyde A.
78	Waukegan	Klinetob, Carson W.
80	White Hall	Ford, William R.
81	D. C. Cregier	Hansen, Otto H.
81	D. C. Cregier	Schwarz, Joseph J.
84	De Witt	Gibson, Virgil W.
84	De Witt	Koons, Robert E.
84	De Witt	Price, Jack B.
89	Fellowship	Grant, Earl D.
89	Fellowship	Logan, Clarence F.
90	Jerusalem Tmple	Rasey, Ralph R.
92	Stewart	Watson, Carl S.
97	Excelsior	Bentley, Jack L.
98	Taylor	Johann, Robert G.
98	Taylor	Kenney, Phillip C.
102	Rockford	Egner, Ronald J.
102	Rockford	Hinde, Lewis C.
103	Magnolia	Davis, Dale L.
109	Trenton	Elmore, Maurice E.
115	Rising Sun	Lossman, Richard C.
116	Vermont	Kost, Oral C.
122	Mound	Jacobs, Dale A.
127	Millburn	Tavernier, Clifford J.
139	Geneva	Granquist, Herbert C.
141	Old Glory	Schreiber, Charles A.
144	De Kalb	Carey, David
144	De Kalb	Henderson, Jerry B.
144	De Kalb	Nelson, Robert C.
145	A. W. Rawson	Kilker, Charles M.
146	Lee Center	Archer, Ramon E.
155	Alpha	Christianson, Donald F.
155	Alpha	Small, William H.
156	Delavan	Donley, Walter J. Jr.
156	Delavan	Tomm, Charles G.
157	Urbana	Henderson, Thomas I.
160	Decalogue	Sutker, Eli
161	Virden	Hinkle, Robert W.
164	Edward Dobbins	Hedde, Charles L.
174	Lena	Bollman, Peter J.
175	Matteson	Anderson, Charles R.
175	Matteson	Kesich, Alexander
175	Matteson	Townsend, Edward A.
176	Mendota	Frazier, Forrest R.
176	Mendota	Krenz, Robert J.
192	Farmington	Berry, Charles W.
196	Louisville	Perkins, John H.
200	Sheba	Bocox, Marvin G. Jr.
200	Sheba	Merritt, Earl
201	Centralia	Keller, Roy Jr.
201	Centralia	Kourdouvelis, Darryl D.
204	Flora	Benefield, Clifford E.
206	Fairfield	Curry, Victor B.
208	Wilmington	Adams, Harry H.
216	Newton	Huddleston, Ronald A.
226	Pana	Swantner, M. Thomas
233	Blandinsville	Hunt, Edward L.
239	Mt. Carmel	Mc Raven, Tommy J.
239	Mt. Carmel	Worlow, Chlores A.
249	Hibbard	Milligan, Lester M.
250	Robinson	Culpepper, William T.
254	Aurora	Van Wagoner, Richard J.
263	Illinois	Duff, Frank E.
263	Illinois	Lynch, Dallas G.
263	Illinois	Lynch, Donald V.
269	Wheaton	Jay, Norman F.
272	Carmi	Whetstone, James L.
273	Miner's	Wooden, Robert L.
280	Kansas	Acord, James R.
280	Kansas	Short, Leroy E.
285	Catlin	Mauck, Ronald E.
287	DeSoto	Sullivan, Charles R.
293	Prophetstown	Parker, Donald G.
293	Prophetstown	Pearson, Kenneth M. Jr.
296	Quincy	Northern, Richard E.
302	Durand	Kinney, H. Duane
319	Doric	Hanson, Ainsworth E.
319	Doric	Phillips, James F.
330	Altona	Swanson, Robert H.
333	Tyrian	Alford, James E.
333	Tyrian	Birnbaum, Richard A.
333	Tyrian	Coleman, Charles I. Jr.
333	Tyrian	Jones, Robert W.
335	Schiller	Antrim, Earl V.
336	New Columbia	Staton, Edward A.
336	New Columbia	Stewart, Jackie L.
339	Saline	Grisham, Jackie R.
352	Morton	Bennett, Dewitt S.
359	Blackberry	Thompson, William R.
361	Douglas	Machado, Paul P.
371	Livingston	Bookwalter, Karl E.
374	Shabbona	Newton, Joseph R. III
389	Kankakee	Bossert, Eldon A.
389	Kankakee	Townsend, Roy Jr.
411	Hesperia	Cox, Philip K.
418	Freeburg	Kolditz, Loren C.
422	Landmark	Watson, James F.
428	Sunbeam	Salrin, William Ed
437	Chicago	Rosengarten, Cyril S.
442	Casey	Ballinger, Harold E.
444	Cave-In-Rock	Clevenger, William J.
446	Watseka	Geiger, Harold V.
454	Maroa	Gentle, Robert M.
456	Nokomis	Heck, Herbert F.
463	Palmyra	Johnson, Philip C.
474	Columbia	Nolte, Vernon H.
478	Pleiades	Leick, Richard C.
500	St. Paul's	Fowler, Donald D.
512	Wade Barney	Melton, Albert I.
512	Wade Barney	Rutledge, Robert G.
512	Wade Barney	Scott, Ivan E.
516	Andalusia	Crawford, Jack L.
524	Evans	Lentz, Charles W.
530	Maquon	Strode, John W.
531	Ashton	Jenkins, Stanley M.
554	Plum River	Posey, Charles G.
560	Madison	Ulrich, Jimmie J.
565	Pleasant Hill	Hubbard, C. Wesley
573	Gardner	Brown, James D.
577	Viola	Mayhew, Robert L.
583	Highland	Nungesser, Marius A.
587	Princeton	Sowers, Paul M.
610	Union Park	Andersen, William C.
635	Rochester	Beck, Donald L.
641	Comet	Wilson, Bernard C.
644	Oblong City	Chronic, Homer W.
651	Atwood	Hale, Norman H.
658	Rock Island	Van Atta, Wendell D.
659	Lambert	Inman, Robert W.
665	Greenland	Tipsword, Garry W.
673	Normal	Widmayer, Donald H.
676	A. O. Fay	Lutz, Fred F.
680	Clement	Scott, Thomas R. Sr.
681	Morrisonville	Smith, James E.
718	May	Whipple, Carl R.
734	Morning Star	Jones, Charles W.
734	Morning Star	Walker, Jack E.
742	Danvers	Perkins, John H.
742	Danvers	Smith, Kenneth W.
759	Orel	Marshel, Charles F.
763	Crete	Rentner, Paul E.
764	George A. Sentel	Spaugh, Woodrow W.
765	Palace	Martin, George R.
777	Ravenswood	Berglund, George R.
779	Wright's Grove	Marose, Norman O. Sr.
802	Williamson	Calvert, William F.
810	Tinley Park	Keith, James R.
815	Lawn	Buelow, George E.
815	Lawn	Hackel, Raymond E.
816	Ridgway	Moye, Noble H.
824	Grove	Burlingham, Robert T.
827	Sequoit	Wanthal, Paul R.
829	Edgar	Waltz, Robert K.
832	Oak Forest	Williams, Eugene
850	River Forest-Astn	Barker, James T.
850	River Forest-Astn	Scholes, Fraser
852	Gothic	Siemers, Elbert H.
855	King Oscar	Hanson, Ainsworth E.
855	King Oscar	Marose, Norman O. Sr.
855	King Oscar	Surrey, Herve W. Jr.
862	Riverside	Butcher, Dale E.
862	Riverside	Harvie, John V. Jr.
862	Riverside	Steinhaus, Richard A.
865	St. Cecilia	Kohnop, Louis M.
932	Sandoval	Nollman, Jack S.
941	Elmhurst	Lewis, Robert C.
970	St. Joseph	Marko, George F.
974	Constellation	Bandi, Walter F. Jr.
974	Constellation	Tiedeman, Edward J.
979	Stephen Decatur	Davis, William L.
979	Stephen Decatur	Troutman, Phillip L.
980	Anchor	Kreidler, Ronald R.
980	Anchor	Thiede, Donald A.
995	Westchester	Farnsworth, Samuel H.
995	Westchester	Nothdorft, Donald F.
995	Westchester	Ruley, Edward M.
997	Integrity	Wooden, Robert L.
998	Paul Revere	Benson, John E.
1004	Hurst	Dryden, Grady D.
1014	Moline	Douglas, John W.
1027	Anchor and Ark	Peterson, Harry R.
1048	Zeigler	Tackett, Wendell L.
1062	Wood River	Gallay, Alfred A.
1062	Wood River	Killebrew, Carl R.
1062	Wood River	Toner, Charles L. Jr.

50-YEAR MEMBERS, CONT'D (raised in 1955)

Lodge No. & Name		*Member Name*
1074	W. Englwd Home	Olsen, Morton J.
1084	Hellenic	Pappas, Chris W.
1112	Grand View	Hanson, John E.
1112	Grand View	Ross, Glenn L.
1112	Grand View	Vick, Thomas L.
1112	Grand View	Witzig, Herman R.
1113	Villa Park	Mayer, Edward M.
1113	Villa Park	Siegfried, Robert W.
1130	Further Light	Yudin, Julian H.
1136	Western Springs	Jenks, Delbert L.
1138	Arcadia	Anderson, Carl C.
1143	Hilton	Clark, Gary L.
1143	Hilton	Fink, Robert E.
1143	Hilton	Rager, Harold L.
1144	Rosiclare	Mott, Thomas W.
1145	Loves Park	Hall, James L.
1146	Morton Grove	Wood, Ernest F.
1162	Arlington Heights	Mc Minn, Billy
1162	Arlington Heights	Sholl, Marvin
1163	Clrnce P. Schwarz	Davis, William B.
1163	Clrnce P. Schwarz	Nagy, Mark C.
1163	Clrnce P. Schwarz	Wold, Nelson B.
1166	Oak Lawn	Hanover, Jack L.
1169	Neighbor	Denwick, T. J.
1169	Neighbor	Heiss, Stuart J.
1169	Neighbor	Nielsen, Raymond L.
1172	Verlin M. Shwlter	Slater, Clarence J.

75-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1930)

271	North West	Johnson, Gustaf H.
330	Altona	Hager, William G.
777	Ravenswood	Nemec, Bernard H.
974	Constellation	Rohde, Ernest L.
974	Constellation	Weiss, Arthur E.
988	Park Ridge	Anderson, Walter W.

76-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1929)

157	Urbana	Chapman, Glen E.
422	Landmark	Working, Ray A.
995	Westchester	Radell, Robert M.

77-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1928)

160	Decalogue	Mackevich, Ira
211	United	Bain, Robert
658	Rock Island	Ullemeyer, Eugene J.
898	Silvis	Bryan, George F.

78-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1927)

16	Temperance	Peters, William F.

80-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1925)

974	Constellation	Scheilz, John

81-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1924)

789	Auburn Park	Goblisch, Walter C.

Eight decades of Masonic membership were celebrated by Bro. Edgar Oliver Charles Zimmer of Morris Lodge No. 787 on Aug. 3, 2005, congratulated here by Wor. Master Theodore W. Lerch Jr.

National Sojourners Offer Military Network

American Masons serving in the Middle East or elsewhere with the military are invited to contact the National Sojourners, a club for military affiliated Masons, which allows them to associate where lodges may not be practical. A new detachment/club program is also being developed. Call 703-765-5000, e-mail nationalsoj @juno.com or write: Expeditionary Chapter #535, Maj Carl W. Gaborik, Secretary, 1370 Coral Place, Hampton, VA 23669-5221.

Internet Discussion Group for Masonic Secretaries

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For additional information contact Ed Rund, President, Masonic Secretaries Association, at: sandc60@comcast.net.

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Benny L. Grisham (signed), Grand Secretary. (September 16, 2005)

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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E-mail: _____

Illinois Mason cherishes gift of Houdini family Bible

A member of the Craft from Illinois is the caretaker of a unique artifact: a Bible that belonged to the family of Mason, famed magician and escape artist Harry Houdini.

Bro. Charles R. Horwitz inherited the Bible from his father, Jerold Horwitz, who was given it as a token of affection after Houdini's death in 1926, by Houdini's wife, Wilhelmina Beatrice Rahner (1876-1943), who also worked as the magician's stage assistant.

The Bible once belonging to Beatrice Houdini which was presented to Jerold Horwitz, who was the Houdini family's friend as well as their insurance agent.

Jerold Horwitz was an insurance salesman for Metropolitan Life, whose territory included the Houdini family's home in Washington Hts., N.Y.

"My father was a very unusual person: as soon as you met him, you liked him. Even though he was not a member of the Fraternity, he was truly what a Mason should be – just a wonderful person who would go out of his way for anyone. I guess through the years that he knew the Houdini family they came to love him, too. And when Harry Houdini died, they gave my father this Bible."

The Houdini family Bible

Published in London in 1919 for the British & Foreign Bible Society, the Old Testament Bible is printed in Hebrew and English. On the inside front cover a bookplate states, "This book belongs to Beatrice Houdini," with her name written in fountain pen. A small profile portrait of her husband and the words "Ex Libris, Houdini" appear on the inside page of the Bible. Opposite page one is "Printed by Trowitzsch and Son at Berlin SW."

Measuring about 8-1/2 inches high by 7-3/4 inches wide by 2-1/4 inches thick, the volume is bound in brown leather with gilt edging and the words "Old Testament, Hebrew & English" in gold leaf on the spine. The book weighs about five pounds. Its overall condition is good, although there is some damage to the spine.

Included with the Bible were two 5-inch by 7-inch Houdini publicity photographs, one of which is stamped "Houdini Original, Harry Houdini Collection" and another autographed "Houdini" in black fountain pen.

About Bro. Harry Houdini

Born Ehrich Weiss (Weisz) on March 24, 1874, in Budapest, Hungary, of Jewish background, the Weiss family emigrated to the United States in 1878. Initially, they lived in Appleton, Wis., where his father, Mayer Samuel Weiss, served as rabbi of the Zion Reform Jewish Congregation. After Mayer lost his tenure, the family moved to New York City in 1887. Houdini ran away from home at the age of 12 but remained particularly close to his mother, Cecilia, especially following the death of his father when the young Houdini was just 16.

The wealthy and world-famous Houdinis were photographed in 1913 in Nice, France.

In addition to his skills in magic and escapology, Harry Houdini (he legally changed his name in 1913) was an accomplished trapeze performer and inventor of the diving suit.

While touring Australia in 1910, Houdini brought with him an early biplane with which he made that country's first controlled powered flight. He also directed and starred in several silent motion pictures that capitalized on his reputation for illusion and mystery.

Bro. Houdini was initiated an Entered Apprentice on July 17, 1923, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on July 31, 1923, and raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Aug. 21, 1923, in St. Cecile Lodge No. 568 in New York City.

Houdini's last performance was at the Garrick Theatre in Detroit on Oct. 24, 1926. The next day he was hospitalized at Grace Hospital, where he died of peritonitis from a suspected ruptured appendix on Halloween, Oct. 31, 1926, at the age of 52.

Bro. Charles R. "Chuck" Horwitz is a member of King Oscar Lodge No. 855 (Chicago) and plural member of Glenview Lodge No. 1058 and Morton Grove Lodge No. 1146. He can be reached at: crh1716@sbcglobal.net.

Help students avoid drug and alcohol abuse with your Master Mason license plates

MASTER MASON LICENSE PLATE AUTHORIZATION FORM

I certify that I am a Master Mason in good standing in an Illinois lodge and as such do hereby make application for an Illinois Master Mason license plate bearing the Square & Compasses emblem.

Name _____
First Middle Last

Address _____
Street Apt. no.

IL
_____
City Zip code

Lodge _____
Name No.

Location _____
City or town

Plate Number Requested: ***Vanity plate option*** *– Must limit alpha letters to max. 4 characters and numbers to 2 or 3 digits. (Example: ABCD or 123)* ***Personalized plate option*** *– A space must separate letter/number combinations. (Example: A 123 or AB 12 or ABC 1) All requests for 4-digit numbers are considered personalized plates. Please allow six weeks to process special orders.*

1st Choice ☐☐☐☐☐ *2nd Choice* ☐☐☐☐☐ *3rd Choice* ☐☐☐☐☐

_____
Signature of Master Mason Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF GRAND SECRETARY OF ILLINOIS

I certify that the person whose signature appears above is a Master Mason in good standing and is entitled to make application for the Master Mason license plate bearing the Square & Compasses emblem. This application must bear the signature of the Grand Secretary and the Seal of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois imprinted thereon.

(seal) _____ _____
Grand Secretary Date

Mail this completed form to: **Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Illinois**
2866 Via Verde
Springfield, IL 62703

MASTER MASON LICENSE PLATE FACTS

The Master Mason plate carries a $25 original issuance fee, of which $10 will go to benefit the Illinois Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children, in addition to the standard $78 annual registration fee. The renewal each year will also carry an additional $25 fee, of which $23 will go to benefit the Illinois Masonic Foundation for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Among Children, in addition to the standard $78 annual registration fee. This foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation and contributions to this organization are tax-deductible as provided by law.

Master Mason license plates are multiyear plates and may be displayed on passenger cars and on trucks and vans weighing 8,000 pounds or less.

APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS AUTHORIZATION

Current license plate # _____ **Expiration** _____

Initial Applications

Submit authorization form with proper fees payable to Secretary of State with your current registration card to the Grand Secretary. Form will be approved and taken to the Sec. of State.

MM Plate Renewals

If you already have MM plates, renewal should be completed in same manner as with any other renewal. If you have difficulty renewing MM plates, call Kelly Turner at (217) 785-8605.

Registration & Fee Info

Use authorization form and the Sec. of State's regular renewal application form.

If current plates expire within 60 days, submit:

- **$25 original issuance fee;**
- **$78 renewal fee;**
- **$29 replacement fee, if current plate *is not* a MM plate or current MM plate is changing from random to personalized – all payable to the Secretary of State.**

If current plates do not expire within 60 days, submit:

- **Current registration card;**
- **$25 original issuance fee;**
- **$29 replacement fee, if current plate *is not* a MM plate or current MM plate is changing from random to personalized – all payable to the Secretary of State.**

If you want plates for a *newly acquired* vehicle, submit:

- **$143 title and registration fee;**
- **$25 original issuance fee — both payable to Sec. of State;**
- **Appropriate taxes payable to Illinois Dept. of Revenue.**

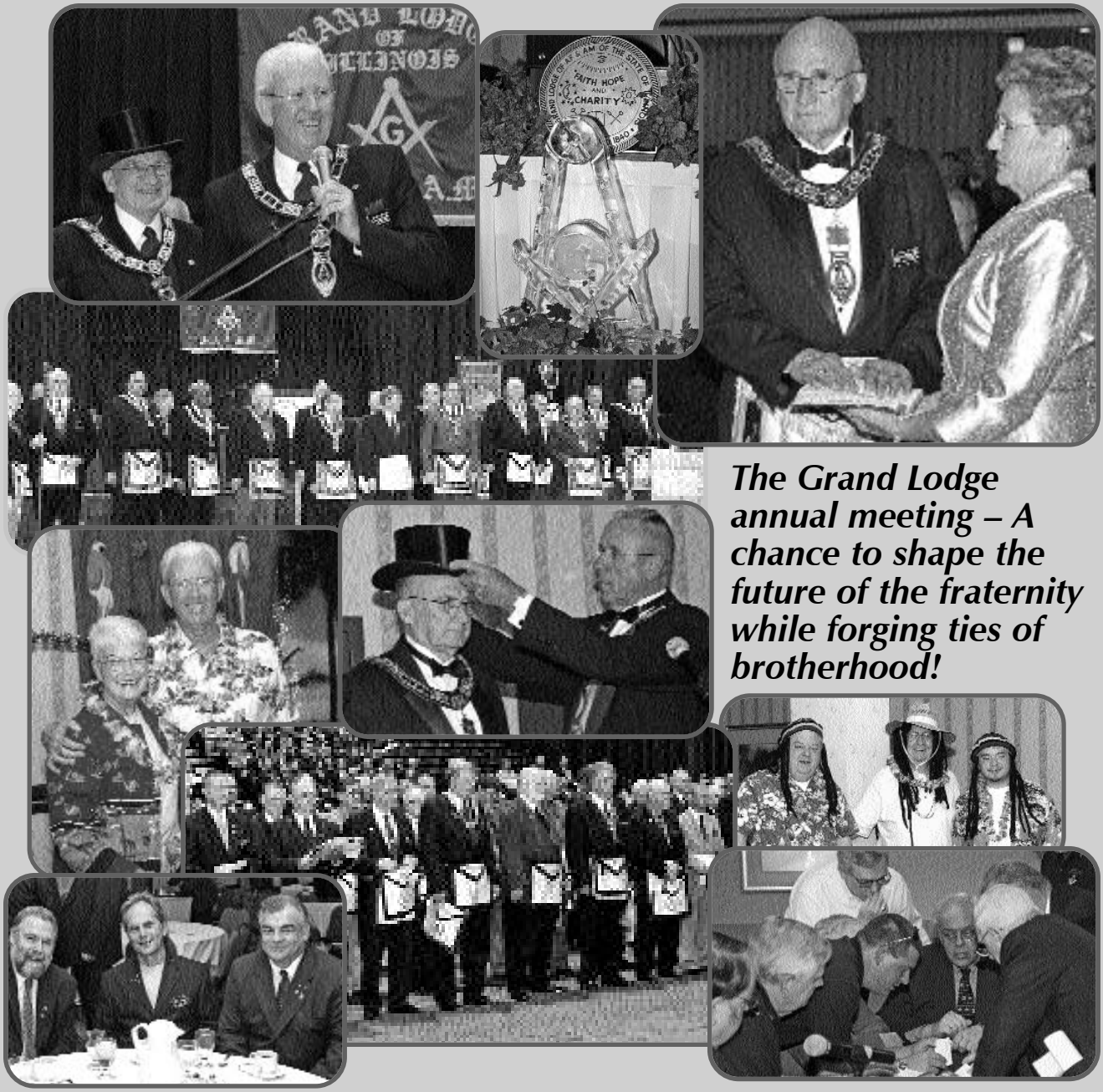
If you want Master Mason *Vanity Plates*, submit:

- **$94 vanity license plate initial fee;**
- **$78 renewal fee;**
- **$25 original issuance fee;**
- **$29 replacement fee, if current plate *is not* a MM plate or current MM plate is changing from random to personalized – all payable to the Secretary of State.**

If you want Master Mason *Personalized Plates*, submit:

- **$78 renewal fee;**
- **$25 original issuance fee;**
- **$47 personalized fee;**
- **$29 replacement fee, if current plate *is not* a MM plate or current MM plate is changing from random to personalized – all payable to the Secretary of State.**

'Personalized' and 'Vanity' Illinois Master Mason license plates are now being issued



The Grand Lodge annual meeting – A chance to shape the future of the fraternity while forging ties of brotherhood!