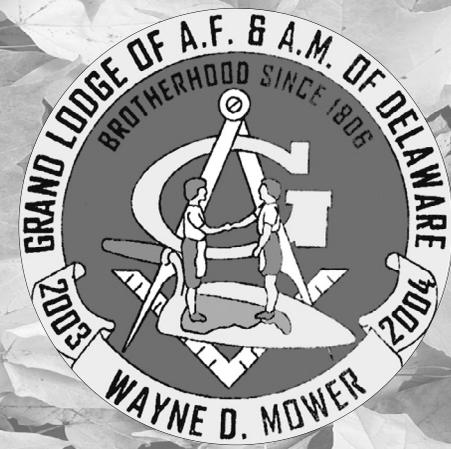




God Bless America THE DELAWARE FREEMASON

FREEMASONRY UNITED



FALL 2004

Message From The Grand Master MW:• Wayne D. Mower, III



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By the time you read this article the time will be almost upon us for a change in leadership, a change in energy and a change in ideas. I must say, however, that the time for change of ownership will never be in our future. Freemasonry in Delaware belongs to all of us. As we say in our ritual "... the high and low, the rich and poor, who as created by one almighty parent... are to aid, support and protect each other". All of us together, my Brothers, have the future of our great Fraternity in our hands. We are the ones who determine our destiny. Take a look at that guy in the mirror each morning and ask him what he is going to do today to further Freemasonry. Are you going to take an active or passive part? Are you going to inspire or will you sit back and wait for inspiration? Are you going to help to adapt our direction to the times or stand back and criticize others for trying? Think about it, my Brothers, with all of the young men who are joining our ranks, there is a real opportunity to get the energy level back to where it should be. These young men need to be taught about the serious side and the fun side of our great Fraternity and its diversity. Are you up to it or will you sit back and let them show you the way to have fun? I can guarantee they won't wait for you for very long.

My Brothers and Ladies, this has been one of the busiest and most rewarding years of my life. Words alone cannot tell you what this year has meant to Jean and me. Visiting and working with old friends and the making of the many new friends we have met along our journey have helped to make this year most memorable. I would be remiss if I did not again thank the officers and members of our Subordinate Lodges and the Appendant and Concordant Bodies for their support this year. It has been good to work with you and I wish you all the best as you move into another phase of your Masonic career. Some will be moving along into another officer position and the presiding officers will be taking on a new and most important role in their Bodies, that of being past presiding officers. Please take that position seriously and help, aid and assist the

lodges and bodies, the officers, and the newly installed presiding officers. There is a great need and desire for education in our organizations and those of us who have "been there" have the responsibility of passing on our gained knowledge to those who are carrying the torch into the next Masonic year.

The worth of our stewardship may not be determined for some time to come, but it cannot be said about any presiding officer that he did not try, in his own way, to make a difference. I have seen some new ideas and many of the old standbys being worked by several of our lodges. There are very few bad ideas and anything that brings our Fraternal Family closer together is worth trying. It's like they say, "It is better to have tried and failed, than not to have tried at all". Then we have to get up and try again. There are a few ideas that have been working that come to mind, the new message board in District 3, which was started by W Gary Pierce of Hope Lodge No. 4 is one. What a great way to communicate your programs and get Lodges to work together. The Outdoor Degree put on each year by Union Lodge No. 7, this year they raised a member of Hope Lodge 4, again working together. Don't forget the annual Barn Dance/ fund raiser at Hopkins Farm, by Jefferson Lodge No.15, what a great time. Jackson Lodge 19's Ladies at the Table is a great evening with the ladies, and the Road Kill Café Grand Visit needs no explanation. Who of you were there this year, boy, what a hoot! How about a fishing trip with Washington Lodge 1 or Jefferson Lodge 15? What about the many parades? The annual Halloween Train Ride by Christiana No.35, which unfortunately had to be cancelled this year, but hopefully, will return next year. I know I have missed some, but you get the idea. Let's get going and do something unique to energize the fraternity and show all our members what fun Freemasonry really is.

This year, as you all know, we had another Grand Master's Class. It was awesome seeing the Brethren working together on this project. The weekend was fantastic, with everyone focused on doing a great job and showing the new members that the Fraternity is a place where we can be serious and learn how to be a better person, but it also is a place where we can have fun. The Grand Table Lodge was a great time... Vivat! Vivat! Vivat! The making of an active, energized Freemason is still, as in the regular way, up to the lodges. The Grand Master's Class did light a fire however. Let's keep it burning.

One of the most exciting things that is going on in the background is the rapid approach of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Grand Lodge of Delaware. There are many things planned and many things in the planning stage. There will be commemorations for Gunning Bedford Jr. and Jesse Green, our first and second Grand Masters, with memorial services at their graves. Do you know where they are located? A ceremony will take place at the "Old Town Hall" with the possible dedication of a plaque in acknowledgement of this first home. Many festivities are planned for the Annual

Communication of 2006. You will not want to miss these historical events. There will be a new edition of the History of the Grand Lodge of Delaware available which will continue from Charles Green's History which ended in 1956. I hope you lodge historians have sent in your updates. Let us make this project one of our best efforts. MW Paul E. Ellis was chairman of the Bicentennial Project. We need to carry the torch he passed to us and make this Bicentennial a fitting and lasting tribute to Delaware Freemasonry, as MWB Paul would have wanted us to do.

The Masonic Home still remains one of our largest challenges. The Board is putting together an informational program of ways that we can bequeath moneys from our estates to

the Home and also to set up living trusts and gifts. Your own lawyers can help with this and you can save quite a bit of tax money if you do. Don't forget that the Masonic Home Inc. is a 501 C3 organization and any gifts are tax deductible. How many have a "Fair Share" Plan at work with the United Fund. Why not remember the Masonic Home as the recipient of this "Fair Share". The reason that the Home is able to be in business today is due to the generosity of many our past members remembering the Home in their wills. Please help us help our own members by contributing generously. Remember Brothers, the home helps us do what we obligated our selves to do, and that is to help one another.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 10, 2006 will mark the beginning of our Bicentennial year celebration for the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Delaware. The planned event to "kick off" our year of celebration will be a commemoration of the Grand Lodge chartering at Old Town Hall in Wilmington, in period dress, followed by a parade up Market street, finishing with a banquet on the fourth floor of the Grand Opera House. The event will begin mid afternoon, with the ceremony at Old Town Hall. Grand Masters of Pennsylvania and Maryland will be in attendance to represent their roles in our Grand Lodge chartering, along with other invited dignitaries. As part of the ceremony, we are working with the Historical Society of Delaware to determine the possibility of placing an appropriate marker noting the Grand Lodge founding as well as a Masonic exhibition at the Delaware Museum next to Old Town Hall. The exhibition will last for two to three months and provide an opportunity to display our Masonic history to the general public. We will be asking each Lodge and all appendant and concordant

Masonic bodies in Delaware to consider participating in the exhibition with information, artifacts and articles which would be of interest. The Historical Society also has agreed to share the Masonic artifacts, which they own to compliment our contributions. This will be a great opportunity to tell our story to the public, so start thinking about what your Lodge will want to contribute.

We will be inviting each Lodge to participate in the parade with their officers and as many members as possible, as well as all appendant and concordant Masonic bodies in Delaware. During this next year we will be working out the details and look forward to hearing from you with suggestions and recommendations to make this parade one to remember...again, an opportunity to let the general public know more about our Fraternity.

Those of you who are Senior and Junior Wardens now, will be in or on your way to the East, so we urge you to consider what your Lodge will want to do with regard to our Bicentennial celebration as you plan for your year. Let us hear from you.

RELAY FOR LIFE

By Jean Mower
Grand Master's Lady

The Masonic Family of Delaware had a very successful turnout at the Relay For Life June 11-12 at Hodgson Vo-Tech in Glasgow. The team was comprised of the ladies of the Grand Staff, with lots of assistance from many others. The DeMolay and Job's Daughters youth again spent the night walking the track. We were able to donate over \$2,700 this year to the American Cancer Society, well over our goal.

Many thanks to everyone who came

out and supported us and all those who donated time and money and refreshments. I especially thank our chairman Tara Mathena, who attended all the meetings and organized the teamwork.

I hope the Masonic Family will continue to support the Relay as an outreach to the community, a way to be a visible presence. Everybody is hurt by cancer, one way or another, and this is a fun way to help.

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