

From the Grand Secretary's Desk

By MW* James E. Waecker, Sr.
Grand Secretary

Permanent Fund, Permanent Fund, Permanent Fund

My brothers, many of you have asked "What is the Permanent Fund?" "Why is it needed?" "Doesn't the Grand Lodge have money?" "Why all the fundraisers?" Let's look at these questions one at a time.

#1 - What is the Permanent Fund?

To put it simply, the permanent fund is nothing more than a savings account with restrictions. To further explain, the Permanent Fund is an account set up by the Grand Lodge for the deposit of monies which will, in the future, generate funds for the Grand Lodge. The Permanent Fund has been established and all monies deposited into it during the next 10 years cannot be touched. After the 10-year landmark, the fund will continue to receive deposits and, at that time, the Grand Lodge may begin to draw on a portion of the interest generated by the account. This will allow the account to be used, if necessary, and at the same time continue to grow.

#2 - Why is it needed?

The Permanent Fund was conceived during Grand Master James Russell's term in office. At that time many in the fraternity became aware that the cost of providing the necessary programs and services to properly operate a Grand Lodge was driving the cost of operation continually upward. These programs include public awareness programs, Masonic education for the Lodge officers and the general membership, membership retention programs, membership attainment programs, youth support, Masonic Home Day, etc. The cost of these projects continues to increase while our membership continues to decline.

#3 - Doesn't the Grand Lodge have any money?

The answer to this question is YES. However, if we look at the entire picture we will find that many of the funds reported by Grand Lodge are funds designated for specific reasons. The Gunning Bedford Scholarship, the Bicentennial Fund, the Grand Lodge checking account, History and Library, Bond and Trust Fund and the Permanent Fund to name just a few. These funds take a considerable portion of the monies available for use by the Grand Lodge and a hardship could be realized if additional fiscal needs were experienced.

When we look at the Annual Financial Report, distributed by the Grand Treasurer, we see that the Grand Lodge has approximately \$200,000.00 in total assets. However not all of these assets may be used at any given time.

When you remove those funds previously mentioned, we see that we are left with a much smaller figure of approximately \$75,000.00. Now consider the fact that we have had to transfer funds from the Grand Lodge Reserve Fund to the Grand Lodge checking account in the amount of \$10,000.00 last year and \$15,000.00 this year just to keep our heads above water.

Consider also the present financial climate, low interest rates, etc. and it becomes obvious that we do not have much of a financial safety net. If we continue to use even small portions of these funds, as has been the practice in the past several years, it is easy to see that soon we will be left without any reserve funds. Thus the need for continued funding of the Permanent Fund.

#4 - Why all of these fundraisers?

First, it goes without saying that we of

the Grand Lodge are doing all we can to cut costs wherever possible. We do this in an attempt to keep from cutting programs and services or escalating the annual assessment. However, even with all that we do, it will likely be necessary to increase the annual assessment for the next several years. Thus, the need for fundraisers!

I think by now you have a better idea of what the Grand Lodge is facing in the future, especially if we do not take action NOW! **We are building for the future!**

I have just received a report on the proceeds of the two Permanent Fund fundraisers and brothers, you can be proud of yourselves! You have exceeded all expectations! Through your generosity we have received \$1,200.00 from the sale of the rings and over \$13,000.00 from the Key ID program with more to come

You are truly helping to provide a brighter future for your Grand Lodge. However, we are not done. We must continue to build for the future and will continue to provide fundraisers for that purpose. We ask that you continue your generous support of these future programs and thank you for your efforts.

What a day for Freemasonry!

My brothers, you may recall that on May 29, 2003 I sent a memo to each lodge informing them of the unfortunate circumstances of Reverend Bill Downing. This memo contained two requests. First, for financial and second for physical help in moving Reverend Bill from Princess Anne, Maryland to Magnolia, Delaware. My brothers, stand tall and proud because you exceeded all expectations on behalf of both requests!!!

In regard to the financial help? You responded so quickly and with such generosity that it made my head spin! As I watched the various financial contributions flood in for Rev. Bill I could only imagine how he was going to feel. It was with a stirring feeling of pride that I watched more and more of our lodges and individual brothers pouring our hearts to Rev. Bill. As the momentum built within the lodges, it also spilled over into the appended bodies and indeed, over the walls of our great fraternity into many of the various groups and organization to which you belong.

In regard to the physical help? On June 21, 2003 we all gathered to move Rev. Bill and Marty from their home in Princess Anne, Maryland to a new home in Magnolia, Delaware. Once again you responded with such enthusiasm and dedication that it overwhelmed this servant of the Craft! There you were, 50 - 60 strong, ready with open arms to tackle the task you were called upon to perform. And did you accomplish that task? You surely did!! In approximately **five hours** you completely relocated Rev Bill and Marty and that included a stop for hotdogs and sodas for lunch!

The expressions on Rev. Bill's and Marty's faces, the tears in their eyes and the words of thanks were indescribable as we presented them with a check to help them through their present circumstances. My brothers- YOU made all this happen!

YOU can all stand tall and feel the pride in our fraternity. On June 21, 2003 we were all part of Freemasonry in action, Freemasonry at its best! Thank you all.

Save Your Receipts!

Please save your Genuardi and Acme receipts. They are worth money to Shriner's Hospital. Simply give your receipts to your lodge secretary who will forward them to the Editor of The Delaware Freeman.

Genuardi and Acme Community Relations Departments will send monies earned through the saved receipts directly to the Philadelphia Unit of Shriner's Hospital. Stretch the purchasing power of your dollars and help the children.

What Is the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternity. It evolved in the British Isles during the 17th century, emerging as a formal organization in 1717 with the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in London. At that time there were only two levels of membership or Degrees, teaching simple character-building lessons based upon the symbolism of stonemasons' tools. By 1730 the Third Degree was added in England, teaching further lessons of morality based on allegories surrounding King Solomon's Temple. As the fraternity spread into Europe and especially France, additional Degrees were added onto the basic foundation, each expanding on the earlier symbolism and offering further moral instruction.

By the 1760s, literally hundreds of Degrees, each typically a one-act play with the candidate in a central role, had been created and were competing for Masons' time and energy. Some Degrees "grew up together" and provided a cohesive progression of symbolism with a central administration. Such systems of Degrees came to be known as *Rites*. For example, in the United States, the Royal Arch and Cryptic Degrees plus the Knights Templar Orders are known as the York *Rite*.

Stephen Morin of Bordeaux, France, emigrated to Jamaica in 1761 with authority to propagate the 25th Degree (Order of the Royal Secret), which contained its own Royal Arch, Cryptic, Templar and other tradition. This system was spread throughout the United States from New Orleans, Louisiana to Albany, New York by Deputies appointed by Morin. In 1801 in Charleston, South Carolina, the Order of the Royal Secret was transformed into the 33rd Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.

Today, the Scottish Rite has become the largest and most widely practiced Masonic Rite in the world. Its Degrees teach a series of moral lessons culminating in the 32nd Degree, "Master of the Royal Secret". The 33rd Degree is sparingly conferred on its members in recognition of their service to humanity or to Freemasonry. The Rite continues the tradition of Masons around the world in improving themselves and their communities.

3rd Annual Leadership Retreat Promises More!

That's right, the 3rd Annual Leadership Retreat does promise more much more. During the weekend of November 21-23, 2003 the Retreat will once again be held in Rehoboth-Dewey Beach and promises to be even better than last year. Your committee is hard at work to bring a fun, enlightening and educational weekend to you land your lady. As the result of a discussion with last year's attendees, we are trying a new date this year.

THE TOTALLY CASUAL WEEKEND HAS RETURNED!!! The event is totally casual from Friday night through Sunday morning. Even the dinner dance is casual

NEW THIS YEAR! Brother Bob Conley, Administrator of the Masonic Renewal Committee of North America will be the guest speaker and presenter for the Retreat weekend. Brother Conley has been working with the committee for several weeks to prepare for the November event. Please take this opportunity to share and learn from a truly remarkable man and Mason. The committee is also working on another very special program for the ladies. In addition to the program, the ladies will have time to avail themselves of the many local outlet stores for holiday shopping.

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW ... THE RETREAT IS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AWAY. This Leadership Retreat is for all officers of Delaware Jurisdictional subordinate and appendant/ allied Masonic bodies and any interested brethren and their ladies. It is a great weekend to just get away and enjoy social activities. You will come away from this event with some great ideas for your Masonic organization,

Additional information will be issued in a separate bulletin from the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education, Leadership and Work. Please plan to attend the 3rd Annual Leadership Retreat.

The Grand Commandery of Knights Templar

Of the State of Delaware
By Charles H. Lengel, Jr., PGM
Grand Commander

Considering the date of charter for the Grand Commandery is August 20, 1991 you might believe the Order of Knights Templar in Delaware is a recent extension of Masonry in the First State. Documents and records dated February 15, 1814 indicate that Templary in Delaware had been established prior to that date.

Unfortunately, as is the case of numerous Masonic bodies, there are periods of years to which no records can be found. The ill-famous Morgan Affair of 1825 being one such deterrent. Existing records indicate there was a body of Knights Templars in Delaware known as Washington Encampment No. 1, stationed in Wilmington and founded prior to 1814. The Morgan Affair and the anti-Masonic attitude that followed resulted in a 59% loss of Craft Lodges and membership. No records have been located that would indicate when Washington Encampment No. 1 was disbanded.

Templary in Delaware was in all cases dormant and inactive until March of 1868 when the minutes of St. John's Commandery No. 1, U.D. next appeared. They were duly constituted in October of 1868 and remained the single Commandery in Delaware for 94 years.

St Andrew's Commandery No. 2 was duly constituted in May 1962 and Templar, in Delaware was established in Dover, Delaware. In August 1964 they were granted a charter and the officers were installed in a public ceremony in the Senate Chamber of Legislative Hall in Dover.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America issued a dispensation to Trinity Commandery No. 3, U.D. in 1988. The charter was granted at the next Triennial in August 1991. At the same Triennial the Grand Commandery of Delaware was established marking 177 years of Templary in the First State.

Today, as the Grand Lodge of Delaware is preparing to celebrate its Bicentennial Year in 2006, let us be thankful for the Sir Knights of 190 years ago. The roster indicates they were active in the Masonic community of yesteryear.

Union Lodge No. 7 By Mark Claveloux Worshipful Master

Union Lodge No. 7 of Dover will hold its 6th Annual Outdoor Degree on October 11, 2003 in Magnolia, Delaware. If you have never experienced an outdoor degree, you are in for a real treat. Everything is better in the great outdoors! Upon arrival at Brother Al Johnson's farm you will be transported by wagon to a specially prepared wooden area where coffee and doughnuts will be available. The tiled lodge will open at 10:00 a.m., followed by completion of the first half of the 3rd Degree. We will then break for a lunch of sandwiches and a hearty helping of Brother Richard Shelhorn's world famous soup. The event then concludes with the completion of the second half of the degree. The cost is only \$5.00 per person. Only Master Masons may attend this event.

Directions: From the north, take Rt. 1 to US 13 in Dover. Take US 113 A (State Road) to the Magnolia traffic light. Make a right turn at the light. Al Johnson's farm is 1/2 mile on the right.

From the south, take US 113 A into Magnolia. Turn left at the Magnolia light. Al Johnson's farm is 1/2 mile on the right.

Union Lodge No. 7 extends an invitation to all brothers to take advantage of two special "Bring A Friend" functions scheduled in September. If you or your friends are morning people, stop at the Lodge in Dover on Saturday, September 6th at 8:30 a.m. to enjoy breakfast cooked up by the officers of Union No. 7. Grand Marshall S. Curtis Cole has promised to cook some of his outstanding sausage gravy (low cal. I am sure) if you prefer an evening event, come out at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 25th and enjoy some pizza with us. Following the meals at each event brothers will offer information on what it means to be a Freemason and answer questions for friends who are interested in what we are all about.

For additional information on events listed above, please contact Mark Claveloux at: mark2000@cavtel.net or call (302) 670-3976.