

P.G.M. PLETZ HONORED

At the recent annual assembly of the United Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Past Grand Master James A. Pletz was appointed and installed as Grand Herald for that organization for the forthcoming year. Knight Companion Pletz thus joins a very unique and select group of Delaware Constantinian Masons who have served as appointed officers of this National Body.

The United Grand Imperial Council is the national governing body of the Red Cross of Constantine - a Christian Royal Arch Masonic body which meets annually at various locations throughout the United States. Their meeting next June will be in Salt Lake City, Utah. Most Worshipful Brother Pletz will serve as Herald until that meeting.

Delaware can proudly reflect on three of its members having served as the Grand Presiding Head of this prestigious body. Harry R. Craig served as Most Illustrious Grand Sovereign in 1953 and Past Grand Masters - W. Harry Lewis in 1945 and William H. Cantwell in 1964.

In recent years, three others of Delaware's members have been called upon to serve as appointed officers. Knight Companion Warren W. Edinger in 1983, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Henry G. Law in 1990, and Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Paul E. Ellis in 1994.

Delaware Conclave of Wilmington is the local Red Cross of Constantine body and was founded in 1936 by William J. Highfield, Harvey W. Bentley, J. Wallace Woodford, Weldon C. Waples, Harry R. Craig, Harold W. T. Purnell, Harry Galbraith and W. Harry Lewis. It has a membership limitation of 30 active members.

The fraternity bids Illustrious Knight Companion James A. Pletz God-speed and safe travel mercies as he continues to serve Freemasonry.

Union Lodge No. 5

By Earl L. Emerson, Jr.

Greetings from Union Lodge No. 5, the oldest Lodge in the State of Delaware. On Tuesday, June 29, 2004, Brother Marc Mancini was installed as Worshipful Master, Brother Gary Hutton was installed as Senior Warden, Brother Robert Emerson, PM was installed as Junior Warden, PM Ken Pyle remains a Lodge Secretary and PM Lou Pederson remains as treasurer.

Our Sporting Clay Scholarship Program was a great success again this year. As a result, three Middletown High School graduating students, Justin Collett, Sean Carrow and Daniel Artis will each receive a \$1000.00 scholarship grant to aid them in their first year at a school of higher learning. On June 28, 2004 the winners and their families attended a dinner in their honor and checks were presented to the winners. This completes the sixth year of our scholarship program and we have awarded \$18,000.00 in scholarships so far.

I am pleased to announce that in May 2004, Joshua Edmison received his PhD in Computer Engineering from Virginia Tech. Mr Edmison was one of our first year winners.

We would like to thank all of the members who worked so hard to make this program a success this year and give a special thank you to all of the people who supported this program. Without that support we would not be able to make these scholarship awards.

Bethel No. 4, Job's Daughters, held a successful yard sale at Union Lodge No. 5 on Saturday, June 26th and the Duncan Beard Chapter of the DeMolay held a successful "All You Can Eat" pancake breakfast on the same day at the Lodge. It was great to see the cooperation between these two youth groups.

The officers, members and youth groups of Union Lodge No. 5 hope everyone had a wonderful summer and we will see you in September.

"CHIP" Program Update

The "CHIP" (Child Identification Program) is now in full swing, having completed child identification kits on 270 children since the start of the program on May 1. Committee members and several dedicated and extremely helpful wives have pitched in to kick off the program at the "Old Dover Days" festival, the Shrine Circus in New Castle, and at the Independence Day celebration in Laurel. The response from parents has been great, and they have shown a true appreciation for the program.



Bruce Vonguerres and Cindy Keller fingerprinting two young sisters

The CHIP kits include a set of fingerprints, a digital photo on a floppy disk, and materials used at home to collect hair, fingernail, and saliva samples for DNA identification. All of the information



Charles Starkey, Ron Keller, and Cindy Keller

is retained by parents in a small plastic bag for future use, should a child become lost or abducted. These items are invaluable to law enforcement officials when conducting Amber Alerts and when attempting to obtain positive identification of a recovered child.

The CHIP committee is currently looking for funding sources to allow for expansion and improvement to the current program by switching to digital movie clips on mini-DVD disks, which will contain short interviews with the children. This method has been found to be much more valuable than photographs, as was the case in the Elizabeth Smart abduction. Despite the fact that Elizabeth was disguised in a veil, a witness was able to identify her by mannerisms observed by the witness on a videotape of Elizabeth prior to her abduction. This new method of conducting child identifications is becoming the standard used by a number of Masonic jurisdictions.



Cindy Vonguerres takes a digital photograph while Mark Claveloux handles the paperwork

If any brother is interested in becoming a part of this important program, or if you know of a business interested in sponsoring these efforts, contact committee chairman Mark Claveloux at mark@masonicgavels.com, or by cell phone at 302-670-3976.

Photos Needed!!

The 200th Anniversary of the Delaware Grand Lodge will soon be upon us. We are asking for photographs of past Delaware Masonic events. These photos will be scanned to become a part of a Bicentennial Program and thus, become a part of our Masonic History in the First State.

Please forward your photographs to the Grand Lodge office at 818 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19801-3377 or scan them and e-mail to grandsec.de@verizon.net.

All photographs will be returned to the senders.

Delaware DeMolay

By James G. Taylor
Executive Officer for Delaware
DeMolay

Greetings from the DeMolay of Delaware! All of the young men have been enjoying the various activities of summer with a couple of Chapters opting to have informal meetings during these summer months.

A few of the activities in which the DeMolay have participated include working the Shrine Circus along with the "Jobies" and, as a show of appreciation, they were rewarded with a delicious dinner provided by our Delaware Shriners. The boys also escorted the flags at the O.E.S. opening, again, in conjunction with the "Jobies". A high point for them in June was being asked to serve as escorts at the installation of Ionic No. 31's officers. They were sharply attired in their capes, which complimented the "Jobies" in their evening gowns. They were in attendance for Grand Lodge Day at Highfield and even though the weather was wet, the fellowship and food was great. It goes without saying that wherever there is food there will be a DeMolay! And speaking of wet weather, it was a little soggy when they walked in the "Relay for Life," sponsored by the First Lady of Delaware Masonry, Jean Mower. But again, there was food present!

Some of the DeMolay fundraisers included a sub sale and spaghetti dinner. More fundraisers are planned for the coming season and we encourage you all to continue to support Delaware's finest young men in these events.

Our boys joined DeMolays from Virginia on a trip to Luray Caverns for some degree work and an overnight camp-out.

A few of the other fun activities the young men participated in over the summer were a visit to Vince's Batting Cage, a couple of Blue Rocks baseball games, dances (with food present!) and a trip to York, Pennsylvania to visit the Harley Davidson assembly plant. There are many more activities planned for the new fall season.

Kent Chapter is finally off the ground and have their "Letter's Temp", which means they can actively recruit members and, when they obtain 15 members, they will receive their charter. We are still in need of help to recruit new members in the Dover area as well as in Middletown, where only four more new members are needed to receive their charter. Additionally, an appeal has gone out to all the lodges in southern Delaware to consider sponsoring a DeMolay chapter in that area. It is not difficult, nor expensive to sponsor a youth chapter and the reward can be a strong source of new members for your lodges as these young men come of age. For further information on how you can help or sponsor a DeMolay chapter please contact me at (302) 998-4093 or by e-mail at jamesretnav@comcast.net or jamesretnav@aol.com. I will be happy to provide you or your lodge with the information and start-up procedures for this very worthwhile endeavor. The young men of the Delaware DeMolay look forward to your continuing support and interaction this new Masonic season.

Our Desire Is To Be A Blessing To Those We Serve



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