

Director of Development joins Highfield Staff

John Vishio brings a wealth of experience to Highfield. He is a native of Philadelphia and a graduate of Villanova University with over 30 years of fund raising experience, mainly in the Health Care field. John has conducted capital campaigns in the United States and Canada and has been the Executive Director of two Hospital Foundations. His fund raising expertise over the course of his career has mainly centered on Staff Development for capital campaigns. He has raised over \$50,000,000.00 for such diverse projects as cancer centers, ambulatory and day surgery projects and cardiac catheterization laboratories and dedicated operating rooms for coronary, eye, orthopedic and hand surgery. This is in addition to new construction and renovation projects as well as endowment programs and special program funding. Additionally, he has consulted on many fund raising programs for Social Service Agencies, including nursing homes and educational programs.

According to Marion Taggart, Executive Director of Highfield, "As Director of Development, John fills a position that has been needed at Highfield for quite some time.

He will be responsible for fund raising as well as marketing. Over the years, Highfield, as a 501c-3 non-profit corporation has received charitable donations to help sustain our residents. We need to be able to standardize our fund raising and set charitable goals to be able to carry on the tradition handed to us since 1912".

"Highfield is the Masonic gem of Delaware", John stated, "I have traveled and done extensive fund raising in the United States and Canada, but the overall feeling of comfort and camaraderie exhibited at Highfield cannot be matched".

"This is an exciting time to be a Delaware Mason", Vishio said, "Over the next few years we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Delaware, the 100th anniversary of Highfield and the 200th anniversary of the death of Gunning Bedford, Jr. We expect Highfield to become an even more important part of Delaware Freemasonry as our current Masonic population ages. Improvements to our historic structure, as well as program improvements, will call for a renewed Lodge interest in Highfield during the coming years".



George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association

By Earl L. Emerson, Jr.
State Chairman

Once again the George Washington Masonic National Memorial was a star attraction of Alexandria, Virginia's Annual First Night Program. The First Night Program provides a family oriented non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration that is fun, safe and affordable for all. This program is a community celebration showcasing the areas best singers, dancers, actors, magicians and other artists. The First Night celebration brings thousands of area residents together for a variety of performances held at participating businesses throughout the historic Old Town part of Alexandria.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is honored to be the official "LOGO" of the event, with a graphic depiction of the Memorial appearing on the promotional brochures, and items and on the entrance badges. The Memorial, by far, hosted the largest number of performers and performances. More than 7,000 people visited the Memorial that evening to watch the various shows. The celebration culminated at midnight with a spectacular fireworks display on the grounds of the Memorial.

The Grand Lodge-Of-The-Month Program continues and it was an incredible success in 2002. Highlights included visits from the Grand Lodges of Missouri, Michigan, Florida, Minnesota, Oregon, Kansas and West Virginia. Each month the Memorial recognizes

and honors the Grand Lodges that support and sustain the Memorial. The schedule for 2003 is Nevada, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Because of the tremendous cost of building maintenance and repair, the Memorial Association cannot afford to do this alone. We need your personal and financial support. Any assistance or donation to the Memorial or any of its programs would be greatly appreciated. There are many membership programs to choose from. For a gift of \$100.00 you can become a "Silver Craftsman", for a gift of \$250.00, a "Gold Craftsman", for \$500.00, a "Platinum Craftsman and for a gift of \$1,000.00, a "21st Century Member". All membership contributors will receive a personalized certificate and the Gold, Platinum and 21st Century contributors will receive a Memorial lapel pin. The names of the 21st Century members will be cast in bronze and will be displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.

Please bring your family and friends and visit the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. There are many interesting things to see in the various display rooms. Admission is free and there is plenty of free parking. If you desire, you can have a picnic lunch on the grounds. Come visit your Memorial.

Ionic Lodge No. 31 Presents Costumed Degree

125 Freemasons witnessed a unique Master Mason Degree at the Newport Masonic Temple in Newport, Delaware on January 22, 2003. Under the direction of Brother Bill Calloway, the Hiram Legend was portrayed with a cast of 26 in full Solomon era costumes.

Dignitaries and guests present included the Grand Master of Delaware and his Staff; the Potentate of NUR Shrine and members of his Divan; the Scottish Rite Deputy for Delaware; the Grand Tall of the local Tall Cedars Forrest; two District Deputy Grand Masters from Pennsylvania; three Past Grand Masters of Delaware; and visiting brothers from Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The Mason

He is a man who is earnestly striving to become a better man.

He recognizes the good that resides in the heart of every brother. He knows that the faults he sees in others reflect his own imperfections, and he does not set himself up as a judge of his brothers.

The Mason is one who has learned of life's struggles, of its difficult paths, its disappointments, the price of holding fast to one's integrity, and yet maintains faith in the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

The Mason is a man of generous heart, mind and hand. He looks upon the opportunity to serve humanity as a joyous privilege.

The Mason is a man who demonstrates his love of country by being a good citizen, by obeying the law of the land, by being true to his country's ideals, and by his undying devotion and loyalty, both in time of peace and of war.

The Mason is a man who, by his acts and deeds, reveals his unswerving trust in the infinite wisdom, justice and mercy of his Creator.

The Mason is one who maintains a stubborn attachment to duty and is unyielding in his unceasing efforts to make a better society by making himself a better individual.

So mote it be.

Templar Masonry

By James Herrington
Right Eminent Grand
Commander

By the time this publication reaches you I will have finished my year as Grand Commander of Knights Templar of Delaware. It was an experience I shall always cherish. In addition to leading the Delaware contingent up the hill to the George Washington National Masonic Memorial for Easter "Sunrise" Service (this year, at 9:00 a.m.!), it was my privilege to visit all three of Delaware's Commanderies, and all ten of the other Grand Commanderies in the Northeast Department. Those visited by Claire and me ranged from D.C. to Buffalo, NY, to Bar Harbor, ME.

I am impressed with the quality of men that serve as Grand Commander in the several states of the Northeast Department. I was able to make new friendships that will last long past this year, and I look forward to visiting some of those Grand Commanderies again in the future.

Congratulations to St. Andrew's Commandery #2, in Dover, for having a class of five Sir Knights receive the Order of the Temple this winter. I sincerely believe that if there is a more meaningful degree or Order than the Master Mason degree, it is the Order of the Temple. All Christian masons owe it to themselves to proceed through the York Rite and receive that Order.

PGM Jack Littleton states that the following fractions tend to hold very close to true: half the Master Masons proceed through the Scottish Rite; half of that many proceed into the Shrine, and half as many as proceed into the Shrine join the York Rite. This math unfortunately shows that only one-eighth of Master Masons proceed through Chapter and Council (like the Blue Lodge, open to all monotheists), and into Commandery (a Christian Order). Quite frankly, Chapter (the Royal Arch) and Council (Cryptic Masonry) continue with the Hiram legend much more closely than does the Scottish Rite, and all Blue Lodge Masons will benefit from the additional Light. The Commandery, exclusively Christian, takes its history both from pre-Christian Judaism, and from the Crusades.

An important lesson was brought back from the Crusades to Europe—that men are brothers before God. Tolerance and respect for someone who was of a different belief, or was an opponent (even an opponent in battle) were taught by the returning Crusaders. That also was one of the charges made against the Knights Templar by King Philip IV of France when the Templars were anathematized by Philip's puppet pope, Clement V. The Order was so devastated that it ceased to exist openly, but many tombstones in Scotland attest to the interworking of the Templars with the Masonic Craft, and many squares plumbs, and levels are to be found on Templar headstones. Although it is beyond the scope of this short article to justify the following statement, I close with, and offer for your consideration, the following. Using the proverbial "chicken or egg" controversy, analogously, I submit the likelihood that Symbolic Masonry drew much of its beginnings from the Knights Templar—possibly as much or moreso than from Operative Masonry. I at least invite you to consider that possibility.