From the Grand Secretary’s Desk

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

Permanent Fund, Permanent Fund, Permanent Fund

My brothers, many of you have asked "What is the Permanent Fund?" "Why is it need-
ed?" "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 restric-
tions. 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 recruitment, membership attainment programs, youth support, Masonic Home Day, etc. The cost of these proj-
ects 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 see that many of the funds in the 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 defer 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 cli-
mate, low interest rates, etc. and it becomes obvi-
ous that we have a substantial need for a fund that can 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 fundrais-
ers 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 con-
tained requests for support for the second for physical help in moving Reverend Bill from Princess Anne, Maryland to Magnolia, Delaware. My brothers, stand tall and proud because you have 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 var-
ious financial contributions flood in for Rev. Bill I could only imagine how he was feeling. It was with a striking feeling of pride that I watched members of your lodges pouring our hearts to Rev. Bill. As the momentum built within the lodges, it also spilled 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, brothers by the grace of God 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 all.

The expressions on Rev. Bill’s and Marty’s faces, the tears in their eyes and the words of thanks were indescribable as we pre-
pared 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 Shriners’ Hospital. Simply give your receipts to your lodge secretary who will forward them to the Editor of The Delaware Freemason.

Genuardi and Acme Community Relations Department will send monies earned through the saved receipts directly to the Philadelphia Unit of Shriners’ Hospital. Stretch the purchasing power of your dollars and help the children.

What is the Scottie Rite of Masons?

Freemasonry is the world’s oldest and largest fraternity. It evolved in the British Isles dur-
ing the 17th century, forming a formal organiza-
tion 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 principles. The third degree, called the Scottie Rite, was added in England, teaching further les-
sions of morality, based upon allegories surrounding King Solomon’s Temple. As the fraternity spread into Europe and especially France, additional Degrees were added onto the basic foundation, each Degree building upon the early symbolism and offering further moral instruction. By the 1760s, literally hundreds of Degrees, each typically a one-set play with the can-
didate 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 administra-
tion. 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 prop-
gate the 25 th Degree (Order of the Royal Secret), which contained elements of the Royal Arc, Cryptic and Templar and other tradition. This system was spread throughout the United States from New Orleans, Louisiana to Albany, New York by Deputies appointed by the Grand Commandery of New Orleans 1801 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Order of the Royal Secret was trans-
formed into the 33 rd 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 emphasizing in the 32 nd Degree, “Mother and Son of the Royal Secret”. The 33 rd Degree is spuriously con-
ferred on its members in recognition of their service to humanity or to Freemasonry. The Rite continues to develop in order to provide Masons a platform from which they can serve man in the improving themselves and their communities.

The Grand Commandery of Kings Templar Of the State of Delaware

Charles H. Lengel, Jr., PGM

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. This is not the case. The Order first appeared in the First State in 1841. Documents and records dated February 15, 1841 indi-
cate that Templey in Delaware had been established prior to that date. Unfortunately, as is the case of numerous Masonic organizations, records of earlier years cannot be found. The ill-famed Morgan Affair of 1825 being one such deterrent. Existing records indi-
cate there was a body of Knights Templars in Delaware known as the Commandery No. 1, chartered 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 member-
ship. No records have been located that would indicate when Waukegan Commandery No. 1 was disbanded.

Templey in Delaware was in all cases dur-
ment and inactive until March of 1868 when the min-
est 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 24 years.

Andrew’s Commandery No. 2 was duly constituted in May 1962 and Templey, in Delaware was established as Delaware Commandery No. 3. 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 dis-
pensation to Templey of Delaware and Grand Commandery No. 4 in May of 1964. The charter was granted at the next Triennial in August 1991. At the same Triennial the Grand Commandery of Delaware was named the 17th Commandery marking 177 years of Templey in the First State.

Today, as the Grand Lodge of Delaware is preparing to celebrate its Centennial Year in 2003, let us be thankful for the Sir Knights of 190 years ago. The roster indicates they were active in the Masonic com-
unity of yesteryear.

Union Lodge No. 7

By Mark Clavelous

Union Lodge No. 7 of Dover will hold it’s 6 th 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 from the past is in the great outdoors. Upon arrival at Brother Al Johnson’s farm you will be transported by wagon to a specially prepared wooden structure and doughnuts and coffee 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 be treated to a lunch of hot dogs and be-
ces and a heartly helping of Brother Richard Shelhorn’s world famous soup. The event then con-
cludes with the completion of the second half of the degree. The cost is just $10.00 per person. Only Master Masons may attend this event.

3rd Annual Leadership Retreat Promises More!

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

The TOTALLY CASUAL WEEKEND

has returned!!! The event is totally casual from Friday night through Sunday morning. Even the din-
ner 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 pre-
pare for the November event. Please take this oppor-
tunity to share your thoughts truly represent your 
and Mason. The committee is also working on anoth-
er very special program for the ladies. In addition to the program, the ladies will have time to avail-
ments of the many local outlet stores for hobby shop-
ing.

MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

NOVEMBER 21-23... THE RETREAT IS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AWAY!!! This week we are extending a special invitation to 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 socialize and enjoy each other’s company. You are invited 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 Delaware Freemason