

**2012 CONFERENCE
OF GRAND MASTERS
OF MASONS
IN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**



**FEBRUARY 19-21, 2012
ATLANTA SHERATON HOTEL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

**CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS
OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA**

Sunday through Tuesday

February 19, 20, & 21, 2012

Atlanta Sheraton Hotel

Atlanta, Georgia

“Cultivating The Masonic Experience”

Conference Chairman

Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Grand Master, Maryland

Conference Vice Chairman

Richard A. Martin
Grand Master, Oregon

2012 Conference Committee

Randy L. Rogers, Chairman
Grand Master, Oklahoma

Barry Imber
Grand Master, Nova Scotia

Fred Kaiser
Grand Master, Michigan

John W. Hess
Grand Master, Missouri

Paul M. Leary
Grand Master, New Hampshire

Jerry D. Moss
Host Grand Master, Georgia

2012 Time and Place Committee

Lon W. Kvasager, *Chairman*
Grand Master, North Dakota

Jerry W. Pinion
Grand Master, Alaska

Hans J. Scheurer
Grand Master, Nevada

William L. Alexander, II
Grand Master, Montana

Michael Sanders
Grand Master, Washington

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TREASURER
Glenn E. Means, Past Grand Master, Missouri

2012 GRAND MASTERS



1st Row L to R: John A. Peyton, Newfoundland; Barry Imber, Nova Scotia; John W. Hess, MO; Randy L. Rogers, OK, Chairman Planning Committee; Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, MD, Conference Chairman; Richard A. Martin, OR, Conference Vice-Chairman; Lon W. Kvasagar, ND, Time & Place Chairman; Michael Sanders, WA; Rex J. Moats, NE; Jerry D. Moss, GA, Host Grand Master; Kevin B. Todd, OH.

2nd Row L to R: Robert L. Jackson, AR; James T. Brumit, TX; Richard Aydelotte, DE; Brook Cunningham, AZ; Jay W. Smith, PA; Paul M. Mailhot, Quebec; Jerry W. Pinion, AK; William Alexander, WY; William T. Ellison, Jr., VA; Vincent Libone, NY; Paul Litteral, Can-Am GL; W. Louis Greeniere, II, ME; C. Sterling Hughes, AL; Joseph B. Crociata, DC.

3rd Row L to R: D. Garry Dowling, Ontario; Robert Gresham, NC; Gregg Walbridge, IN; Monte Glover, HI; Bill Cave, BC & Yukon; Jay Leonard, ID; Bobby M Arther, NM; Jay Adam Pearson, SC; Frank R. duTreil, Jr., LA; Mack E. Johnson, TN; Charles A. Louk, WV; Richard J. Stewart, MA.

4th Row L to R: Raul Gomez, Baja California; Myron Ware, MS; Frank Loui, CA; Hans Scheurer, NV; Jim J. Harris, FL; Terry L. Bowmar, KY; William L. Morris, Jr., NJ; Karl J. Hinkle, CO; Terry L. Seward, IL; Peter Dunlop, Alberta; Allen L. Peirce, WY; Arturo J. Ferro, York, Mexico; Unknown; Jerry L. Levay, IA; Leon C. Knudsen, RI; Frank C. Baker, UT; Brian E. Beerman, MN; Victor R. Barrias, PR; Chiby Uson, Manitoba; James T. McWain, CT; George J. Deblon, VT; Paul M. Leary, NH; Davey L White, WI.

2012 OFFICERS



1st Row, L to R: John V. Egan, III, Host Grand Master, CO ; Bradford A. Goebel, OH, Conference Chairman; John L Cook, Jr. MN, Conference Vice-Chairman.

2nd Row Lto R: Thomas Johnston, IV, VT, Time & Place Committee Chairman; Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, MD, Planning Committee Chairman; Glenn E. Means, PGM, MO, Executive Secretary/Treasurer

AGENDA
2012 CONFERENCE OF
GRAND MASTERS

Saturday, February 18, 2012

9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. **Registration**
9:00a.m.-3:00p.m. **Western Masonic Conference Meeting**
9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. **NMFC Meeting**
9:00a.m.-5:00p.m. **MRC Meeting**
1:00p.m. **Planning Committee Meeting**
2:00.m. **Nominating Committee Meeting**
6:00p.m. **Grand Lodge of Georgia "Georgia On My Mind Party"**

Sunday, February 21, 2012

8:30a.m.-3:00p.m. **Registration**
9:00a.m. **Grand Secretaries' Tour Departs**
9:00a.m. **MasoniChip Meeting**
9:00a.m. **Religious Observance**
10:45a.m. **Committee on Info for Recognition receives Correspondence**

GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE OPENS

10:00a.m. **Call to Order and Welcome**
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III
Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman

Invocation
Colors Presented:
National Anthems **Canada, Mexico, U.S.**
Welcome *Jerry D. Moss*
Grand Master, Georgia

Response *Richard A. Martin, Grand Master, Oregon*
Vice Chairman

Report of Conference Planning Committee Chairman
Randy L. Rogers, Grand Master, Oklahoma
Committee Chairman

Report of Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Glenn E. Means, Past Grand Master, Missouri
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Report of Nominating Committee
Richard A. Martin, Grand Master, Oregon
Conference Vice Chairman

10:30a.m. **Election of 2013 Officers**
10:40a.m. **National Masonic Foundation for Children Report**
11:00a.m. **Masonic Renewal Report**
11:40a.m. **Masonic Service Association Report**
Luncheons 12:00 Noon - 1:45p.m.

Grand Masters with Ladies
Deputy Grand Masters with Ladies
Grand Wardens and Officers with Ladies

GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE RECONVENES

2:00p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**
Group I **Changing Perceptions**
Group II **Masonic Medical Research Laboratory**
Group III **Membership Retention**
Group IV **Examining the Investigative System**
3:05p.m. **Call To Order**
Bradford A. Goebel, Grand Master, Ohio
Conference Chairman

3:10p.m. **MasoniChip International Report**
3:30p.m. **George Washington National Memorial Association**
 Report

4:15p.m. **2013 Officers Meeting**

EVENING FREE

Monday, February 20, 2012

8:00a.m.-1:00p.m. **Registration**
9:00a.m.-4:30p.m. **GRAND SECRETARIES CONFERENCE CONVENES**
9:00a.m. **Comm. Information for Recognition Meeting**
9:30a.m. **Time & Place Committee Meeting**
GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE RECONVENES

9:00.m. **Call to Order**
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman
Invocation

9:10a.m. **Introduction of all Visiting Dignitaries**

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:30a.m.-11:30a.m.
Group I **Advancing Technology**
Group II **Lodge Experience, Part 2**
Group III **Making Freemasonry Family Friendly**
Group IV **More Effective Grand Lodges**

11:30a.m.-1:00p.m. **LUNCH**
1:00p.m. **Photographs of Grand Masters & Visiting Grand**
 Jurisdictions

1:00p.m.-2:00p.m. **Future GM's Meeting**
GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE RECONVENES

2:00p.m. **Call To Order**
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30p.m.-3:30p.m.
Group I **Advancing Technology**
Group II **Lodge Experience, Part 2**
Group III **Changing Perceptions**

Group IV **More Effective Grand Lodges**
3:30p.m. 2013 Grand Masters Meeting

6:00p.m. Grand Secretaries' Social Hour
7:00p.m. Grand Secretaries' Banquet

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

7:00a.m. Shrine DeMolay Breakfast

Sponsored by Imperial Shrine
Imperial Sir George Mitchell, Imperial Potentate

9:30a.m. Ladies Breakfast
8:30a.m. GRAND SECRETARIES CONFERENCE RECONVENES

GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE RECONVENES

9:30a.m. Call to Order
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman

9:35a.m. Report of Time and Place Committee
9:45a.m. Committee on Information for Recognition Report

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

10:30a.m.-11:00a.m.

Group I **Changing Perceptions**
Group II **Examining the Investigative System**
Group III **Lodge Experience, Part 2**
Group IV **Membership Retention**

11:30a.m.-1:00p.m. Lunch

GRAND MASTERS CONFERENCE RECONVENES

1:00p.m. Call to Order
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman

1:10p.m. Business Session
2:10p.m. Introduction of 2012 Conference of Grand Secretaries
Officers

2:15p.m. 2013 Host Committee Report
2:20p.m. Announcements and wrap up
Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Grand Master, Maryland
Conference Chairman

Benediction

5:30p.m. Grand Masters' Social Hour
6:30p.m. Grand Masters' Banquet

**PROCEEDINGS
OPENING SESSION
Sunday February 19, 2012**

**Most Worshipful Stephen J. Ponzillo, III - Chairman
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Maryland**

**Most Worshipful Richard A. Martin - Vice Chairman
Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Oregon**

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I now call the 86th Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America to order. My name is Steve Ponzillo, Grand Master of Masons of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Maryland. Grand Masters, it is with great honor that I am allowed to serve as your Conference Chair for this 2012 session of the Conference of Grand Masters. The theme chosen for this Conference is Cultivating the Masonic Experience. In our rapidly changing world Freemasonry must also change and evolve. Making those changes to keep Masonry relevant to the new generation is a task that is difficult for many to grasp and understand. We must continue to develop good leaders for our fraternity and equip them to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow's changing world. The Breakout Session topics were selected and planned to present ideas and guidance for the future leaders of our Fraternity, and indeed of our world. It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you today to Atlanta, Georgia and I do especially welcome the ladies and visitors who are with us this morning. I know that everyone who participated in the Grand Lodge of Georgia's Georgia on My Mind Celebration last evening had a good time. Thank you to the Grand Lodge of Georgia for your on hospitality. Your guys are everywhere, from making sure that we got from the airport to here, to being in the halls and present to assist us, and the wonderful hospitality room, all of it has been great. And to Grand Master Jerry and all of his workers, thank you. (Applause)

Grand Masters, there are floor microphones on the three sides of our tables. For the benefit of our reporter, Miss Jill Fry, I would ask that when you have something to say, I can't imagine that Grand Masters have anything to say, but should that occur, please go to the microphone and identify yourself and, again, your comments. Those committees who have reports to present, if you have a committee, report to present, please see that Miss Fry has a copy. If you can't give it to her ahead of time, please make sure that she receives it. Grand Masters, as you know, the Conference of Grand Masters and eight named individual Grand Lodge officers of six different Grand jurisdictions were named as defendants in a lawsuit filed in New Hampshire by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, and the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. The lawsuit stems from a portion of the 2011 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition relating to the Grand Priory of Occitania. The lawsuit alleges, among other things, interference

with the Grand Encampment's Contractual Relations, misrepresentation and civil conspiracy. There are some things you should be aware of and some instructions concerning the lawsuit that I need to communicate to you. First, the Conference's Bylaws define each of you in your capacity as Grand Master, or representative of a Grand Master, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation known as the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America Incorporated. Therefore, as Directors, you have more than a passing interest in the lawsuit. The Grand Encampment filed the lawsuit in the State Court of New Hampshire. The attorneys for the Conference and the individual defendants filed pleadings to remove the lawsuit from state court to federal district court. In January the federal district court granted the motions filed by the Defendants and issued an Order dismissing the lawsuit, finding that the Conference and the individual Defendants do not have sufficient connections with the state of New Hampshire to justify their being sued there. The Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire have filed a motion for reconsideration, asking the Court to find that the Conference and some of the individual Defendants may be sued in New Hampshire. The Conference has objected to the Motion for Reconsideration. The Motion for Reconsideration is still pending. We will not speculate on the Court's further action, nor whether the lawsuit will continue, or what actions any of the parties on either side will take in the future. On advice of our legal counsel, I ask that you as Directors, refrain from and not enter into any discussion on or about any aspect of the lawsuit, the portion of the 2011 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition dealing with the Grand Priory of Occitania, nor any discussion concerning the Grand Priory of Occitania, Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. Should that occur, as Chairman of the Conference, I will rule out of order and not allow any attempts to bring any discussion before the Conference. You will have before you later in the Conference a letter from the Grand Lodge of Indiana. We will take up the issues of that letter at our Tuesday afternoon business session. Am I clear on that my brothers? Okay. It is my pleasure to introduce and call on the Worshipful Grand Chaplain, Brother Melvin Frank Locabe of the Grand Lodge of Georgia to invoke the blessing and presence of All Mighty God on this Conference and our deliberations. Brother Grand Chaplain.

Grand Chaplain Locabe: Let us pray. Our Father, which art in heaven, whose wisdom and goodness manifests himself in all of the works of creation. With reverence we invoke thy blessings upon thy children here assembled, may we be ever mindful that a father's care is always over us, and that all seeing eye is ever upon us. Direct our footsteps in the way of pleasantness and paths of peace, that all our acts may reflect honor upon thy holy name. Amen. So Mote It Be.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo, III: Thank you, Brother Grand Chaplain. We will now have the presentation of the colors of the three nations represented in this Conference Mexico, Canada, and the United States. I call upon Most Worshipful Brother Jerry D. Moss, the Grand Master of Georgia to introduce the Color Guard for the presentation of the colors. Grand master.

M.W. Jerry D. Moss: My fellow Grand Masters, distinguished brethren, ladies all, Fort Pearson Sojourners Chapter Number 60 will present the colors.

**(Colors Presented)
(National Anthems)**

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you once again to National Sojourners Fort McPearson Chapter Number 60 for the presentation of the Colors. We thank the Reverend Doctor Gary Leazur for the religious service this morning, and the ladies who have presented the anthems for us, and I had three names, but there were only two ladies. Miss Debbie Weaver, who sang the anthem of the United States and Canada, and Miss Carol Howard, who rendered the anthem of Mexico in Spanish. We are not going to let Grand Master Moss to get too comfortable over there in his chair, because we are going to ask him to come forward and bring you some greetings.

M.W. Jerry D. Moss: Good morning. Welcome to Georgia. Most Worshipful Grand Masters, distinguished brethren and ladies all, you want to get a Grand Master's attention, just have him sitting over here relaxed and call his name out ten minutes before he expects to be called. But be that what it may, it's great to have you and the great state of Georgia. We support this Conference, and the work, and the information and that information that disseminates to our Grand Lodges. It is a very valuable asset, and we welcome you to Georgia to continue the work of the Conference and to continue the work of our Grand Lodges. I also would like for you to know just a little bit about our great state, and this city, and some of the attractions and things that are available to you, and to that end, I want to introduce the historian of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia and a resident of the local area to speak about those things. At this time I will ask Worshipful Brother David Kennedy to come forward.

W.B. David Kennedy: Good morning, Brethren. It's always embarrassing to me to be introduced as a historian. I am a student of much history. History is so ongoing that you never get to really be a historian. It just doesn't, it's not in this head. But the city of Atlanta is proud to have you this with us this morning. It is a real honor. This town was built on transportation system, starting with the railroads. First railroad was built from right outside, just a few miles from here, ground zero to Chattanooga, Tennessee. And then over the course of years it spread in every direction, making Atlanta the center of the southeast. If you went anywhere, you had to come through Atlanta. There is an old saying here that when you die, and you are going to heaven, you have to come to Atlanta to transfer. We have since those days built a great airport. We are now in the process of building an international terminal. This airport used to be a racetrack called Candler Field in the early airport crop duster planes, before that it was a racetrack. We are grateful to have that piece of property and the airport out there, mostly to the Catler family, the ones who built Coca Cola Company. You all may have drank one or two of those I hope. Since then we built a great highway system. Now, if you come into this hotel during rush hour in the morning, or you leave it in rush hour in the

evening, you will find we do not have a great highway system, we have a great parking lot. Because you're not going far in a hurry, I will assure you, rush hour is not a good time to be on our expressways. Atlanta Georgia over the years has really grown. We have a great educational system here. Georgia Tech Institute, one of the better engineering schools in the south, and in the country is located right here in Atlanta. Emory University, a great Medical College is here in Atlanta, Morehouse College, Feldman, Georgia State University, Atlanta University System, multiple two year colleges and trade schools. We have a great opportunity for anyone to further their education in this city. A of great number of companies have placed their headquarters here over the years. We have indeed become the gateway to the south. About, I don't know, 150 years ago, I will let you all do the math, there was a damn Yankee came down here from Ohio and smoked up the place. And I mean he made a mess of it. We try not to use his name too much in polite company because down here it is considered profanity, but fortunately he was not a Mason, his father was, but he wasn't. And for a long time we didn't have a whole lot of use for General Sherman, but then as we study history and look back on it, the man did us a favor. He burnt this thing down to the ground. There wasn't nothing left, it was just ashes. And this city rose from the ashes of that calamity and grew from scratch from the ashes into a great international city. We have a great zoo here. You all want to go out and see one of the Chinese pandas. Camisal Mountain, one of the big fights of the Civil War is just north of us. We have an opportunity in this city to keep growing. Our Governor just announced a major manufacturer moving into Athens, just up the road where the University of Georgia is located. The things you can do in this city outside of just the normal tourist things of going to the aquarium, and going to World of Coke, and CNN Center, we have a lot of places. My favorite place in this city in the Botanical Gardens out at Piedmont Park. Now, this is the not the best weather in the world to go to Botanical Garden, but if you are ever in our city, and the weather is a little more cooperative, I hope you will avail yourselves to go see the Botanical Gardens. The next place I favor very greatly is the Atlanta History Center down here in Buckhead, which has a great museum and one of the best research facilities you can find anywhere. If you want to study history of this part of the country, go out to the Atlanta History Center. They'll be glad to see you, and they will be glad to assist you. They are great people. We also have a great research facility in the library at Emory College, Emory University at Decatur right here. After the war, when we were trying to rebuild this city, a lot of our citizens left because there was nothing left. We were burned out for hundreds of miles in every direction of this city. A lot of them went to Texas, some of them went to South America, a lot of pOeople went north. I have never figured that one out. As we grew and worked, we became a new city. You know, you live out, and we still fight civil war down here because all of the civil war was fought in the south, folks from up north, you don't have the big battlefields other than say Gettysburg that are real prominent in the northern states. We are surrounded with them. I spent yesterday with the Brother from Kansas, took him up to Chickamauga. He had a relative of his wife's who died up there in a rebel field hospital, and we still can't locate his grave, we're looking for it. He -- Mike are you in the room? Some folks from Kansas didn't show up. He is selling books out there I think.

Just think about if we had won that war, where would we be today? A divided country. A divided country could not have stood against the world events over the years. By losing that war, the country was reunited. Even though we have bitter feelings about it down here, it is the best thing that could have happened. By losing the war, keeping the country united, we can stand strong, very strong against any nation in the world promote world peace, and Freemasonry will have a large part of that, of keeping world peace. Brethren, I am so proud to have you in Atlanta, and if you do not receive the southern hospitality that you think you deserve, and you have heard about, please do not call me. I have got it in my mind that we have great hospitality, and I don't want that image destroyed. If you get locked up in jail, don't hesitate to call me, I will be glad to come down and visit with you while you try to post bond with the judge. Sincerely Brethren, we are so proud to have you here, Atlanta, Georgia is being honored by you being here, and I am proud this morning to welcome you to my hometown. God bless you and have a great Conference. (Applause)

M.W. Jerry D. Moss: Brother David, thank you. To me he is our historian. Brothers, I think you understand that now. I want to give some remarks. If you need any help, call us. You have the 404 telephone number, and all of these people with this medallion around their neck are assigned to respond to any needs that you might have while you are here. I don't know that we can get you out of jail, we will try, or other things, but we are here to serve you and try to insure that we have as good a Conference as possible. That would be our fondest hopes that you all leave here a little bit better off as Grand Lodge Officers when you go back to your jurisdictions and you can take that back and we can better education our brothers and sisters of the needs of this fraternity and make sure that it moves into the future and takes its proper place in the history of this great country of ours. Thank you for being here and I look forth to working with all of you. Thank you. (Applause) Brothers about three years ago a program was introduced in the Grand Lodge of Georgia and it has taken off very well. We have a man with us that is very enthusiastic about this program and it is great. It doesn't cost us any money. It gets us out in the public, it serves our community and our state very well, and to add to that -- well let's get the man up here that knows more about it than I do, Brother Steve Fishman, will you come up and talk about our blood drive.

Brother Steve Fishman: We lost that war? When? I thought that was a guy from Virginia who surrendered, not here. My distinguished Grand Masters, dignitaries, attendees and Brethren all, my Grand Master, Most Worshipful Jerry D. Moss of Georgia, this is such a distinct privilege to try to promote a program that will benefit Blue Lodge Masonry from now on. I'm just a Master Mason here in Georgia, and I have a mission. Our mission is to place our gentle craft in a position of prominence in our society. Freemasonry is such a wonderful organization with so many incredible charities. We certainly have been active here in Georgia, both on a Grand Lodge level and in our Blue Lodges. Freemasonry is alive and well in the state of Georgia. Our Scottish Rite Hospitals, we have an incredible facility with both cancer and spinal cord treatments here in Atlanta. Our Shrine Temples support both orthopedic and burn

centers. But I am here to talk to you about the Grand Lodge of Georgia Blood Drive Program. How we can take this program to a different level, to a national level with your assistance as the Grand Master of your states. We are taught from the very first degree about Charity. Charity sweet charity. But we as Master Masons are also losing the media battle with the world press. Every time the Scottish Rite is mentioned, praises are heaped upon the organization, most especially about the hospitals. Every time the Shrine is mentioned, even more is said about the burn centers and their children's hospitals. However, it seems that every time we hear about our Blue Lodge bodies, we hear noise about conspiracies, secret societies and unfortunately sometimes these are the nicer things. Charity doesn't sell. Innuendo does sell. A few years ago we loaned the History Channel the use of the House of the Temple of the Scottish Rite in Washington D.C. We gave them our finest and brightest Masonic scholars to interview. At the end of the program, we were still just a secret society harboring conspiracies and whatnot. Their interviews were cut to mere seconds, yet the concept of a secret society sold advertising. Sometimes no matter how hard you try, you just can't get an even break.

On your tables in front of you I have given you all a handout which was the speech which specifically outlined this program that I gave at the Southeastern Grand Master's Conference last August. All of the specific details of why blood programs are so important to our society, and why we as Masons are so aptly suited toward these programs are contained in this handout. Please, please read it. Please read these notes and realize that my contact information is on the letterhead. I have also given you a card. I will be available to you at any hour of any day and I earnestly suggest any communications please include an e-mail. Many Grand Lodge jurisdictions already have a blood drive program in place. To be quite truthful, where is Texas? Well, let me tell you gentlemen, Brethren, your blood drive program is awesome. One I hope to be just like you. They are doing something in the state of Texas which is incredible. They really are. And I can't be more proud of them. But what I would like to see is Texas talk to Arkansas, and Arkansas talk to South Dakota, South Dakota talk to California. I would at this time suggest that we as Masons Nationwide take up this challenging of procuring for our neighbors the most necessary gift of life available. I want to see you bleed. I want blood. You as Grand Masters in this forum have the unique ability to band together as Grand Masters and spearhead a national push toward a common charity. A charity that will cost your Grand Lodges very, very little in the realm of monetary output. As a matter of fact as Grand Master Moss said, the Georgia Blood Drive Program not only does not have a budget, but does not cost the Grand Lodge of Georgia a penny. This program will not impact on or take away from any of your state charities. All I want to do is embellish it. The positive press that we as Masons nationwide would receive would be monumental. We as Masons could assume a leadership role in one of the most unique charities of all. Everyone has heard about Jerry Lewis and his push for Muscular Dystrophy. Everyone has heard about Danny Thomas and the St. Jude's Children's Hospital. That is a 30 bed hospital located in Memphis, Tennessee, yet it has national prominence. How much would the wonderful publicity be worth of how Blue Lodge Masonry listed as the forefront of charitable institutions worldwide. We have the ultimate networking organization in the world, Freemasons. Every one of

us has gotten to where we are today because we network as Masons. Each Grand Lodge has not only the pecking order in place, but hundreds of thousands of Masons who not only understand the act of charity, but are empowered by our basic creed to perform those same acts of charity. Our senior Masons would not only have a day at the blood drive as an outing, and an opportunity to perform at this charity, but it gives them an outing, a day, a reason to come to lodge, and to show what Freemasons are all about and what they do in their communities. Imagine how proud they would be wearing a Blue Lodge shirt and a baseball cap with a square and compass as they meet their friends and neighbors at the local community blood drive. Please allow me to present these few thoughts. First and foremost we as Masons would be saving lives by donating and giving blood drives. Second, we engage in the easiest public relations mission in the planet by allowing our neighbors to realize that Masons care about their communities. Third, we bring to the table wonderful ways to involve our senior Masons in our lodge activities by getting them out of their nursing homes, extended care facilities, and other living arrangements, and getting them involved or re-involved, back in their Lodges and volunteering at their blood drives. Fourth, all of us will earn Master's wages by caring for our fellow men and in turn protect our countrymen, our neighbors, our families and ourselves by this unselfish act of charity. I can arrange for a referendum for this body in very, very short time, if you all would take upon yourselves to push this to the forefront of the Grand Masters of North America. If I may, I would be willing to ask for any suggestions at this time or take any questions. Thank you so much for this opportunity. The Atlanta Red Cross has very graciously allowed us a blood resource table out in our forum outside, and we would love to have you come and talk, and I will be here through the entire Conference to discuss any of these with you. Thank you so very much. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, Grand Master Moss and all of the brothers from Georgia for those presentations. We would like to call on our Vice-Chair, Brother, Most Worshipful Richard A. Martin, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oregon for a response.

M.W. Richard A. Martin: My Brothers, I always preface my remarks when I am in Oregon with this, it is another beautiful day in the great Northwest. However, I am not there, but I do have the weather, I brought it with me. So I hope you all enjoy the lovely rain. I would like to say it is another beautiful day in the land of Dixie, is it not? (Applause) Most Worshipful Sirs, Right Worshipful Sirs, honored guests and my Brothers, on behalf of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, I wish to thank our brother in the great state of Georgia and its most distinguished Grand Lodge for the welcome extended to the attendees, and their kind hosting of the 2012 Conference. The comments of welcome from Most Worshipful Brother Moss are correct, in that our host in a very positive way makes each of us feel that we are an important part of a very special Order, a spiritual brotherhood that spans space and time, our beloved Masonic Fraternity. Such a warm welcome awakens the emotion within each of us that evidences a true pride in belonging. In a technological age that finds little reason for human contact, or commitment, our Fraternity fosters the feeling of family. The Brothers of Georgia have done an outstanding job of making

all of us feel very much at home by truly exemplifying southern hospitality. While here my brothers remember, that no contention should ever exist, except that noble contention or rather emulation of who best can work and best agree. Do good onto all. Most Worshipful Brother Moss, we truly appreciate all of the courtesies that you and your Grand Lodge have extended to all of the delegates. Mr. Chairman, thank you for the privilege of delivering the response. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you Grand Master Martin. At this time I would like to personally thank the Brethren responsible for the 2012 Conference session. Brethren you will be introduced as your Committee Chairman give their reports, but I want to add my personal thanks to you for your work in making this Conference possible. I believe there is a presentation from the Grand Lodge of Hawaii.

M.W. Monte J. Glover: Most Worshipful Sirs, Aloha. I can't whistle Dixie.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: You don't have to whistle Dixie.

M.W. Monte J. Glover: On behalf of the 1,800 Brethren of Hawaii, and the Grand Lodge of Hawaii, it is my honor to present you with a Hawaiian style gavel that has been handmade by one of our brothers from Maui, and it is with really great honor and appreciation for everything that you have done for us over the years and please except it on our behalf.

M.W. Steven J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. (Applause)

M.W. Monte J. Glover: This was made from an Acacia tree that was planted out in front of the Lodge on Maui several years ago. It ceased to continue to grow, and they planted a replacement for it. The wood from that deceased tree is now being made into gavels that are highly collectable by those of us that are lucky enough to grab one or two of them.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir, again. (Applause) This will a traveling conference gavel. So it will be placed in the hands of the Executive Secretary for safekeeping from conference to conference. Thank you very much. Brother Executive Secretary, do we have a quorum of our members?

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, we have a quorum. We have 61 of our 64 member jurisdictions present. New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Saskatchewan are not represented this year. I will cover the rest of the jurisdictions in my report, sir.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. Grand Masters, before I call for the Planning Committee Report, a couple of announcements. The Commission on Information on Recognition is meeting starting at 9:45 a.m. in Tower Court A Room. This meeting -- oh, it is in Atlanta V. Thank you. The Commission is meeting in Atlanta V. This meeting is only to receive papers and reports to be submitted. It is only for papers and reports to be submitted. It is not their regular meeting, which will take place tomorrow at 9:00 in Georgia IV Room. I want to remind

everyone that the Time and Place Committee will be called to order by Most Worshipful Brother Lon Kvasager, Grand master of North Dakota in Atlanta II at 9:30 a.m. on Monday morning. The Committee will receive bids to host the 2016 Conference and prepare a recommendation to report on later in this Conference. Any jurisdiction wishing to present a bid to host the conference is encouraged to do so at that Committee meeting. Now it is my pleasure to call on Most Worshipful Brother Randy L. Rogers, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma, who will bring us the Conference Planning Committee Report, and present the rules of the Conference which we will adopt today. Grand Master Rogers.

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

R.W. Randy L. Rogers: Brother Chairman, Right Worshipful, Most Worshipful Sirs, good morning. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, distinguished guests, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Grand Masters, my brothers all, thank you for the opportunity to serve the Grand Masters Conference. It is with great pleasure that I bring to you this report on behalf of the members of the Planning Committee, which met here in Atlanta on Friday and Saturday May 27th and 28th of 2011. The Planning Committee has put together a program that we hope you will all enjoy. At this time I would like to introduce the members of the Planning Committee. Please stand when your name is called so that your hard work and dedication to our fraternity can be recognized. I would like to start with Most Worshipful Brother Barry Imber, Grand Master of Nova Scotia. Brother Barry. Most Worshipful Brother Fred Keiser, Grand Master of Michigan was unable to be here with us at this Conference and we do miss his support and attendance with this Committee. Most Worshipful Brother Paul Leary, Grand Master of New Hampshire. Most Worshipful Brother John W. Hess, Grand Master of Missouri, along with our Conference Chairman Most Worshipful Brother Stephen Ponzillo, Grand Master of Maryland, and our Vice-Chairman, Most Worshipful Richard Martin, Grand Master of Oregon, Most Worshipful Jerry Moss, Grand Master of Georgia, and our host for this Grand Session, and last, but certainly not least, Most Worshipful Brother Glenn E. Means, Past Grand Master of Missouri and our Executive Secretary of the Conference. Would you please assist me in thanking these brothers for their hard work and dedication. (Applause) I would like to take an opportunity to again thank Most Worshipful Brother Moss for all of courtesies he and the Georgia Masons showed us during the Planning Meeting in May of last year. The Grand Lodge of Georgia outlined a very well thought out plan for our Saturday evening entertainment and for the ladies tours that will take place tomorrow. I wish to thank these brothers for their contribution to this year's programs. It is our sincere hope that you will enjoy as well as learn from the session. The committee members finalized the subject matter and presenters and provided this information to Most Worshipful Brother Means who put it all together to produce the written program, as well as coordinate the hotel rooms, the meeting rooms, the equipment needed. Glenn is the backbone, and that is kind of off the script, but he truly is the backbone of our Conference in putting things together, and trust me from the many phone calls and e-mails that he receives, it is a full time job and I don't think we truly recognize and appreciate what he does for the Conference. A little off script but, Glenn, thank you so much for your hard work.

(Applause) The Breakout Sessions will cover a wide range of programs that many of you requested, and should be a great benefit to all of Grand Masters and other elected Grand Lodge officers present. These sessions will afford you an opportunity not only to learn, but to interact with other members from the many jurisdictions present here. Our Breakout Sessions will offer such things as changing perceptions, membership retention, advancing technology, and the lodge experience Part II, by the way, just to name a few. It is the Planning Committee's hope that this session will motivate the leaders of tomorrow so we encourage all of the Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Wardens to take advantage of as many of the Breakout sessions as possible. Now onto the business part. Our Bylaws in Article IV set forth the rules by which the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America is to be governed. To refresh your memory, they are:

1. Any item of business not placed on the agenda for the annual meeting by the Planning Committee may be added if approved by three-fourth majority vote of the Grand Masters and other authorized representatives in attendance at this meeting.
2. Except as where otherwise provided in the bylaws, any items of business brought to the floor for vote shall be decided by two-third majority vote of the Grand Masters and other authorized representatives having seating privileges. Only Grand Masters or duly authorized representatives of member Grand Lodges having speaking privileges are authorized to speak at any session. Other persons desiring to speak must first obtain permission from their representing Grand Master.

In addition, the Planning Committee recommends the following additional rules for the 2012 Conference to augment the bylaws. They are:

1. It is necessary the proper credentials be worn by each member for admission into the Conference in order to be properly received and seated.
2. When properly recognized by the Chair, the brother so recognized will approach the microphone, state his name, his office, and the jurisdiction he represents before speaking on any subject.
3. Parliamentary procedures shall be based upon commonly accepted practices in the Roberts Rules of Order.

Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I now request that our Executive Secretary report on the brothers designated by their Grand Masters to represent them and sit in their place at this Conference.

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Thank you Most Worshipful Sir. I have received notice from the following Grand Masters that they would be unable to attend due to deaths in the family, illness and in one case a rather severe automobile accident. Right Worshipful Brother Brian E. Berman, Deputy Grand Master of Minnesota will represent Most Worshipful Brother Thomas Hendrickson. Right Worshipful Brother John C. Hantz, Deputy Grand Master of South Dakota will represent Most Worshipful Brother Richard Decker. Right Worshipful Brother George Devlin, Deputy Grand Master of Vermont is representing Most Worshipful Brother Phillip Martin. Right Worshipful Brother Dean Barr, Deputy Grand Master of Michigan is representing Most Worshipful Brother Fred Keiser.

M.W. Randy L. Rogers: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I move for the adoption of the Planning Committee's Report, along with the 2012 Conference Rules, and that these representatives be approved and offered all of the courtesies extended to a Grand Master.

2012 PLANNING COMMITTEE



Seated, L to R: Jerry D. Moss, Host Grand Master, Georgia; Randy L. Rogers, OK, Planning Chairman; Stephen j. Ponzillo, III, MD, conference Chairman; Richard A. Martin, OR, Conference Vice-Chairman; Lon W. Kvasagar, ND, Chairman Time & Place Committee
Standing, L to R: John W. Hess, MO; Paul M. Leary, NH; Barry Imber, Nova Scotia

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Brethren, you have heard the motion. Is there a second? Second. All of those in favor will signify by raising their right hand. All those opposed the same sign. The rules are adopted and the report accepted. Thank you Grand Masters. Too many gavels up here. Would those who have served the Conference as officers in the past, please stand. I know there are some. Could we begin over here and quickly introduce yourselves and tell us what Office you served in.

M.W. Gale Kenny: Gale Kenny, Washington State, Chairman Planning Committee 2010.

M.W. Jack Marler: Jack Marler, Chairman of the Time and Place Committee 2005, South Carolina.

M.W. David Nielson: David Nielson, Montana, Chairman of Planning in 2008.

M.W. Tom Baine: Tom Baine, New Mexico, Chairman of Time and Place 1994/95.

M.W. Joe Manning: Joe Manning, Oklahoma, Vice-Chairman of the Conference in 1985.

M.W. Jack Anderson: Jack Anderson, Montana, Time and Place 2006.

M.W. Bill Berman: Bill Berman, New Jersey, Time and Planning Committee 2010.

M.W. Allen Cross: Allen Cross, British Columbia, Planning Committee, 2011.

M.W. Thomas Velvin: Thomas Velvin, Maryland, Time and Place Committee, 2010.

M.W. Vincent Libone: Vincent Libone, New York, Time and Place Committee 2011.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you my brothers for your past service. Thanks for being here and we congratulate you on that service and all of us here eagerly wait to join you. (Applause) Brother Means I believe you have a report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Chairman. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Grand Masters, distinguished brethren, ladies and guests. Good morning. I am not sure about you, but I know that Mary Jane and I had a really great time last night at the "Georgia on my Mind". It was a great way to start this 86th Conference. My congratulations to the Georgia officers, Grand Lodge Officers, the Georgia Planning Committee, and particularly the Georgia Masons. The Grand Master can't do it without the Brethren that are supporting him, the Georgia Masons that put this together with him. Now, with that kind of a start it has got to be an outstanding Conference. Each year after the Conference is over I contact the hotels for the next succeeding three years or four years to review the room blocks that are reserved and to talk about the space requirements and things of that nature. Once again, this is one of the largest Conferences that we have had. We have over almost 800 folks this year, which is incredible. My first Conference I think we had something like 400. So we are growing every year. We filled our block of rooms with the hotel. We have I think four other hotels that individuals are having to stay in. This year, as usual, our attendees are a cross section of all of the world. We have got farmers, we have businessmen, we have

clergy, lawyers, not so sure about them, but we have sales representatives, we have managers, any occupation that you can possibly think of or name, is represented in this room. And to me that is one of the really great things about Freemasonry, is that we encompass everything and everybody, and in the meantime we have some fun, we have a lot of pleasure in doing it. In your agenda there are a couple of room changes. Since Masons are always interested in where the food is located, the banquets on Monday night and Tuesday night are listed as being in this room. However, that's been changed and we will be in the Grand Ballroom, which is up on the third floor of the building. It is a much larger room, and with the crowd that we have in attendance this year, we had to move it to a larger room. There are some other room changes which as the time comes, our Chairman will bring those to you. The other thing is at 4:15 today, for those new officers and the Planning Committee members, whom you will elect very shortly, we will have a short meeting in the Atlanta IV Room. At this point I do not have a complete financial statement for 2011 because we have not closed our fiscal year. We do not close our books until March 31st. Obviously the hotel bills haven't arrived yet, and have to be paid. But with no bills in, right now we are in really great shape financially. But this year's officers and Planning Committee members ran a very, very tight ship and I expect that we will be in the black at the end of the Conference some \$3,000 to \$4,000. Our conference budget is well over \$200,000 so to run that thin a margin, gentlemen, they do a tremendous job. I mean it is real easy to drop below into the red. But I am positive that we are going to be there. The 2011 proceedings have not yet been published. Initially because of the litigation the attorneys advised me against publishing last year's proceedings. Very, very recently they advised that I could go ahead and publish them with some exceptions. And I am working with the printers now to pull out the section, or pardon me, the sections that the attorneys are advising that I hold off temporarily on. But the 2012 proceedings will be published and I will send each Grand Lodge the usual two copies of those, and they will include all of the audited financial reports. I want to express my gratitude for working with the officers of this Conference. The camaraderie, the help and the guidance that you have given me are unquestionably the best in the world, and for that I sincerely thank each of you. My job depends upon the guidance that you give me, and I look forward to the remainder of the Conference. I know it is going to be a good one. This hotel is really a great venue. If you have any problems, please let me know and I will promptly call the 404 number for you. No, if you have a problem, let me know. But Georgia is so great, I just can't express my gratitude to them. Thank you. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: My Brothers, we need a motion to accept the report of Executive Secretary-Treasurer. So moved. Is there a second? Second. All those in favor of accepting the report, right hand. And that looks like a majority, I thank you, my brothers. It is now my pleasure to call upon most Worshipful Brother Richard A. Martin, the Grand Master of Oregon, as Chairman of our Nominating Committee, for the report of the Nominating Committee. Grand Master.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

M.W. Richard A. Martin: It is another great day in Atlanta Dixie, isn't it? Thank you Most Worshipful Brother Chairman. The Nominating Committee, consisting of myself as Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Richard A. Stewart, Grand Master of Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Brother Joseph Crociata, Grand Master of District of Columbia, Most Worshipful Brother and a good friend, Allen Pierce, Grand Master of Wyoming, Most Worshipful Brother Randy Rogers, Grand Master of Oklahoma, and of course our Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Steve Ponzillo, Grand Master of Maryland. Prior to coming to Georgia, the Committee reviewed the biographical information submitted by those who will be Grand Masters at the time of the 2013 Conference, and any letters of recommendation submitted regarding those individuals which were forwarded to us by our Executive Secretary. The Committee met yesterday afternoon and again reviewed and discussed the biographical information submitted. Additionally, the Committee has received and reviewed a recommendation from the Western Conference that Most Worshipful Brother Bill Bray, Past Grand Master of California is nominated as their representative to the Committee on Information for Recognition. Additionally, we also received a nomination for Most Worshipful Brother Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Kentucky to replace Most Worshipful Brother Curtis Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah who is stepping off of that Committee. Most Worshipful Brother Joe will become the secretary, unless I am mistaken about that. Your Nominating Committee submits the following recommendations to serve as officers and Committee Members of the 2013 Conference of Grand Masters. Hopefully any of these men who stand are not surprised by this. As your name is called, please stand and remain standing. The Conference Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother Walt Rogers, Deputy Grand Master of Texas. Conference Vice-Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Paul Leary, Grand Master of New Hampshire. Planning Committee Chairman, Right Worshipful brother Jay Pearson, Grand Master, South Carolina. Planning Committee members, Right Worshipful Brother Donald Newman, Deputy Grand Master of Kansas Co-host Grand Master. Right Worshipful Brother David L. Ramsey, Deputy Grand Master of Missouri, Co-Host Grand Master. Right Worshipful Brother Laddy Wilson, Deputy Grand Master of Tennessee. Right Worshipful Brother Glenn Troutman, Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey. Right Worshipful Brother Terry Seward, Deputy Grand Master of Illinois. Right Worshipful Brother Teko Foley Deputy Grand Master of Washington D.C. Now for the Time and Place Committee. The Chairman of that Committee will be Right Worshipful Brother George L. Aladro, Deputy Grand Master of Florida. The members of that Committee are Right Worshipful Brother Gary Dowling, Deputy Grand Master Ontario, Canada, Right Worshipful Brother Jim Easterling, Deputy Grand Master of Ohio, Most Worshipful Brother Richard Stewart, Grand Master of Massachusetts, Right Worshipful Brother Jay Smith, Grand Master of Pennsylvania. We have to elect an Executive Secretary again, so we decided on Most Worshipful Brother Glenn Means, Past Grand Master of Missouri. I think he will serve. And finally, on the Information and Recognition Committee, we have Most Worshipful Brother Bill Bray, Past Grand Master of California, and Most Worshipful Brother Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Kentucky. Please remains standing brothers, while the Chairman gets back to the podium.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Well, my brothers who are standing, this is a Masonic body of sorts. As a consequence I need to ask you is it your pleasure to serve in the various stations to which you have been nominated? I will accept that as coming from all of you. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, I declare the nominations closed and would ask Most Worshipful Brother Joe Crociata, the Grand Master of the District of Columbia to cast the unanimous ballot in favor of the nominations.

2012 NOMINATING COMMITTEE



Seated, L to R: Jerry D. Moss, GA, Host Grand Master; Randy L. Rogers, Planning Chairman; Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, MD, Conference Chairman; Richard A. Martin, OR, conference Vice-Chairman, Nominating Committee Chairman.
Standing L To R: Richard E. Stewart, MA; Allen Pierce, WY

M.W. Joseph Crociata: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I am Joseph Crociata, Grand Master of Masons of the District of Columbia, not a state but a state of mind, where you all sent your Senators and your Representatives and somehow within a matter of a few days it becomes our fault. I thank you for the opportunity to cast a ballot with pleasure for Masons who have long served and continue to make their life of

service in Masonry, and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate nominated by the Committee.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, my Brother. I, therefore, declare all of the these brothers so nominated, elected and to each and every one of you, congratulations. (Applause) Now that you bask in the glory of your election, let me say that the first duty for the 2013 officers which are the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, the Co-Host Grand Masters, the Chair of the Planning Committee, and the members of the Planning Committee is to meet today at 4:15 p.m. in Atlanta II Room. The newly elected Conference Chair and Planning Committee Chair will be the leaders of the meeting and the Executive Secretary Treasurer will be in attendance. I want to thank Most Worshipful Brother Martin, and all of the members of the Nominating Committee. I know that the selection of nominees was a difficult task from among a variety and very qualified deputies. It is now my pleasure to call on Most Worshipful Brother Earl J. Washburn the Executive Secretary of the Masonic Foundation for Children for their Annual Report. Earl Washburn.

NATIONAL MASONIC FOUNDATION for CHILDREN REPORT

M.W. Earl Washburn: Most Worshipful Brother Conference Chairman, Most Worshipful Brothers, Right Worshipful Brothers and Sisters and guests, good morning. In Vermont we get up and say it's another beautiful day in paradise. I must add, when I got up this morning in Georgia, I felt the same way. So it is good to be here. I would like to introduce my Board to you. First is Brian Burkett, he is Past Grand Master from North Dakota, David Doane Past Grand Master of California, Lynn Proden, Past Grand Master from District of Columbia, Ron Winett, Past Grand Master of Ohio, Vinnie Libone, Grand Master of New York, Tom Billgan, Past Grand Master of Maryland, Tom Hart is Past Grand Master of Kentucky. Cathy O'Mally sprained her ankle last night so she is in her room with her leg up, and it is being iced, but she probably will be at our booth out there, come and visit us and ask her any questions you want. She is a great support for our office. Our officers are Danny Yandel, he is Foundation Chairman of our Nomination Committee and Past Grand Master of Illinois. Walt Wheeler is Past Grand Master of Michigan, and he is our secretary. Doug Policastro is Past Grand Master of New Jersey is our Treasurer. Wayne Kingsley is Past Grand Master of Nevada, he is our Vice-President and President Elect. Ronald Aungst is Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania and our President. Brother Ron.

M.W. Ronald Aungst: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Earl. Good morning everybody. You have my full report before you, you have received it, and I would tell you that the gist of it is this. We continue to serve in the name of Freemasonry children across our great nation. They continue to have the troubles that we know as parents, as grandparents, as uncles, aunts and close friends. The truth of the matter is, we continue to grow, Thanks to you. Last we had an increase of additional trainings across the jurisdictions in your various areas, across our North American. That doesn't happen but without a lot of assistance by you. I had an individual approach me and said, you know, we have difficulty in maybe making a contribution to the National

Masonic Foundation for Children because we don't have your program in our jurisdiction. And I likened it to our responsibility, and part of our obligation of our civic responsibility to pay taxes. But I think that's a civic duty, but I believe the maintaining and the promoting of the Foundation for Children Program for the MMSAP Program to help kids is our fraternal responsibility. And to that I ask, and continue to thank you for your contributions which we will address in a little bit. At this time I will ask Brother Dan Yandell for the nominations report for this Committee.

M.W. Daniel Yandell: The Nominations Committee for this Board consisting of myself and Brother Tom Velvin, would like to place in nomination the following names to serve as board members for a three year term. Ronald A. Aungst, from Pennsylvania, Roger Krucie from Vermont, Ronald L. Winnett from Ohio, H. Wayne Kingsley from Nevada, and Ted Praria from Michigan. Also to place in nomination the names of the following members to serve as the officers of this Board for the following year. As president H. Wayne Kingsley, Past Grand Master of Nevada. Vice-President Ronald L. Winnett from Ohio. As treasurer, Douglas L. Policastro, Past Grand Master of New Jersey, and as secretary, Brian Burkett, Past Grand Master of North Dakota. Brother Chairman, I would like to make motion that the Foundation Report be accepted.

M.W. Ronald Aungst: I will second that motion.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: My brothers, it has been regularly moved and seconded to accept the report. All of those in favor will signify so by saying Aye. All those opposed Nay. Thank you.

M.W. Ronald Aungst: Thank you Most Worshipful Brother Chairman. At this time we don't have to wait too long for the recipient to receive this award. It is my pleasure on behalf of our foundation, and would ask Brother, Most Worshipful Brother Richard R. Martin, Grand Master of Oregon. Their state has had our program in existence since 1995, and continues to do an outstanding job. So Most Worshipful Brother, it is with great pleasure that we present to you the Medallion of Excellence. It is presented to the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Oregon for maintaining the high standard of quality and offering to the schools and educators or Oregon the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program that is helping to change the lives of so many children. Most Worshipful, congratulations.

M.W. Earl Washburn: Thank you. (Applause) Thank you Brother Ron. I also want to add my congratulations to Oregon. They run a tremendous program out there. They are dedicated to it, are extremely loyal to it. You have a great coordinator in Jeanie Levy, and I know that Brethren out there are behind this program 100 percent. Thank you for what you do, for recognizing children with broken hearts. We truly do make a difference. I would like to introduce now our new President, Brother Wayne Kingsley and he has a presentation.

M.W. Wayne Kingsley: Thank you, Most Worshipful Sirs for the opportunity to serve as the President for the National Masonic

Foundation for Children. I have a presentation here for our Past President, Brother Ron Aungst. Ron, congratulations on behalf of the Grand Masters of North America and the National Masonic Foundation for Children. I would like to present you with this plaque of appreciation for your service to the foundation.

M.W. Ronald Aungst: Thank you very much. Congratulations on your election. Indeed it has been truly an honor and a privilege to continue to work as an educator, since I have retired from that, this just gives me one more opportunity to continue to work with kids and help them. Thank you. (Applause)

M.W. Earl Washburn: Ron, I want to add my congratulations too and I want to say it's been a pleasure working with you the last three years. Unfortunately our award took a little beating getting here, it is in a little disrepair. We'll see that you get a nicer one. Please visit our booth outside and we have got a lot of information out there we can share with you.

M.W. Ronald Angst: In conclusion, and always the greatest part of this presentation, we like it anyhow, and we appreciate you, we will now accept your contributions for the continuation of a program to help kids. At this time if you please join us, meet us here in the front of the podium. Thank you, Brother Chairman.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: The reports that you are hearing from these committees are required by their Corporate By-Laws for them to report to this Conference Annually. That is the reason that each one of the committee reports will be made. Thank you and thanks Brother Earl and all of the members of the Masonic Foundation for Children for all that they do to relieve young people's distress. Thank you, my Brothers. (Applause) It is now my pleasure to bring forward Most Worshipful Brother William Berman, Past Grand Master of New Jersey for the Annual Report of the Masonic Renewal Committee. Brother Bill.

M.W. William Berman: Most Worshipful, Right Worshipful, illustrious ladies and brethren all, good morning. On behalf the Most Worshipful Brian R. Dodson, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, and Chairman of the Committee, I am honored to present the report of the Masonic Renewal Committee. Most Worshipful Brother Dodson could not be in attendance due to an unavoidable business conflict, but extends his personal regards and best wishes for a successful Conference. With me are the following members of the Masonic Renewal Committee. Most Worshipful Patton Hart, Past Grand Master of Kentucky; Most Worshipful David Bedwell, Past Grand Master of Michigan; Most Worshipful Ken Nagle, Past Grand Master of California. Worshipful Brother Matt Howerson, Grand Lodge of Utah. In the back, Illustrious Jack Jones, Imperial Recorder of Shriners International, and someplace Bob Conley Past Grand Masters of Michigan, is getting ready for his breakout session. The Masonic Renewal Committee's mission is to provide programs and products to assist symbolic and Grand Lodges to undertake Masonic Renewal throughout North America. The Committee continually works diligently to further its mission. Our website will be totally revamped in the next few months. Eventually all brethren will have access to over 6,000

digitized books on Masonic Theme topics, hundreds of Masonic graphics, and the largest collection of Masonic videos in the world. The site will be translated into 15 different languages. All of this information will be available free of charge. Now we need your help. We have distributed flyers, such as this, to each Grand Master and Grand Secretary in attendance requesting that a contact person be designated as a liaison between each Grand Jurisdiction and the Masonic Renewal Committee. Once a contact person has been designated, up to the minute news concerning all matters relative to renewal interest in Freemasonry and available digital audio and video resources can be distributed to your designee. You will then have total control over how that information is shared with your brethren. We respectfully look forward to your consideration and participation with us in this initiative. Thank you very much for your attention. Fraternaly submitted for the Committee, Most Worshipful William H. Berman, Past Grand Master, Grand Lodge of New Jersey. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I move that this report be accepted as read and become part of this Conference.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: A second my Brothers? Second. All those in favor of accepting the report say Aye. All those opposed same sign. Thank you. My Thanks to the Masonic Renewal Committee for all of the work and I hope you my brothers that all of you avail yourselves of the site and the many offerings that are there. The lanyards that we all wear come to us via the Grand Monarch of the Grottos of North America. The Grotto does this every year. Moe Evans, the Grand Monarch can't be with us, but I wanted to publically acknowledge the Grotto for this support that comes forward to us each year. So when you see a member of the Grotto, say thanks. I would now like to call forward Most Worshipful Brother George A. Braatz, Past Grand Master of Ohio, Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Masonic Service Association for the Masonic Service Association Annual Meeting and report.

MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION REPORT

M.W. Raymond Marsh: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Brethren, on behalf of our Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother William Roberts, Past Grand Master of Nevada and Chairman of the MSA who is home with some health problems, and could not be here, I call this 93red session of the Masonic Service Association duly formed and open for business. At this time I would like to introduce the members of this Commission. On my right, Most Worshipful Raymond Vandenberg, Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Most Worshipful Tom Galyen, Past Grand Master of Ohio, Most Worshipful Lanny Sander, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma, our Chairman, Most Worshipful William Roberts, Past Grand Master of Nevada. He is, as I said, home sick with some health problems, and also Most Worshipful Fred Sorsable, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California also has some health problems. I am Ray Marsh, I am Past Grand Master of South Carolina and Vice-Chairman. At this time we will need to elect a Chairman of our Annual Committee. Do hear any nominations?

Unknown: I would like to move the election of Most Worshipful Brother Sterling Hughes, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alabama. Second.

M.W. Raymond Marsh: Are there any other nominations? Is there any other nominations? Hearing none, I will declare that Most Worshipful Brother Sterling Hughes, Grand Master of Alabama is now elected to Chair this MSA Annual Meeting. Most Worshipful Brother Hughes, I will turn the meeting over to you.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MSA for electing me as Chairman of this Annual Meeting, and it is indeed an honor for me to serve and represent this fine organization for my Grand Lodge for MSA. We will get right into the report. Annual Report. You have the Annual Report on the table before you. I think they all have been given to all of the Grand Masters, the reports are for the following activities, under the Executive Commission, number 1, Operations; number 2 Hospital Visitation. Then Finance, Education and Publications, Membership, North American Relief, Foreign Relief, necrology, and Masonic Information Center. Do you have any questions on these reports? (No response) Hearing none, I will ask for a motion to approve the Annual Reports. So moved. Do I hear a second? All in favor signify by saying Aye. All opposed? Carries. At this time we will go to our election of officers, like to call on Brother Kevin B. Todd, Grand Master of Ohio for the nominations from the Great Lakes Division.

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Brother Chairman, my name is Kevin Todd, I am a Grand Master from Ohio. The member jurisdictions from the Great Lakes Division of the Masonic Service Association places in nomination the name of Most Worshipful Thomas H. Galyen, Past Grand Master of Ohio to represent the Great Lakes Division as the Executive Commissioner for the ensuing three years.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: Do we have any nominations from the floor? Do we have any nominations from the floor? Do we have any nominations from the floor? Hearing none, Brother Thomas Galyen, do you accept?

M.W. Thomas Galyen: I do Most Worshipful. Thank you very much, Grand Masters.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: That is for a three year them. Okay. I call on Brother William L. Morris, Grand Master of New Jersey for the nomination of the North Atlantic Division.

M.W. William L. Morris: My name a Most Worshipful William L. Morris, Grand Master of New Jersey. I place in nomination Most Worshipful Raymond J. Vandenberg, Sr. to be Executive Commissioner from the Northeast Conference.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: Do I hear any nominations from the floor? Do I heard any nominations from the floor? Do I hear any nominations from the floor? Brother Vandenberg, do you accept?

M.W. Raymond J. Vandenberg: I certainly accept. Thank you, Brethren.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: We will turn the report now to the George O. Braatz, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, Past Grand Master of Ohio. Brother Braatz.

M.W. George O. Braatz: Thank you, Most Worshipful. It's still good morning, my Brethren. How are you this morning? This is my first Annual Meeting in my new role as Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association and while still learning a little bit of the job, I am ready to help you and answer any of your questions about any of the Masonic Service Association activities. Don't hesitate any time to call, to write, to e-mail, and I want to communicate with you and help you understand and help you to help us as we do our important functions. I do want to emphasize a few highlights of our program this year. They are explained in more detail in the Annual Reports in front of you. You might refer to this last year, 2011, as a disastrous year for the Masonic Service Association. That's because we had many, many natural disasters throughout our country and around the world. We handled the most disaster appeals in this past year as we have since that function was started way back in 1923. More disaster appeals, tornadoes, hurricanes, earth quakes, around the world and in our country. We received and distributed some \$400,000 to help those appeals. That is money, brethren, that came from our Masonic individuals and Grand Lodges around the country and we thank you for that. I would like to mention to all you Grand Masters two important points about our program. Remember, all disaster appeals are initiated by a Grand Lodge. We do nothing until a Grand Lodge comes to us and says, there has been a disaster and we would like you to put out an appeal. Then we issue the appeal. Secondly, all money received from a disaster appeal goes back to that Grand Lodge for distribution on a local level. Another of our programs now in its sixth year is our Mark Twain Awards Program. There are actually 18 awards this year. Mark Twain Awards are done annually by the MSA's Masonic Information Center. The lodge that receives the Mark Twain award has exhibited excellence in communication and implementation of programs both within the lodge, and out in their communities. I would like to list now the 2011 winners of the Mark Twain Award. From Alabama, Rising Sun Lodge Number 29 in Decatur, Alabama; Alaska, Mantanuska Lodge Number 7 in Palmer, Alaska; From Arkansas, Key Lodge Number 7 in Silome, Arkansas; From Arizona, Oasis Lodge Number 52 from Tucson; Illinois, Saint Joseph Lodge Number 970 in Saint Joseph, Illinois; Michigan, Byron Lodge Number 80 in Byron, Michigan; Minnesota, Red Wing Lodge Number 8 in Red Wing, Minnesota; Nevada, Saint John Lodge Number 18 in Piocia, Nevada; New Hampshire, Benevolent Lodge Number 7 in Milford, New Hampshire; New Mexico, Chapman Lodge Number 2 in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I didn't know that's where Las Vegas was, but that's where the lodge is; Ohio, North Bend Lodge Number 346 in Cleves, and Oxford Lodge Number 67 in Oxford, Ohio; Pennsylvania, Manaquasy, I hope I got that pronounced right, Lodge Number 413 in Bath, Pennsylvania; South Carolina, Mariner Lodge Number 2 in Charleston, South Carolina; Utah, Damascas Lodge Number 10 from Provo; Virginia, Herndon Lodge Number 264 in Herndon, Virginia, and Fredricksburg Lodge Number 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and Washington Daylight Lodge Number 232 in Seattle. We wish to congratulate all of these winners. Hopefully on your desks in front of you as Grand Masters there is a small book mark which has these lodges listed. These Lodges will notified very shortly

after we get back from this conference and we will also be sending letters to the Grand Lodges to let them know about them. Eventually those awards will come to you as Grand Masters, hopefully to present in your jurisdictions. Another one of our large programs I wanted to mention is our Hospital Visitation Program. We currently have approximately 180 Certified Hospital Visitation Coordinators and Representatives around the country, plus many, many more volunteers servicing our nearly 190 VA Hospitals in the U.S. All of these representatives continually do a good job in servicing our military veterans. We urge you as Grand Masters, if you are not fully aware of the program in your jurisdiction, to become aware of it. They are volunteers in your Grand Lodge that are doing a great job in visiting our hospital veterans. Let them know that you appreciate what they do. In the months ahead, we will begin gradually moving into the world of the internet and the social media. We are a little bit behind sometimes in moving into these areas, and we are going to be headed in that direction, maybe not all two feet at once jumping into the pond, but we are going to do it gradually and in a dedicated way. We want to thank you all for your help in making the many programs of the Masonic Service Association truly meaningful to the Grand Lodges of North America. MSA was created to perform certain services for you and we are will continue with that directive. Thank you. Brother Chairman. (Applause)

M.W. Sterling Hughes: Onto other business. The Executive Commission in their report made the following recommendations, that after all reports are presented, this Association endorses the acts of the Executive Commission and the Executive Secretary Treasurer for the period January 1, 2011 thru December 31st, 2011. I will entertain a motion that we all accept this recommendation? So moved. Do I hear a second. Second. Motion has been made and seconded. Any discussion? (No response) All in favor of the recommendation signify by saying Aye. Opposed? Carries. Is there any other business to come before this meeting? (No response) If not, we'll turn the meeting back over to our Vice-Chairman, Raymond Marsh.

M.W. Raymond Marsh: I get to my starting point here. Brother Sterling, will you come forward please? We certainly appreciate you doing this for us today and I would like to read the following Resolution. Be it resolved that the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Masonic Service Association of North America expresses its sincere appreciation for the outstanding manner in which Most Worshipful Brother Sterling Hughes, Grand Master of Masons in Alabama has served as Chair of the Annual Meeting, and conducted the necessary business of the Masonic Services Association with dispatch, efficiency, and good humor. Thank you so much. Give him a round of applause, please. (Applause) Deputy Grand Masters and, of course, Grand Masters if they would like to come, I remind you of the MSA reception in Georgia Room 4 and 5, Tuesday evening from 5:30 to 6:15. This is the annual wine and cheese reception. We would now like to have the Grand Lodges, if they would like to make a presentation of support to please come and bring those, and the Commissioner and Executive Secretary will be glad to relieve you of that burden. There being no further business, I would declare that this 93rd session of the Masonic Service Association is now closed. Thank you so much.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Those who have contributions to Masonic Service Association, please feel free to come forward. Thank you to the Masonic Service Association, Brother Braatz, and all of the officers for their ongoing efforts. My brothers I would call your attention to the fact that this year you have an extended time for lunch. Hopefully that gives you an opportunity to visit and enjoy the company of your counterparts. Let me review again the lunch circumstance, and the locations. The Grand Masters and their ladies will be in the Captain South Room, which I think is on the other wall here. Myself and Grand Master Moss will be your host, the Deputy Grand Masters and their ladies are in Georgia 7-A, which is down the hall to the left. Right Worshipful Brother Walt Rogers from Texas, and Right Worshipful Brother Ray Knittel from Georgia will be your host. The Grand Wardens and their ladies, and all others will be in Georgia 11-12 Room, which is also right near us down the hall on the left. Right Worshipful Brother John Broyles, the Senior Grand Warden from Missouri, and Brother Edward Land from Georgia will be your host. Any questions about that, my brothers? (No response) After lunch, please go to the breakout Sessions. We will reconvene the Conference at 3:00 o'clock, and before we break for lunch, are there any other announcements? I thank you. At this point if we can ask Brother Locabe to come back to the podium and bless what we are about to eat.

Chaplain Locabe: Most glorious Lord God, we approach thy with reverence at this time and implore thy blessings upon the food that we are about to consume. Bless the nourishment of our bodies, and bless our bodies to your service, all of these things we ask is your holy name. Amen. So Mote It be.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I now call this Conference to recess to resume at 3:00 p.m., sharp. Have fun at lunch.

MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 19TH, 2012
CONFERENCE RECONVENES

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: This Conference is now reconvened. Brothers I hope that Everyone enjoyed the lunch and learned something in the Breakout Sessions. We have got a very busy afternoon, and we need to get right into it. My Honor to call fOrward the Grand Master of the Order of DeMolay, Brother Weldon Clinton. Thanks for the welcoming Grand Master, but we are not going to bring him up here right yet. We like him, but we are not bringing him up yet. If Grand Master DeSilva's representative would come forward.

M.W. Alexander Jovanovic: Thank you. Sir. I am not the Grand Master, I am Grand Secretary from Brazil, Grand Lodge of Brazil. My Grand Lodge of is there, so we would like to thank you for the hospitality and we are very happy for being here. We are learning very much with all of you, and would like to present a gift to the Host Grand Master Mr. Jerry Moss. It is a made out of Brazil Morano, made by art, kind of a bark from our forest.

M.W. Jerry Moss: Thank you very much. I am very honored and privileged to receive this but, you know, all of you have seen how many people are out here with those collars on and running around taking care of

everything, it is really those people that have earned this. I am just a catalyst in an operation that has worked pretty well. I very much appreciate this recognition. However, I would like for all you to think about all of the people that are unable to stand up here and be recognized like this that very much deserve the appreciation and accolades for all of the effort that went into everything that happened these few days. It is with all of that in mind that I accept this. Thank you. (Applause)

M.W. Alexander Jovanovic: The same kind of gift to Glenn the Executive who helped us with registration and all of the information about coming here. We are very thankful for Mr. Glenn also. (Applause)

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Thank you. Really I am accepting it on behalf of my wife Mary Jane. She is the one that spends the time e-mailing back and forth with all of the foreign Grand Lodges to make the arrangements for the their lodging, and make sure we have meals squared away for them, things of that nature. I know that she will really, really appreciate this. Thank you, sir. (Applause)

M.W. Alexander Jovanovic: A few words. Our conference in Brazil, it is held every July. So it is a small conference, we have 27 Grand Lodges, but we would be very happy if some of you could come visit some day. Thank you very much. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thanks to all of the brothers from Brazil, and all of those Grand Lodges represented for being here. Now the Grand Maser of DeMolay. Grand Master Weldon Clinton. (Applause)

Weldon Clinton: Most Worshipful Sirs, distinguished guests and my Brethren all. What you are about to witness is a production that DeMolay International has envisioned as a method to recruit both advisors and young men into the Order of DeMolay. Many of you, like myself, may not be familiar with what all the youth of today are interested in. This short video, which we hope to show to Masonic Lodges across the country, includes several scenes from a 13th Century virtual world called the Kingdom of DeMolay. It is on the cutting edge of what many of the young men today are involved in. The virtual world acts not only as a world wide social networking and recruiting tool for DeMolay, like an advanced Facebook system, but also as a collaborative platform where our youth can learn real world ideas and practice the values of DeMolay as they are having fun. In 1919, when Frank Sherman Land, a well known and respected Master Mason, a Past Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Missouri gathered several young men on the right path by creating the Order of DeMolay. It was then and still is patterned after our Masonic principles. We come to you today as its parent, because DeMolay is the child of Freemasonry, and our child needs your support. Please watch this video carefully and we will try to answer any questions afterwards that you may have.

(Video played)

Most Worshipfuls, Michael Angelo, the famous artist and sculptor once said, every block of stone has a statue inside of it. It is the task of the sculptor to discover it. I submit to you that every young man has Masonic principles inside of him, it is up to us, the Mason, to teach

him these Masonic principles. The Masons of today to shape and sculpt him to practice and believe in our Masonic presence. Even though he may never become a Mason, we can still teach him for all it is worth the ideals and philosophies of Freemasonry which create a better world for all of us to live in. A positive Masonic influence for these young men is needed, and we ask your support to bring a moral light to the youth of today. I thank you for your time. (Applause) We will be at our booth outside if anyone has any questions about the video and being a sponsor. We appreciate you very much.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Can we have the lights back up? Before DeMolay leaves, would all Senior DeMolays please stand. (Applause) I want you to keep standing a moment, my Brothers. Now are there any honorary DeMolays in the group that can join this group? Thank you. Let's give that group a hand. (Applause) Are there any brothers not standing who have been or currently are DeMolay advisors? There we go. How about for Job's Daughters, and Rainbow, and Triangle, any of those? Okay. Now, to each and every one of you who are standing, I think all of us need to attest to the fact that the youth groups have a significant influence on the Masonic Fraternity. All of us who have been privileged to be in DeMolay, owe DeMolay a debt of gratitude, because no doubt we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for that. So to all of you I know that you will continue to support the youth groups in every way that you can in order to assist in making this world a better place. Thank you all for standing. (Applause) While we are waiting for the lights, I guess I need to ask. Most Worshipful Brother Dennis Robinson, Past Grand Master of South Dakota and President of Masonic Chip International, can you come forward? Is he here? There we go. Come forward, sir.

MASONIC CHIP INTERNATIONAL REPORT

M.W. Dennis Robinson: Thank you, Mr. President. It is with pleasure today that I am here to be able to give our Annual Report of MasoniChip International. Most Worshipful, Right Worshipfuls and brothers all, it is with pleasure that I introduce to you the attending board members for MasoniChip International, that are in attendance this year. If you will just raise your hands when I call on you. Past Grand Master Chip Stamm of Connecticut, our Treasurer, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Larry Plasket of New Jersey, our Vice-President; Right Worshipful Nick Cichielo, Grand Treasurer of Missouri a Board Member; Most Worshipful Tom McCarthy, Past Grand Master of Minnesota, our secretary; Most Worshipful Bill Rohrer of Virginia, a board member; Most Worshipful John Hess, of Missouri, board member; Most Worshipful Peter Dunlap of Alberta, a board member; and Past Master Phil Wyatt of Georgia, a member of the Board. I thank these guys for their dedicated service to MasoniChip for the last year. (Applause) On your tables earlier today you were handed some material from MasoniChip and some of it is the latest material that is being offered to our youth by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. You will see some things referenced Saving the Date to announce any Masonic Child ID Events, safety presentations you may have from April 1st to June 15th. You will see the new ambassador program recognition by the center that you will have an opportunity to hear more about Tuesday afternoon, and you will

also receive a new copy of what they call "Know the Rules of Safe", real colorful brochure to be handed out in any event that you may host. You also have on your table a CD of our Annual Report, all of the information available free from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and other pertinent to MasoniChip International articles. I will remind you as well at your table you received a copy of a pending MasoniChip Learning Academy, which will be held March 30th and 31st in Hartford, Connecticut. If you have anybody at all that is interested in Masonic Child ID, or is currently a member and would like to get together for more training and learning about what we are doing, or where this program is heading, please feel free to register and attend the conference in Hartford. Just a brief history regarding MasoniChip International. As you know, we were recognized as a standing committee of the Conference of Grand Masters approximately eight years ago. Since the formation of our committee, we have expanded and grown. We have conducted numerous child identification and safety education events throughout North America and Canada. I am pleased to report as of this date, there have been more than 2,000,000 children identified in some form of Masonic Child ID across North America, and I am happy to report that our programs have been responsible for and helped assist in the recovery of over 30 children. (Applause) I am pleased to report that we are moving forward in another direction at this time. Not only are we going to be emphasizing child identification programs, but through the cooperation and partnership that we are been able to develop with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, we will be also working strongly in the area of child safety education and preventive awareness programs. That is basically what Take 25 is all about. On Tuesday afternoon we will receive a presentation from Mr. Herb Jones, who is the Executive Vice-President, second in command, from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia who will talk about a new partnership that he is proposing for the Masons of North America and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children regarding Take 25 and hours of service. I am sure that that you will find this program entertaining, rewarding, and educational. We hope that upon this program you will assist MasoniChip International in helping fulfill their request and the needs for the children of North America. Again, our program is more than just child IDs. It involves child safety education and awareness. At this time I am going to call on Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Chip Stamm of Connecticut, our Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Bill Rohrer, and Most Worshipful Brother Larry Plasket, who will be making awards of banners that were donated to MasoniChip International for participates in MasoniChip International, to be used at its events free of charge. The only other announcement I have is that since we began our partnership with the National Center, they have provided to the Masons of North America nearly 400,000 pieces of free safety materials that we have been able to pass out at Masonic Child ID events and safety education programs. We need to thank the Center for all of the free assistance they have given us. At this time, Most Worshipful Brother Chip.

M.W. Chip Stamm: Mr. President, Right Worshipful and Most Worshipful Brothers. On behalf of MasoniChip, I would like to thank you for the 2,000,000 that were identified by you and your jurisdictions. We at

MasoniChip International are an information service. We do no child ID ourselves, we promote no specific way to do it. We give the information and we run over 15 learning academies where each of you come and share your best practices with the other jurisdictions. That event is going to be on March 30th in Hartford. Again, from our humble beginnings as just a committee, through our first Worker Bee Session we had in Utica, New York in 2005, it has been quite an experience with the National Center to get to the point where we are now. In 2012 we would like to acknowledge the people who contributed, as well as the people who helped us in the past to get this information out and to benefit from each other, and I have ten jurisdictions that have contributed so far this year. I would like to give one of these banners to them. If these jurisdictions will please rise at your stations and we will bring the banner over to you, no need to come to the podium. First one is Massachusetts. Brother, would you bring the banners out. Next are Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, Maine, South Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas and Indiana, and, of course, Missouri. Again, we have had contributions from the jurisdictions over our eight years of over \$100,000 that has helped get these partnerships together and share information, and we look forward to everybody helping us go forward on this new avenue of being the ones that are in your communities giving prevention education and safe kids knowledge to every person that goes to our events. Remember, Child ID is a vehicle for having every child that goes through it take the safety information seriously. The information and prevention that they never will be lost, the parents having the disk in their pocket reminds them to watch their children and keep them safe. That is the real benefit of our program that they use every day. Brother Denny, thank you.

M.W. Dennis Robinson: Again, thank you everybody in this room for your continued support and your assistance to make this program what it has become. Mr. President, I move for the adoption of our annual reports. Is there a second, my brothers? Second. All those in favor say Aye. Anybody apposed? Thank you. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Robinson. It is now my pleasure to introduce Most Worshipful Brother Roger A. Simmons, President of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association for their annual meeting and report.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MASONIC MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION REPORT

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Chairman. Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Grand Masters, other Grand Lodge Officers, visitors, delegates, friends and neighbors. Thank you so much for being here to listen to our Annual Report. At this time I would call to order the 102nd Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. I would also call upon this time Brother Andrew Hammer to lead us in our invocation. Brother Andrew.

M.W. Andrew Hammer: Brethren, if you will assume an attitude of prayer. Most Holy and glorious Lord God, the great architect of the universe, the giver of all good gifts and graces. Let us remember your promise that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, that will be

in the midst of them and bless them. In thy name we assemble most humbly beseeching you to bless us in all of our undertakings so we may know and serve you rightfully and all our actions may tend to abide by glory, and to our advancement and knowledge and virtue, and beseech you O Lord to bless our brethren in this assemblage and to illuminate our minds with a divine precepts of Freemasonry and direct us so to walk in the light of divine covenants that when the trials of our probationary state are over, we may be admitted to that temple not made of hands eternal in the heavens. So Mote It Be.

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Thank you, Andrew. At this time I would like to call on our Executive Secretary Treasurer, Brother George Seghers to read the role of the active members.

Mr. Seghers: Thank you, President Simmons. Brethren, you as the representatives of your Grand Lodges are the voting active members of our Association. (Roll Called) Brethren, thank you so much. You are the active members and the voting members of the Memorial Association and it is in our bylaws that we do have roll call and make sure we have an accurate record. I do declare a quorum present to transact the business of this Annual Meeting of the active members of the Association.

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: I would now receive a motion to dispense with the reading and the approval of 101st Annual Meeting as printed in the 2011 Annual Report and distributed to the active members. So moved. Second. We have a motion and a second. All in favor say Aye. Opposed No. Ayes have it. Thank you so much. At this time I will introduce the officers and members of the Association. Myself Roger Simmons, President, Donald Hix, First Vice-President, Ridge Gilmore, Second Vice-President, Robert Conley, Third Vice-President, George Seghers, Executive Director and Secretary, along with Jeff Webb, a member and Andrew Hammer representative AW lodge as a member. Along with Jimmy A. Burke, New Mexico, George Braatz, Ohio, Philip Buckles, Wyoming, Thomas Jackson, Minnesota, Dennis Johnson, Oregon, Calvin Tyler, Vermont, Jack Anderson, Montana, Joe Manning Jr., Oklahoma, Russ Reno, Nebraska, John Kline, Alaska, Todd Eastman, Kentucky, Gale Kinney, Washington, Barry Rickman, South Carolina, Rafael Rosario, Puerto Rico, Thomas Sturgeon, Pennsylvania. These are the Board Members of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. Brethren, each one of you should have one of these before you (indicating). If you don't, please raise your hand. This is the Annual Report of the 2011 Association Meeting. At this time I would like to give a short report. You can find this on Page 5, Brethren. I won't read the whole thing, but I there are a couple of things I just want to highlight here. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this past year as President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. A time that has been both productive and challenging. Several Grand Jurisdictions, including my own Grand Jurisdiction Alabama increased support to the Memorial by adopting a \$1.00 member annual contribution. And we appreciate all of you that have adopted the \$1.00 contribution, we just thank you so much. In 2009 we completed a conditional assessment report of the memorial that revealed the need of approximately \$7,000,000 to restore the memorial. As you know we have had bad weather, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes and whatever. So we are undergoing a lot of maintenance at

this time. We must raise this amount and more to provide the necessary funds to properly maintain the memorial into the foreseeable future. When I was elected president last year I presented a 20/2 program, which would raise approximately \$20,000,000 in two years. Brethren, we have approximately a million and a half Freemasons in the Grand Jurisdictions and with just the \$20 donations one time would have put approximately \$20,000,000 back into our endowment trust. We are in dire need to keep going over the years. With the memorial being constructed during the great depression the majority of the Masons in the United States pledged and contributed more than \$1.00 per member. Now it is our turn to continue and expand upon the work done by our Masonic forefathers. The Board of Directors and the Memorial staff are working hard not only to ensure the future of the Memorial, but also to inspire visitors through education about George Washington's great and virtuous life and the importance of the Masonic ideals he held so dear. Your Memorial proudly stands on the highest hill in Alexandria, Virginia and spreads the light of Freemasonry to the world. Your interest in and your active support of the Memorial will enabled us to continue to expand our programs and to maintain the magnificent building for all generations. Thank you for your continued support of the Memorial and may God bless each and every one of you and your families. Thank you. (Applause) At this time I would like to call upon Executive Director George Seghers to give a verbal report.

Mr. Seghers: Brethren, my report starts on Page 7, take the time to read it and I will take any questions you have. You have to be a speed reader so I am not going to say much today. I want to thank you for your continued interest and support of your Memorial. Please do come and visits us. Thank you, Brethren. (Applause)

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Thank you, George. At this time I would like to call on Brother Ridge Gilmore to give us a financial report.

M.W. Ridgely Gilmore: Thank you, Mr. President. Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls and Brethren all, many, many years ago when I was Grand Orater of the Grand Lodge of Utah all you worried about was giving a oration right after lunch at Grand Lodge, and I think giving a financial report this close to cocktail hour is probably even worse. That being said, at the last page of your book is the abbreviated financial statement for the Memorial. I'd just like to briefly go over some of the highlights. I will say that as our year ends December 31st, we have to scramble, George has to scramble, our accountant has to scramble, and our CPA firm has to scramble in order to get the financials ready for this conference and to be printed in this book. So that's part of the reason it is abbreviated. First look at our revenues here. The revenues for the year 2010 were total 1.87 million. Our expenses were 2.04 million, give or take a few dollars. I will say that our revenues in 2010 were 1.64 and our expenses were 1.9. Many, many, many years ago when I graduated from the University Utah Business School I learned that when your revenues start to go up faster than expenses, that is a very good thing. And I think brethren, we are on the right track doing that. The only other thing I remembered is when your revenues exceed your expenses, and that's a really good thing. We haven't gotten there yet, but we are trying and with your help we should

be able to get there. Looking at those revenues, if you will notice it is \$1,000,000 in contributions, primarily Grand Lodges and other bodies, Masonic family bodies and that sort of thing. Those are up, and we appreciate the 19 Grand Lodges that are at \$1.00 a member now, but we certainly fully appreciate and recognize that other Grand Lodges who aren't specified at that level, have contributed an amazing amount of money that helps us keep your Memorial going. Within those contributions also, the \$1.00 a member, if we know that is coming, it makes it much easier to try to budget our revenues and expenses. Another item in there I would like to draw your attention to is facility rentals, and those are listed as \$328,000 plus or minus dollars. That actually is up a hundred thousand over last year, and it's part of our attempt to make this facility help pay for itself, which it will never pay for itself, but anything we can do to the building to help bring in outside rentals and outside dollars, we are doing that, plus it helps us show Masonry to the world. Our investment revenue is actually doing okay considering the fund, as you I am sure all know took a hit in 2008. Our deficit budget is made up from withdrawals from the endowment fund, and so it's actually we are quite pleased that our endowment fund is actually a little bit higher than it was in 2010, even though we had to draw out \$800,000. \$500,000 for our budget and the rest for an emergency repair to our boiler, which by the time we repaired everything needed was about \$300,000. The good news is that it is guaranteed for 30 years and we shouldn't have to worry about it again for a long time. Brethren, we do want to mention that our long range plan hopes that our revenues and our contributions cover all of our yearly maintenance and then we would use our income from the endowment fund to support programs for the benefit of the Grand Lodges, and also for the much needed restoration of that building, which at 80 some years old it's, we have got some plans in place to try to maintain and restore it for the next hundred years. Then the last section of this on the assets, just to point out that we do have assets, are listed here at 18.5 million dollars in assets. An equal part of that is the building valued at a depreciated value of 8.6 million, and then our endowment fund which is right now listed at 8.84 million dollars. That actually is up a little bit from 8.7 the year before. So considering everything, that's great. I mentioned the capital expenditures that we are trying to budget for, and that in a nutshell is your financial statement for the George Washington Memorial. I am sorry that our revenues don't exceed our expenses, or we would buy you all a drink. (Applause)

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Thank you, Ridge, for that report. I think you gave a good picture of our finances. At this time I would like to call on Most Worshipful Brother Sterling Hughes. We will have the election of the members of the Board of Directors. Sterling, if you would come and introduce your nominating committee.

M.W. Sterling Hughes: Thank you, Brother Simmons. This is the report of the nominating committee for the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. The nominating committee consisting of Most Worshipful Sterling Hughes, Grand Master of Alabama, Most Worshipful Richard J. Stewart, Grand Master of Massachusetts, Most Worshipful Frank C. Baker, Grand Master of Utah, presents the following Brethren for your consideration as members of the

Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association to serve a term of three years until February the 22nd, 2015: Richard W. Idler, Past Grand Master of Delaware; D. Brook Cunningham, Grand Master of Arizona; Craig L. Davis, Past Grand Master of Iowa; Benny L. Grisham, Past Grand Master of Illinois; Donald G. Hix, Jr. Past Grand Master of Massachusetts; Lon W. Kvasager, Grand Master of North Dakota; Gregory A. Rider, Sr. Past Grand Master of West Virginia; Jeff Webb, Past Grand Master of Louisiana. All of these brethren have been contacted and are willing to serve if elected. Respectfully and fraternally submitted, Sterling Hughes, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Alabama, Richard J. Stewart, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Massachusetts, and Frank C. Baker, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Utah.

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Thank you, Most Worshipful Sterling. Thank you so much. Brethren, you have heard the nominations. If you are in favor of these nominations, would you please stay Aye. Opposed no. Thank you so much. I would like to thank Grand Master Hughes, Grand Master Stewart and Grand Master Baker for serving on the Nominating Committee, and I do declare the Members of the Board of Directors duly elected. It has come time for me to say a few words and I don't have one thing written so that ought to make you feel good. But I do have something I would like to say. George said well what are you going to talk about. I said don't know till I get there. That's the way I am. Some time if I am looking at something I don't even know what it says. Brethren, I would like if you would, be patient with me and I want to go through a little something here that I think it needs saying. It is not a joke. It is real serious. It is just like when you are taking your Entered Apprentice, your Fellow Craft and your Master Mason degrees in Lodge, you get something out of each one of those degrees. I would like to ask each one of you to pull out your bill fold or money clip right now and take out one dollar bill, please? We have got time. I am cutting the meeting about 15 minutes short. Just pull out, every one in here, just one dollar bill. And I appreciate your working with me on this. Hold on to it. Hold on to it. It is not a collection Brethren, this is not a collection. I want you to hold on to it, each one of you. If you all have your one dollar bill out in your right hand, and if your left handed, we got some left handed Masons, you can put it in your left hand. We got one at lodge, every time he wraps on that door he wraps left handed. I told him, there's no left-handed Masons. He said, well I am, and I'm a Mason. Brethren, do you have it? I would appreciate it so much if you would turn to your neighbor and swap that one dollar bill with him, just trade it with him. Just trade it with him. That is all I want you do to is trade it with him. Brethren, are you with me? If you're not bored yet, I don't want you to get bored. We are going to be happy about this thing. I want you to look at that one dollar bill real close. Is it a one dollar bill, and it has probably got George Washington's picture on it. But that's not the point. Did you give any more or any less to that brother that you traded? Do you still have the one dollar bill value that you took out of your billfold? It is still yours right? You still have the one dollar bill. Brethren, here is the point, no disrespect. I don't mean anything malicious about this, I am just telling you. This is the way I feel about it, and I want every one of you as Grand Masters any Grand Secretaries or Treasurers in here, more especially Treasurers, to think about what I am fixing to

say. Brethren, your Grand Lodge might have 60,000 members. Your Grand Lodge might have three or four thousand members. Brethren, as an individual you gave your neighbor one dollar bill, he gave you one dollar bill, and that's the point I am trying to make Brethren. That is what we are asking. That one dollar from each member. We're not looking at the Grand Lodges with 60,000 for \$60,000. We are looking for that member from that Grand Lodge each for one dollar bill. Now then, I hope I haven't offended anybody, but the point I am making, we are asking that one dollar bill from the individual, not that 60,000, 15,000 or 2,000 from the Grand Lodge. Now then, I am going to ask you this. If you want to donate that one dollar bill, strictly up to you, to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, when we call on donations down here, we would be glad to take it too. Thank you so much and God bless you. (Applause) You all got me so excited I lost my place. Okay. I am going to call on George to give us a report on the upcoming George Washington Birthday Celebration. Brother George.

Mr. Seghers: Thank you, Roger. Roger never fails to surprise me. He is a man who speaks from his heart. I never know what he is going to say, so I don't have to do too much preparation work that way, but we are preparing for a great event. This Wednesday is Washington's birthday. I don't know how many of you Grand Masters know why you are here in February, but you are here in February because the Conference of Grand Masters grew out of our Annual meeting on Washington's Birthday. That's why you are not down in Puerto Rico in June or something. Stuck out here in Atlanta in the rain in February. Anyhow, in August the Board of Directors decided it was time to restore Washington's birthday to a gala celebration at the memorial, and we are doing that, Brethren. In conjunction with Alexandria Washington Lodge, we are going to start the event on Tuesday night with a special call communication in honor of Brother Washington in his lodge, Alexandria Washington Lodge Number 22. So it is a special program to commemorate him. The morning of his birthday we will be at Mount Vernon laying a wreath in his tomb with the Lodge. At 11 o'clock we will come back to the Memorial to open a family of Freemasonry Exhibit on the third floor of the memorial. It is going to be a great event. At one o'clock we have a symposium on Washington with three scholarly speakers presenting presentations on Washington and his life and his leadership. Six o'clock we come back to have a nice reception at the Memorial followed by a concert on American Music in our theater with the Alexander Harmonizers, 100 male men singing backup to an operatic Soprano, which I am going to find very interesting to hear how they mix those two together. So the program looks great. Then we will have a gala banquet, a birthday banquet in honor of George Washington with cake, Champaign and appropriate toasts. So, Brethren, we are going to do this every year. We have about a hundred people coming to this one. A lot of our board members, several Grand Masters, put it on your calendar from now on, the 22nd of February come to your George Washington Masonic Memorial to celebrate George's birthday as it should be celebrated. We must restore this man to the proper place of honor that he so rightly deserves. This Presidents' Holiday weekend is a bunch of nonsense. Washington's birthday should be a National Holiday, in fact, it still is on the books, except Tricky Dicky in '73 put out a Presidential edict that changed it. But we need to honor this great man. So it is going to be a great time. If you can't make it,

send someone, but please keep it on your calendar in the future. It's easy to remember, Washington's Birthday, February 22nd. So do come, if you can. It is going to be a great evening. Thank you, Brethren.
(Applause)

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Brethren, at this time we have four Grand Lodges to receive the one dollar per member contribution plaques. Brother George.

Mr. Seghers: Will the Grand Master or representative of the following Grand Lodges meet us up here in front of the podium, please? Alabama, Sterling Hughes; Rhode Island, Leon Knudsen; Oregon, Richard Martin, and Wyoming, Allen L. Pierce. Brethren, these are plaques of the memorial crest that we have created with a nice plaque thanking the Brethren of that jurisdiction for their support of the Memorial. And please don't think you have to figure out how you are going to get these home. Give them back to us and we will ship them to your Grand Lodge for you. Brethren, let's give these states a nice round of applause. (Applause) Brethren, when the association was formed in 1910 and throughout the construction of the Memorial, up until the late 30's almost every Grand Lodge was contributing one dollar per member annually, and it kind of dropped off over time, but that is our goal to get that back. We believe the fairest way to support your Memorial, is to have the members who own the memorial have the financial responsibility to support it. We look forward to the day when we can present more of these. We have 19 now. We started this in 2003, so we are making some headway. Also in conjunction with this, we are creating Grand Lodge crests of these 19 Grand Lodges and they will hang in the Memorial surrounding our big crest, as the crests that are supporting us. So it is a really nice program, and we are so thankful for you all. Thank you, Brethren.
(Applause)

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: Again, Brethren, we thank you for your strong and continuous support of the memorial. We now have 19 Grand Jurisdictions that contribute one dollar per member to the memorial annually. We thank you so much for your support and we hope that your actions will be an inspiration to the remaining Grand Jurisdictions and next year, brethren, we look forward to presenting more one dollar per member contributor plaques. Thank you so much. Brethren, at this time I would like to thank the retiring members of the Board of Directors for their support and efforts. Our board members serve for three years, and then rotate off of the Board of Directors. This is to allow all of the 52 active Grand Jurisdictions the opportunity to serve on the board. These Brethren have done an outstanding job for the last three years. We thank you for that three years and we also thank you for your dedication and your hard work. The retiring board members are as follows: if you would, you may stand when I call your name; Jimmy Burke, New Mexico; George Braatz, Ohio; Philip Buckhold, Wyoming; Thomas C. Jackson, Minnesota; Dennis Johnson, Oregon; Calvin Tyler, Vermont. Thank you so much.
(Applause) At this time I now appoint the following to Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, myself Roger Simmons, Chairman, Donald Hix, Ridge Gilmore, Robert Conley, Jeff Webb, Andrew Hammer, and George E. Seghers, Secretary, and also Bob Conley. I have got to call on Bob

yet. Thank you, George. I forgot so many programs here, Brethren, it is hard to follow. I would like at this time to call on Bob Conley, he has a surprise for us. He won't even tell us what he is going to talk about. Brother Bob, it's yours.

M.W. Robert Conley: Thank you, Brother President. He won't tell you because he doesn't know. Good afternoon Brethren. Several years ago I sat where you are sitting now, and believe me, I know what you need to do, and I know that you want to get out of here, so I am very honored to be asked to speak to you for just a few moments, and that is all I will take of your time. The Board asked me yesterday if I would just bring a few comments to you about the memorial and its place in our fraternity and what we are trying to do. And I am very humbled at that, but I am also a little confused because we have a lot of good men on this board who are all excellent speakers, and I think that they would be certainly appropriate to have some conversation with you. In any case they selected me for some reason. I guess then I am just going to talk to you for a minute. All right. Back in 1982, two weeks after I was raised my Worshipful Master took me to the Detroit Masonic Temple to our Annual Communication in that beautiful edifice. I walked into it and I lifted up my eyes and my life was forever changed. Several years later I went to Paris and I walked into Notre Dame Cathedral, and I lifted up my eyes and my life was forever changed. Several years ago I went to Alexandria, Virginia, and I walked underneath railroad tracks to the bottom of Shooter's Hill, and I lifted up my eyes and saw the George Washington Masonic National Memorial and I climbed up those steps, and I walked to the top of that building, and I climbed through the observation tower, and after they had administered CPR to me, and oxygen, I realized that my life was forever changed. I was there to help them with a strategic plan. Out of that strategic plan they came up with the following vision. To inspire humanity through education to emulate and promote the virtuous character and vision of George Washington, the man, the Mason and father of our country. I think all of us in this room can remember a point in time when we were taught about George Washington as a boy. When we were taught about that man and about his honor and integrity. I don't know that they still are today, but it was the consensus of that group when I met with them that somebody needed to, because what he had to tell us transforms who we are, and that it transmits across the ages. We have been given an incredible gift. We're here. We are here now. I don't think that George Washington when was born, when he was a young man, he had any idea that 300 years later people would be sitting around in a room in Atlanta, Georgia talking about him and about a building that was dedicated, consecrated to his memory, but we are. He is no different than you are. The difference is that he had something inside of him that said I can change people's lives, that I can have an impact. And this is what you can do. That is what I can do. When I think of George Washington, what I am thinking about is that one man has the power to make an incredible difference in humanity. He has a tremendous ability to change people's lives. I hope that you do that. I hope that you will take up that charge, that mantle as he did and change people's lives for the better. Now, you have heard a lot of talk about money today, but I know you are like me, I don't give money to buildings, it just doesn't happen that way, but I do give money from the heart. You remember our

vision, it says to inspire humanity through education. You know 78 percent of Freshman in high school when asked could not tell us who the first President of the United States was, 78 percent. When we pulled out a dollar bill and you looked at the portrait on the face of that dollar bill 78 percent of them did not know that the individual on that dollar bill was the first president of the United States of America. We need to be the people who tell them, not only what he was, but why he was, and what he did, and that one man so radically, so completely, so forever changed the face of the world. And that today we have, as Masons, you own it, you own a piece of it, so do I, a building on Shooter's hill in Alexandria, Virginia that is consecrated to his memory from us. That's our gift. That how we say, thank you, George, your excellency. Thank you for doing what you did. Thank you for changing people's lives. Thank you for doing, giving, and continuing to give to us that lesson, that hero, that somebody, that we can say, I own a piece of that. Whenever you get discouraged, look back on his life, lift up your eyes. Let your life be forever changed, come to the memorial. Say thank you. Help us to inspire humanity, to educate them about the virtues of a very great man and who knows, the next one might be sitting in this room. He might be in your lodge, and maybe the only thing that he is looking for is the push that you can give him because you are part of that, part of that experience. Okay. I know you want to get out of here so I am going to cut this one short. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you Most and Right Worshipfuls. (Applause)

M.W. Roger A. Simmons: At this time if anyone would like to make a contribution to the Memorial, we will be glad to receive it. George and I are going down front, and while you are making your way I would like to say that it has been a pleasure to serve you, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Executive Committee. We are looking for a year of dedicated and hard work from this Committee and at this time I would like to say that I now declare the 102nd Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association adjourned. So, with that, if you will. George. We'll step down, and if you have brought your contributions, we would be more than happy to take it. Thank you so much. God bless you. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Parenthetical comment, read Ron Chernow's Pulitzer Prize winning biography of George Washington and you will find some information out about Washington the man, and Washington the Mason. Tomorrow the Conference will reconvene in this room at 9:00 a.m. sharp. All visiting dignitaries who are to be introduced, please assemble in Atlanta II Room at 8:30 a.m. so we may get you lined up for the introductions. All visiting dignitaries Atlanta II Room, 8:30 tomorrow. I also remind all of those who were elected as officers and Planning Committee members to the 2013 Conference that as soon as we adjourn you are to meet in Georgia IV. The Executive Secretary will also be there. Now, my brothers, I strongly suggest that representative of the 2013 Host Committee and other members of the Host Jurisdiction attend this meeting that is about to happen at the conclusion of our proceedings today. For all of those that will be Grand Masters at the 2013 Conference, your meeting with your officers will be at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon in Atlanta II after the Breakout Sessions. Any other announcement, my brothers? This room will not be broken down, it will

stay as it is. You may leave everything here, but you leave it at your risk. So I would remind you of that. Please, if you are going to take items do not take your name cards. Leave your name cards in place. I hope that everyone has a wonderful evening. See you tomorrow morning at 9:00.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012
CONFERENCE RECONVENES

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: The conference is now reconvened. Thank you, my brothers. we'll now call on the Grand Chaplain of Grand Lodge of Georgia, Brother Locabe for a morning blessing.

R.W. Brother Locabe: Let us pray. O God, divine architect of the universe. We bow with gratitude to thy omnipotence. We acknowledge you as the creator and preserver of all things. We thank thee for the daily blessings conferred upon us and all of our undertakings. More particularly, Oh God, we pray your presence at this meeting. We ask you preside over us in the spirit of peace, love and charity. And in thy holy name, be the power and dominion forever. Amen. So Mote It Be.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, my brother. Again, all visiting dignitaries to be introduced who are still in the room, please go right next door to be lined up. Brethren, for those of you who wish to attend the meeting on Information for Recognition, that meeting is allegedly going on right now, and we believe that it is in Georgia IV. Again, Committee on Information for Recognition 9:00 a.m., Georgia IV. It is now my pleasure to call on Most Worshipful Brother John Hess. John is the Grand Master of Missouri, to assist in the introduction of visiting dignitaries of our appendant bodies and sister jurisdictions. I know all of you wish John well as he rapidly moves through the names and pronounces each one correctly. Here he is. Let me do my housekeeping while we wait. The Breakout Sessions for today, those morning sessions that are Advancing Technology, the one with Allen Casalou, The Lodge Experience with Cliff Porter, are as you see them in our program. However, Making Freemasonry Family Friendly, I am really not doing that. There are two brothers who will be offering that, I believe they have sent, put some information on your table, Brothers Nagle and Ridgeway. More Effective Grand Lodges is Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania Tom Sturgeon, and Tom will really be discussing The Pennsylvania Experience, what Pennsylvania calls its renaissance. So Tom's presentation is focused on that. Those are the four Breakouts available this morning once we move to that part of the program. Our lunch will be around the pool upstairs. We will, once lunch is over, and we'll give you more direction on this before we break, we'll have a photograph taken of all of the Grand Masters. Grand Masters will assemble here for that photo and you are to have collar and apron. So that would be after lunch. Thank you.

(Visiting dignitaries introduced)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Welcome to all of our guests. (Applause) My appreciation to Grand Master Hess who had that unenviable task of introducing all of those folks and doing it so expeditiously and

appropriately. So thank you, John. At this point we would like to call on the Grand Master of Japan to bring us greetings. Grand Master Donald K. Smitz.

M.W. Donald K. Smitz: Thank you, Brother Chairman, and all committee members of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. We want to thank you for the great reception that you have received us today from all of the distinguished guests, from all of the fraternities, whether soever disbursed around the globe. Thank you very much.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: At this time would the Committee on Time and Place, as well as any presenters please adjourn to Atlanta II. My appreciation to Most Worshipful Brother Smitz, for his remarks and now we would like to call on representatives of our youth groups. If we can have Miss Alex Hack, the Grand Worthy Advisor for International Order of Rainbow For Girls from Georgia to bring greetings.

Alex Hack: Good morning. My name is Alex Hack and as Grand Worthy Advisor of Georgia I would like to bring greetings on behalf of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. I would like to thank all of you for having us here at your conference, and for your continued support of Rainbow all over the world. It is an honor to be part of such a time honored and prestigious organization and to be here among you, the leader of Freemasonry, all over the world. Freemasonry has been the start of so many life changing and world changing organizations such as the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, DeMolay International, the Knights Templar, Shriners, Royal Arch Masonry, Job's Daughters, and many other organizations, as well as the International Order of Rainbow For Girls. Through your hard work Freemasonry and these various other organizations have raised millions of dollars over the years for various worthy causes, such as the United Service Organization, Eating Disorders International Network, Lou Gehrig's Disease, Breast Cancer Research, Service Dog Training, Multiple Sclerosis, Hospitals for Children, Diabetes Research and many others. The first recorded lodge was established in London, England, in 1717 and it is difficult to imagine that those who founded the organization so many years ago could have fathomed the influence they would have in their community, their country, and all of the world, for years to come. Again, let me say what an honor it is to be among you who are representing the history, the lessons and the ideals, and for fathering the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, which is changing lives of young woman like your daughters, granddaughters and myself all over the world. Because of you and your continued support, we are following in your footsteps and serving our communities and that will change the world for many years to come. Thank you again. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Now if Miss Brianna Richards, Miss International Job's Daughters and Miss Christie Frazier, the Supreme Bethel Honor Queen, could come forward.

Brianna Richards: Good morning everyone. On behalf of my 10,400 Job's Sisters around the world and Job's Daughter Supreme Team, thank you so much for allowing us to be here for this conference. We appreciate your continued support. I feel truly blessed and honored to say that I belong

to the Masonic family full of so many inspirations and leaders. For those jurisdictions that have Job's Daughters, I thank you so much. We could not exist without you. For those jurisdictions that do not have Job's Daughters, please feel free to come talk to us. We have a booth outside, or visit our website which is Job's Daughters International.org. We are always looking to grow and open new bethels. Job's Daughters is a wonderful organization that helps build the leaders of tomorrow. We have fun, we grow, we learn together, we are Jobbie sisters around the world. Thank you once again. We are having a wonderful time and I thank you for stopping by, for those of you who have come talk to us. It really has been a pleasure getting to know you all. Thank you so much. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Tomorrow morning we are going to be hearing from the International Master Counselor of DeMolay at the Shrine DeMolay, Frank Land Breakfast, but we would like to bring forward the International Congress Secretary, Brother Michael Berg for his comments.

Michael Berg: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Steve Ponzillo, Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Brethren, Masonic Brethren, friends and ladies, good morning. What a great opportunity it is to bring you greetings this morning on behalf of DeMolay International and its worldwide membership of young men. Since the foundation of DeMolay nearly a century ago, Freemasonry and the Masonic family has stood at the forefront for support. Grand Lodges across the United States and beyond have given so much to our organization, and for your support and generosity we are most grateful. In 1903 partners Henry Ford and Alexander Malcomson Incorporated the Ford Motor Company. Later in his life Henry Ford was quoted having said coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success. I think Ford's reflection can be seen in the connection of DeMolay and the Masonic Fraternity. First DeMolay was founded and became a part of the Masonic Fraternity and the Masonic Family. Here we came together, thus the beginning. We progressed by sharing together our rich heritage, thus keeping together. Finally, through cooperation and dedication, we created success in life, success in membership, and success in making a difference. This is what makes DeMolay and Freemasonry so great. Without your continued support, we would not be where we are today. Again, on behalf of DeMolay International and its members past, present and future, we thank you for your support, and for the opportunity to bring you our warmest greetings. Most Worshipful. Thank you very much. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Again, thanks to our youth for all of their contributions, their hard work, and the fact that they were here to address all of you, not necessarily an easy task. So, indeed, we thank them for their comments and for what they are doing in their various youth groups. Shortly we'll have the Conference Executive Secretary talk to you, my brothers, about the photographs. The photographs of Grand Masters, Visiting Grand Officers of Sister Jurisdictions, and the Conference Committees, Again, will be taken at 1:00 p.m. immediately after lunch, but prior to the reconvening of the Conference. The photograph, my brothers, again, is taken with collars and aprons, so bring them with you after Lunch. The Executive Secretary once he

returns from the Time and Place Committee back over here, will give you all of the directions associated with the photographs. For the officers and committee members, your photos for the proceedings will be taken immediately after the photographs of all of the Grand Masters. So do not wander off. We'll quickly get into that. Again, my brothers, a reminder about the Breakouts, they will commence at roughly 10:30. The morning Breakouts Advancing Technology, Allen Casalou, The Lodge Experience, II, Cliff Porter, the Making Freemasonry Family Friendly, Brothers Nagle and Ridgeway, More Effective Grand Lodges is really the Pennsylvania Renaissance Experience, Tom Sturgeon, the Immediate Past Grand Master of that jurisdiction will be the presenter. Our Lunch is around the pool. Be careful, no one needs to get too wet, however, lunch should be nice. It's a nice place, if you haven't visited that area of the hotel. And it's not far from the registration area right upstairs. Glenn.

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Grand Masters, each of you have placed in front of your chair a 5 x 8 card. One side states Photo Order Form, if you would fill that out, please. Whether you fill it out right now, or during the lunch period, makes no difference to me, but please fill it out, even if you do not intend to purchase a photo. The photos are the same price as in previous years; \$20 for an 8 x 10 color photo. The procedure we use is the photographer gets set up, we arrange everybody for the photo, and he takes the first photo with the numbers in front of everybody's face like so (indicating). All right. Then he takes the regular photo. So the reason I ask you to fill out the back, is that when I get ready to publish the proceedings, I can look at the row of numbers, and I know which number each person is. Okay. My lady Mary Jane will be in Salon A, that is where we will take the photos today. It will not be in this room. Normally it is in this room, but the hotel is concerned with insurance and safety reasons. Normally we just pull these tables back and use this riser. The hotel has some concerns on the safety of yourselves, and for themselves, so we have moved it to the Salon A Room, and it is all set up there for the photo. After the photo is taken, if you would then give your card to my wife Mary Jane, and then if you intend to purchase a photo, go ahead and pay her at that time. We plan on having the photos back here early Tuesday morning in order to give them to you so that you can take them home with you. But we will have them prior to the afternoon session for sure. Any questions? Salon A is as you go out these doors, it is on the left, and up one level. This floor is the Atlanta Rooms and Georgia Rooms. Salon is on the floor up.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you. We'll all have an adventure finding Salon A. Please make sure that you only have your photo taken in Salon A, if you have it taken in some other place, that should be interesting. Earl Washburn, do you have an announcement? Somewhere in my notes I have to call on you.

M.W. Earl Washburn: Thank you Most Worshipful Chairman. I failed to relate to this assembly that we are a foundation that was created by this assembly back in 1986, and we really appreciate your support that all of you give us, not only financially, but by taking on our program in your various states. We have made a lot of changes in the last three years, and I did not relate that to you yesterday, and I just wanted to

leave that with you today. We are not only a three day Student Assistance Program. We have adopted a two day. Because as you all know, with tight budgets, teachers have trouble getting out of school for three days, they even have trouble getting out of school for two days. So one of the things that some of the Grand Lodges have done with their adopted, or our program, is to offer to pay for substitutes, and that is a big part of the budget that has been cut. As you know, if you are a school board, or ever served on a school board, you have got very few things that you have control over as a board member, and one of the things that is cuttable is substitute pay, and that is what takes a beating. The other thing that we have on board besides our normal Cadillac program Student Assistance Training Program, is we now have adopted and we piloted it in Illinois in December, a one day workshop on bullying. And if you know anything about bullying, it is a big topic today in our education field. There are some real disasters that are happening to young people because of bullying. Our program is one day workshops one diversity and we have an academy specifically designed for administrations and school systems. It teaches them about our program, not only that, but how to handle serious things that happen in schools, that you have so go to shutdown, or if there is a suicide in the school, how to you handle the healing process, and the different things. So we have got some great programs, guys. We went to Developmental Assets in 2004. The next time I saw another training doing that was three years later. So we were out in front by a at least three years. I saw Developmental Assets mentioned for the first time in public press last May in the USA Today article talking about special education. They actually used the term Developmental Assets. We have been doing it since 2004 guys. You have got here, through the National Masonic Foundation for Children a program that is a leader in this country, and I would say we are in the top three. I am going to say top three because I haven't seen all of them. But we are right up there amongst the best in this country. So if you want to do a service to your state, your communities and your state, but most especially to children in your state, come and see us. We can make a difference. Thank you.
(Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: To my Brothers in the jurisdictions visiting us, our foreign jurisdictions, we'll have those photo cards, up in Salon A for you to fill out there. Again, the foreign jurisdictions will have those cards available as you get upstairs at 1:00 o'clock. Any other announcements, my brothers? (No response) To the member of the Planning Committee, and the officers of the Conference, please meet with me here as we break, and a reminder to all of the Grand Masters that after lunch and after photos, we have a brief meeting at 2:00 o'clock. That will be to handle some issues that relate to announcements as well as some other matters. So that will be at 2:00 o'clock. Thank you so much, my Brothers. You have some time. Enjoy the coffee. Our Breakouts begin at 10:30 in the various locations. Enjoy the morning.

**MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2012
CONVERENCE RECONVENES**

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I hope you had a good lunch. After our short meeting here we'll be back to breakouts. We have a number of

Announcements and a number of somewhat concise presentations. We'll call on Brother Bill Turner, is he in here? Bill, If you will come forward and bring some greetings to us from Sojourners.

M.W. William Turner: Thank you very much, Brother Chairman. Good afternoon Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Grand Masters and my Brethren all. I bring you warm fraternal greetings and congratulations from the National Sojourners, and we wish you all the great success of the continued Conference here. We hope that everything that you are seeking to achieve is accomplished. At the conclusion of the Conference tomorrow afternoon, and if everything is on schedule, you see that it is targeted for 2:30, I would like for all of you Grand Masters, as well as Deputy Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, virtually everybody by definition all, are welcome to attend the Grand Masters' Chapter Number 996. It will conduct a meeting right here in this immediate area over here at the conclusion of the Conference. We want you to feel welcome. We also want you to entertain becoming a member of National Sojourners. It would be our honor and our privilege to have you do that. We will have an initiation ceremony in the course of the Grand Masters Meeting, which will be conducted by Most Worshipful Ray Vandenberg, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. We will have an election of officers, and then we are also going to have a very brief program giving the history of the Grand Lodge of Georgia. So I invite all of you to please join us. I think you will find it interesting, and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow afternoon at 2:30. Thank you much. My time is up, and I thank you for yours. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Grand Masters, the Grand Lodge of Indiana has a presentation for us. It is a special project that they are helping to sponsor.

M.W. Gregory Walbridge: Thank you Chairman Steve. Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipful Grand Masters, guests, you should have received, I think this morning, this information, Freemason United States of America. Some of you may have seen some of the projects Al McLellen, Past Master from the state of Indiana, has been working on. He has been involved in a project called Masonic Awareness At The Speed of Light. In the last year he has presented over 44 lectures on the Internet that have been seen, I think probably or tomorrow by over a million Masons, and presentations in 150 countries. Al has taken on that venture, he is now doing video recordings of all of the Past Grand Masters in the state of Indiana to record their views, and opinions, and history of their time serving as Grand Master for our records. He has ventured into a new project that I just wanted to let you know about, and obviously it is up to your Grand Lodge to decide if it is something you want to be involved in. But what he is attempting to do, is to record the histories of each of the Grand Lodges within this Conference and make them available on the Internet through the technology that he has used in the Masonic Awareness Program. If it is something that you are of interest in, Al is out here, and will be available, and has been available throughout the Conference. I think it is a great opportunity for us to get the message of what we are about, and what we stand for, and what our histories are out to potential members and also to record our histories for our own brothers and for posterity. So this is

something we endorse. We are not actively involved, we are not receiving any funds for Al's project, it is just something for the furtherance of Masonic Education, and Brother Chairman, I thank you for your time. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Brethren, several announcements. A reminder to those who will be Grand Masters at the 2013 Conference. Your meeting with your 2013 Officers will be following the Breakouts at 3:30, and I believe that is in Atlanta III Room. This is your chance to give input into the 2013 Planning Committee on what you would like at your Conference next year. The Grand Secretaries Banquet this evening is in the Grand Ballroom. It is in the Grand Ballroom. The time for the Grand Secretaries Banquet is 7:00. It is a social period in the foyer in the front of the room from 6:00 to 7:00 and everyone encouraged to join in that social hour. In the morning tomorrow, we will start early with the Shrine DeMolay Frank S. Land Breakfast in Salon A/B Room at 7:00 a.m. sharp. That gives me a little bit of a shudder, but nevertheless, 7:00 a.m. sharp. Those of you that have been here before know that at precisely 7:00 a.m. the Imperial Recorder, Imperial Sir Jack Jones will start the program. Now, we are about to distribute to you material that we could not get out of the printing office at the beginning of the session. So I am going to ask my brothers here at the podium to distribute that information. Then my brothers, I need to comment on it. Again, who gets a copy of this is the Grand Master, or the Grand Master's representative. Thank you, my Brothers, for the distribution. Grand Masters, I will read again a statement that opened the Conference, with a little bit more information now that you have two documents in front of you. You should have the dated May 18th letter from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Indiana, and you should have a transcript of pertinent parts of last year's Conference. Grand Masters, as you know, the Conference of Grand Masters and eight named individual Grand Lodge officers of six different Grand Jurisdictions were named as Defendants in a lawsuit filed in New Hampshire by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar and the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. The lawsuit stems from a portion of the 2011 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition relating to the Grand Priory of Occitania. The lawsuit alleges, among other things, interference with Grand Encampments contractual relations, misrepresentation and civil conspiracy. There are some things you should be aware of, and some instructions concerning the lawsuit that I need to communicate to you. First, the Conference's bylaws define each of you in your capacity as Grand Master or representative of a Grand Master, as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation known as the Conference of Grand Masters in North America Incorporated. Therefore, as directors you have more than a passing interest in the lawsuit. The Grand Encampment filed the lawsuit in the state court of New Hampshire. The attorneys for the Conference and the individual defendants filed pleadings to remove the lawsuit from the state court to federal district court. In January the Federal District Court in New Hampshire granted the motions filed by the Defendants and issued an Order dismissing the lawsuit, finding that the Conference and the individual Defendants do not have sufficient connections with the state of New Hampshire to justify their being sued there. The Grand Encampment and the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire

have filed a Motion for Reconsideration asking the Court to find that the Conference and some of the individual Defendants may be sued in New Hampshire. The Conference has objected to the Motion for Reconsideration. The Motion for Reconsideration is still pending. We will not speculate on the Court's further action, or whether the lawsuit will continue, or what actions any of the parties on either side will take in the future. On advice of our legal counsel, I ask that you, as directors, refrain from and not enter into any discussion on or about any aspect of the lawsuit, the portion of the 2011 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition dealing with the Grand Priory of Occitania, nor any discussion concerning the Grand Priory of Occitania, the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar, or the Grand Commandery of New Hampshire. As Chairman of the Conference, I will rule out of order and not allow any attempt to bring any such discussions before the Conference. A letter from the Grand Lodge of Indiana was received by the Planning Committee prior to its May meeting requesting that the 2013 agenda include a discussion as to the scope of the purpose of the Commission for Information for Recognition. A copy of that letter is now before each of you. The first paragraph of the letter states the Commission attempted to "Pass a report to the Grand Masters without the report". Before each of you is the portion of the reporter's transcript dealing with the discussions prior to and after the reading of the report of the Commission on Information For Recognition. The transcript was edited only to the extent of deleting the Page Numbers and making bold type the names of those speaking. The portion of the reports dealing specifically with the Grand Priory was redacted on advice of our legal counsel. The transcript is provided to give you a full picture of the events. I will clarify that the 2011 officers were advised on Monday afternoon, prior to the reading of the report on Tuesday, of the portion dealing with the Grand Priory. At the request of the Chairman, the Conference Secretary was asked to meet on Monday evening with the members of the Commission and request that they not present the report on the Grand Priory. The Commission after discussion felt that the information should be given to the Grand Masters, but would not read it as a part of their report. The Commission had no intent at that point to pass the report without full disclosure to the Grand Masters. Discussions on the request of Indiana will be taken up at the Business portion of our Conference on Tuesday afternoon. We, the Conference Officers, and the Planning Committee, wanted you to have the information regarding the request of Indiana so that you can give it thought and consideration prior to the Business Session on Tuesday. I emphasize that the discussions in the Business Session on Tuesday will be limited to: One; the scope of the purpose of the Commission; and Two: The retention or removal of members of the Commission. No discussion pertaining to the lawsuit, the Grand Priory, or the Grand Encampment will be entertained or allowed. Is everybody clear on that? Now, my Brothers, you have the information. I would ask you to make sure that you are retaining that information unto yourselves so that when we come to our Business Session Tuesday afternoon we can take up the issues as outlined by me in that statement. And now if there are no further announcements, enjoy our Breakouts this afternoon. Thank you very much.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21ST, 2012
CONFERENCE RECONVENES

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Please take your seats. We'll call on Grand Chaplain Locabe for an opening prayer.

R.W. Locabe: Brethren, let us pray. Great architect of the universe, teach us to use the three great lights in Masonry to guide us in discharging our duties to you, our neighbor, and ourselves. Show us how to use thy holy writ in learning and doing our duty to you, oh God, assist us in squaring our actions through virtuous living in all our relations with our fellow human beings. Enable us to use the compasses and market on our duty to self, guide us with a light from these great lights as we conduct our business in this assembly. All these things we ask in your holy name. Amen. So mote it be.

M.W. Stephen Ponzillo: Thank you brother Grand Chaplain. Well, my brothers, we are at the last day of the Conference and it certainly will be an important one in the life of the Conference. We do have a number of reports to present to you this morning, and I would like to call first on Most Worshipful Brother Lon Kvasager, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota, Chairman of the Time and Place Committee for the Committee's report. Will all members of the Time and Place Committee please come to the head table, along with Most Worshipful Brother Lon.

M.W. Lon Kvasager: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful Grand Masters, distinguished guests, Brothers all, on behalf of the 2012 Time and Place Committee, I extend our appreciation for the opportunity to serve this Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. With your approval, I would at this time be pleased to introduce our Committee. They are Most Worshipful William Alexander, Grand Master of Montana, Most Worshipful Michael Sanders, Grand Master of Washington, Most Worshipful Jerry Pinion, Grand Master of Alaska, Most Worshipful Hans Scheurer, Grand Master of Nevada.

TIME and PLACE COMMITTEE REPORT

We thank all jurisdictions who participated in the proposals that were brought before this committee at the meeting yesterday morning. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, the Committee on Time and Place recommends to this Conference that the 2016 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, be awarded the host Grand Jurisdiction of Wisconsin. The Grand Lodge of Wisconsin has designated Madison as the host city. We also recommend that Most Worshipful Brother Glenn Means, Executive Secretary for this conference be given the authority to engage in negotiations for a contract with the facility in the Madison area. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I move for the acceptance of this report.

TIME and PLACE COMMITTEE



Seated L to R: Jerry D. Moss, GA, Host Grand Master; Randy L. Rogers, OK Chairman Planning Committee; Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, MD Conference Chairman; Richard A. Martin, Conference Vice-Chairman; Lon W. Kvasagar, ND, Chairman Time & Place Committee.

Standing L to R: Jerry W. Pinion, AK; Michael Sanders, WA; William Alexander, MT.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Grand Masters, you have heard the recommendation, and the motion. Is there a second. Second. All those in favor will signify so by saying Aye. Aye. All those opposed, Nay. Looks like in 2016 we're going to Wisconsin. Thank you, my Brothers. And thank you to Most Worshipful Brother Lon and all of the committee for the hard work and the difficult decision that I know that that was. Thank you, my brothers. I now call upon Most Worshipful Brother William Holsinger, Past Grand Master of California for the report of the Commission on Information for Recognition.

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION REPORT

M.W. William Holsinger: The Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, it is my honor and privilege as Chairman of this Commission to present the 59th Annual Report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. I am pleased to present the other members of the Commission in the order of length of service. Most Worshipful Scott G. Kreiger, Past Grand Master of Nebraska, W. Pierre G. Normand,

Past Master in Texas, Most Worshipful James D. Woodward, Past Grand Master of Utah, Most Worshipful Clayton J. Borne, III, Past Grand Master of Louisiana, Most Worshipful John M. Colligas, Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Most Worshipful Donald C. Ross, Past Grand Master of Quebec, Most Worshipful Curtis N. Lancaster, Past Grand Master of Utah, Secretary-Treasurer and I am Most Worshipful M. William Holsinger, Past Grand Master of California, and Chairman. Since the delegates to this Conference change each year, I would like to repeat the standards for recognition adopted for our guidance when this Commission was formed in 1952. These are the guidelines used to evaluate the regularity of a Grand Lodge, and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by our member Grand Lodges. This Commission provides this data for use by our Grand Lodges, and does not attempt to influence or recommend what action should be taken. The Commission serves you in an investigative and advisory capacity only. The standards for recognition are summarized as follows:

1. Legitimacy of origin.
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction, except by mutual consent and/or treaty.
3. Adherence to the Ancient Landmarks specifically, a Belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the Furniture of the Lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of politics and religion.

Applying these standards to the requests of several Grand Lodges during our deliberations, we now share the following information:

Albania

The Grand Lodge of Albania was consecrated on October 14, 2011 in Tirana by the Grand Orient of Italy. It is composed of three lodges previously warranted by the Grand Orient of Italy. It has adopted the Ritual of Book of Constitution of the Grand Orient, the Principles for Grand Lodges Recognition accepted by the United Grand Lodge of England, as well as the "Aims and Relationships of the Craft" of the UGLE. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Albania meets the standards for recognition.

Baja California

It was reported last year that the two groups representing the Grand Lodge of Baja California had worked out an accord that would have unified them again into one regular Grand Lodge. The leaders of the two groups signed the agreement, termed the Denver Accord, and were confident it would be ratified by both groups. This did not happen; therefore the Grand Lodge of Baja California remains two separate organizations, and neither satisfies the standards for recognition.

Bulgaria

There continues to be no progress in the unification of Freemasonry in Bulgaria. The Commission received submissions from both Grand Lodges, but there appears to be no interest on the part of the United Grand Lodge of Bulgaria in entering discussions with the Grand Lodge of AF&AM of Bulgaria, either for unification or for establishing a treaty to share the jurisdiction. Both of these Grand Lodges appear to practice regular Masonry, and both were of the same origin until they split in 2001. This Commission has urged the two Grand Lodges to resolve their

differences for the past eight years to no avail; therefore this issue will not be addressed again until the brethren in Bulgaria reach some type of agreement that will meet the standards for recognition.

Grand Loge Nationale Francaise

The difficult situation involving the GLNF was reviewed in great detail from data presented to the Commission, as well as statements from parties explaining both sides of the issues. It was reported that some 28 regular Grand Lodges, including six in the United States and one in Canada, have now suspended fraternal relations with the GLNF. Although the GLNF is still considered to be regular, there is a question as to them meeting the standards for recognition. After much consideration, the Commission is of the opinion a reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with the GLNF until such time a resolution to their crisis is achieved. New elections are scheduled in the near future, and it is hoped that a solution will be forthcoming.

Paraguay

The agreement of unification of the two Grand Lodges that was reached in 2010, has been broken, and the situation has reverted back to two Grand Lodges claiming to be the legitimate source of Freemasonry in that country. There is also evidence that negotiations for unification have ceased. This being the case, the Commission is of the opinion that neither Grand Lodge now meets the standards for recognition.

Tahiti

The Grand Lodge of Tahiti was constituted on December 21, 2011 from three lodges previously chartered by the Grande Loge National Francaise. Data was presented that indicates this new Grand Lodge practices regular Masonry and is a sovereign territory. The Commission is of the opinion that the Grand Lodge of Tahiti meets the standards for recognition.

Other

Several last minute submissions to the Commission this year have resulted in unnecessary difficulty in getting the material to Commission members, leaving insufficient time to adequately study and research the subjects to be considered. In the future, any submissions to the Commission must be received by December 1st, in order to be considered at the annual meeting the following February.

I now call on Most Worshipful Brother Lancaster for the Treasurer's report.

M.W. Curtis N. Lancaster: Brethren, I will give you just a brief summary. The details will be printed in the report. This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the period just past, ending January 31st, 2012. Since January the 1st, of 2011 53 of the member Grand Lodges have contributed a total of \$2,695. Balance on hand January 1st of 2011, \$10,734.67. They are contributions are all detailed by Grand Lodge. The expenses during the same period total \$3,726.85, and includes the conference and travel expense, printing of the annual report, postage and stamps, secretarial services, Website and miscellaneous office supplies, leaving a balance as of January 31st of this year of \$9,702.82. Thank you.

M.W. M. William Holsinger: Thank you, Most Worshipful Brother Lancaster for your report. For 19 years Most Worshipful Curtis N. Lancaster has served this Conference and Commission, seven years as a member of the commission, and for the past 12 years as the Secretary-Treasurer. He has served with distinction and he deserves the gratitude of Masons wherever disbursed. He has decided it is time to retire and while we welcome his successor, Most Worshipful Brother Joe Harrison of Tennessee, we extend to Most Worshipful Brother Curtis Lancaster our everlasting gratitude and best wishes in his retirement. Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my sincere thanks for your attention, and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 58th Annual Report of this Commission and I move the acceptance of the report. Second.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: My brothers, you have heard the motion, is there a second. Second. All those in favor of the accepting the report of to the Commission as presented to you, please raise your right hand. Down hands. All opposed, same sign. Thank you, my Brothers. We accept the report. (Applause) My brothers that proceeded with great alacrity, and as a result of that, I call the Conference to recess for the remainder of the morning to go to Breakout Sessions. Breakout Sessions are in the same rooms. They begin as outlined in your brochure. I remind everyone that we will reconvene in this room at 1:00 p.m. sharp. Again, lunch is in the same location around the pool. So enjoy your breakout sessions, the opportunity to discuss with brothers. Thank you.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 21, 2012
CONFERENCE RECONVENES**

Stephen J. Ponzillo: This Conference is reconvened. It is my understanding that the Conference of Grand Secretaries has elected its new officers. Could that be the case? Would you all like to come forward and introduce those new officers.

M.W. Michael A. DeWolf: Most Worshipful and Brethren, good afternoon, it is indeed a pleasure to be with you. It is my honor and privilege to introduce to you the new officers for the Conference of Grand Secretaries. Our President for the ensuing year, Most Worshipful Brother Curtis Mundhal from North Dakota. The First Vice-President, Most Worshipful Brother Alan Adkins, Virginia. The Second Vice-President, Most Worshipful Brother Douglas Campbell, excuse me, Right Worshipful from Minnesota. Myself as the Secretary/Treasurer, Most Worshipful Michael A. DeWolf from Wisconsin, and our Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Right Worshipful David Owen, from Washington State where he says the state where they tell the truth. And our Chaplain for the Conference Right Worshipful Brother William Crawford from the jurisdiction of Iowa. These are the officers for the ensuing term. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I now invite Right Worshipful Brother Don Newman, Deputy Grand Master of Kansas, Right Worshipful Brother David Ramsey, Deputy Grand Master of Missouri to come forward and let us know what is happening in 2013.

M.W. Donald Newman: Brothers all. I am Don Newman, from Kansas. I am the Deputy Grand Master and in 2013 we are going to have a joint meeting in Kansas City with Kansas and Missouri hosting the conference. And before I say much more, I will present the other jurisdiction.

M.W. David Ramsey: I have learned by watching and learning from you Grand Masters out there that one of the key things that we need to do is to delegate, and so we have learned to delegate. We have two Past Grand Masters that were instrumental in talking us into doing this, and so with we made them the Committee Chairmen and, therefore, without any further ado, I think we will turn this over to two Past Grand Masters, Rocky Weaver from Missouri, and Roy T. Sullivan, Past Grand Master of Kansas to present our program today. Thank you.

M.W. Roy Sullivan: Good afternoon, gentlemen, my name is Roy Sullivan, Past Grand Master of Kansas, and this is Rocky Weaver, Past Grand Master of Missouri. We want to invite you, especially you Grand Masters and you Grand Lodge officers to the most wonderful Grand Master Conference I think you are ever going to experience in the heartland of the United States, in Kansas City next year, 2013. Kansas City is the home of cool jazz, hot beef and great barbecue.

M.W. Rocky Weaver: As Roy said, my name is Rocky Weaver. My job today, this portion of it is to tell you how easy it is to get to Kansas City. For those of you on the Eastern portion of the United States, find Interstate 70 highway and go west. For those you on the western portion of the United States, find Interstate 70 highway and go east. We will meet you in the center in Kansas City, beautiful downtown Kansas City at the Kansas City Sheraton.

M.W. Roy Sullivan: We especially want to emphasize that this is a first time collaborative effort between two Grand jurisdictions, and as such, we would like to encourage other Grand jurisdictions consider join with your brothers and sisters across a state line, or even in adjoining areas, you may have a common state line, to share the responsibilities of hosting a Conference. We were both reluctant to try to undertake hosting a Conference because of the manpower needs that we were going to have. By pooling our resources we have overcome that little obstacle and as a consequence we have more resources than we think we are going to have to even draw on. We have a tremendous number of Masons, Scottish and York Rite Masons and Shriners in the Kansas City Metropolitan area, and they are all going to be turning out to help us pull this convention off. I have been running Barbershop harmony conventions in the central states district for about six and a half years for either 600 to 1,200 people, so I am well equipped with and experienced in handling Conventions of not only this size, but of even larger, and Kansas City is my hometown, I was born and raised there. So it is indeed home for me.

M.W. Rocky Weaver: We would like to tell you that when we determined to come together and co-host this convention, first consideration was the cease fire for the border wars between Missouri and Kansas. That has been successfully accomplished. We are pretty sure that we can keep it that way until at least after the Conference. We encourage you to come.

One of the reasons why we did this was because we wanted to try to influence other smaller jurisdictions to come together, to join forces and to try to follow a lead that now has been set for you. We really feel that this is a valuable precedence that we have set. We are here to assure you that we're going to make your every experience in Kansas City top notch, relaxing and informative.

M.W. Roy Sullivan: Kansas City is the beginning of the Oregon and Sante Fe trails that opened the great west. It is also, just down the road from St. Joseph, MO, the home of the Pony Express. A very short lived, very active method of communications that existed for that period of time before the advent of the telegraph. Kansas City is a railroad junction, and you can even take Amtrak if you don't want to fly, you don't want to drive, hop on a train and come to Kansas City. Union Station is connected with the Sheraton Hotel by a skywalk along with the Weston Crown Center. They have a couple of retail shops there, but don't worry about it. Your ladies will enjoy it. Kansas City is that jumping off point for multitudes of Americans. I think Rocky is going to tell you just a little bit more about that.

M.W. Rocky Weaver: We got that started, it is the jumping, or it was and in past years the jumping off spot for probably millions of people just like us that were going somewhere and trying to make life a little better for themselves. We would like to ask you to come to Kansas City next year and make Kansas City your jumping off spot, whether it be by car, or by air. MCI airport covers every major air carrier, I guess, in the world. Or you can also come by Amtrak. And it just so happens that the depot for Amtrak in Kansas City is Union Station, and that is right across the road from where you are going to be staying. Crown center, a major shopping mall, a famous shopping mall is across the street from our downtown hotel, and Union Station is just right around the corner, and all of these are connected by skywalks. So you will be able to travel back and forth to those fairly comfortably. The longest distance would be to the Union Station. There's fine dining, and some pretty fine shopping just about anywhere you go in Kansas City. So we invite you to come and stay with us. Have a good time.

M.W. Roy Sullivan: So, come on and join us in Kansas City, Kansas City here we come, one song says. Everything is up-to-date in Kansas City from another song. Our Deputy Grand Masters, Dave and Don will be available at the conclusion of this to answer any questions, or address any issues that you might have. Rocky and I both have obligations back home that we have to get to immediately so we are getting out of Dodge, as they say, as soon as we get done here. Now, we have a short video that we would like to show you and I think you will be very impressed with what Kansas City has to offer. So please come to "fly over" country. We'll see you next year.

(Video played)

BUSINESS SESSION

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you to Kansas and Missouri for that representation. I know that everyone is looking forward to Kansas City

in 2013. Brethren, it's my pleasure to introduce, Most Worshipful Dennis Robinson, Past Grand Master of North Dakota, President of MasoniChip on introduce some guests.

M.W. Dennis Robinson: Thank you, Mr. President. It is an honor and a privilege today to have two guests from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. At this time I would like to introduce to you Miss Shanta Carter, Senior Program Coordinator for the Take 25 Program, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia. She is our direct contact link with the Center, and she is the lady that our Committee has constant communication, that helps provides all of the materials that you have received and seen here since your arrival. Shanta, thank you for coming. (Applause) Now, it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Mr. Herb C. Jones. Herb Jones is the Vice-President of External Affairs for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He is a former high schoolteacher, coach, college administrator, group manager for the United Way, and television talk show host of Profiles in Black. Jones' professional experiences include associate director and lobbyist for criminal justice and public protection, the National Association of Counties and Government Affairs representative, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Deputy Associate Director, Bureau of State and Local Affairs Office of National Drug Control Policy, Director of External Affairs of the U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of the Undersecretary for Enforcement and Senior Coordinator for the Border and Transportation Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, Mr. Jones has managed the Treasury Department 1994 Crime Bill Implementation Plan. He is a member, Office of the National Drug Control Policy Commission on the African American Male. He is a member of the Attorney General's Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. He is a member of GGDP Youth Gang Consortium. He is a member, Youth and Federal Custody Committee. He is a member of the Interagency Working Group for After School Programs. He is the member of the Attorney General's Local Strategic Planning Group. Herb Jones is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. He has a BS Degree from Tuscogee Institute, and a Master's Degree from Xavier University in New Orleans. It is with honor and a great pleasure to present to you, Mr. Herbert Jones, Vice-President of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. (Applause)

Mr. Herb Jones: Thank you, Danny, and thank you everyone. It is really an honor for me to be here today to share with you my thoughts about a subject that is really dear to my heart, that is the safety and protection of children. These are concerns that I know that when I look around the room and I think about the things that you have done, that we share in this great task to try to protect children. First I want to say that I think my mom and my dad would be very proud of this moment for me being here with you because my dad was truly a dedicated and loyal Mason and my mom was a member of the Eastern Star. I remember that quite well as a child and growing up because I knew then that there was going to be some great eating going on, and I was going to eat well that night. But I know that for their dedication and watching them, that the Masons are a great organization. I would like the acknowledge Denny Robinson and Bill Rohrer for their leadership and support, and the support of

MasoniChip International, and it has worked side by side with the National Center in our Take 25 Campaign. MasoniChip has partnered with the Take 25 campaign these past three years, to pass out safety education materials at events across the country. This type of partnership is essential to the National Center's work, protecting children and raising community's awareness about child safety. The National Center was created in 1984, a time at which our Nation was shaken by many tragic events around the country. The first was the abduction of six year old Eton Pates out of New York City. Eton was on his way to school, the first time his parents allowed him to walk to the bus stop by himself. Eton never made it, and yet we have not found Eton. I am also reminded about the horrific events that took place right here in Atlanta between 1979 and 1981, around that time, when 29 children were abducted and brutally murdered right here in this city. I recall from my own experience how this city was on lockdown and how frightened parents and children were as you walked through this city as to who would be the next victim. I can recall walking through Rich's Department Store here in the City of Atlanta where they had a poster contest where the children would draw out their fears, and as you would take the elevator you could see the fears of these kids as you were coming down the elevator as to what this all meant. But no tragedy shook this nation as much as the abduction and murder in 1981 of Adam Walsh from a shopping mall in Hollywood, Florida. Adam's devastated parents, John and Renee Walsh, took their anger and indignation and put it into action, and they are the ones that championed the Missing Children's Act which became law in 1982, which called for a national response to the problem of missing and exploited children, which then was dedicated the National Center for which we all work at this time. So what I would like to do at this time is just to show you a short video, with John and Renee and let them tell you about their starting this organization.

(Video played)

That is how we got started working on some of the problems that we have. Denny in his introduction gave you my background. I have worked with the federal government, state and local, I started with District Attorney Harry Connick in New Orleans before moving to Washington to take over the National Commission of Victim Assistance for the National District Attorneys Association. And then moved to become a lobbyist, I now it is a bad word, for county governments across the country on criminal justice public protection issues. I worked in the federal government with the undersecretary for enforcement, I worked in White House in the Office of National Drug Control Policy, helped get that started, built that Act. I was with the United States Department of Treasury, where we oversaw Secret Service, ATF, Customs and others, then I was called to the Department of Homeland Security, office of the Undersecretary to work on state and local government coordination. I served on probably every type of committee you can think of to deal with gangs, drugs, some of the worst lowlife in this country, some of the things that have happened. Guns, I dealt with that. All kind of issues. But when I got to the National Center, nothing that I have ever done in my past prepared me for what people do to children. And as a

grandparent I want to say that I think it is incumbent on all of us to do what he can to protect children because it happens. The National Center was established about 25 years ago, but the need for an organization like this becomes evident every time you turn on the news. Our work to protect children is still relevant. I want to tell you the story of, just a recent story, again, right here in Atlanta where a seven year old Jolee Rivera went out to play with friends in her apartment complex. This happened just a month or so ago. Jolee, decided that she wanted a drink and left to get something to drink and she never made it. Jolee was abducted, sexually assaulted and murdered by a 20 year old who worked at the apartment complex, I guess, as a maintenance worker. Tragedies like Jolee Rivera's are exactly what the National Center is striving to prevent. We offer educational materials and prevention programs to educate parents and grandparents and their communities about child safety. Our Code Adam Program, for example, helps stores teach their employees how to react when a customer reports a child missing in their store. We know, as you saw, that if the intent of the perpetrator is to murder the child, that child is going to be dead within three hours. And I can tell you all kinds of stories about that. I can tell you the story of Jessica Longford in Florida who was abducted by a sex offender, held for a week, and when police closed in, that person buried that young child alive holding a stuffed animal. It's stories like this that really gets me upset because people ask me, how do you continue to do this? How can you do this? I do this because I have three young ones, a 14 year old, a 9 year old and a 6 year old. As I said this morning, I dare to think what I would do if someone took advantage of one of my kids. And I remember saying this before and someone said, no, go on and say it. I said, no, you would be the first one to testify against me if I tell you, because if I get my hands on them, there is no telling what I would do. And you have to see and hear about some of these events to appreciate the work that the National Center does. So you can see from what we are talking about, how critical it is for all of us to receive the necessary training and information to make this work. But it is not just employees who need it, made aware of the risks that children face, it is parents, law enforcement, other community members must also be prepared to act when a child is threatened. That is where the National Center comes in. We provide resources, training and empower communities to handle missing and exploited children issues. For example, like MasoniChip, the National Center provides pamphlets and free child identification kits. We encourage parents parent update the kits every six months, keep them in a secure location because when a child goes missing, there is no time to waste. That is why we also provide free training for law enforcement to enhance investigative response to calls about a missing or exploited child. Programs and training like the ones we provide help bring missing children home, but our work is never done. Now, all of our work is not doom and gloom. Just recently, I guess it was this week, or last week, Elizabeth Smart was married. You recall Elizabeth Smart was abducted from her home and she was gone maybe six months or longer and now Elizabeth is doing extremely well, and recently married. You heard the story on national news about a seven year old in Talakusa, here in this area, in which she was attempted, someone was trying to take her and she fought the abductor. She fought the abductor and was released, I think it was from a K-Mart in Talakusa, or a Walmart in Talakusa. They asked

her how she, how did she know what to do. She had just recently been to a training where they told her how to fight back and to tell a trusted adult. Those are the types of activities that MasoniChip has been providing for communities across the country, and we continue to ask for their support. Another incident that I want to talk about just briefly is this Byron Nelson, not the golfer, but Byron Nelson and his family took a trip to the Bahamas, with their son Hunter. Byron left early to return home thinking that his family would return back later. Byron was surprised to find that his wife cut off all communications and he had no contact. So Byron needed somebody who knew both the nuances of international law, as well as what it would take to get a child back under those circumstances. The National Center's expert staff is trained to act just in these type of situations. It was a long, hard process, but the work with the courts and the United States State Department we were able to get Byron and Hunter back together. But the important thing about this one, it was an unfortunate event, but no family, no family should have to suffer like this. There is information that every trusted adult should know which can minimize the risks to our children, and that is why the National Center has offered to publish, they have developed free resources designed to help prevent the abduction of children from ever happening. One such resource is Take 25 Campaign. Take 25 is a grass root initiative created in commemoration of National Missing Children's Day. Annually recognized on May 25th, this day serves as a time to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families, remember those who are still missing, and make child safety a national priority. Take 25 does this by encouraging community service groups like the Masons, parents, grandparents and others to take just 25 minutes out of their day to talk to children about safety. Take 25 facilitates that dialog by providing communities with free material such as conversation starters. Safety tips and mini lessons. We also encourage individuals and organizations to host community day events where they share safety information with parents, grandparents and other trusted adults. The Take 25 website offers resources to help organize events and we also include technical assistance from persons like Shanta who would help put together your program, and we have a proven track record for that type of success. When Take 25 started in 2007, there were only 375 events, but every year the campaign continues to grow and positively impact more communities. In 2011 communities in all 50 states, the Bahamas, Cuba, and over 200 United States Embassies joined in the Child Safety discussion with over 7,000 events in over 1,200 cities this year. The program growth shows that communities need and want materials that will educate them about child safety, and when I think about the success of MasoniChip which has generated over 1.5 million child identification packets, it has made it even clearer how much communities desire these types of safety programs. This is why Take 25 always strives to make more partners and get into more communities. As the Take 25 progresses into its sixth year, we will extend the campaign to food banks, to homeless shelters, to military facilities, child care providers, and sporting events such as minor league baseball, hockey, soccer, and National Football games. But we cannot do this alone. We need you and others to partner with us to make sure that this work gets done. Whenever I think about the growth of Take 25, I have to commend the efforts of its partners at the national, state and local levels. Last year almost 2,000,000 safety materials were

distributed to communities across the country and around the world. This could not have happened without the support of our partners who were generous in their contributions both in-kind and monetary support. Our partners include law enforcement organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police, Government agencies such as the United States Secret Service, community organizations such as the PTA, Religious organizations such as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and, of course, MasoniChip. MasoniChip International is one of Take 25's largest and most committed partners. MasoniChip has grown from 27 events in in 2009 to holding over 282 events last year. I know that you are working with Take 25 throughout the year to get safety tip materials into the hands of parents and grandparents and other trusted adults. I want to acknowledge your hard work and dedication in distributing safety education materials to your communities but as they say, and Denny, as you know, I believe, there is no rest for a job well done. There are more communities, more families, and more children in desperate need of personal safety information, and you have proven yourselves to be a willing and able ambassador for child safety. Today the National Center wants to honor and recognize you as our ambassador. As partners who have worked tirelessly with the Take 25 Campaign. But with this commendation of your truly spectacular achievement comes a request for you to do even more. I ask that each of you continue to act as our ambassador for child safety and that you encourage each member of every lodge to do the same. You and I need to be a part of creating safe environments for children by sharing information about Take 25, the services that the National Center offers, and the issues surrounding missing and exploited children. Once you have shared that information, strongly urge every parent, every grandparent and law enforcement officer that you meet to Take 25 minutes out of their day to talk to a child about personal safety as our 5,000 hour challenge that I propose for you today. The 5,000 hour challenge is a new and exciting way for Take 25 and the Masons to grow our partnership in 2012. We are asking parents, grandparents and others to step up and really show their dedication to child safety by pledging 25 minutes during their day to talk about safety. If each of the lodges get a commitment from just 50 people, just 50 people, we will more than reach our goal. And after taking the challenging, trusted adults can use the safety tips and other information that we have available that will assist them in talking with children. It is our hope that as our ambassadors, we can count on you and Masonic Lodges across this country to help us launch this initiative. Use it as a way to get your communities to commit to child safety. I encourage you to take this initiative back to your lodges and challenge your members to raise the most hours. But no matter how many hours of pledge, everyone who participates wins if our children and grandchildren are learning how to keep themselves safe. I want you to take my challenge and prove that people care about child safety. I hope to be invited back next year so I can thank each of you for the job that is well done and I know that you will do. I know we can all agree that keeping children safe is hard work. Just when you think you have one thing down, something new comes along. For example, you teach your kids that if they are ever bullied to tell you, or to tell a teacher. And just when you have and think that is working, something else comes along, you buy a cell phone, or get on the internet and cyber bullying starts. I know all of us have heard of that. Some have been involved

with it. Perhaps you have talked to your kids to be careful about predators when going to and from work. Now these predators are on line soliciting our children and grandchildren. They are able to follow them right into our bedrooms as well as into our living room. So each time that we think that we have one risk under control, another one comes up. So at the National Center we do our best to spot new trends on child exploitation and provide children and parents and communities with the tools they need and that will support them in this effort. But, again, we cannot, and we cannot do it alone. I am asking you again, as our ambassador, to get involved in one of the ways I have mentioned here today, or even contributing financially to the National Center. The Masons are a respected community group, full of leaders who genuinely care for and positively impact your communities. You are in a position to change the way that children and their parents think about child safety. When you look at the threat and violence committed against the children in this country each day, you can see how necessary this work is. So I don't want to lose any momentum on the one that we have already built. Join the Take 25 Campaign. Join the 5,000 hour challenge and share the center's resources with programs and others in your community. Together we can reach every parent, every child, and every community with lifesaving information about child safety. Partner with the National Center, partner with Take 25. We working together can create a safer world for all of God's children, and I ask your support in doing that. Thank you for inviting me. (Applause)

M.W. Dennis Robinson: On behalf of the North American Conference of Grand Masters and MasoniChip Committee, I would like to present to you a special commendation for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for all of your assistance to us in protecting our most important commodity, our children. Thank you very much. (Applause) Mr. Chairman, I would move that the Conference of Grand Masters accept the challenge of the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children to fulfill the 5,000 hour challenge to become Masonic Ambassadors for missing and exploited children. I further move that MasoniChip International be the organization to fulfill this next challenge.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Brethren, the proposal is to allow MasoniChip International to partner with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and thereby adding another facet of child safety in our service to communities. You have heard Grand Master Robinson's proposal, is there's second? Second. All those in favor will signify so by raising their right hands. Thank you, my brothers. Passed.

M.W. Dennis Robinson: I have one more motion, if I may?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Yes.

M.W. Dennis Robinson: I move that the Conference of Grand Masters affirm the following as Directors of MasoniChip International, Dennis Robinson, Post Grand Master, Chip Stamm, Past Grand Master, William Rohrer, Jr., Past Grand Master, Larry Plaskett, Past Grand Master, Tom McCarthy, Past Grand Master, Nick Cichielo, Grand Treasurer of Missouri, Peter Dunlap, Grand Master, Don Newman, Deputy Grand Master of Kansas, Roy Hobbs, Past Grand Master of Ontario and John Hess, Grand Master, Missouri.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Is there a second. Second. All those in favor of the election of those individuals, please indicate by raising their right hand. Looks like they got elected.

M.W. Dennis Robinson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. A couple of announcements, my brothers. The Grand Master's Banquet this evening is going to be in the Grand Ballroom where we were yesterday, but the social hour starts at 5:30 and the dinner is at 6:30. It is a little different than yesterday's program. Of course, at the conclusion of our business session, the Grand Masters Chapter 996 of the National Sojourners will have its annual meeting and we encourage everyone, especially the members of the Grand Masters' Chapter 996 to attend that meeting. Those who are not members, of course, this is your chance to become a member. Is Bill still here. I pitched that for Bill, and hopefully, my brothers, if you don't belong to the Sojourners you will take advantage of the opportunity in order to become a member. My brothers we are shortly going to be going into a portion of the meeting in which only the directors of the association may attend. The directors of the association are the Grand Masters and their alternates. So consequently, I would ask all of you who are not so defined to shortly vacate the room. We hopefully will not be long in our deliberations, but indeed only the Grand Masters or those representing the Grand Masters should be with us shortly. We'll take a moment for those who need to leave to do so.

Thank you my brethren. We did that so the discussion will be limited to those who have direct responsibilities for the association. Brethren, we are now going to take up the matters requested by the Grand Lodge of Indiana. I emphasize that discussions concerning the lawsuit brought by the Grand Encampment and the Grand Priory of Occitania will not be allowed in what we are about to do. By the action of the Conference last year in approving the Commission on Information for Recognition report, they in 2011 in effect granted the Commission authority to consider other Masonic organizations that satisfy standards for recognition. The Grand Lodge of Indiana's request is to reconsider whether or not the Commission is granted that authority and what, if any, action be taken against Commission members. I am going to ask Most Worshipful Brother Gregory Walbridge, Grand Master of Indiana for his comment regarding that issue. Grand Master, you can use the microphone at the side of the table, if you are comfortable using that one. If not please come to the podium.

M.W. Gregory Walbridge: Mr. Chairman, Brother Grand Masters, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I didn't know I was going to be asked to speak, but you nonetheless I will do that. I think our letter stands for itself. We believe that the Committee on Recognition overstepped its purpose. I don't recall, I don't believe that the preface for the Commission was changed, and I believe the only way that it could be changed is by the authority of this group from the Conference of Grand Masters. Because of that, we believe that they overstepped their bounds. In the Grand Secretaries meeting today the

questions were asked and answers were given that every other Grand Lodge at that Commission is always given the opportunity to speak. Grand Encampment folks were not given that opportunity, so not only did we expand the reach of what it is our recognition group does, we did not allow one of the groups involved to even speak, which I find unacceptable and lacking in transparency that any Masonic organization should exhibit.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: You are getting close, Grand Master, so please confine your remarks to whether or not the Commission overstated its authority.

M.W. Gregory Walbridge: We believe it did, and we believe unless this group changes the preface to allow that, then it shouldn't happen, and what happened last year should be stricken.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I am going to invite my brothers, comments from you on the issue. I would like to confine those to two brothers who support the contention of Grand Lodge of Indiana, and two who oppose, and we are going to allow two minutes for each for each individual to express that opinion. So are there any brothers who would like to speak in favor of the proposition of the Grand Lodge of Indiana? Please identify yourself, my brother, when you get to mike.

M.W. Brian Beerman: Most certainly, Grand Master. My name is Brian Beerman. I am the deputy for Minnesota. While I can't address the specific issue that caused this letter, I would say this. Today the Commission for Recognition came up and again explained that their duty was the same, that the Commission neither advises nor recommends that recognition be given to any Grand Lodge, but merely indicates whether or not it considered that a Grand Lodge in question satisfies the standards for recognition as established by this Conference. And yet today, the Commission stood up there and said that they gave us a recommendation as to what they felt we should do with the Grand Lodge Nationale of France. I sat in that meeting for four hours, or whatever it was, it felt like six yesterday, and I listened. And while either side obviously was, I would suspect at least vaguely familiar with this contention that exists there, either side stating its side and one particular jurisdiction of our group standing up and saying we think this is what we should do. Not only that, but today they stood up and were unclear as to whether they felt that the Grand Lodge Nationale of France deserved recognition, and then they proceeded to say we recommend that you do -- I apologize, suspend fraternal relations. Again clearly, in my opinion, overstepping what their mandate was. I think each of us in our own jurisdictions are capable of making a determination, our Brethren are capable of making determinations what we should do with these decisions. We don't need them to come and tell us how we should handle situations regarding the most significant, one of the single most significant things that we offer the Masons of our jurisdictions, and that is the right of visitation. And if we are going to allow them to continually step outside of the bounds of what we have, why do we have the boundaries at all?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, my brother. Your time is up. Thank you. Do we have another brother who would like to speak in favor of the proposition?

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: I would like a point of information. Could we have a point of information.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Yes. Who are you, by the way?

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Grand Master of the Providence of Quebec. My name is Paul Mailhot. I would like a point of information on the recommendation. Could that recommendation, the wording of that recommendation that was given in the report be read, actually be read right now before we continue?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: From today's you are talking about?

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Yes. From the report that is being considered right now.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Which would be last year.

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: I am sorry. I am glad you said that, because I believe the brother from Wisconsin was speaking about the report of today.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Yes. From today.

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Let's hear that.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Regarding France?

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Regarding the recommendation as to GLNF.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Reading from the report. "A difficult situation involving GLNF was reviewed in great detail. Data presented to the commission as well as statements from parties explaining both sides of the issues. It was reported that some 28 regular Grand Lodges, including six in the United States and one in Canada have now suspended fraternal relations of GLNF. Although the GLNF is still considered to be regular, there is question to that meeting the standards for recognition. After much consideration the Commission is of the opinion a reasonable course of action to consider is to suspend fraternal relations with GLNF if and until such time as a resolution to their crisis is achieved. Elections are scheduled in the near the near future. It is hoped that a solution will be forthcoming."

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the way I remembered it, the recommendation was not really a recommendation, it was simply stated that they would feel it would be a reasonable action to be taken, but they did not actually recommend to us a suspension. At least that is the way I took it.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Okay. Well, you heard what I read, my Brethren. Grand Master, just identify yourself, please.

M.W. Rex J. Moats: Grand Masters, my name is Rex Moats, I'm the Grand Master of the state of Nebraska. I rise in support of our brethren from Indiana in his letter that he was written to us all. I might point out today that all of us got a copy of the transcript from last year, and if we followed along as the Committee was giving their purpose today, it read almost verbatim as to what the Committee's mission was last year, with this one distinction that I would like to point out, which I think is very important, because I think it has morphed again from what it was, to what it is, to what it now perhaps will be. But during the session this morning the Committee said the guidelines are used to evaluate the regularity of a Grand Lodge and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration and recognition by our member Grand Lodges. Last year in the transcript the word "recognition" was not there. And so there has been a change from even last year to this year as far as what the purpose of this particular body is. What the Committee is doing. I look at each and every one of us as our own individual and sovereign jurisdictions. We have the ability to decide whether or not we want to recognize an entity or not recognize that. I think that was great foresight by our founders to be able to give us that so that we don't have what in essence could be a federal government springing from a committee based with this body that would tell us who we could and could not recognize. And for that, you know, I appreciate the distinguished Most Worshipful Sir from Indiana in pointing this out. And some may think it is a matter of word smithing. As an attorney, I don't think it is. I think that the scope has changed and certainly would agree that I don't believe that this body has changed, at least formally, the mission of that particular committee. Whether or not we all agree on what the change or the remedy ought to be, is a different question. But at this point in time, that is our position. Thank you.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. Are there any Grand Masters wish to rise to speak in opposition to the proposal?

M.W. Michael Sanders: Michael Sander, Grand Lodge of Washington. You know I have heard the argument that they felt, that it is felt that the Commission on Recognition is trying to tell us what to do, however, in reading the transcript and in hearing the report, I never once heard the Committee say you are directed to recognize or not recognize a body. In all of their reports they say "it is our opinion", or "we recommend or suggest", but there is never where they say that we are directed to do something. So, in that, I believe that the committee operated within their scope, and that the accusations against them are unfounded. And, Brethren, I don't think they should be suspended.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Grand Master.

M.W. Terry Seward: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Grand Masters, first of all -

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Please identify yourself.

M.W. Terry Seward: I am sorry. I am Terry Seward, Grand Master of Illinois, I apologize for that. In reading the transcript we were given, I can see where this body last year decided that they would accept that report. There was some discussion about that before the vote for that. After they accepted it, then they also in a motion to strike part of that report, and that was defeated. So to me, this body last year and the Grand Masters who were here last year agreed to the scope that that Committee took on. I don't consider myself any more wise than those Brethren that were here last year. They were here sitting listening to that report and they made a decision, and I believe that they probably made the right decision. To me, I think we probably should expand the realm of this issue to allow them to look at any body who predicates its membership on affiliation with Masonry. Because as a Grand Master having to make those decisions in our Grand jurisdictions, making those decisions, I want all of the information I can get. That is quite simply what they are doing, is providing us with information. It is not a, you must do this. It is, here is the information. So I would say that we need to simply support what was done last year. Thank you most with Worshipful Sirs.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. So my brothers, the issue before us is, did the Commission last year overstep it's authority? Would that be a good summation, Grand Master Walbridge?

M.W. Gregory Walbridge: Yes.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: So we will need to vote on that proposition. Now, my brothers, with the way this Conference of Grand Masters handles all legislation, is that, it must be approved by two-thirds of the representatives present. We have 61 brothers here. It will take 41 in order to carry an issue. The Conference is, and think that is indicative of the fact that this isn't a Grand Lodge. Okay. So, again, all of those who are in favor of the proposition that the commission had overstepped its authority in 2011 are asked to raise their hands. All those who believe that the commission overstepped its authority please keep your hands up as we get the count, my brothers. Thank you. All of those who do not believe that to be the case, please raise your hands. We want the count, so please keep them up.

M.W. Glenn E. Means: Do we have Grand Masters missing?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Yes, we do. Puerto Rico is missing, South Carolina is missing. The numbers were not adding up to 61, that is why we are having difficulty. There were 17 favor and 42 against. I think it is evident that the proposition did not achieve its two-thirds majority. Had it passed, we would consider the next several steps which would have related to punishment of the commission and the issue associated with the striking of the report, an element of the report. My brothers, I need to express to you a concern that has surfaced as a result of the suit against us, and the problem is this. This is an corporation. This is not a body that passes binding legislation on Grand Lodges. The officers of the association exist to set up the next conference. That's really our only duty. If you read the rules of our corporation you will see that it is what we are supposed to be about.

So we don't have the ability to deal with issues that Grand Masters of jurisdictions have the ability to deal with, by virtue of the sovereignty of each one of the Grand Lodges and codes or constitutions that we function with. We have got a lawsuit pending and I cannot discuss all that is occurring, but it should be obvious to many of you that there are things occurring at this conference relative to the lawsuit. And that's all I am going to say about that. When we have for last drink tonight, the new officers take charge of the conference. All of us, with the exception of Glenn Means, who gets no vote, all of the rest of us are gone. It is entirely likely that the new officers will be faced with issues relative to this suit, and we think, the current officers think that in order to facilitate the ability of those officers to act in the absence of this Conference, that the Conference needs to empower them in some fashion. So I am going to ask the Chair of the Planning Committee to propose something for all of you and then let's discuss it.

M.W. Richard A. Martin: Thank you, Brother Chairman, I think. We would like to propose that when not in session, the Conference of Grand Masters and the Officers so named as the 2013 Conference Officers, namely the Chairman of the Conference, the Vice-Chairman of the Conference, the Planning Committee Chair, the Time and Place Committee Chair and the Executive Secretary Treasurer to act on behalf of the Conference to resolve the, or take measures or to be able to act on behalf of the Conference of Grand Masters in the lawsuit we are in at this time.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Is that clear? I think it was. Essentially the concept would be that the officers of the Conference would be empowered to treat with the attorneys, as appropriate, and should there be settlement issues that are proposed, to be able to act on those proposals. That's what it is about. Now, to get it before the group, we would need a second, and then let's discuss it. Is there a second? Thank you. Now, my brothers, let's talk about it. I saw someone's hand. Please, again, identify yourselves and say what you need to say.

M.W. Monte J. Glover: Mr. Chairman, I am Monte Glover, Grand Master of Hawaii. How is this proposal any different than what is going on now when we are not actually allowed to even discuss this in the group. It is only being discussed, apparently, amongst the committee members that are, you know, selected. So I don't see how it is any different than what has been going on anyway. I have no information, direct information on what is going on with the lawsuit. So to me the motion is moot because we are not given any feedback.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: It is kind of tough to maintain any measure of confidentiality with 61 individuals. And that is part of the answer to that. It would be obvious that a smaller group may be able to be involved in whatever those negotiations are.

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Mr. Chairman, Paul Mailhot, Quebec. Since the officers change once per year, everyone is new every year except for the Executive Secretary. How much sway will his opinion have over the officers since he has the background, he has the knowledge, he has the

continuity. I am a little concerned the only person among them who has the background might have only one in six votes, or one in five votes.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: In response, it would be our hope that we could transition some of those new officers with some information. But they would also have the ability to discuss appropriately with those attorneys representing us.

M.W. Paul M. Leary: Mr. Chairman. Paul Leary, Grand Master of New Hampshire. I think in response to the comment made that it would be a moot point, I don't think is quite correct. I think the problem is the current Chairman has had this year when this suit arrived in his lap back in August, September, he was not able to do anything until we arrived here. So we lost a great deal of time when we might have probably gotten this behind us. All this is doing is empowering the next group of officers to be able to act on your behalf so that if something favorable can be done, it can be done and not have to wait until February of 2013 to be able to dispose of it. So I think that is the consideration that you need to keep in mind. All you are doing is empowering the current officers that will come in in 2013 to be able to act on your behalf and not wait until we arrive back here in 2013. That's an awful lot of time for attorneys to run meters, and they are not inexpensive.

M.W. James T. McWain: James T. McWain from Connecticut. I guess my concern is that as proposed I am not sure if we are empowering a committee to act for us, or individuals of that committee, or multiple individuals of that committee. And that just seems to me to be just a bit nebulous with regard to the empowerment of the members of this Conference.

M.W. Rex J. Moats: Mr. Chairman, Rex Moats, Grand Master of Nebraska. I guess at this point I would -- I don't think any of us are familiar with what is going on, and I realize you have a fine line between what you can discuss and what you can't discuss, but I think there is a point of information, there is a few things that we probably need to know. For example, who is paying for the costs of the defense of this particular matter right now, and who has been making decisions on the litigation strategy to this point in time? Obviously we have had to limp along from when the suit was filed until now, but some direction has been given otherwise we wouldn't have the dismissals that we have had, and I don't know that anyone here has actually had a chance to review any of the litigation. I understand what we are trying to do here, you know, hopefully put a skeleton crew in place to be able to make decisions. The problem is, does that crew then have bylaws at that point amongst themselves to be able to decide if it's okay to settle. Not okay to settle. Lowest ultimate cost. Those types of things. I would be -- I would like to entertain making it a little more concrete and a little less nebulous before I would support that. Thank you.

M.W. Terry Bowman: Terry Bowman, Grand Master of Kentucky. Brother President, Most Worshipful sirs, I think the brothers have made it quite clear what they want to do. We have elected men to take care of this situation. I think we ought to trust them enough to carry that to the

forefront. It is just like we were elected by our craft. They trusted us to carry on the good traditions, honors, values of our Grand Lodges. We have just disposed that upon these gentlemen. I think they should be allowed to do their job, to be trusted. They have already said that they have attorneys involved, and I am sure there are attorneys in here that know that the Brethren will receive good advice on what to do, how to act, and what to say. So, Brethren, you have my support on taking this head-on. It is a shame, you know, that we all have -- it is not a shame that we have taken our obligations. So it is just a shame that some of us have decided not act like Master Masons, to take their egos and move on to other directions and bring their people along with them. So I am sorry for that.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, Grand Master. You are getting close on me.

M.W. Vincent Libone: Brother Chairman, my name is Vincent Libone, I'm the Grand Master of New York. Brother Chairman may I just ask you to ask how many of the Grand Masters that are in this room were at last year's meeting and know what happened? I am not asking anything else. How many? Let's make it five questions. Does anybody know what actually happened? If you do actually know what happened, raise your hand? Other than the state of Washington and other than the state, of other state that had the problem with the Grand Encampment, how many people? Six out of 50, 58, 59? Brother Chairman, how in the world can we come to any kind of determination if they don't know. I know you are straddled and strapped by your wrists.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Grand Master, they do know, they have the transcript.

M.W. Vincent Libone: Yeah, there's a lot of black in it. I thought it was Richard Nixon's papers I was looking at. Other than the fact that when you state that this is a Grand Lodge function for all of the Grand Lodges, should this even have been brought before this body other than the fact except for a point of information that a Grand Lodge did what they did, and that's the determination that should have been asked in the first place. And that's all I am going to say. I just can't understand why we are going round and round and round. We have lawyers in this room. Get them to do the work pro bono. Let them have the responsibility. I mean it. You have one lawyer standing up now, another lawyer just sat down, there's two or three on this side. Have them get involved in this. I thank you but, you know, this is really ridiculous because two Grand Lodges got into a problem, or three Grand Lodges got into a problem. It shouldn't have been brought before anybody. It just have been just a point of information. Thank you.

M.W. Joseph Crociata: Most Worshipfuls, Joe Crociata of the District of Columbia. As one who does sell his life in tenths of an hour, I want to make clear that by standing here I am not volunteering as yet to do anything, which has been proposed by my Grand Master. That having been said, essentially, we are kind of caught in a dilemma. And Grand Master Libone's point is true in that this body, as I understand it right now, being the directors, we are the ones who would normally, if we were

getting together and meeting here every day, would be the ones who would be voting by a two-third majority as to anything that a client would normally have to make a decision on. The difficulty is, we can't do that. Ultimately whatever scriptures, or whatever information is required from the officers, on a practical basis they have to be able to act. There are two levels of action, of course, one would be that they have the ability to act on a litigation basis. That is to make their best judgments regarding litigation strategies, regarding dealing with the lawyers, and seeing if they can get the litigation in a position where either by litigation, or by settlement it can be resolved. There is one other step, and it is my understanding, and this is kind of a point of clarification and I want to make sure that I heard it correctly. It sounds like what we are being requested to do is approve one other step, and that is to take our pen, the settlement pen, the one that whenever if it costs money, and I don't know how that would be done, maybe attaching the fund that the next year's convention is putting together or, you know, or we all contribute, but whatever settlement takes, I believe what is being asked is that we will take that settlement pen and hand it over to the officers of next year so that they will be using their judgment on our behalf for whatever settlement or resolution can be used. That is if it is a declaration as to what the Masonic rights are of one group or another, that is one thing, if its cash, that's another. But the way it has been proposed it sounds as if we are being asked to take that and say, whatever you can agree with, we are ahead of time approving so that you have the ultimate authority, is that correct?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: That's a fair statement.

M.W. Paul H. Mailhot: Mr. Chairman, Paul Mailhot of Quebec, thank you for allowing me to speak a second time. This, of course, is a very special circumstance. One that I don't remember us having to face before and hopefully never will again, and I wonder whether it wouldn't be, under the circumstances, worthy of consideration that in addition to the officers that we have elected, that the officers who were faced with the problem last year, the outgoing officers, whether it wouldn't be worthy of consideration to keep them on as a special committee to continue to handle this situation?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: As a departing officer, I'm almost sorry I called on you, my brother. Any other comments, Grand Masters?

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Brother Chairman, Kevin Todd from Ohio. Just a point of order. The representation that we are talking about for you, is for legal affairs that would come under the jurisdiction of this Association and is in no way binding on any of our Grand jurisdictions. Would that be a fair statement also?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Yes, it is.

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Thank you.

M.W. Randell L. Rogers: Randy Rogers, Grand Master of Oklahoma. I think I have heard a question that has been brought to my attention.

When we talked about empowering the 2013 officers, and I listed them, there was a question does the Executive Secretary have a vote. And when we talked about this earlier we wanted to add him in as a voting member of these 2013 officers because that gives us five. So I think that might have, although it didn't come up, I think we needed to bring that out for clarification to add to this, that would be the five, I did a poor job earlier in listing.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: We are going to address a prior question, Grand Masters.

M.W. Glenn E. Means: I don't remember at this point which Grand Master actually asked question, but the question was as to the jurisdiction or individuals who were sued, and where the funds were? One defendant, is the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Inc., of which you are the directors. Okay. Then there were eight other named individuals, who were either Grand Lodge Officers or Past Grand Lodge Officers, -- now this is at the time the suit was filed last August. They were Santy Lascanto, Grand Master of Washington, Ed Bousquet, Grand Master of Oregon, Ed Miller, Past Grand Master of Washington, Glenn Almy, Grand Master of Oklahoma, David Owen, Grand Secretary of Washington, Ronald Andres, Grand Master of Alabama, Richard Swaney, Grand Master of Illinois, and Donald Yankey, Grand Master of Kentucky. If you count that up, that is six different Grand jurisdictions in addition to the Conference that were named as Defendants. Even though they were named as individuals, they were acting in their capacity as officers of their Grand Lodges, so their Grand Lodge D&O insurance covered them after the deductible. One of these jurisdictions the deductible is a little over \$5,000, another jurisdiction's deductible is \$50,000. So until you hit the deductible, it is coming out of their Grand Lodge pockets, at which time the insurance company will then begin to pay for it. The other side of that is once the insurance companies begin to expend their monies, they get a big say so in what, if any kind of settlement comes out of it. I mean you just have to keep that in the back of your mind as you deliberate here.

M.W. Terry Seward: Most Worshipful Sir, my name is Terry Seward Grand Master of Illinois, and my jurisdiction is the one with the \$50,000 deductible. We have already expended a considerable amount of money on this particular problem. My concern, although I understand exactly where the Conference is in wanting to be able to settle this, but my concern is, what Brother Means just mentioned, is if the Commission or this Conference is going to have a settlement that will solve their problem, then that is going to affect our ability to go from there because our insurance is going to say, it's solved, anything else is yours, which may not solve our problem. So while I understand the situation of wanting to be able to reach an agreement, my concern is, is those of us that are involved with being named in the lawsuit, I consider it not Grand Master Swaney, but Grand Lodge of Illinois having been named in the lawsuit. Somewhere or another we need to have some input in that agreement before it's agreed to. As far as I am concerned, we are the jurisdictions that have the most at stake in that agreement, and I just don't know quite how. I haven't solved it in my own mind yet how that can be done.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir. I am not an attorney, so I am not going to speculate on that, but I suspect that could be done.

M.W. Monte J. Glover: Real quick, Monte Glover, Grand Lodge of Hawaii. Should we give the Committee the power to act on our behalf speaking from a jurisdiction that is not named in the suit, is a little bitty spec of dirt in of the middle of the Pacific.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: But a pretty one and warm.

M.W. Monte J. Glover: With very little funds, what kind of risk is there to our jurisdiction should a negative result come about toward the commission.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: None.

M.W. John W. Hess: Mr. Chairman, John Hess, Grand Master of Missouri. Would it be appropriate to make an amendment to the resolution?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: You can propose that. Yes, sir.

M.W. John W. Hess: I would propose an amendment to the resolution that the named Grand Lodges or their representatives be added to this Committee so they can have input into the discussion and/or possible settlement.

M.W. Jay Adam Pearson: If I understand the motion correctly, the motion is -- the original motion was for the officers for 2013, along with our Executive Secretary be empowered to continue to move this forward. And what the motion now is, the amendment of the motion is to include those respective states so they know what is happening. I apologize, I should identify myself, Jay Pearson, Grand Master of South Carolina. I am a carpenter, and no, I'm not going to build you a house. But I do second the motion.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Okay. So that's been seconded. Any discussion on the amended proposal?

M.W. Paul M. Leary: Mr. Chairman, Paul Leary, Grand Master of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, while I can understand the fears of the other people named in the suit, their interests are going to be strictly their interests, and the officers are of the Conference would be looking out for the interests of the Conference. And the typical thing that you normally would do is make sure in any settlement that there would be a general release that would cover all parties. So I would keep that in mind. And having been sued several times in my years of law enforcement, I have spent many years trying to get out of lawsuits, and get myself severed from it because I am concerned about the interests that I represent. If you are representing the Conference's interests, that is the 64 of us that sit around these tables, not one particular individual. So you need to keep that in mind, that the people that you are adding by this amendment to the Committee, their main goal would be to take care of the needs of their Grand Lodge, and if I was in their

position that would be exactly what I would do also. As a point of information, and I have to direct this toward the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, would be our D&O insurance that we have in place, what is the deductible on that?

M.W. Glenn E. Means: \$2,500.

M.W. Paul M. Leary: \$2,500. Thank you.

M.W. Terry Bowman: Brother President, Terry Bowman, Grand Master of Kentucky. Most Worshipful Sirs, I would like to concur with the brother's last statement.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: The brother who just spoke?

M.W. Terry Bowman: Yes, sir. Our attorneys are already up on this. They are following it very closely. Kentucky is named in, and I consider it Kentucky, it is Most worshipful Past Grand Master Donald Yankey. I would be in favor of Kentucky being allowed to take care of it on our own and not be named in with that motion. I would move that request that this motion be denied.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Okay. Now, my brothers, we are going to vote on the amendment proposal first. Okay? We are going to vote on the proposed amendment first, however, we need to make sure how many of you are there. Okay? So we are about to engage in a challenging exercise. Going to count off, and do it straight that way. Number one. (Counted off 1 thru 57.) 57. Okay. 57 voting members. My Brothers, to pass the amendment will require a two-thirds vote of the 57. All those in favor of the amendment, which would add to the committee, the Grand Lodges that are being separately sued, so to speak. If you are in favor of that, raise your right hand. You got to keep it up now Brothers. All those opposed same sign. Okay. So the Amendment is defeated. The original proposition that the 2013 officers be empowered by this Conference as outlined our discussion to deal with the lawsuit in a manner in which they judge to be in the best interest of this Conference. Fair summary? All of those in favor will signify so by raising your right hand. You got to keep it up, Brothers. I think it is obvious, but I just I want the count for the record. That's all. Any one opposed? I see two. Okay. Therefore, the motion passes and we'll let those 2013 officers know what we have done to them. One of them knows because his name is Leary back there, and he is the Vice-Chair, but the rest of them we will meet with. Jay, good to see you too. We'll certainly meet with them and brief them. My Brothers, we have been dealing with difficult circumstance, one in which we cannot discuss a whole lot of what has going on. But we feel that we need to approach this matter in a way that as much as possible the fraternity will be well served in a very difficult situation. Now, is there any further business to come before this Conference.

M.W. Leon C. Knudsen: Mr. Chairman, Leon Knudsen, from the state of Rhode Island. I think it would be good if we know something like this was coming up, I mean the letter on this stuff was given to us yesterday. I really feel, okay, that something of this importance should

be made available to the Grand Masters who have to act on it in time that they can really study it and think it over. Thank you.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, sir.

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Grand Master, Kevin Todd, Grand Master of Ohio. I have just kind of a quick point of order if it infringes on your discussion, you let me know that. We adopted the report on the Commission on Recognition, and I think from their report they have said their business is to review credentials for Grand Lodges from today, and I think that they left it at that. If that is not true, or if you can't answer that, that's kind of what I am asking is have we in the case of Indiana's letter here, have we -- do we now would have a Commission that reflects more in the first paragraph than the second paragraph of this letter. Thank you.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Are you talking about Indiana's letter?

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Yes. Grand Master, I think the question was, the purpose of the Commission. And from the copy of the report in this case of the lawsuit et cetera. The point I wanted to make was that I think in their report today they didn't address the purpose of other bodies. They addressed their purpose as just Grand Lodges and we adopted that report.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: I hear what you're saying, Grand Master. I don't have a response to that other than, yes, we adopted that report. The question is about the expansion of the scope of the Commission. Without a whole lot of discussion -- I have to be carefull because I don't want to say much with regard to that, except that there is a debate regarding collateral bodies or not collateral bodies. And that's - I'm going to leave it at that, my Brothers. Paul, do you have something?

M.W. Paul M. Leary: I do, Mr. Chairman. I would like to change gears and get onto a much happier topic. I would like to see this Conference go on record and heartily thank the Brethren, the Grand Lodge, and their ladies of the great state of Georgia for the true southern hospitality that they have provided for us for this weekend. It has been outstanding. (Applause)

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Thank you, Paul. I certainly -- we just commented on that, and indeed, Grand Master Moss, and all of the Georgia guys, and ladies who have been working, have set the bar high for future Conferences. I don't know what your experience has been, my Brothers. In the past, I don't remember a general hospitality suite at any of those Conferences. And the number of brothers out there assisting, you know, the guys in the gold collars, certainly were there and helping us wherever you turned. So, Grand Master, thanks. My Brothers, if there is no other business to come before the -- wait a minute. We are going to have an announcement?

M.W. Glenn E. Means: So that I correctly understand, and Miss Fry as well, my understanding of your vote on the question raised by Indiana in

their letter, that the Commission had overstepped its authority, and you are saying, no, it did not. Then am I correct in your saying that it does have that authority, because I will have to let the Commission know what their authority is for the coming years. And I would ask that you clarify that for me, please.

M.W. Kevin B. Todd: Grand Master Kevin Todd from Ohio again. All I am saying is that now it takes me back to my original question, which was if I am not mistaken, because I didn't write it down, I don't have a written report, if I recall correctly, the report from this morning, or earlier today, the Commission stated their purpose as reviewing the credentials of Grand Lodges, they left out the part about other bodies, and they went on with their report. This body here, we have adopted that report. Therefore, in essence, to my way of thinking, I am not a lawyer, but it puts it back where it was. I am sure we'll get opinions there. My opinion is, if your question was, have we endorsed it, it is almost, what I am saying is I think we have endorsed, if you want to call it the old way, not what the subject of the things we can't discuss.

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Brother.

M.W. Joseph Crociata: Joseph Crociata, District of Columbia. I second, first of all, what our Chairman had to say. In that there is debate going on, and that debate centers sometimes around the individual wording of the way the purposes happen to be read in any given year. Sometimes it centers around what the practice of the Commission has been over the years and has been, in my recollection, just about unanimously approved year to year as it goes on. I believe the only thing that we have established by the vote we took today, was precisely that we reject the proposition that that Commission exceeded its authority in doing what they did last year. With respect to whatever implication you want to make for that, that is something that this body neither debated, nor voted on, and I think we just have to leave it where it is.

M.W. John W. Hess: Mr. Chairman, John Hess, Grand Master of Missouri. This is my sixth or seventh Conference I have attended and I seem to remember in the past the Commission has addressed appendant and adopted body organizations in other jurisdictions. And maybe this is not a precedent, not the first time. This is something that has happened before. I can't express exactly when it was. I think in 2009 there was such a determination by the Commission.

M.W. Vincent Libone: Brother Chairman, Vincent Libone, New York. What I would like to find out is, if we have a copy of it, and I know we all have one in our Grand Lodges, each of us. What does the bylaw say about what the duties are of -- I hate to prolong this, but it's been brought up. Now, what is the situation if we wanted to get a definite answer right here and now as to what we want to do about what that bylaw says, and do we have the right as the sitting body right now to do so, or does it have to be brought before the 2013 meeting of the Grand Masters?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Now, Grand Master, I want to make you define what you are talking about. Are you talking about the Commission's authority?

M.W. Vincent Libone: Yes. I am talking about in the bylaws, it says what the object -- I don't have the exact wording with me, purpose of that body is, and it is defined in the bylaws as to what they are allowed to do. And you're saying that visa via the fact that there is a discrepancy between the fact of whether they can or they can't, or where they can go, and what they can do. A number of year ago I remember that the Shrine International, but they weren't called the Shrine International, came before this body and declared war against three Grand Lodges, and nobody decided what should happen then. So what is the point of having a concordant body having a problem now and being defined?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Our Bylaws, Article VI, Section II, Special Committees. The Board of Directors is authorized to create such additional committees as it shall deem reasonable and proper. All of the powers and duties of such committee shall be assigned by the Board. Special committees may be created from time to time to facilitate an effective working relationship with other Masonic organizations including, but not limited to the Information for Recognition Committee, the Masonic Service Association of North America, the George Washington and it goes on. So to facilitate an effective working relationship with other Masonic organizations.

M.W. Vincent Libone: That's all it says?

M.W. Stephen J. Ponzillo: Okay. Everybody understands it. Any other points, my brothers? (No response) Thank you for your forbearance, thank you for your contributions, thank you for doing all that you do for the fraternity. I declare this Conference adjourned at the -- we'll pray, we need to do that -- at the conclusion of the banquet this evening. At the conclusion of the banquet this evening the Conference is adjourned. We are going to call on our Planning Chair for a Dismissal Prayer from this meeting.

M.W. Randell L. Rogers: Stand up, my Brethren. Our dear heavenly Father, we come to you in prayer and thank you for the opportunity for us to meet in fellowship and to renew old acquaintances. We ask that you watch offer us for the remainder of the Conference and guide us home safely to our loved ones. We also ask that you look over our men and women who are in harm's way in our military and we ask that you be with us each in our deliberations to do what is best, and what is right for the craft in our independent jurisdictions. All of this we pray in your Holy Name. Amen. So Mote It Be. (Applause)

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/TREASURER
Fiscal Year April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012

The Conference prepares its statements on the cash basis of accounting. Under this method revenue is recognized when received rather than when earned and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred.

The Conference is exempt from Federal income tax as an exempt organization described in Section 501 (c) (10) of the Internal Revenue Code as of this filing.

Balance April 1, 2011 Checking & Savings		\$89,114.30
 <u>INCOME:</u>		
Grand Lodge Contributions	20,250.00	
Registration Fees	32,368.00	
Conference Income (Banquet/Luncheons)	95,738.00	
Ladies Tours	4,260.00	
Photographs	3,035.00	
Miscellaneous	3,512.13	
Interest	<u>1,168.63</u>	
Sub Total Income		<u>\$160,331.76</u>
TOTAL TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR:		<u>\$249,446.06</u>
 <u>EXPENSES:</u>		
Office Expense	1,606.39	
Postage	721.48	
Printing/Copying	531.80	
Salary	15,000.00	
Telephone/Internet/Website	1,018.16	
2010 Conference Proceedings	1,500.00	
2011 Conference Planning Session	6,651.48	
Audio Visual	5,613.23	
Banquet/Luncheons	96,421.02	
Conference/Hotel	8,069.52	
Photographs	2,895.00	
Ladies Tours	4,260.00	
Insurance	1,789.00	
Legal Fees	1,098.28	
Conference Expenses	<u>2,495.82</u>	
Sub Total Expenses		<u>\$149,671.18</u>
 <u>BANK ACCOUNTS:</u>		
Checking	15,230.94	
Savings	\$84,543.54	<u>\$99,774.48</u>
TOTAL ACCOUNTED FOR:		<u>\$249,446.06</u>

BY-LAWS OF
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA, INC.

ARTICLE I
Purposes of the Corporation

Section 1. Purposes. The corporate purposes are set forth in the Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE II
Members of the Corporation

Section 1. Members. The Members of the corporation shall consist of the fifty (50) Masonic Grand Lodges of the United States, the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico, the ten (10) Grand Lodges of Canada, the York Grand Lodge of Mexico and the American-Canadian Grand Lodge. Additional North American Masonic Grand Lodges applying for membership shall first have been recognized by the majority of Members prior to application and membership acceptance shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the Annual Meeting when membership is proposed.

Section 2. Voting Privileges. The privilege of voting in behalf of any Member of the corporation shall be vested in the Grand Master who shall be serving from time to time pursuant to the lawful succession procedures in effect in each Grand Lodge or by either a Senior elected officer or a Past Grand Master of a Grand Lodge who shall be designated by the Grand Master thereof to sit as a Representative in his place and stead at any meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation.

ARTICLE III
Board of Directors

Section 1. Members. The corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the Grand Masters of the Member Grand Lodges who shall be serving from time to time pursuant to the lawful succession procedures in effect in each Grand Lodge or by a Senior elected officer of a Grand Lodge who shall be designated by the Grand Master thereof to sit as a Representative in his place and stead at any meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation. For the purposes of this Section the certification by the Grand Secretary of any Member Grand Lodge as to the identification of the current Grand Master of that jurisdiction or the designation of any Senior elected officer of a Grand Lodge by the Grand Master thereof to serve as a Representative in his place and stead shall be accepted as conclusive evidence of such person's qualification to attend any meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation.

Section 2. Limitation of Powers. In all events the powers of the Board of Directors shall be subject to all limitations imposed upon the corporation by the Articles of Incorporation and by the laws of both the State of Missouri and the United States of America.

ARTICLE IV Meetings of the Board of Directors

Section 1. Annual Meetings. Annual Meetings of the Board of Directors shall normally be held beginning on the third (3d) Sunday in February of each year at a time and place to be designated by vote of the Board of Directors at its annual meeting which shall have been held in February of the fourth (4th) year prior thereto, so that, by way of example, the annual meeting to be held in 2013 shall be held at the time and place designated by vote of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting held in 2009. The annual meetings to be held in 2009 to 2012, inclusive, shall be held at the times and places which shall have been designated by vote of Conferences at annual meetings which shall have been held prior to the incorporation of this corporation.

If at any annual meeting a Board shall have failed to designate the time and place for an annual meeting to be held four (4) years thereafter or in the event of an emergency requiring a change in the time and place of an annual meeting previously designated by a vote of a Conference held prior to incorporation or at a prior annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Planning Committee which shall be serving at the time of the discovery of such circumstance shall be authorized to designate the time and place of the annual meeting in question.

Section 2. Special Meetings of the Board of Directors. Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time upon the call of the Chairman or, in the event of his absence or disability, the Vice-Chairman, or upon the written request of not less than one-third (1/3) of the Members of the corporation.

Section 3. Description of Meetings. Consistent with the history of the organization any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be known as a Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America. The year and date or dates of any such Conference may be used for further identification purposes in describing any such Conference.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. At least thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed for the annual meeting or for a special meeting of the Board of Directors written notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be mailed by first class United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to each member of the corporation to the attention of the Grand Secretary thereof.

Section 5. Quorum. A quorum of the Board of Directors for the purpose of any meeting shall consist of not less than a majority of the Grand Masters and other authorized Representatives of the Member Grand Lodges described hereinabove in ARTICLE III, Section 1.

Section 6. Agenda for Meetings. The agenda for the annual meeting of the Board shall be established by the Planning Committee, subject to approval by the Board.

Section 7. Additions to Agenda. Any items of business not placed on the agenda for the annual meeting by the Planning Committee may be added, if approved by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the Grand Masters and other authorized Representatives of Member Grand Lodges described hereinabove in ARTICLE III, Section 1, in attendance at the meeting.

Section 8. Minimum Voting Requirements. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws any item of business brought to the floor for vote by the Board of Directors shall be decided by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Grand Masters and other authorized Representatives of Member Grand Lodges having seating privileges at the meeting.

Section 9. Seating Privileges. All Grand Masters of Member Grand Lodges and all other Representatives of the Member Grand Lodges described hereinabove in ARTICLE III, Section 1, shall be accorded seating privileges at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Other Attendees. In addition to Grand Masters and duly authorized Representatives designated by Grand Masters, Deputy Grand Masters, Senior Grand Wardens and Junior Grand Wardens of Member Grand Lodges identified as such by the Grand Masters or by the duly designated Representatives of Member Grand Lodges described hereinabove in ARTICLE III, Section 1, shall be authorized to attend business sessions of the Board of Directors. Attendance by any other persons at a meeting of the Board of Directors or at any meeting of a Committee thereof shall be subject to approval of the Board and on such terms and conditions as it shall direct.

Section 11. Speaking Privileges. Only Grand Masters or duly authorized Representatives of Member Grand Lodges described hereinabove in ARTICLE III, Section 1, shall be authorized to speak at any session of the Board of Directors. Other persons desiring to speak at any meeting of the Board must first obtain permission from their respective Grand Masters or the said authorized Representatives of the Member Grand Lodge.

ARTICLE V Officers and Their Duties

Section 1. Officers. The Officers of the corporation shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Host Grand Master, Executive Secretary and Treasurer. The said officers other than the Host Grand Master shall be elected by the Board of Directors on the first day of each annual meeting of the Board and they shall serve for a term of one (1) year, commencing at

the conclusion of the annual meeting. All officers, except the Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Executive Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer, shall be serving in the position of Grand Master of their respective Grand Lodge jurisdictions at the time of the annual meeting. In the event of a vacancy in one or more of the offices of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Executive Secretary and Treasurer a person may be appointed to fill such office for the balance of the unexpired term by the Planning Committee which shall have been appointed at the preceding annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Chairman. The Chairman, if present, shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. Also, he shall appoint the members of the Nominating Committee, and exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or as authorized by these By-Laws.

Section 3. Vice-Chairman. The Vice-Chairman shall assist the Chairman, if present, at all meetings of the Board of Directors and in the absence of the Chairman he shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. Also, he shall preside as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or as authorized by these By-Laws.

Section 4. Host Grand Master. The Host Grand Master shall be the Grand Master who shall then be serving in that office in the Grand Lodge jurisdiction in which any Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America shall be held. He shall assist the Chairman and other officers in planning and holding any such meeting.

Section 5. Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall attend the meeting of the Board of Directors and record the proceedings thereof as approved in a book prepared for that purpose. Also, he shall attend the meetings of the Planning Committee, Time and Place Committee, and Nominating Committee and assist the other officers and committees in carrying out the business of the corporation and he shall be the custodian of the books and records of the corporation.

Section 6. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of all money and other property belonging to the corporation as to which the Board of Directors shall not have directed other custody. Also, he shall exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may from time to time be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Nothing hereinabove shall be deemed to preclude the naming of one person to fill the offices of Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 8. Upon resolution adopted by the Board of Directors an Assistant Executive Secretary and an Assistant Treasurer, both of which offices may be filled by one person,

may be elected to serve in the event of the absence or disability of the Executive Secretary and the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees. The Board of Directors is authorized to approve the designation of persons to serve on the following Standing Committees:

1. Planning Committee.
2. Time and Place Committee.

Section 2. Special Committees. The Board of Directors is authorized to create such additional Committees as it shall deem reasonable and proper. All of the powers and duties of such Committees shall be assigned by the Board. Special Committees may be created from time to time to facilitate an effective working relationship with other Masonic organizations, including, but not limited to, the Information for Recognition Committee, the Masonic Service Association of North America, the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Association, MasoniChip International, Inc., and the Masonic Renewal Committee.

Section 3. Planning Committee. The Planning Committee, consisting of the Conference Chairman, Conference Vice-Chairman, Host Grand Master, Chairman of Planning Committee and four (4) members shall be authorized to prepare plans for the conduct of each meeting of the Board of Directors, including the agenda for each such meeting.

Section 4. Time and Place Committee. The Time and Place Committee, consisting of the Conference Chairman, Conference Vice-Chairman, Chairman of Time and Place Committee and four (4) members, shall be authorized to receive and consider applications from Member Grand Lodges for the holding of succeeding Conferences of Grand Masters of Masons in North America and to make a recommendation at each annual meeting of the Board of Directors as to the designation of the time and place of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors to be held in the fourth (4th) year thereafter.

Section 5. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, consisting of the Conference Vice-Chairman as Chairman and five (5) members, shall be authorized to recommend to the Board of Directors for its approval the persons to serve on any other Standing Committees of the corporation, as well as the officers of the corporation and the Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

ARTICLE VII
Funds

Section 1. The monies and other assets of the corporation may be deposited in such funds as the Board of Directors shall direct, subject to any restrictions or conditions which may be imposed by action of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII
Fiscal Year

Section 1. The fiscal year shall end on the 31st day of March of each year.

ARTICLE IX
Corporate Seal

Section 1. The corporate seal shall be circular in form and have inscribed around the edge thereof the name of the corporation and in the center thereof the word "Seal."

ARTICLE X
Registered Office

Section 1. The registered office of the corporation may be designated or changed from time to time by vote of the Board of Directors at an annual meeting of the Board. Any change which shall be made subsequent to any annual meeting of the Board shall be subject to approval of the Planning Committee and such approval shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at its next annual meeting. Notice of any change of the registered office shall be furnished to the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri as may be required by law.

ARTICLE XI
Registered Agent

Section 1. The registered agent of the corporation may be designated or changed from time to time by vote of the Board of Directors at an annual meeting of the Board. Any change of agent which shall be made subsequent to any annual meeting of the Board shall be subject to approval of the Planning Committee and such approval shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Directors at its next annual meeting. Notice of any change of the registered agent shall be furnished to the Secretary of State of the State of Missouri as may be required by law.

ARTICLE XII
Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at any annual meeting of the Board, provided that a written statement of any proposed modification of the By-Laws, together with a statement of purpose, shall accompany the notice of any such meeting at which such proposed modification is to be voted upon.

Section 2. The Articles of Incorporation may be altered or amended as authorized by law, provided that a written statement of any proposed modification of the Articles of Incorporation, together with a statement of purpose, shall accompany the notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation at which such proposed modification is to be voted upon.

APPROVED: By unanimous vote February 17, 2009 at the 2009 Conference of the Conference Grand Masters of Masons in North America, Inc.

TABLE NO. I

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Alabama - November, Tuesday after third Monday
Alaska - February, first Thursday
Alberta - June, second Friday
Arizona - June, first Friday and Saturday
Arkansas - February, first Thursday
British Columbia - June, Thursday preceding St. Johns Day
California - October, second Monday
Canada (Ontario) - July, third Wednesday
Colorado - January, fourth Monday
Connecticut - April, first Wednesday
Delaware - October, first Wednesday
District of Columbia - December, second Saturday
Florida - June, to be determined by Grand Master
Georgia - October, fourth Tuesday
Hawaii - April, third Friday and following Saturday
Idaho - September, third Thursday
Illinois - October, Friday after first Tuesday
Indiana - May, third Tuesday
Iowa - September, third Friday
Kansas - March, third Friday
Kentucky - October, third Monday
Louisiana - February, first Monday (subject to change)
Maine - May, first Tuesday
Manitoba - June, first Friday
Maryland - November, Saturday preceding the Third Monday
Massachusetts - December 27th, Installation
(Quarterlies March, June, September, December, second Wednesday)
Mexico (York) - March, second weekend
Michigan - May, fourth Tuesday by statute
Minnesota - March or April, date determined by Corporate Trustees
Mississippi - February, Tuesday after second Monday
Missouri - September, last Monday and following Tuesday
Montana - June, fourth Friday
Nebraska - February, first Friday
Nevada - November, second Monday
Newfoundland-Labrador - November
New Brunswick - May, second Friday
New Hampshire - May, third Saturday
New Jersey - April, first Wednesday after fourth Tuesday
New Mexico - March, third Friday
New York - May, first Tuesday
North Carolina - September, fourth Friday
North Dakota - June, Thursday following second Tuesday
Nova Scotia - June, first Friday
Ohio - October, usually second or third Friday
Oklahoma - November, second Monday
Oregon - June, first Tuesday
Pennsylvania - December 27th
(Quarterlies March, June, September, December, first Wednesday)
Prince Edward Island - June, fourth Saturday
Puerto Rico - April, last Sunday

Quebec - June, first Thursday
Rhode Island - May, third Monday
Saskatchewan - June, third Friday
South Carolina - April, fourth Thursday
South Dakota - June, third Friday
Tennessee - March, fourth Wednesday
Texas - December - first Friday
Utah - fifth Friday of the year
Vermont - June, Wednesday after second Tuesday
Virginia - November, Friday preceding second Monday
Washington - June, second Thursday
West Virginia - October, second Monday
Wisconsin - June, second Monday
Wyoming - August, second Monday

TABLE NO. 2

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATIONS

January-

Utah, fifth Friday of the year
Colorado, fourth Monday
Puerto Rico, last Sunday (quarterly)

February-

Louisiana, first Monday
Alaska, First Thursday
Arkansas, first Thursday
Mississippi, Tuesday after second Monday
Nebraska, first Friday

March-

Pennsylvania, first Wednesday (quarterly)
Massachusetts, second Wednesday (quarterly)
Mexico (York), second weekend
Minnesota, date fixed by Corporate Trustees in either March or April
New Mexico, third Friday
Kansas, third Friday
Tennessee, fourth Wednesday

April-

Connecticut, first Wednesday
Florida, to be determined by Grand Master
Hawaii, third Friday and following Saturday

Minnesota, date fixed by Corporate Trustees in either March or April
New Jersey, first Wednesday after fourth Tuesday
South Carolina, fourth Thursday
Puerto Rico, last Friday to Sunday (annual)

May-

Maine, first Tuesday
New York, first Tuesday
Rhode Island, third Monday
Indiana, third Tuesday
New Hampshire, third Saturday
Michigan, fourth Tuesday
New Brunswick, second Friday

June-

Pennsylvania, first Wednesday (quarterly)
Arizona, first Friday and Saturday
Manitoba, first Friday
Quebec, first Thursday
Nova Scotia, first Friday
South Dakota, third Friday
Wisconsin, second Monday
Alberta, second Friday

Massachusetts, second Wednesday (quarterly)
Vermont, Wednesday after second Tuesday
Oregon, first Tuesday
North Dakota, Thursday following second Tuesday
Washington, second Thursday
Saskatchewan, third Friday
Montana, fourth Friday
Prince Edward Island, fourth Saturday
British Columbia, Thursday before St. Johns Day
Florida, June

July-

Canada (Ontario), third Wednesday
Puerto Rico, last Sunday (quarterly)

August-

Wyoming, second Monday

September-

Pennsylvania, first Wednesday (quarterly)
Massachusetts, second Wednesday (quarterly)
Idaho, third Tuesday
Iowa, third Friday
Missouri, last Monday
North Carolina, fourth Friday

October-

Delaware, first Wednesday
Illinois, Friday after first Tuesday
California, second Monday
West Virginia, second Monday
Kentucky, third Monday
Ohio, usually second or third Friday
Georgia, fourth Tuesday
Puerto Rico, last Sunday (quarterly)

November-

Nevada, second Monday
Oklahoma, second Monday
Virginia, Friday preceding second Monday
Alabama, Tuesday after third Monday
Maryland, Saturday preceding the third Monday
Newfoundland-Labrador

December-

Pennsylvania, first Wednesday (quarterly)
Texas, Thursday preceding first Friday
Massachusetts, second Wednesday (quarterly)
Massachusetts, December 27th (Feast of St. Johns)
District of Columbia, second Saturday
Pennsylvania, December 27th (annual)

**OFFICERS TO SERVE THROUGH
COMPLETION OF THE 2013 CONFERENCE**

Conference Chairman

Walter W. Rogers
Deputy Grand Master, Texas

Conference Vice Chairman

Paul M. Leary
Grand Master, New Hampshire

2013 Conference Committee

Jay Adam Pearson, *Chairman*
Deputy Grand Master, South Carolina

Teko A. Foly
Deputy Grand Master, Maryland

Terry Seward
Deputy Grand Master, Illinois

Glenn R. Trautmann
Deputy Grand Master, New Jersey

Laddy L. Wilson
Deputy Grand Master, Tennessee

Don Newman
Deputy Grand Master, Kansas
Co-Host Grand Master

David L. Ramsey
Deputy Grand Master, Missouri
Co-Host Grand Master

2013 Time and Place Committee

Jorge L. Aladro, *Chairman*
Deputy Grand Master, Florida

Richard J. Stewart
Deputy Grand Master, Massachusetts

James F. Easterling
Deputy Grand Master, Ohio

D. Garry Dowling
Deputy Grand Master, Ontario

Jay W. Smith
Deputy Grand Master, Pennsylvania

Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Glenn E. Means, 2019 NE Avanti Ct., Blue Springs, Missouri 64029-9368
Phone: 816.847.7249
eMail: gmjmeans@sbcglobal.net

FUTURE CONFERENCES

**February 17-19, 2013
Hyatt Regency
Kansas City, Missouri**

**February 16-18, 2014
Marriott Baltimore Waterfront
Baltimore, Maryland**

**February 15-17, 2015
Hyatt Regency Vancouver
Vancouver, British Columbia**

**February 21-23, 2016
Madison Concourse Hotel
Madison Wisconsin**

**February 19-21, 2017
To Be Determined
By the 2013 Conference**

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