



MASONIC HOME OF DELAWARE

Prevalent Myths Regarding the Masonic Home

By William R. Stevens

Fact vs. Fiction

As we approach our 100th anniversary it has come to our attention that there continues to be misconceptions concerning Highfield circulating within our Masonic community. Listed below are just some of the misconceptions we would like to correct. There are and will continue to be others. As we all know the best way to clear up any confusion is to ASK for clarification. Please, if you have further questions, just call.

Fiction:

Our dues support the home.

Fact:

Our operating budget for 2002 was a little over \$3,000,000.00. That breaks down to \$8,270 per day. The Grand Lodge assessment for Highfield amounted to \$30,040, which enabled us to operate for approximately 3.6 days in 2002.

Fiction:

Highfield is a NURSING HOME.

Fact:

Highfield is a retirement community that has healthcare access on the grounds, should a resident require this type of care. It is NOT a skilled care nursing facility.

Fiction:

You cannot have a car at Highfield.

Fact:

Highfield is a retirement community and as such transportation is available. If you have your own vehicle and a valid driver's license, we will provide you with a parking space. Your coming and going is not restricted by Highfield in any manner.

Fiction:

You must be able to physically walk in the door to be a resident at Highfield.

Fact:

We have searched the Residents's Handbook, By-Laws and incorporated papers for evidence of this one and really do not know how it got started! The simple answer is that IT IS NOT TRUE. Many of our residents have reduced mobility which has no bearing on admissions.

Fiction:

No direct admission to Healthcare.

Fact:

As was stated above, Highfield is not a skilled nursing facility. It does, however, have a healthcare area for residents that have healthcare needs.

Fiction:

The Masonic Home requires you to sign over all of your assets for admission.

Fact:

There are one-time entrance fees required for admission to Highfield. They range from \$6,975 for a single room to \$15,600 for a double occupancy room. A monthly fee of \$1,275 for a single and \$3,000 for a double includes three meals plus snacks, housekeeping and laundry services. Cottage rentals range from \$805 per month to \$965 for a double w/garage. There is no entrance fee and housekeeping and meal

services may be contracted. In other words, your assets are NOT turned over to Highfield.

Fiction:

Only Delaware Master Masons and their wives are admitted.

Fact:

Applications for admission will be given priority as follows:

- Delaware Master Mason.
- Wife of a Delaware Master Mason.
- Widow of a Delaware Master Mason.
- Mother, daughter and sisters of a Delaware Master Mason.
- Members of Delaware Order of the Easter Star and their spouses.
- Out-of-state Master Masons, their wives, widows, mother, daughters and sisters and out-of-state members of O.E.S whose affiliation with a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Delaware and in good standing and has five (5) or more cumulative years of membership

Fiction:

Highfield accepts all insurance.

Fact:

Highfield does not accept insurance for monthly fees. This also includes federal and state insurance such as Medicare or Medicaid.

Fiction:

Highfield is either thought of as wealthy or poor. Consequently, residents of Highfield are thought of as either wealthy or indigent.

Fact:

Highfield is neither wealthy enough not to require the continued generosity of Delaware Masons nor in such financial constraints that it faces closure. We can continue as we have for almost 100 years, but there may come a time when needed improvements to our physical plant will improve the quality of the lives of our residents. Therefore, we need our constituency to be generous when they are thinking of Highfield and our residents. Our residents come from all walks of life and represent the same social status as that of the constituency of our Lodges and the Grand Lodge. The impetus for Highfield was to look after Masons who had fallen on "hard times". With the "graying" of our Delaware Masonic population, this has changed dramatically over the years. People seeking a comfortable and safe place to retire look upon Highfield as that place. We at Highfield are proud to be the place our seniors turn to continue to feel the camaraderie of Lodge membership.

In summary, I hope this article will help dispel some of the myths about Highfield, our Masonic Home of Delaware. Again, if you have questions about Highfield, please call so we can help. If, however, you wish to visit us, just call to set up an appointment and we will be happy to give you a guided tour, (302) 994-4434. Ask for Jane Rigg or Karen Maher.

Thinking About Retiring? Consider the cottages at Highfield!

Are you 55 or over and looking for a change in lifestyle and living accommodations? The Masonic Home of Delaware offers one and two bedroom spacious one level cottages for a reasonable rent (\$810.00 – one bedroom, \$910.00 – two bedroom) and no entrance fee. The lease is month to month allowing for the flexibility of today's life. Included in your monthly rental fee are:

- Neutral wall-to-wall carpeting.
- Neutral wall cover.
- Window treatments
- Great room with sliding door to patio with seasonal awning.
- Tiled bathroom with safety handrails.
- Central air conditioning.
- Electric heat pump.
- Accessible attic.
- Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher and full size washer and dryer.
- In-house 7 channel cable system.
- Fire protection alarm system.
- Emergency call bell.
- Water/sewer.
- Emergency maintenance on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Lawn care, landscaping and snow removal.
- Basic weekly housekeeping.
- Free scheduled transportation to local stores and banks.
- Recreational, social and spiritual activities.
- Trash collection (2 times per week).

For more information and a tour, please contact Jane Rigg or Karen Maher in the Resident Services Department at (302) 994-4434.

Highfield Masonic Home of Delaware

Sunday Church Service Schedule

3:00 P.M.

April 6, 2003	Unity Lodge No. 32
April 13, 2003	Palm Sunday (no service)
April 20, 2003	Easter Sunday (no service)
April 27, 2003	Eureka-DuPont Lodge No. 23-39
May 4, 2003	Grand Chapter of Delaware, O.E.S.
May 11, 2003	Ionic Lodge No. 31
May 18, 2003	Jefferson Lodge No. 15
May 25, 2003	Memorial Day Weekend (no service)

Admissions

Winifred Porth	January 13, 2003	Lymbrook-Massapeque No. 822 (NY)
Bernadine Sipple	February 5, 2003	Eureka-DuPont No. 29