ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY

FALL/WINTER 2006
Vol. 12 – No. 4

www.illinoisfreemasonry.org

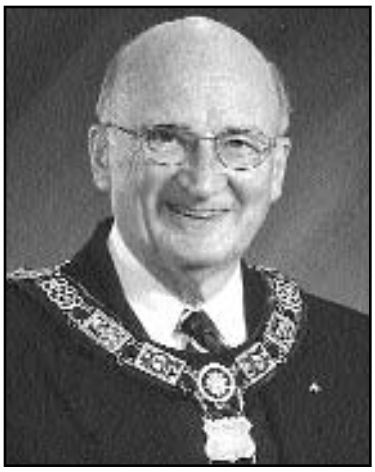
GRAND LODGE SPECIAL REPORT

- ✦ 1,500 assemble in Springfield for 167th Annual Communication
- ✦ Grand Master Dicks re-elected; highlights 'strong foundation'
- ✦ Award of Excellence, Eureka Challenge champions crowned
- ✦ Lifetime Achievement, Mason of the Year Awards presented
- ✦ Lodges partner with civic groups to host successful IL CHIP events
- ✦ Archives of Masonry: Early Grand Lodge furniture is rediscovered

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

'The Foundation Has Been Laid'

There is a familiar definition of Masonry: "A beautiful system of morals, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." But what exactly does that mean? I recently read the following alternate definition: "Masonry is the activity of closely united men who, employing symbolical forms borrowed principally from the mason's trade and from architecture, work for the welfare of mankind, striving morally to ennoble themselves and others and thereby bring about a universal league of mankind, which they aspire to exhibit even now on a small scale." This latter definition is indeed what we are about.



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

Masonry is a serious undertaking and a great force for good in the world. When we were initiated, passed and raised, we received the basic instructions and moral teachings of the Three Degrees. The principle tenets of Masonry are presented in such a manner as to lay down a challenge to each of us to reassess, as well as build, our moral and spiritual selves.

We have the benefit of a solid foundation consisting of the principles of Masonry, comprised of strong stones known as Brotherly Love, Relief, Truth, Charity, Temperance, Fortitude, Prudence and Justice. These stones are interlocked and cemented together by Masonic fellowship. If we accept the fact that the temple in our heart is always under construction and we utilize these teachings as we build on the foundation of life, the quality of our daily lives is enriched.

Of the three grand virtues, Faith, Hope and Charity, we are taught that Charity is the greatest. It is the sum and substance of Brotherly Love and Relief. To the general public, Charity is the Masonic teaching of love in action, and is that Masonic trait that is most visible to them. Almost without exception, each affiliated Masonic organization has adopted a particular charity to sponsor and support. These causes consist of scholarships, schizophrenia research, dyslexia centers, retirement facilities and nursing homes, orthopedic hospitals and burn centers, foundations for diabetes, cerebral palsy, arthritis, hearing and eye problems. As Masons we collectively donate approximately $2.5 million dollars per day to charitable purposes, not to mention untold thousands of hours of volunteer effort.

But Charity is not our only attribute. Our Masonic foundation is broad in nature and, as Masons, we are involved in diverse projects for the betterment of our individual communities. We owe it to our-selves to publicize these events and activities, so that non-members may know that we do care for our fellow man. But we still can do more.

We need to earnestly practice the principles of the other basic tenets of the fraternity, and thereby share our earnest love of mankind with others. We must make the public aware of the full range of attributes of our fraternity and, by doing so, potentially interest motivated individuals to join with us in our noble endeavors.

Many in society seem to sit on the foundation stones of life and let their feet dangle over the edge. It is always easier to relax and enjoy what has been accomplished by others on our behalf and indulge in whatever rewards freely come our way. As Masons we cannot afford to become so complacent. We need to remain eager to strive for further improvement. We must accept the opportunity to advance our cause and to make a difference in our personal moral edifice as well as contribute meaningfully to society in general. We must ever build on that foundation which our Masonic ancestors have laid, thus proving to ourselves and exemplifying to others that Masons are truly "Builders of Men."

On the covers. . .

Front cover: Seen at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Illinois were (counter-clockwise, from top right) National Sojourners presenting the U.S. Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance; G.M. Noel C. Dicks and his lady, Iris, at the Grand Master's Banquet; the Grand Lodge Procession; official Grand Lodge Officers photo; Collinsville Lodge No. 712 competes in the Eureka Challenge finals; Bro. Bradley L. Baker donates at the blood drive; and brethren ballot on legislative proposals. Statewide, the Blue Lightning program helps many brethren join the Craft, including at Paul Revere Lodge No. 998 in Chicago.

Back cover: W.M. Noel Dicks and his lady, Iris, emphasized the Amish culture around Arthur, their hometown. Blue lodge officers and their ladies enjoy Grand Lodge – a chance to renew old acquaintances while making new friends and helping chart the Craft's course for the future.

Illinois Freemasonry Publishing Schedule

Vol. 13, No. 1 - Winter/Spring 2007
Deadline for submissions: January 15
· General Grand Lodge Programs
· Eureka Challenge 1st Round Preview
· Informational Features/Lodge News

Vol. 13, No. 2 - Spring/Summer 2007
Deadline for submissions: April 15
· Grand Lodge Program Results to Date
· Masonic Community Days Preview
· Upcoming Grand Lodge Activities

Vol. 13, No. 3 - Summer/Fall 2007
Deadline for submissions: July 15
· Grand Lodge Annual Meeting Preview
· Masonic Community Days Roundup
· Summer Grand Lodge Programs/Events

Vol. 13, No. 4 - Fall/Winter 2007
Deadline for submissions: October 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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ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY
FALL/WINTER 2006

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ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY (ISSN 1091-2258, USPS 014656) is published February, May, August and November by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois, 2866 Via Verde, Springfield, IL 62703; main phone (217) 529-8900. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, Ill., and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY, 2866 Via Verde, Springfield, IL 62703.** Printed in the U.S.A.

Permission to reprint articles appearing in this publication will be granted to recognized Masonic publications. Such permission can be requested by writing to the Grand Secretary, 2866 Via Verde, Springfield, IL 62703; by faxing to 217-529-0242; or by e-mail at: grsecy@afam-il.org.

1,500 gather in Springfield for 167th meeting of Grand Lodge

Brethren from more than 500 lodges across the state gathered in Springfield Oct. 6-7 for the 167th Grand Lodge of Illinois Annual Communication and the re-election and installation of M.W. Grand Master Noel C. Dicks of Arthur Lodge No. 825, who delivered his Grand Master's report on the state of the Craft in Illinois, noting that a strong foundation has been laid for Masons as "Builders of Men."

Held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center, Worshipful Masters, Senior and Junior Wardens from Constituent Lodges elected Grand Lodge officers and heard reports on Grand Lodge initiatives, voted on proposed by-law changes, recognized award recipients and socialized with their brethren.

Legislative action taken deletes the Millennium Fund, permits lodges to publish names of candidates, requires that candidate fees be a minimum of $100 and requires that suspension for N.P.D. has the same effect in all lodges to which a member belongs. A proposal to delete Article 2 – Landmarks of the Grand Lodge – of the Constitution was seconded and has been sent to the lodges for a vote.

Grand Master Noel C. Dicks congratulates State Champions Newton Lodge No. 216 and Cobden Lodge No. 466, who will share the Grand Master's Award of Excellence Golden Trowel Award Traveling Trophy for 2006.

At the Masonic blood drive held Friday, 51 members and ladies presented themselves to donate. A total of 45 units were collected and there were 13 new donors. Each donor will receive a lapel pin and donor card.

Bro. Tom Lucchesi, Chairman of the Blood Sharing Committee, said that Masons are among Illinois' largest blood donors and that each unit can save up to three lives. "The Central Illinois Community Blood Center is excited to see the many Illinois Masons who donated these lifesaving gifts," he noted.

State championships awarded

Newton Lodge No. 216 and Cobden Lodge No. 466 were both recognized as statewide recipients in the 2006 Grand Master's Award of Excellence. For the first time, two lodges will share the Golden Trowel Traveling Trophy for meeting the most criteria in the annual program that spans fraternal, educational, charitable and civic activities.

In addition, Grove Lodge No. 824 was recognized as State Champion in the Lodge Officers' Proficiency Competition (see page 10) and Crete Lodge No. 763 received the State Champion Pythagoras Traveling Trophy in the Eureka Challenge (see page 5).

2006 Grand Master's Award of Excellence Recipients

Statewide Champions

Newton No. 216 (tie)	4S
Cobden No. 466 (tie)	18S

Area Champions

Grove No. 824	Northeastern
Lena No. 174	Northern
Prairie No. 77	Eastern
Newton No. 216	Southern
Cobden No. 466	Southern
Alpha No. 155	Western

Northeastern Area

Euclid No. 65	14NE
Milburn No. 127	1NE
Old Glory No. 141	9NE
Palatine No. 314	3NE
Landmark No. 422	13NE
Pleiades No. 478	9NE
Crete No. 763	13NE
Ravenswood No. 777	5NE
Ben Hur No. 818	4NE
Grove No. 824	15NE
Elmhurst No. 941	15NE
Lombard No. 1098	14NE

Northern Area

DeKalb No.144	7N
McHenry No. 158	5N
Star in the East No. 166	3N
Evergreen No. 170	2N
Lena No. 174	2N
Wilmington No. 208	18N
Horicon No. 244	7N
Miner's Lodge No. 273	1N
Kendall No. 471	11N
Braidwood No. 704	18N
Moline No. 1014	12N
Cary Grove No. 1157	5N

Eastern Area

Bloomington No. 43	6E
Prairie No. 77	15E
DeWitt No. 84	10E
Empire No. 126	2E
Urbana No. 157	11E
Morton No. 352	2E
Wade Barney No. 512	6E
Atwood No. 651	14E
Normal No. 673	6E
Blue Mound No. 682	16E
Arthur No. 825	14E
Further Light No. 1130	8E

Southern Area

Newton No. 216	4S
Robinson No. 250	4S
Cobden No. 466	18S
Columbia No. 474	12S
Anna No. 520	18S
Herrin's Prairie No. 693	16S
May No. 718	15S
Gothic No. 852	5S

Western Area

Pacific No. 66	5W
Alpha No. 155	5W
Gillespie No. 214	20W
T.J. Pickett No. 307	4W
Cuba No. 534	6W

Meritorious Award

Dundee No. 190	17NE
Monitor Lnsbry No. 522	4NE
Riverside No. 862	10NE
St. Cecilia No. 865	5NE
Glen Ellyn No. 950	14NE
Wayfarers No. 1001	7NE
Neighbor No. 1169	12NE
Orangeville No. 687	2N
Raven No. 303	11N
Mattoon No. 260	18E
Villa Grv Cmrgo No. 885	14E
Mt. Vernon No. 31	11S
Cairo No. 237	18S

Honorable Mention Award

Mississippi No. 385	1N
Plum River No. 554	1N
Bethany No. 884	18E
North West No. 271	6NE
Payson No. 379	12W

Brethren honored for exceptional service to the Craft

The following are remarks by M.W. Grand Master Noel C. Dicks recognizing Bro. Cary M. Willis as 2006-2007 Mason of the Year:

At the last Grand Lodge session, the Grand Lodge introduced a new Child Identification Program, known as ILCHIP. It is patterned after a national model made available to all interested Grand Lodges through the Grand Masters' Conference of North America.

In an ILCHIP event we collect a still picture and a short interview on a CD, collect a DNA sample and fingerprints, all of which are returned to the parents or guardians for safekeeping and will thus be readily available in case the child becomes lost, abducted or perhaps runs away from home. The program has been endorsed by law enforcement agencies as well as the Amber Alert network.

The implementation of the program and adapting it to usage in our state has been a major undertaking. In fact it has been under development for the past three years.

When the Grand Lodge officers made the decision to adopt the program in Illinois, we agreed that it was a program that we could not allow to fail. We were aware of the fact that we had to select a very highly qualified brother as chairman of the committee to implement the program: a man who would dedicate himself to many hours of investigation and evaluation as he developed the program. He had to be knowledgeable of modern technology, computers and digital cameras. He had to be a man who could deal with frustration and occasional defeat when a particular phase of the plan did not come together as expected and had to be re-written. He had to be a man who would not take no for an answer and could hand-pick a committee of equally qualified men to work with him.

We chose Brother Cary M. Willis.

He accepted the challenge and has met and exceeded all of these qualifications. We would receive e-mails on a regular basis informing us of modifications that were necessary as he and his committee developed and re-developed a user friendly and successful system. The ILCHIP program is now in operation and is available for local lodges to use to promote the fact that Masons do care for their fellow man.

Cary has stepped forward in a time of need. As a reward for his talent and hours of devotion and frustration, and dedicated service to our Grand Lodge, I have the honor of naming Bro. Cary M. Willis of King Oscar Lodge No. 855 and Paul Revere Lodge No. 998 as Mason of the Year.

Bro. Max Dean Balding received a 2006-2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. He was raised in 1956 in Hermitage Lodge No. 356 and has served the Craft for the past 50 years. He served as Master of his home lodge in 1986. He served as DDGM under Grand Masters Willie B. Elliot, Robert Ford, Wayne Blair and John Louden. He later served Grand Masters Benny L. Grisham and J. Garrie Burr as AADGM, then ADGM under Grand Masters James E. Durbin, Charles H. Sullins and David W. Miller.

He also has been very active in York Rite, serving all the bodies in various leadership roles, and is a member of the Scottish Rite, Shrine and Eastern Star. He is a member of three Blue Lodges, including Mt. Vernon No. 31 and Edward Dobbins No. 164, and has been elected to numerous honorary memberships.

Even after a half-century, this Brother continues to step forward to serve whenever called upon. He indeed cares for his fellow man.

Bro. Jesse R. Higginson received a 2006-2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. Raised in Arthur Lodge No. 825 in 1961, he took an early interest in the Standard Work and progressed through the line to serve as Master in 1969. Again elected Master in 1978, he set a personal goal of serving the lodge, with the members' permission, as Master at least one year in each decade and has done so. In his 45 years as a Mason, he has served as Master in eight years.

Active in his community, he has served the Boy Scouts for four decades and is the recipient of the Silver Beaver award, one of scouting's highest honors for adults.

Commissioned a Grand Lecturer in 1986, he also served as a DDGM and as an ADGM. He was appointed to the Board of Grand Examiners, and has served as Secretary and Chairman.

Upon his retirement from the Board, he was appointed Grand Steward for the ensuing year.

Illinois Masons continue support for teen substance abuse prevention program

The Illinois Masonic Foundation completed its 16th year of offering the program's vital teen substance abuse prevention services to educational leaders throughout the state.

Countless young people have been effectively counseled to avoid the pitfalls of both alcohol and drug abuse. In the 2005 academic year, 435 schools participated in the Student Assistance Program. A total of 10,140 at-risk students received services from Student Assistance professionals, many of whom were trained using resources provided by the Illinois Masonic Foundation Student Assistance Program. Also during the past year, a new administrator was appointed, Bro. Jay Faermark, with more than 30 years experience in special education.

"We wish to thank Illinois Masons for their ongoing financial support, which has done more good than brethren can possibly know," said chairman Bro. John Fascia. "These services can only be effective with fraternal financial support and we plan to showcase the impact of donations with a video presentation in the coming year that will explain key aspects of the program more effectively."

Society of King Solomon nets record $230K

Illinois Masonic Homes Endowment Fund chairman Howard L. Graff announced that during the past Masonic year, the Society of King Solomon netted contributions and pledges of $230,000, a record for any newly established Grand Lodge of Illinois charity.

"The Society of King Solomon was created as an exclusive group to honor significant donors to the Illinois Masonic Charities," said Bro. Graff. "In just six months, even without rolling out the program statewide, we have nearly 60 members who have contributed or pledged substantial amounts, including some who have qualified by designating the fund as the beneficiary on their life insurance policies." The Society has set a goal of raising $1 million within three years. A beautiful, custom-designed pocket jewel is presented to society members donating or pledging a minimum of $1,000.

Fraternal property tax exemption filings due

Lodges and temple boards that own their property are reminded that their Fraternal Organization Assessment Freeze (Form PTAX-764) must be filed no later than Dec. 31 everywhere in Illinois except Cook County, where filings are due by Jan. 31.

Qualified property for which a timely application is filed will have their assessed valuation reduced to 15% of its previous level. By law the assessed valuation is supposed to be one-third of a property's market value, so the reduced assessment should be 5% of market value.

The P-Tax form must be filed annually to keep the property tax reduction in effect. Forms and instructions have been sent to lodge secretaries and are available on the Grand Lodge website ilmason.org.

Grand Lodge Officers for 2006-2007

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 . . . . . .Richard 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 . . . . . .Gregory L. Clark
Bloomington Lodge No. 43

R.W. Grand Orator . . . . . .Brad Cole
Shekinah Lodge No. 241

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 . . . . . .Jesse R. Higginson
Arthur Lodge No. 825

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 Historian . . . . . .Nelson A. Ferry Sr.
Cobden Lodge No. 466

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

EUREKA CHALLENGE

2006 State Championship awarded at Grand Lodge

Questions for 2007 competition taken from three best-selling Masonic books

Five Area Champions squared off in the final round of the Eureka Challenge at Grand Lodge in the Springfield Hilton on Friday, Oct. 6. Vying for State Champion were the top lodges from each area: Hancock No. 20 (W), Urbana No. 157 (E), Aurora No. 254 (N), Collinsville No. 712 (S) and Crete No. 763 (NE).

When the scores were tallied, Crete Lodge No. 763 from the Northeastern Area took the Pythagoras Traveling Trophy with a score of 90 and a time of 5:05 minutes.

The 2006 Eureka Challenge State Champion, Crete Lodge No. 763, receives the Pythagoras Traveling Trophy from Lodge Programs Committee Chairman Paul Scheeler. Team members included, from second left, Bros. David Lynch, Joseph Casson, James Ruther, Edwin Ulrich and Robert Guntoris.

Grand Master Noel C. Dicks congratulated all the teams for their competitive spirit and encouraged every lodge to participate in the stimulating Masonic knowledge proficiency game.

He noted, "The questions for 2007 will be on the three major Masonic bestsellers that have been published in the past year or so and which many brethren have already purchased. This is a good opportunity to read these fine books while positioning your lodge to excel in the Eureka competition, which next year promises to be even more educational and entertaining."

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

Entry requirements: There are no entry forms. Each lodge secretary (based on their mailing address on record with the Grand Secretary's Office as of Jan. 1, 2007) is mailed a packet of first-round materials in mid-January. A lodge must conduct Round #1 no later than March 31 and mail completed materials postmarked no later than March 31, 2007. Lodges not wishing to participate may retain materials for future use; such materials may be scored but not included in the competition.

2006 ROUND #3 RESULTS

Name & number	Area	Score	Time
Crete No. 763	**NE**	**90**	**5:05**
Collinsville No. 712	**S**	**90**	**5:30**
Aurora No. 254	**N**	**75**	**9:33**
Urbana No. 157	**E**	**60**	**5:42**
Hancock No. 20	**W**	**55**	**6:27**

Scoring: Five points are 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. post-mark). Scores for each round are not publicized until all participating lodges' materials have been scored.

Question format: A pool of 100 all-new questions is used in each round to keep the game fresh, with each lodge's set of 20 questions drawn randomly using special software so lodges may freely visit each other during the competition without gaining competitive advantage.

Topics for each round always pertain to a specific aspect of Masonry and are announced in advance so members may study subject matter beforehand. 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 are mailed their used cards and an answer key to enable them to see which questions they missed, thus allowing for follow-up discussion and an educational activity.

Topics for 2007: The theme of the questions for the coming year is "Masonic Bestsellers."

Round #1 will focus on the "checkmarked" items featured in *Freemasons for Dummies* by Christopher Hodapp;

Round #2 on "The Least You Need to Know" bullet points in *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry* by S. Brent Morris;

Round #3 on the inset descriptions and photo caption information featured in *American Freemasons: Three Centuries of Building Communities* by Mark A. Tabbert.

All three are available, usually at discount prices, from most major bookstores and on-line booksellers.

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

Lodges leverage matching funds to help local youth

Donations from lodges, Masonic groups and individuals have always been the life-blood of the Coins for Children Program, noted committee chairman Bro. Paul E. Mealiff.

This year, however, his committee had a most pleasant surprise: in addition to donations totaling $11,113 from 131 lodges, two Masonic organizations and six brethren, the Harshbarger Charity Trust donated $5,000. Contributions in cash and checks collected during Grand Lodge totaled an additional $8,002.

A Blue Lodge can receive up to a total of $500 per year in matching funds from the Coins for Children Program. To qualify, a lodge must hold a fundraiser and then donate that money to one or more groups or individuals that meet the guidelines on the revised Coins for Children Application, a copy of which is available in the Grand Master's Program for 2007 or from the Grand Secretary's Office. Applicants should note minor changes in the approval guidelines used by the committee. All applicants are requested to use this new application.

For the 2005-2006 Masonic year, the Coins for Children Committee received 36 requests for matching funds from 29 lodges. Of those requests (including a 2005 carryover), 31 were approved in the amount of $6,160, ranging from $25 to $500. Some of these activities included eyeglasses, clothes and toys for needy children, replacing or purchasing new playground equipment and helping mentally challenged and handicapped children. Six requests for items excluded under the program guidelines were not approved.

"The committee wishes to express their appreciation to all the lodges and brethren who continue to support the Coins for Children Program," said Bro. Mealiff. "By working to make their lodge more visible through fundraisers and prudently leveraging the resource of matching funds, they are making a positive difference in the youth of their communities and exemplifying the tenet of Brotherly Love in action."

2005-2006 Coins for Children Lodge Applications Approved

Lodge	Recipient	Purpose
Bodley No. 1	L.M.	Child with intractable epilepsy
Cambridge No. 49	D.H./Cambridge Grade School	Toys for needy children
DeWitt No. 84	Angel Tree	Winter clothes & toys for needy children
Marion No. 130	G.C. Benefit	Liver transplant
Alpha No. 155	Knox Co. Children's Advocacy Ctr	Assist troubled youth
Staunton No. 177	Staunton H.S. Post Prom	Post-prom activities
Newton No. 216	Grove PTO	Replace old/damaged library shelves
Pana No. 226	Kehias Park Equipment Fund	Geo-dome playground equipment
Prophetstown No. 293	Unit Dist. #3 Girl Scout Troop	Send needy girls to camp
Doric No. 319	Boy Scout Troop #111	Send underprivileged children to camp
Summit No. 431	Niantic-Harristown Youth League	Building materials for new dugout
Mendon No. 449	Unity High Schl #356 After Prom	Post-prom activities
Maroa No. 454	Maroa Youth League	Uniforms for underprivileged children
Cobden No. 466	Cobden H.S. Vision Fund	Eyeglasses for needy children
Cobden No. 466	Anna, IL Boy Scout Troop #44	Send underprivileged children to camp
Cobden No. 466	Cobden H.S. FFA Chapter	Help students attend state & national activities
Gordon No. 473	Pocahontas UMC/Heather James	Family fun night
Pleiades No. 478	K.S. Benefit	Child with muscular dystrophy
Plum River No. 554	Stockton H.S. Post Prom	Post-prom activities
Plum River No. 554	Warren H.S. Post Prom	Post-prom activities
Buffalo Prairie No. 679	IL City Baseball & Softball Assn	Construct fence around ball diamonds
Clement No. 680	S.C.	Medical expenses from child with cancer
Herrin's Prairie No. 693	Herrin Fire Department	Fire Safety Week – child program materials
Crete No. 763	Crete-Monee Post Prom	Post-prom activities
Crete No. 763	Tourney Sport USA	Nicole Poletto travel to National Softball
Ben Hur No. 818	Julie Buff	People to People Program
Granville No. 1093	Starved Rock Area Spcl Olympics	Assist handicapped children
Granville No. 1093	Putnam County High School	NHS pizza party (carryover from 2005)
Lombard No. 1098	Deicke Center	Facility to assist retarded children
Lombard No. 1098	Markland Home at Mill Creek	Facility to assist retarded children
Pontoon Beach No. 1177	Worthen PTA Student Activity Fund	Replace playground equipment

Updated image reflected in new name, logo for Sullivan Home

The Illinois Masonic Home has been a fixture of the central Illinois countryside for more than 100 years. Many key changes have occurred through the years at Sullivan that have benefited residents, and that same spirit continues today. This unique community is at a crossroads, and change must occur in order for this special place to continue to prosper.

In the next few years, the Masonic community at Sullivan will be making distinct changes not only to the programs offered but also to the campus itself. The long-term goal is to provide a community that meets the needs and preferences of not only our Masonic membership and their loved ones, but also appeals to all those older adults who wish to be a part of our community.

PREVIOUSLY THE ILLINOIS MASONIC HOME

New administrator announced

One change is the selection of a new administrator. Brenda Winskill was recently appointed by the Board of Managers of the Illinois Masonic Home to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Teresa Crawford in April of this year. Brenda has served as interim administrator for the past six months and brings several years of experience as a Director at the Home as well as a strong passion to transform it into a thriving retirement community that welcomes both Masons and their loved ones as well as those without Masonic membership. Together with this new managerial leadership, the campus will have an updated identity: Mason Point. The Grand Lodge Officers and Board of Managers feel that this new name better reflects the progressive spirit of the community and contemporary amenities of the campus.

In February 2006, the Home's Board of Directors appointed several brethren to serve on a strategic planning committee to begin long-range planning for the campus. Their objectives include recommending programs and services that older adults will want and need, which, in turn, can generate revenue that mitigates reliance on the Illinois Masonic Homes Endowment Fund for operating expenses.

"The new name of 'Mason Point' embodies the more forward-thinking image that we and our residents want to personify," said Grand Master Noel C. Dicks. "I know that lodges and members of our fraternity will continue to support this outstanding retirement community through their generous contributions."

LaGrange, Murphysboro children's homes thriving

Both Illinois Masonic Children's Homes continue to benefit from sound management, generous financial contributions and lodge sponsorship of children.

As always, any lodge may sponsor a child, which consists of remembering the child with a gift at Christmas and on their birthday. Lodges may also host special events or trips for the children.

This year, the Social Services Departments of Northern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University agreed to develop internships and student volunteer programs at each Home.

The Homes also have a new website — www.imchkids.org — featuring every aspect of the Home and direct communication with administrative staff..

LaGrange improvements

In 2006, the LaGrange Home launched a public relations campaign to inform education and social services professionals about the Home via direct mail and public service announcements, significantly increasing referrals.

In March, the LaGrange Home opened a computer lab for residents after a fundraising campaign by the Northeastern District Deputies Association. The lab enables residents to do on-line research for homework projects, as well as supervised free-time entertainment and games.

The LaGrange Home also benefited from numerous capital improvements during the past year, including grounds, equipment and infrastructure.

Murphysboro improvements

The Murphysboro Home has 21 children residing there and employs 15 staff members to oversee day-to-day operations.

Local citizens have commented on the Home's positive appearance and the value of its services.

The Home was showcased in July at the annual Neighborhood Friends of the Home Picnic. The function was well-attended and staff members were gracious hosts and the children's behavior was exemplary.

Lodges join with appendant bodies, civic groups to host child ID events

The Grand Lodge of Illinois Child Identification Program (ILCHIP) Committee is pleased to report that 40 ILCHIP events were held throughout the state during the past year, and more lodges are planning events for the ensuing year, creating ID kits for upwards of 2,500 children. Many lodges are joining with appendant bodies, community groups and municipalities to host events, which generate much local publicity.

At an ILCHIP event, a photo and video interview of a child are saved to CD, fingerprints are taken and a DNA swab is made from the inside of the mouth. All items, plus emergency information, are sealed in a packet and given to the parents at no charge. The packet can be given to police and Amber Alert if the child becomes lost.

Recent ILCHIP events have included (top) brethren and friends of Frank N. Nicol Lodge No. 1170 staffing an ILCHIP booth at the Creve Coeur Family Days Festival; (above) Farmington Lodge No. 192 holding an event at a local elementary school; (right) 9th NE District Masons co-hosting their event at the Pleasantview Fire Protection District Safety Day with the help of Boy Scout Troop #152; and (below right) Glenview United Lodge No. 1058 and York Rite bodies holding an ILCHIP program with the Glenview Police Dept. and Kohl's Children's Museum.

Partnering helps ensure successful events

Lodges are finding that coordinating their events with civic groups offers many advantages, including enhanced turnout — especially when events are held at community festivals or open houses, plus more visible venues that afford better public access than Masonic temples, such as city halls, schools, recreation centers and churches.

In addition to York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine and Eastern Star involvement, Masonic youth groups such as DeMolay, Job's Daughters and Rainbow are eager to assist with support tasks. Non-masonic youth groups, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, also can be helpful in occupying children waiting in line, or with tasks such as fingerprinting. Civic groups, such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Jaycees, have community-focused missions.

"Good coordination and promotion are essential to any successful ILCHIP event," said Chairman Cary Willis. "Most civic organizations are eager to participate, and lodges should fully share credit with appendant bodies, non-masonic groups and municipalities. The goal is to build long-term relationships to support future events while showcasing the joint effort, at the same time making sure the public knows that ILCHIP is a Masonically sponsored program that benefits kids in the community."

Brethren providing program leadership

With the assistance of the Area Deputy Grand Masters, ILCHIP Area Coordinators are supporting area lodges' events, including C. Kelly Erwin and Richard Burton in the Northern Area, Michael Lovell in the Southern Area, John Bonn in the Western Area, Earl Harrison in the Eastern Area and Clyde Green in the Northeastern Area.

In addition to committee chairman Cary Willis, who was named Mason of the Year by Grand Master Dicks, several brethren were instrumental in setting up the program. William Bloch, chairman of the Illinois Masonic Children's Home in LaGrange, developed the ILCHIP brochure, Omar Delacruz designed the height chart and logo, and Ward Seward created the website.

Gary Wayne Hardesty developed the ILCHIP software, Steven Walls and James Middleton supported administrative functions, Jethroe Smith served as medical director for DNA protocols, Robert Trefzger is hardware specialist and David Rebmann is law enforcement specialist.

Lodge awareness program off to good start with exciting fall and winter events

Now entering its sixth year, Masonic Community Days has become a valuable tool for lodges throughout the state that recognize the importance of improving the image of Masonry – and their lodges – in their local communities.

The 2007 Masonic Community Days program is off to a fast start with many successful events already registered, planned and conducted during the fall-winter period. Registrations are also being received for events planned for the spring and summer periods of the program.

If your lodge has not registered its Masonic Community Days activities yet, it is essential to do so as soon as possible to take advantage of the materials available from the Grand Secretary and the assistance of the Grand Lodge Masonic Awareness Committee.

The variety of activities conducted by Illinois lodges during the fall-winter period demonstrates the versatility of using Masonic Community Days as a theme for all events of a public nature.

Kinmundy Lodge 398 participated in a local Labor Day Parade in September, and Chester Lodge 72 had an entry in its community's Fall Parade that month. In December, Livingston Lodge 371 had an entry in the Christmas Parade sponsored by Dwight's Chamber of Commerce and Pontoon Beach Lodge 1177 tied in with the holiday season with a Breakfast with Santa.

Events that relate to lodge charitable activities have a dual benefit of not only raising funds but also in alerting the public to lodge charities. In Fairview Heights, East Lodge 504 held a Youth Fund Breakfast and a few weeks later Gothic Lodge 83 sponsored a bowling event for its charities. Similarly, Bromwell Lodge 451 held a fundraising breakfast for its neighbors in Assumption, and Landmark Lodge 422 includes a scholarship fundraiser as only one of its annual Masonic Community Days activities in Lansing.

Newton Lodge 216 used Masonic Community Days as the theme for its three-day celebration of its 150th anniversary. M.W. Bro. J. Garrie Burr, past Grand Master, was the featured speaker at its Friday night dinner, a Blue Lightning event was held on Saturday and an open house held on Sunday.

And Charleston Lodge 35 reinforced its other community activities by conducting a November ILCHIP initiative as a Masonic Community Days event.

Registrations for all 2007 Masonic Community Days events are promptly acknowledged and materials will be sent to the lodge contact individual by one of the Area Masonic Community Days Coordinators listed below.

Please register these 2007 Masonic Community Days events for my lodge.

Lodge name and number _____ City or town _____ District _____

Fall-Winter – Sept.-Dec. 2006

Date _____ Type of event _____

Spring – Jan.-April 2007

Date _____ Type of event _____

Summer – May-Aug. 2007

Date _____ Type of event _____

Contact name _____

Street address _____

City, state, zip code _____

Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Check here to to have a Community Days logo sent to contact via e-mail. ☐

Area Coordinators

Northeastern Area
Bro. Pat Antos, Palatine 314

Northern Area
Bro. Dave Chapman, Cary-Grove 1157

Western Area
Bro. Bill Gabbert, Cass 23
Bro. Pat Baughman, Cuba 534

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

Southern Area
Bro. Charlie Beckett, Gothic 852
Bro. Skip Hamilton, Hermitage 356

Masonic Awareness Chairman
Bro. Clarence Casson, Old Glory 141

Send registration forms to:
Masonic Community Days
P. O. Box 2266
Des Plaines, IL 60017-2266

Hosting Masonic school helps state champions stay proficient

On most Sunday afternoons for the past several years, members of Grove Lodge No. 824 in Downers Grove have gathered to help each other and visiting brethren master the basics of the Standard Work and hone the finer points of the ceremonials.

This year, their teamwork and dedication earned Grove Lodge the state championship in the Lodge Officers Proficiency Competition held at Mason Point in Sullivan on June 24, which consisted of the conferral of the First Section of the First Degree. Second place went to Blue Mound Lodge No. 682 of the Eastern Area, and third place was claimed by Cobden Lodge No. 466 of the Southern Area. The Northern and Western area champions were not able to attend the state finals.

Founded in memory of renowned Grand Lecturers Bros. Warren H. Cook, John A. Lombardi and Ernie Duck, the Cook-Lombardi-Duck School of Masonic Instruction has been in existence for 40 years and is a resource that all brethren in the Northeastern Area should consider utilizing.

Instructors include Grand Examiner Robert T. Fischer, who is known for his serious attention to detail, as well as Grand Lecturers Donald D. Kalenick and James J. Brown, plus Certified Lodge Instructor Waldemar Herr.

Dozens of successful candidates for teaching commissions have "graduated" from the school and have gone on to pass examinations as Grand Lecturers and Certified Lodge Instructors before the Board of Grand Examiners.

"This school is dedicated to the perfection of the ritual and floorwork of Ancient Craft Masonry, and imparting this knowledge to others," said R.W. Bro. Brown, who also is Grove's secretary. "We're fortunate to have a number of talented instructors eager to teach the Standard Work to Board of Grand Examiner Standards to any Master Mason willing to learn."

Brethren are welcome to attend all or any portion of the instruction. Class schedules are structured and dedicated to specific portions of the work, making it easier for busy brethren to learn or review what they wish. The school also offers a program to certify lodge officers in their stations and places, which is one of the primary requirements in the Grand Master's Award of Excellence.

The School meets weekly except on major holidays, 12:00 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, at the Downers Grove Masonic Temple, 923 Curtiss St., Downers Grove, IL 60515. For more information contact: www.grovemasoniclodge.org; phone 630-968-0167.

Illinois brethren to exemplify Third Degree in England

Libertyville Lodge No. 492 hosted a visit in October 2005 from Sword and Trowel Lodge No. 5847 of the United Grand Lodge of England, where both lodges exemplified their First Degrees.

Now Sword and Trowel Lodge, which meets in a suburb of London, has extended an invitation for Illinois brethren to visit them and a neighboring lodge, John Carpenter No. 1997, which meets in central London at Mark Mason's Hall near St. James's Palace.

Sword and Trowel Lodge anticipates having a "live" candidate who will be raised in English Form, but the English Traditional History lecture will be replaced with Illinois' Second Section of the Third Degree. John Carpenter Lodge will not have an actual candidate, so the Third Degree Second Section will be exemplified.

The visit to Sword and Trowel Lodge is set for Feb. 7, 2007 and to John Carpenter Lodge on Feb. 9. Brethren also plan to visit the Tower of London to see the Ceremony of the Keys as well as visit the Grand Lodge in Great Queen Street in London, headquarters of English Freemasonry.

The annual Ladies Festival hosted by Sword and Trowel Lodge is set for the evening of Feb. 3, 2007, and invitations are extended to Illinois brethren and their ladies at a cost of £50 per person, which will include a six-course dinner with eloquent speeches and dancing.

Sword and Trowel Lodge has arranged a discount for visiting Illinois brethren with the Antoinette Hotel in Surbiton, Surrey (30 minutes from central London).

Those interested in participating should promptly contact coordinator Bro. Graham Southall, 913 Woodland Road, Wauconda, IL 60084; phone 847-970-1288; ganda12@sbcglobal.net.

School schedule and locations announced

Northern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-21-06	8:30 a.m.	Milledgvlle #345	Milledgvlle	3	1-2-6
11-04-06	8:30 a.m.	Marseilles #417	Marseilles	1-2	11, 15-18
11-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Friendship #7	Dixon	1-2	All
11-18-06	8:30 a.m.	Silvis #898	Silvis	3	10-12-13
12-02-06	8:30 a.m.	Cherry Vlly #173	Cherry Vlly	1-2	3-5-7
01-13-07	8:30 a.m.	Sterling #612	Sterling	1-2	10-12-13
01-27-07	8:30 a.m.	Occidental #40	Ottawa	3	All
02-10-07	8:30 a.m.	Excelsior #97	Freeport	1-2	1-2-6
02-17-07	8:30 a.m.	Princeton#587	Princeton	3	11, 15-18
03-10-07	8:30 a.m.	Horicon#244	Rochelle	3	3-5-7

Northeastern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-14-06	8:00 a.m.	Wauconda #298	Wauconda	1-2	1-2-3-4-17
10-28-06	8:00 a.m.	Integrity #997	Skokie	1-2	5-6-7-8
11-11-06	8:00 a.m.	Rvr Frst-Astn #850	Riverside	1-2	9-10-14-15
11-18-06	8:00 a.m.	Oak Lawn #1166	Oak Lawn	1-2	11-12-13-18
12-02-06	8:00 a.m.	Des Plaines #890	Des Plaines	3	1-2-3-4-17
12-16-06	8:00 a.m.	Glenview #1058	Glenview	3	5-6-7-8
01-06-07	8:00 a.m.	Bensenville #1159	Elmhurst	3	9-10-14-15
01-20-07	8:00 a-m.	Matteson#175	Joliet	3	11-12-13-18

Southern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
12-02-06	8:30 a.m.	Newton #216	Newton	1-2	3-4-8-9
01-13-07	8:30 a.m.	Franklin #25	Alton	3	1-2-5-10
01-13-07	8:30 a.m.	Equality #2	Equality	3	17-18-19-20
01-27-07	8:30 a.m.	Marion #130	Salem	3	6-11-14-15
02-03-07	8:30 a.m.	Hope #162	Sparta	1-2	12-13-16
02-17-07	8:30 a.m.	Flora #204	Flora	3	3-4-8-9
03-03-07	8:30 a.m.	Polk #137	McLnsboro	1-2	6-11-14-15
03-17-07	8:30 a.m.	Shekinah #24	Carbondale	3	12-13-16
03-17-07	8:30 a.m.	O'Fallon #676	O'Fallon	1-2	1-2-5-10
03-24-07	8:30 a.m.	Anna #520	Anna	1-2	17-18-19-20

Eastern Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-21-06	8:30 a.m.	Normal #673	Normal	3	1-2-6-10-13
10-30-06	7:00 p.m.	Nokomis #456	Nokomis	1-2	16-17
11-04-06	8:30 a.m.	Fraternal #58	Monticello	1-2	6-7
11-04-06	8:30 a.m.	Mattoon #260	Mattoon	3	14, 16-20
11-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Morton #352	Morton	1-2	1-2
11-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Urbana#157	Champaign	3	4-5-7-8-11-12-15
12-09-06	8:30 a.m.	Watseka #446	Watseka	1-2	4-5
12-09-06	8:30 a.m.	Maroa#454	Maroa	1-2	10-13
01-13-07	8:30 a.m.	Arthur #825	Arthur	1-2	14-18
01-13-07	8:30 a.m.	Ogden #754	Ogden	1-2	8-11-12
01-20-07	8:30 a.m.	Greenup#125	Greenup	1-2	15-19-20

Western Area Lodge Officer Schools

Date	Time	Lodge	City	Type	Districts
10-19-06	7:00 p.m.	Rivertn-Lvly #786	Riverton	1	15
10-24-06	7:00 p.m.	Herman #39	Quincy	2	11-12
11-09-06	7:00 p.m.	Macomb#17	Macomb	1	7-8
11-09-06	7:00 p.m.	Greenview #653	Greenview	1	10
11-29-06	7:00 p.m.	Virginia #544	Virginia	2	14
12-06-06	7:00 p.m.	Wyoming #479	Wyoming	1	2
12-06-06	7:00 p.m.	T.J. Pickett #307	Bushnell	2	4
12-20-06	7:00 p.m.	White Hall #80	White Hall	2	17
01-20-07	9:00 a-m.	Pacific #66	Knoxville	1	5
01-20-07	9:00 a.m.	Ipava #213	Ipava	1	9
01-29-07	7:00 p.m.	Pawnee #675	Pawnee	1	18
02-09-07	7:00 p.m.	Morning Str #734	Canton	2	6
02-17-07	9:00 a-m.	Hardin #44	Mt. Sterling	3	7-9, 11-12-16
02-19-07	7:00 p.m.	Aledo#262	Aledo	1	1
02-24-07	9:00 a.m.	Alpha #155	Galesburg	3	1-6, 10
03-03-07	9:00 a.m.	Shipman #212	Shipman	2	19-20
03-27-07	9:00 a.m.	Mt. Nebo #76	Carlinville	3	14-15, 17-20
03-26-07	7:00 p.m.	New Canton #821	New Canton	1	16

2006-2007 Grand Lecturers' Schools

10-21-06	8:30 a.m.	Grove #824	DwnrsGrv	1-2	GL's&CLI's
11-4-06	8:30 a.m.	DuQuoin #234	DuQuoin	3	GL's&CLI's
11-11-06	8:30 a.m.	Friendship #7	Dixon	1-2	GL's&CLI's
3-10-07	8:30 a.m.	Old Glory #141	Westchstr	3	GL's&CLI's
3-10-07	8:30 a.m.	Temperance #16	Vandalia	1-2	GL's&CLI's
3-31-07	8:30 a.m.	Harmony #3	Jacksonville	1-2	GL's&CLI's
4-7-07	8:30 a.m.	Alpha #155	Galesburg	3	GL's&CLI's
4-14-07	8:30 a.m.	Arthur #825	Arthur	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

11-18-06	8:00 a.m.	Mattoon #260	Fall Exam Candidates
5-26-07	8:00 a.m.	Lincoln #210	Spring Exam Candidates

Lodge Proficiency Competition

Completed by 04-15-07	Various Locations TBA	District Competition
Completed by 06-30-07	Various Locations TBA	Area Competition

– 2007 competition will be on 1st Section of 1st Degree w/out Interrogatories

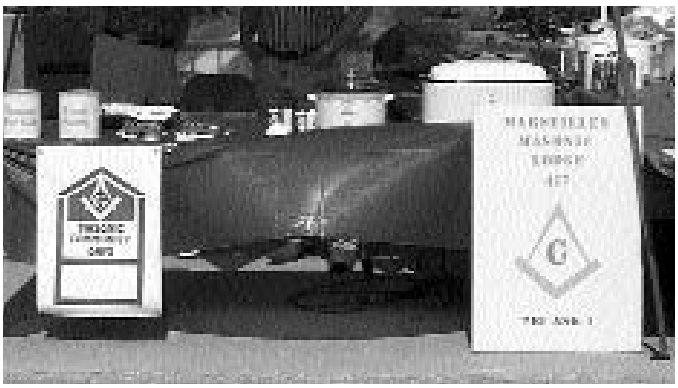
– Lodge with highest score in Area Competition will be declared State Champion

– Area Competition will be judged by members of the Board of Grand Examiners

– Minimum of 750 points will be required to qualify for Award of Excellence credit

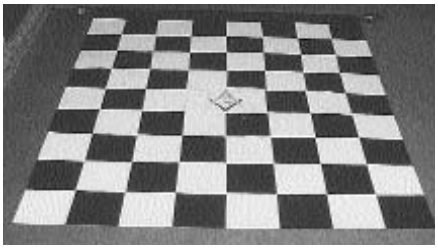
– All members of a lodge in good standing are now eligible to participate on behalf of their lodge in the Proficiency Competition without incurring a penalty – every lodge is strongly encouraged to enter the competition!

News from lodges around the state



Marseilles Lodge No. 417 participated in the annual Freedom Run in June. This is a motorcycle run starting in Joliet and ending in Marseilles at the War Memorial to honor fallen service members from the Gulf conflicts. The lodge had a food booth where the members sold baked potatoes and a booth where they gave away bottles of water for a donation. The money raised went to the lodge scholarship fund.

Walshville Lodge No. 475 honored its 60-year members with a pin and certificate presentation. Shown (below left) is W.M. Ray Hughes presenting Bro. George Payed with his certiifcate. Not shown is 60-year member Gene Markos. Fieldon Lodge No. 592 held a dinner in September to honor its 50- and 60-year members. R.W. Bro. William Gettings Jr., DDGM, 19W, presented Bro. Floyd Isringhausen with his 60-year pin.



Oak Forest Lodge No. 832 was the recipient of a King Solomon floor mat from Bro. Melvyn and Janet Freed. It is made to be stored as a wall tapestry in the lodge room. The Freeds made the mat, with Janet embroidering the square and compasses.

Blueville Lodge No. 647, Edinburg, sponsors both a baseball and a basketball team for the We Care Kids, where no child is left out, every child plays.

Fourth of July float built by members of Farmington Lodge No. 192 carried brethren and their ladies in a show of patriotic fervor on the nation's birthday.

A multi-lodge family picnic was held in July by members of Villa Park Lodge No. 1113, Lombard Lodge No. 1098 and Elmjurst Lodge No. 941 at the Ray Ruugard Gazebo on the Illinois Prairie Path in Villa Park.

Members of Harrisburg Lodge No. 325 recently helped mow the lawn and beautify the Saline County Museum and did maintenance work at the pauper cemetery. The lodge also provided lunch for more than 30 people attending a hunter safety course sponsored by the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.

News from lodges around the state

A float built by Sherman Lodge No. 535 and featured in the Orion Fall Festival parade on Sept. 2, 2006, was used to promote the lodge's ILCHIP event held in conjunction with the Orion Fire Dept., where parents of 74 children were provided with ID materials.

A steak dinner for veterans was sponsored by Mont Clare Masonic Temple lodges Union Park No. 610, Clarence P. Schwarz No. 1163 and Kelvyn Park-Willing No. 1075, and by York Rite bodies, St. Elmo Commandery No. 64, Irving Park Chapter No. 195 and Siloam Council No. 53, for 125 disabled veterans, staff members and volunteers at the Jesse Brown Veterans Hospital in Chicago. The event included a raffle, DJ, stand-up comic and a presentation saluting veterans.

A mission meal service was manned by members of Frank N. Nicol Lodge No. 1170 (Creve Coeur), where brethren volunteer to serve dinner once a month at the Peoria Rescue Ministries.

A food pantry donation from Naperville Masonic Bodies was made by Temple Board President John Will (center) with Naperville Mayor George Pradel (center right) to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry staff Christine Robinson, Vicki King and Joanne Mitrenga.

Palatine Lodge No. 314 held a celebration dinner (above) for state champion Academic Bowl team from William Fremd High School. The lodge also celebrated raising a fifth-generation Mason from the Keyser family (below), which has 220 years of combined Masonic membership: Lawrence Keyser, grandfather; W.M. Joseph W. Pegoraro, Henry W. Keyser and W. Bro. William Keyser, father.

Installation of officers at Horicon Lodge No. 244 included Wor. Master Art Carlson, who also gave a superb rendition of the Paul Revere Charges.

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, 2006

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 1956)

Lodge No.	*& Name*	*Member Name*
1	Bodley	Bigelow, David P. Brown
1	Bodley	Brown, Donald A.
2	Equality	Feazel, Lance D. Sr.
3	Harmony	Cannnell, Roger D.
3	Harmony	Phillips, Franklin M.
3	Harmony	Ware, Paul R.
8	Macon	Yeager, James R.
13	St. John's	Morris, John
16	Temperance	Cunningham,Charles E.
17	Macomb	Riggins, Harold A.
24	St. Clair	Cosbey, Blaine L.
24	St. Clair	Ellefritz, Raymond E.
25	Franklin	Bertier, Donald E.
31	Mt. Vernon	Sledge, Burrell L.
37	Monmouth	McVey, Richard F.
38	Olive Branch	Ross, James E.
40	Occidental	Barr, Arnold S.
40	Occidental	Griffiths, Richard W
40	Occidental	Prater, Calvin C.
43	Bloomington	Ziegler, Harry W.
46	Temple	Adkins, Barney J.
47	Caledonia	Melvin, Nathan G. Jr.
50	Stuart E. Pierson	Davenport, Harry M.
50	Stuart E. Plerson	Widdowson, Herbert M.
51	Mt. Moriah	Painter, Maynard S.
55	Washington	Claytor, Joseph T
59	New Boston	Schroeder, Robert A,
64	Benton	Mayer, James E.
72	Chester	Derickson, Frank E.
75	Roscoe	Ralston, Russell B.
76	Mt. Nebo	Best, Carlan M.
76	Mt. Nebo	Jones, Russell W.
77	Prairie	Ward, Elvis R.
78	Waukegan	Hartman, William G.
78	Waukegan	Lovinger, Sheldon
81	D.C. Cregier	Willman, Christian M.
84	DeWitt	Adcock, Robert F.
89	Fellowship	Deaton, William E.
89	Fellowship	Ohms, H. A.
97	Excelsior	Lohr, Delbert L.
98	Taylor	Lippert, William
98	Taylor	Sadler, Billy R.
102	Rockford	Zordan, James F.
103	Magnolia	Bibens. Merrill K.
111	Jonesboro	Rumfelt, Bill
117	Elgin	Holloway, John W.
119	Henry	Schertz, Deryl L.
122	Mound	Dial, Perle K.
124	Cedar	Carlson, Roy L.
125	Greenup	Winnett, Robert S
126	Empire	Smith, James W.
129	Greenfield	Range, Vern C.
132	Mackinaw	Bright, Byron C.
133	Marshall	Buehler, William F.
133	Marshall	Prewett, Roy
139	Geneva	Sampson, Robert D.
140	Olney	McCain, John B.
155	Alpha	Bowman, James E.
15S	Alpha	Moore, Richard
155	Alpha	Zumwalt, Homer L.
157	Urbana	Johnson, Richard A.
160	Decalogue	Burnstine, Phillip A.
160	Decalogue	Glassner, Jordan M.
160	Decalogue	Weinman, Bertram
162	Hope	Barber, Robert E,
166	Star in the East	Okeson, 0. Gilbert
166	Star in the East	Rowland, Gilbert F.
166	Star in the East	Stone, Marshall G. Jr.
173	Cherry Valley	Norman, J. Ralph
175	Matteson	Carter, Eugene R.
175	Matteson	Kastl, Edward Jr.
176	Mendota	Fitch, Robert W.
177	Staunton	Morelan, Donald E.
178	Illinois Central	Beggs, Lowell L.
188	Cyrus	Kauffman, Harold C.
188	Cyrus	Martin, Earl J.
192	Farmington	Vandeveer, William C.
201	Centralia	Mullins, James J.
220	Mahomet	Fairfield, Leon M.
226	Pana	Sarver, James
233	Blandinsville	Sandstrom, Lloyd E.
234	DuQuoin	Keene, Allen G.
237	Cairo	Hendrick, Edward H.
246	El Paso	English, George W.
247	Rob Morris	Whitcomb, Wilbur J.
250	Robinson	Wait, Max R.
254	Aurora	Pigney, James J.
263	Illinois	Cowan, Donald E.
263	Illinois	Wise, James F.
268	Paris	Duck, Clifford J.
269	Wheaton	DeSalvo, Francis E.
271	North West	Anderson, A. D.
272	Carmi	Kirkpatrick, Lonnie J.
288	Genoa	Murphy, Willie E.
307	T.J. Pickett	Ames, Clark E.
321	Dunlap	Velde, Roy H.
330	Altona	Johnson, Glenn F.
332	Tuscola	Farber, Kenneth L.
332	Tuscola	Miller, John W.
332	Tuscola	Proffitt, Ralph L.
333	Tyrian	Rimkus, John E.
341	Full Moon	Amburg, Edward M.
341	Full Moon	Legate, Oran E.
347	Sidney	Williams, Theodore R.
348	Flat Rock	Robinson, Carl E.
351	Tarbolton	Prather, James K.
356	Hermitage	Ingram, Curtis B.
359	Blackberry	Jamison, Francis G.
374	Shabbona	Baie, Arden G.
374	Shabbona	Phillips, Wayne S.
388	El Dara	Grawe, John F.
389	Kankakee	Meents, Richard J-
398	Kinmundy	Garden, Charles R.
404	Batavia	Nelson, William T.
406	Bethalto	King, Karl E.
406	Bethalto	Kline, Donald E.
416	Paxton	Currence, Clarence F. Jr.
418	Freeburg	Stumpf, Louis W.
422	Landmark	Strobo, Edward
437	Chicago	Beckman, Wallace J.
437	Chicago	Eckstein, Nathan J.
437	Chicago	Lidov, Howard I.
446	Watseka	Bargman, Clyde B.
454	Maroa	Hill, Jack R.
454	Maroa	Mitchell, Robert R.
474	Columbia	Hooks, Wendell H.
476	Manito	Lawson, Russell W.
479	Wyoming	Johnson, Peter J.
498	Murphysboro	Evans, William K.
504	East	Payne, Charles M.
524	Evans	Cissa, Ralph C.
524	Evans	Mikkola, George E.
524	Evans	Wright, George H.
530	Maquon	Clark, Paul D.
530	Maquon	Woolsey, John E.
535	Sherman	Gainey, Darrell D.
536	Plainfield	Barnes, William A.
539	Chatsworth	Hawthorne, James R.
558	Leland	Decker, Larry I.
558	Leland	Decker, Terry A.
577	Viola	Birkhead, Roger D.
616	Wadley	Marr, Charles E.
633	E.F.W. Ellis	Schlee, Norman P.
651	Atwood	Birch, Alvin L.
658	Rock Island	Creger, Russell I.
658	Rock Island	Guth, Richard E.
673	Normal	Bonny, Marvin E.
673	Normal	Crouch, C. Walden
675	Pawnee	Dickey, James E.
675	Pawnee	Dickey, William T.
704	Braidwood	Palmer, Herbert W.
712	Collinsville	Robinson, Jack W.
716	Calumet	Coffey, Edgar E.
716	Calumet	Kraas, Melvin J.
722	Walnut	Etheridge, Dean F.
734	Morning Star	Chenoweth, Harold L.
745	Winnebago	Woodman, Darwin E.
747	Centennial	Morrison, Robert W.
746	Alta	Meinders, Louis M.
748	Alta	Starnes, Arvil G.
763	Crete	Hinderer, Walter H.
770	La Grange	Burkey, Lee M.
771	Bay City	Eutsler, William J.
777	Ravenswood	Flodine, J. Robert
789	Auburn Park	Larson, Martin
810	Tinley Park	Cressler, Charles F.
810	Tinley Park	Roller, Ernest 0.
815	Lawn	Caldwell Donald A.
822	Belknap	McIntosh, Robert F.
824	Grove	Biringer, George E.
824	Grove	Burk, Donald R.
824	Grove	Cummins, Orbie E.
824	Grove	Harris, Roy P.
827	Sequoit	Hendricks, Andrew N.
829	Edgar	Barr, Donald J.
835	Triple	Sturman, Charles R.
846	London	Luman, Charles J.
850	Rver Frst-Austn	Ahstrom, James P. Jr.
850	Rver Frst-Austn	Corolis, James J.
652	Gothic	Beasenburg, Vaughn H.
855	King Oscar	Pearson, Ronald W.
865	St. Cecilia	Hull, Earl R.
871	Argenta	Strickland, John C.
871	Argenta	Warren, Mervin W.
877	Granite City	Davis, Harold W.
877	Granite City	Reed, Robert E.
877	Granite City	Sollberger, Jack P.
910	Hull	Johnson, Eddie R.
910	Hull	Mayes, Norman W.
931	Wilmette Park	Babenchuk, Steve
931	Wilmette Park	Lauger, John E.
931	Wilmette Park	Parcell, William A.
934	Hinsdale	Coomer, James W.
941	Elmhurst	Johnson, Ronald L.
974	Constellation	Calahan, Edward A.
974	Constellation	Johnson, Robert S.
974	Constellation	Keil, John C.
980	Anchor	Michael, Senator P.
980	Anchor	Nelken, Ernest E. Jr.
988	Park Ridge	Ohm, Robert B.
995	Westchester	Dale, George
1027	Anchor and Ark	Farris, Jack
1048	Zeigler	Gayer, Benny C.
1057	Leyden Laurel	Gay, Cecil P.
1058	Glenv'w United	Noel, Donald G.
1058	Glenv'w United	Van Gemert, Gerald E.
1058	Glenv'w United	Williams, Robert R.
1062	Wood River	Bagby, Donald D.
1062	Wood River	Davis, James P.
1062	Wood River	Hughart, Richard W.
1062	Wood River	Light, Robert J.
1062	Wood River	Miller, Oliver E.
1062	Wood River	Sawyer, Richard L.
1074	W Englewd Hm	Tague, Robert W.

50-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1956)

Lodge No. & Name		*Member Name*
1084	Hellenic	Petros, George A.
1098	Lombard	Myers, Leonard J.
1112	Grand View	Eller, Victor J.
1112	Grand View	Hall, Hubert R.
1112	Grand View	White, Kenneth F.
1113	Villa Park	Brooks, Gerald T.
1113	Villa Park	Shogren, Robert A.
1143	Hilton	Chandler, Russell E.
1153	Azure	Mork, Leslie N.
1158	Divernon	Withers, James E.
1162	Arlington Heights	Garrard, Donald F.
1163	Clrnce P. Schwrz	Andrews, Raymond W.
1166	Oak Lawn	Cohn, Donald W.
1169	Neighbor	Haldewang, William A.
1171	Evergreen Park	Kamberos, Michael N.

75-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1930)

25	Franklin	Bryant, Benjamin R.
214	Gillespie	Laughlin, Carroll B.
1138	Arcadia	Superits, Anthony L.

76-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1930)

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

77-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1930)

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

78-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1929)

160	Decalogue	Mackevich, Ira
898	Silvis	Bryan, George F.

79-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1929)

16	Temperance	Peters, William F.

81-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1925)

974	Constellation	Scheilz, John

82-YEAR MEMBERS (raised in 1924)

789	Auburn Park	Goblisch, Walter C.

Grand Lodge of Illinois Mailing Address Update

Brethren and lodges are reminded that the Grand Lodge of Illinois no longer has a post office box. Please send all mail to the street address:

Benny L. Grisham, Grand Secretary
Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Illinois
2866 Via Verde Street
Springfield, IL 62703

National Sojourners Offer Military Network

American Masons serving 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.

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

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Required by Title 39 United States Code 3685). ILLINOIS FREEMASONRY (USPS 014-656) (ISSN 1091-2258) is published quarterly (4 issues annually) at Springfield, Ill. Annual subscription rate is $1.00.

Complete mailing address of known office of publication is 2866 Via Verde Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Complete mailing address of headquarters or general business office of publisher is Grand Lodge of Illinois A.F. & A.M., 2866 Via Verde Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

Full names and complete mailing addresses of Publisher, Editor and Managing Editor are:
Publisher, K.K. Stevens Publishing Co., P.O. Box 590, Astoria, IL 61501.
Editor, Paul Scheeler, P.O. Box B, Hinsdale, IL 60522.
Managing Editor: N.A.

The owner is The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois, 2866 Via Verde Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

13. Illinois Freemasonry — 14 August 2006

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Avg. No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Nearest Filing Date
a. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run)	73,338	73,800
b. 1. Paid or Requested Mail Subscriptions	73,026	73,454
3. Sales Through Dealers & Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales (Not mailed)	N/A	N/A
4.Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	N/A	N/A
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation (sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2)	73,026	73,454
d.-e. Free Distribution outside Mail	212	246
f. Total Free Distribution (sum of 15d and 15e)	212	246
g. Total Distribution	73,238	73,700
h. Copies Not distributed	100	100
i. Total (sum of 15g, 15h(1) and 15h(2))	73,338	73,800
j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation Paid	99.6%	99.6%

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Benny L. Grisham (signed), Grand Secretary. (August 14, 2006)

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Early Grand Lodge furniture rediscovered in Chicago area

The following is a presentation by W.M. John Jack of Dundee Lodge No. 190 (Carpentersville) describing the furniture acquired from Palace Lodge No. 765 in 1974 and believed to have belonged to the Grand Lodge of Illinois when it was based in Chicago from the mid- to late-1800s. The Editor wishes to thank Bro. Dale Corrice for submitting this content.

Tonight, I shall talk about the furnishings in this lodge hall. Perhaps, some of you have noticed how much more ornate and elaborate the principal officers' chairs, pedestals, altar and the two brazen pillars are in Palace Lodge than they are in other lodges. There is a good reason for this, for they were once the property of, and used by, the M.W. Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of the State of Illinois and were acquired by Palace Lodge No. 765 about 71 years ago. Truly a fine heritage and one to be proud of. I got this information from our late Bro. James Darragh, P.M., and he got it from our late Bro. Lewis Pickett, P.M., who was Master of Palace Lodge in 1889. I think the furnishings were obtained largely through Bro. Pickett's efforts.

Architectural elements in the furniture

You may be surprised to learn that the three principal Orders of Architecture mentioned in our work are represented in these furnishings. For instance, the Worshipful Master's pedestal has four columns of the Ionic Order, suggesting the Pillar of Wisdom; the Senior Warden's pedestal has four columns of the Doric Order, suggesting the Pillar of Strength; the upper part of the Senior Warden's chair also shows Doric details; the Junior Warden's pedestal has four columns of the Corinthian Order, suggesting the Pillar of Beauty. The altar has four columns of the Corinthian Order. The wood is mostly black walnut.

Now, why should the Grand Lodge want to dispose of such fine furnishings? I will lead to the answer by taking you back 82 years, when the first regular communication of Palace Lodge U.D. was held in Odd Fellows Hall in the Arcade Building, Pullman, Ill., on Thursday evening, Nov. 16, 1882, at which time a complete corps of officers, elective and appointive was installed. Palace Lodge continued to meet in this hall until May 1893.

On April 7, 1892, the original Market Hall in Pullman was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in the form of a two-story Roman temple with a rather flat gable roof. It had a ballroom and a lodge hall on the second floor. The lodge hall measured 60 feet by 32 feet. It was ready early in May 1893. Palace Lodge leased the lodge hall, unfurnished.

Surplus furnishings acquired by Palace Lodge

The Masonic Temple at State and Randolph streets in Chicago, of which the present Capitol Building represents the two lowest stories, was completed in 1891. On very important buildings, it is customary for the architect to design not only the building proper but the furnishings as well. Since the Masonic Temple was the world's highest skyscraper and the greatest monument to Freemasonry up to that time, there is little doubt that all-new furnishings were designed and installed in the various lodge halls and auditoriums.

The Grand Lodge furnishings thus became surplus and Palace Lodge No. 765 obtained them for the new Masonic Lodge hall in Market Hall dedicated June 1, 1893. The Grand Master and 16 Grand Lodge officers were present, besides former mayor Cregier of Chicago and other dignitaries. Bro. L.H. Wilson, P.M., presented Bro. Lewis Pickett with a Past Master's jewel, presumably for his fine work in obtaining the furnishings for the new lodge hall.

Early in September 1908, the lodge furnishings were moved to Pullman Masonic Temple at 614 E. 113th St., Chicago, which was dedicated Sept. 5, 1908, by R.W. Bro. Lewis Pickett, D.D.G.M., and they have remained here ever since. My guess is that they are now (1964) about 91 years old.

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The ceremonial portions of the video were filmed at the beautiful Scottish Rite Cathedral in Peoria, Ill., with additional footage of the Grotto Room at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, Va.

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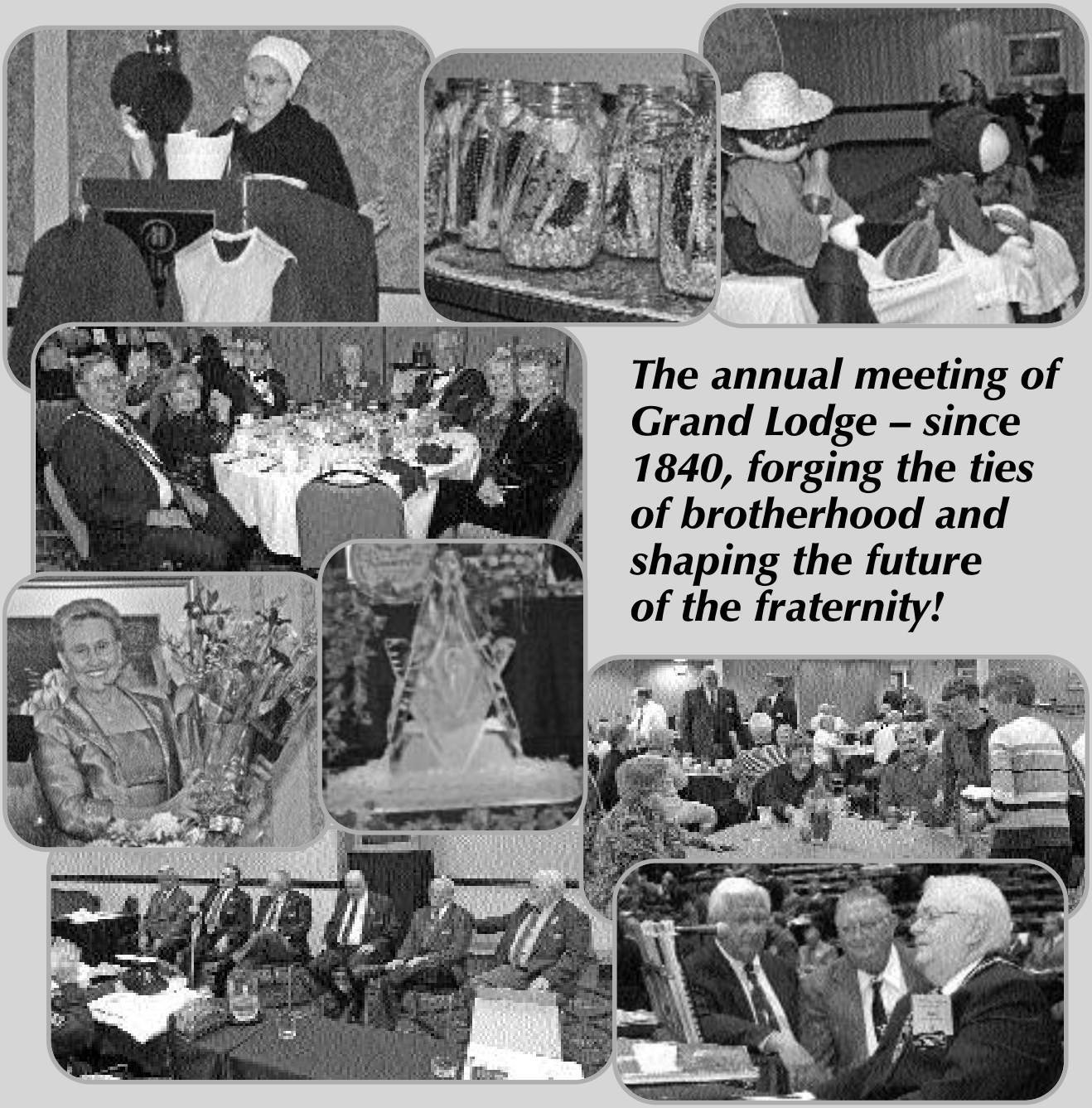

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