

Jay Bergstrom Receives Scouter Award

Worshipful Brother Jay Bergstrom of Ionic Lodge No. 31 was presented the Daniel Carter Beard Scouter Award by Grand Master Donald D. Thomas in July at the Friends of Camp Rodney Reunion ceremonies. In the late 1800's, Daniel Carter Beard formed an association of boys known as the "Society of the sons of Daniel Boone" which was the forerunner of today's Boy Scouts. Brother Beard became its first National Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America upon its formation in 1910. Mt. Beard, a mountain peak adjoining Mt. McKinley, is named after Daniel Carter Beard.

Recognizing the large number of Boy Scouts who subsequently became Master Masons, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America, established the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award. The award is available to any Master

Mason who is an active scouter and has distinguished himself in support of the scouting program either on a unit, state or national level. The award consists of a Boy Scout Community Organization Square Knot patch, a medallion that can be worn at any Masonic function and a certificate acknowledging this recognition.

Brother Jay Bergstrom has been an active scouter for his entire adult life.. He is the second in his family to receive this award. Jay's father, Brother Harry Bergstrom, received the award several years ago and we congratulate the Bergstrom Family.

If you know of a Master Mason who has served the Boy Scouts of America in a distinguished capacity, please propose his name for consideration of the Daniel Carter Beard Award to the Grand Lodge of Delaware.



Report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence

By Earl L. Emerson, Jr., JGW

Many Grand Lodge are experiencing the same pressing problems as our Grand Lodge. The decline of membership and the loss of operating funds caused by that decline are the main problems we face. As membership falls, the base for funding grows smaller and per capita assessment has to be raised just to stay even.

Many programs have been tried by different Grand Jurisdictions. One-Day Festivals appear to be on the increase. Over half of the Grand Lodges in the United States have already participated in a One-Day Festival program in one form or another.

Most Worshipful Michael F. Linter, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of Nevada did arrest the charter of Logia Hispana De Nevada No. 58 on July 9, 2005. By this act all members of this Lodge, except a few which have been specially exempted and notified by separate letter, are suspended from all Masonic affiliation and will be denied all Masonic privileges, rights and charities from this date;

The Grand Lodge of West Virginia is considering the closing of the West Virginia Masonic Home at Parkersburg, West Virginia.

The National Grand Lodge of Romania reported that on July 1, 2005 the

irregular Grand Lodge "Grand Orient of France" installed the "Grand Orient of Romania". The Grand Orient of Romania is an irregular Masonic body and should not be recognized by any regular Masonic Grand Lodge.

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 part of a Bicentennial Program and thus, become part of our Masonic History in the First State.

Please forward your photos 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.



How – How – How

By Bill Stevens

Brothers, we are taught many lessons in our journey through Masonry and its appendant and concordant bodies. One of the first lessons is "the greatest of these is charity...for charity extends beyond the grave". So, how does this happen? Quite simply by the generosity of your bequests to the various Masonic charities. One of the easiest ways to accomplish this is to include one or several of them in your will. What should you give? Anything your can. It does not matter if it is coins, cash or property. You can return to the Blue Lodge your Past Master's Jewel or bequeath your Masonic ring to a brother.

The possibilities are endless. It can be intellectual or material, mundane or precious. Any and all bequests will be greatly appreciated. There are many Masonic outlets for your charitable giving. Here are some examples: Your Blue Lodge, Grand Lodge Permanent Fund, Highfield – the Masonic Home, Scottish Rite Learning Center, NUR Transportation Fund, Eastern Star Handicapped Children Fund. Others outside of Delaware are the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Royal Arch Research Association, Job's Daughters International Hearing Impaired Kids Endowment and many, many more.

We are constantly being asked to give for one effort or another. Tithes to your house of worship, relief for areas stricken with disasters, to help the homeless and the hungry are but a few. These are on no account to be set aside. What is being asked here is to consider giving a gift that will go beyond the grave through the bondless realm of eternity. A simple bequest in your will!

Need other reasons? How about lessening the tax burden on your estate. It will make you feel good that you have provided for others well after you have journeyed to the Celestial Lodge above. And finally brothers, because MASON'S CARE!

For further information on bequests contact Bill Stevens at (302)-995-1448.

Ionic Lodge No. 31 Newport, Delaware

We are anticipating an exciting and busy Masonic year. WM Duck has planned for at least one outside activity for each month from October through May.

October – Philadelphia Masonic and National Constitution Center tours.

November – Adopt-A-Highway participation.

December – Wilmington & Western Railroad event.

December – Longwood Gardens Holiday program.

January – Delaware degree exemplification at Philadelphia Temple.

February – Trip to the Geo. Washington National Masonic Memorial.

March – Ladies Day at Atlantic City.

April – Baltimore Aquarium and Inner Harbor.

April or May – Adopt-A-Highway .

May – USS New Jersey and activity with USS New Jersey Lodge No. 26.

With five candidates in our lodge of instruction Ionic officers have a busy schedule for the balance of 2005.

Ionic Lodge No. 31 celebrates its 55th Anniversary in November. We are planning a big birthday party on November 4th and all are invited to join us that evening. An interesting presentation on the history of our lodge will be offered and many old memories will be awakened.

Our stated communications are held on the first Thursday of the month with the gavel falling at 7:30 PM. Please visit Ionic Lodge and share in the fellowship that we are known for.

Royal Arch Degree Conferred

The evening of August 2, 2005 was a grand night for Washington and Lafayette Chapter Royal Arch Masons. A degree team, lead by M.:W.: Donald D. Thomas conferred the Royal Arch degree on eight candidates which included R.:W.: Ronald W. Conaway, Grand Master-Elect. Most Excellent Grand High Priest Walter F. Lokey welcomed sthe class and congratulated the degree team which included PGHPs Pletz, Dorsey, Shutz, Bethard, Garland and others.

