

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 107<sup>TH</sup>  
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS  
IN NORTH AMERICA, INC.**



Proceedings Opening session  
Sunday, February 16, 2020 – Tuesday, February 18, 2020  
Louisville Marriott

Conference Chairman: Most Worshipful  
Keith Newton, Grand Master of Ohio

Vice Chairman: Most Worshipful Robert  
Strader, Grand Master of Wisconsin

Executive Secretary/Treasurer:  
Most Worshipful Michael DeWolf, Past Grand  
Master and Grand Secretary of Wisconsin

## Grand Masters of North America



**Top:** Ken Cheel-AB, Dale Morrow-KS, Paul Underwood-TX, Kenneth Clay-NH, Ethan Seaberg-MN, Clay Hamblen-UT, Kenneth Roy, Jr.-IN, Lowell Domier-ND, Steven S.A. Pence-LA, Stuart Corso-VT, Mark Manning – MI, P. Shaun Bradshaw, NC, David Bradley-AK, David Holt-WV, Douglas Jones-VA, Louis Castle-NV, Norman Lyons-MB, Jan Savarino-ACGL.

**Middle:** Bob Peters-OK, Stanton Brown II-MO, Robert Reed-TN, David Cameron-ON, Ron Stites-NE, Kenneth Poyton-RI, Walter Disher, II-SC, John Westerman-FL, Michael Nicholas-DC, Thomas Hamm, II-WY, Charles Wood-WA, Marc David-QC, Joaquin Vega-York Mexico, John Michael Taylor-AL, Johnie Garmon-GA, William Crawford-IA, David Coberly-CO, Michael A. DeWolf-Executive Secretary.

**Front:** William Sardone-NY, Richard Maggio-MA, Gregory Scott-NJ, Harold Ireland-SD, Norman Gutcher-AL, Evan Moody-DE, Ian Murray NL, Geary Laird-KY, Keith Newton-OH & Conference President, Bob Strader-WI, Steven Hall-ID, John Trauner-CA, Lewie Fletcher-MT, Ralph Easley-NM, Stephen Oakley-IL

## Conference Officers



**Top:** Ian Murray-NL – Chairman Planning, Lowell Domier-SD, Chairman Time & Place, Lewie Fletcher-MT-T&P, Stephen Hall-ID-T&P.

**Front:** Robert Strader-WI-Vice Chairman, Geary Laird-KY, Keith Newton-Ohio-Conference Chairman, Michael A. DeWolf-WI – Executive Secretary

## Visiting Foreign Delegations



**Top:** Pasha Behzadi-GLI, Ross Esfandiari-GLI, George Issaians-GLI, Unknown, Igor Krstic RGLS, Mario Perez di Alva-Baja California Mexico, Alexandre Cleven-RGLBelgium, Christian Flores-GO Parana Brazil, Avron Jacobsan-GL South Africa, Dragos Sprinceana-RGL Romania, Jose Humberto Bahia-GO Minas Gerais, Enderson Couto Miranda-GO Minas Gerais, Wallace Paiva Lima-Rio De Janerio.

**Middle:** Mario Sergio Nunes Costa-GO Brazil, Gerard Icart -GLNF, Miguel Palermo-GL Simbolica Paraguay, Hamid Shooshani-GLI, Mario Antonio Villaraus Villegas-Valle de Mexico, Tahir Hasanovic-RGL Serbia, Oliveira Edilson-GL Minas Gerais, Santos Filho Wilson, GL Minas Gerais, Gelson Menegatti Filho-GO Mato Grosso, Cassiano Lhopes Morend-GO Da Bahia, Phelippe Ayslan Fonseca Menegatti-GO Mato Grosso, Farhad Yousefi-GLI, Armindo Azevedo-GL Portugal, Michael A. DeWolf-Executive Secretary.

**Front:** Geary Laird-KY, Piro Dode-Albania, Samuel King-CA Prince Hall, Renalo Parsekian Martins-GO Paulista, Eduardo Dedoff-GL Symbolica Paraguay, Gilberto Lima da Silva-GO de Bahi, Bob Strader-WI, Keith Newton-Ohio-Conference Chairman, Edgar Sanchex-GL Symbolica Paraguay, Fernando Fernandes-GO Paulista, Lukas Rasulic-RGL Serbia, Nikolov-UGLB, Razvan Buzatu-NGL of Romania.

## Senior DeMolays



**Top:** David Coberly-CO, Ronald Eggers, OR, Craig Davis-IA, Michael A. DeWolf – WI, Bruce Bellmore-CT, Richard Schulz-NY, Alan Gordon-DC

**Middle:** John Whitaker-DeMolay, Mark Langis-NH, Wallace Pava Lima-Rio De Janeiro, Renalo Martins – G.O. Pauliste, Wilson Santos Filho-Minas Gerais, Edgar Sanches-Paraguay, Anthony Cucci-MMRI, Allan Casalou-CA

**Front:** Kenneth Poyton-RI, Clay Hamblen-UT, Kenneth Clay-NH, Tyler Moyer-PA, Jared Replogle-DeMolay, Keith Newton-Oh, William Sardone-NY, Norman Gutcher-AK

**Sunday 16 February, 2020, Louisville, Kentucky**

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Most Worshipful brethren, distinguished Masons, ladies, friends, guests one and all. Good morning.

(Good morning.)

This is a great day for Freemasonry in Kentucky and for North America. Isn't it great to be here today?

(Applause.)

My name is Keith Newton, I am currently the Grand Master of the state of Ohio. I am honored to be have the opportunity to serve as your Conference Chairman for the 2020 session of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. At this time, I would like to officially call this 107th Annual Conference of Grand Masters of Masons North America to Order.

We welcome our various delegates and Masonic leaders who have gathered Canada, United States and Mexico. We also acknowledge and welcome the multiple foreign jurisdictions from around the world who have traveled to attend our conference in brotherly love and friendship.

While the values of Freemasonry never change, the ways of embodying and sharing them are constantly being adapted and shaped for the world and the time for which we live. As leaders of this great fraternity, we are afforded this conference platform to renew old friendships and to make new ones. To share our successes and challenges from our own jurisdictions. To learn from each other and see how Freemasonry is being adapted and shaped for the world in which we live today.

May your attendance here at this 107th Grand Master's Conference be instructive, productive and enjoyable. Thanks to the work of our Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Michael DeWolf, and our Planning Committee, you see a full agenda of planning for the next few days. Take full advantage of the agenda items, breakout sessions and social time to make the most of your visit.

These breakout topics were developed from feedback from our

previous conferences and their attendees. They are intended to provide another tool or two for your work in your jurisdiction.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Louisville, Kentucky. How about that gala last night for everyone able to attend,

(Applause.)

We certainly thank our leadership from Kentucky for sharing their great Commonwealth with us. One last note here. Anybody that may need assistance at all during the conference, please see myself or any one of the officers, or stop by the registration table and we will be glad to try to help whatever we can, whatever the problem is for you.

A couple of housekeeping items. This year all attendees must wear their registration badges at all times. They serve as your registration badge, your security badge and tickets for all of your events. You will be scanned to get into all of the events. Please do not be offended if you are questioned about not having a badge.

To assist our reporter, Miss Jill Fry, when you wish to speak, please go to the nearest microphone and state your name and your Grand Jurisdiction. Any committee making a report must present the word copy to Ms. Fry and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Only Grand Masters or duly authorized representatives of the member Grand Lodges, as described in Article 3, Section 1 of the bylaws shall be authorized to speak. At this time I would like to call upon Right Worshipful Brother Archie Smallwood, the Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky to offer our opening prayer.

(Prayer.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: At this time, I would like you to please join me in thanking Ms. Amber Martin for her participation.

(Applause.)

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(Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthems.)

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I would also like to introduce our Sir Knights that presented or colors this morning. Sir Knight Martin ^^ Grand Commander. Sir Knight ^^ Ron Dawson, Division V Commander. Sir Knight ^^ James William Reed, Past Grand Commander. Sir Knight Larry ^^ Heron, John Johnson, and Greg Rocky.

(Applause.)

At this time it is my pleasure to call upon our host, Most Worshipful Brother Geary Laird, Grand Master of Kentucky for his welcome and special introductions.

M.W. GEARY LAIRD: Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right Worshipful Grand Lodge Officers, distinguished guests, my brethren all. Good morning.

(Good morning.)

My name is Geary Laird, Grand Master of Masons in Kentucky. We welcome you to Kentucky, the Blue Grass State. On behalf of the Masons of Kentucky, I would like to welcome our esteemed guests and respective members to Louisville, Kentucky for the 2020 Conference of Grand Masters in North America. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky is honored to host this important conference, enabling us to discuss the many issues facing our great fraternity.

With your presence and participation, we can be assured a successful Conference. I would like to ask all of the members here today that if your travel itinerary changes, please let us know as soon as possible. We hope that you enjoy your time with us here in Louisville, Kentucky. Thank you so.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: At this time I would like to introduce to you our keynote speaker, Brother Mike Berry, Secretary of the Kentucky Cabinet for Tourism, Art and Heritage, and the former CEO of the Kentucky Derby Festival and member of the DeMolay Hall of Fame. Brother Mike Berry.



(Applause.)

BROTHER MIKE BERRY: Good morning everybody.

(Good morning.)

I am going to do this from down here if you don't mind. Also, yesterday I spent my day with a group you may have run into since you got into town called the National Farm Machinery Show, and I was handing out trophies at the Championship Tractor Pull. I want that kind of enthusiasm from this crowd please, that they had yesterday. I know it is a little earlier than they were having to deal with but, again, welcome to Louisville, welcome to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Thank you all for being here and being a part of this celebration.

I would say, protocol having been established, I will just say to all of you welcome. I was asked to do this presentation by one of our Past Grand Masters, our current Grand Treasurer of Kentucky and good friend of mine, Keith Dreier. I sent him a text back after he asked and I said, "Yes." After I told him that he was being really needy, I asked him, I said, "Well, what do you want me to talk about?" Because I can't do this justice, I am going to read his text to you. "I would suggest that you give an overview of our state and the history of its largest event, the Derby, interfaced with your thoughts on how intertwined with Masonic history, including all of our bodies, especially Eastern Star and, of course, describe your new position as Secretary of Tourism, Arts and Heritage."

(Laughter.)

That's right. Somebody said that takes care of the speech. The first two hours will be about that, and after our break I'll come back and I will do a dramatic reading and interpretive dance of Shakespeare's work.

(Laughter.)

All right. So to honor Keith's request, I have given you the titles that I bear. Yes, I am a 32nd Degree KCCH here in Louisville, Kentucky, the Scottish Rite here, and I am also a

member of Shyslee Louise Parkland Lodge Number 951 here. This is due to a consolidation, so we picked up two new names in the consolidation. My father was a Charter member of that lodge. I am also a dual with Federal Number One in the District of Columbia. Because of my involvement in Eastern Star, I spend a lot of time in the District and have some friends there and I dual with that lodge.

For 33 years I worked for the Kentucky Derby Festival, the last 20 of which I was President and CEO. I retired in the beginning of October to spend more time in cold months in Florida and enjoy the spring here in Kentucky. Two weeks into it we had an election, the new governor called and said, "Will you come and be the Secretary of Tourism?" In Kentucky you say, "Yes, governor." So, I came out of retirement to do that, but I am excited about that opportunity.

So, let me tell you a little bit about Kentucky history. Kentucky started as a portion of Virginia. Where is the Virginia delegation? Over here. Okay. We were the western most county of Virginia. We were originally settled by Native Americans and French Settlers, and then in 1792 Kentucky became the 15th state, the first state west of the Allegheny.

We are a Commonwealth, which means united for the common good. Kentucky, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia are the four states in the United States that bear that title.

Some famous Kentucky things are, and not the ones you may have become familiar with like Jim Beem, and Pappy Van Winkle, and those folks. Daniel Boone, who was really credited with helping to found Kentucky because he came through the Cumberland Gap to explore. Henry Clay, who was a three-time presidential candidate, former U.S. Senator, former Speaker of the House, known as, "The Great Compromiser", is thought to be the quintessential Kentucky politician.

Alexander Hamilton, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, obviously President of the United States, the 16th President and he was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky, 70 miles away to the west.

There was another gentleman born named Jefferson Davis. He is the one to become the President of the Confederacy. A little civil war history. Kentucky never succeeded from the Union, but

did have a star on the flag. Historians will tell you we probably got the worst end of the deal because we were occupied during reconstruction, however, we did stay loyal to the union.

Colonel Sanders, Kentucky Fried Chicken. In Corbin, Kentucky he started with his own restaurant, built an empire with some investors and is now one of the most recognizable faces across the globe because of KFC. Bill Monroe, father of Blue Grass Music. Loretta Lynn, first lady of country music. All Kentuckians.

Muhammad Ali, you're maybe two miles from where he was born as Cassius Clay, later became the World Heavyweight Champion. He is probably the most recognized Kentuckian across the globe.

Also, somebody from this day, Jennifer Lawrence, who was also born here in Louisville and is now in Hollywood and makes us all proud.

The Masonic history of Kentucky, we were a part of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and in 1788 they founded a lodge in Kentucky, or chartered a lodge, Lexington Lodge Number 25. The Grand Lodge of Kentucky was born in 1800, that lodge's number was changed to Number 1. Our first Grand Master was William Murray.

I am going to fast forward to the year I was born, 1961, the first Grand Master I ever met in my life was an all inspiring guy who was the police chief in Louisville. His name was Columbus J. Hyde. I wanted to kind of do that little snapshot in time because at that time there were 100,000 Kentucky Masons and 479 lodges. Today our Most Worshipful Geary Laird that you met is our Grand Master and he presides over approximately 38,000 Kentucky Masons in 352 lodges. You get that accurate, because I caught our Grand Secretary on the way in and asked him the numbers, and he said more or less.

The Masonic family is large here in Kentucky. We, of course, have the Scottish Rite with Consistories in Louisville, Lexington, Covington and Madisonville. The York Rite Chapter Council and Commandery. The Shrine Temples in Kentucky, because they're in Louisville, Lexington, Madisonville and has a temple in eastern Kentucky which is in the area of Ashland. We have Amaranth, White Shrine, Daughters of the Nile, the Grotto, and many of the other groups that are in the appendant and

affiliated bodies.

We have youth organizations. We have nine Assemblies of Rainbow for Girls, and I know our Supreme Bethel, Kassie Parrish is here somewhere. There she is back there. Because she texted me and told me to break a leg. Job's Daughters, we have two Bethels of Job's daughter and six DeMolay Chapters.

I am a very proud Past Grand Master of Kentucky serving in 1980-81. And, of course, Eastern Star. Some of you may have caught my title in Eastern Star is Right Worthy Grand Sentinel. In Eastern Star that means that in 2024 to 2027, I will be the Most Worthy Grand Patron of the General Grand Chapter.

In Kentucky there is approximately 9,000 Eastern Star members, and 140 chapters. We support the Eastern Star Home in Louisville, a retirement facility, as well as education and religious leadership training scholarships.

The General Grand Chapter has approximately 335,000 members, and over 4,000 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and 12 other countries. The primary charity of the General Grand Chapter as of the last four years has been service dogs.

If you have been to D.C., you have to go visit the Perry Belmont House. Perry Belmont was an American Congressman who was also involved in the Spanish/American War. In the 1930's he decided he wanted to go back to Rhode Island where he came from. He sold the mansion that sits at 1618 New Hampshire Avenue, the General Grand Chapter, including all of its possessions and furniture inside for \$100,000. Since that time the General Grand Chapter has operated it's offices out of that building and now we are promoting it as a place where people can come and have events. So I would encourage all of you to go for a tour of the Perry Belmont house in D.C. If you have a reason to host a group of people in Washington, it's a beautiful place to do that.

So, of course, I couldn't talk about Masonry in Kentucky if I didn't talk about Rob Morris. Rob Morris was the founder of the Order of the Eastern Star in 1848. He was the Grand Master of Kentucky in 1858 and '59. In 1860 he moved to LaGrange, Kentucky. If you're not from here, if you head toward Cincinnati and got off at about the third exit, about 20 miles

away, you will be in LaGrange, Kentucky. What took him to LaGrange is that at that time the Grand Lodge of Kentucky had a Masonic college there. It lasted until the early 1880's, but Rob Morris was there as its President. He was crowned the Poet Laureate of Masonry in 1884 and he died in 1888. He and his family are buried in the valley of rest in LaGrange, and his home in LaGrange is kept as a memorial to him and to the Order of the Eastern Star and its Grand Chapter of Kentucky. Again, if you get a chance while you're here, it's another historic Masonic related tourism site to go visit.

Talk a little about Kentucky Derby Festival. You may be familiar with the Kentucky Derby, but you may not be familiar with the Derby Festival. It's a non-profit civic celebration founded in 1956, about a seven-million-dollar annual budget. What is exciting about it is 70 events are done in two weeks. As our governor said one time, we are the only place in the world that you can take a two-minute horse race and turn it into a two-week party.

It was founded because the Derby had been going on for about 85 years, but there was no way for the people of Louisville to participate. My grandmother used to tell me stories that what they would do for Derby is go down to 10th and Broadway, which is Union Station, and watch the rich people get off the train that would come into town for Derby because nobody here could afford it.

The Derby Festival was founded in 1956 and there is a quote from, believe it or not, the sports editor of our local newspaper. "Louisville is not the same old tired town it used be, sick and tired of being sick and tired it is spruced up and is yelling for nourishment."

Now the festival consists of 70 events and includes the largest firework show that occurs annually in North America, along with one of the top five air shows in the country, and name sake parade called Pegasus, Pegasus being the horse of victory from Greek Mythology and 68 other events other than those two.

These folks, Muhammad Ali, Loretta Lynn, Diane Sawyer have all been Grand Marshal of the Pegasus Parade. These folks, Jennifer Lawrence, George Clooney, Johnny Depp, all have another thing in common, they have not served as Grand Marshal of the Pegasus

Parade.

Let's talk about the Derby itself. The Derby this year in 2020 will be 146 years old. It is run in Churchill Downs. Has anybody here made the trip to Churchill Downs? Last night doesn't count. There is actually a racetrack called Churchill Downs. They take your real money.

It was patterned off the Epsom Derby in England. It has been run at least since 1931 on the first Saturday in May every year. The largest field was in 1974, there were 23 horses that broke through the gate that year. It looked more like the start of a football game than a horse race. The smallest field was some of the earlier years when only three horses ran in the Derby.

The distance in the very beginning of the first 20 years of the race was a mile and a half. They decided later that was a little too long to ask a horse at that age, the age of three, to run in the spring, early in the year, so they backed it down to a mile and a quarter.

The first running, 1875. It's the oldest continuously held sporting event in the U.S. The winner was Aristides, and was run on May 17th, begin at that distance of a mile and a half, with 10,000 people in attendance and a \$2 bet paid \$6. This last year, anybody remember the Derby this last year? The Derby was run in about two minutes and two seconds, and they finally declared the winner about a half an hour later. The reason for that, only for the second time in the history of the Derby there was a disqualification. The horse Maximum Security actually crossed the finish line first, but it was determined that he had interfered with the other horse so we had our own reality TV episode right here in Louisville that went on for about 30 minutes, and the winner, as it will be listed on everything you see, including the mint julep glasses, is Country House. There was about 150,000 people in attendance and the winner paid \$132.40 on a \$2 bet.

That was the second highest payout in history. So, it is even better than what you all were able to make last night during the exercise that you all went through.

Again, mint juleps are synonymous with the Kentucky Derby. Some of the nicknames are Running for the Roses, you will hear it

called that. You will hear it called the most exciting two minutes in sports. You will also hear it called the fastest two minutes in sports.

There have been 133 colts to win the Derby, two fillies and nine geldings. The reason there are asterisk by the fillies and geldings, fillies and geldings carry different weights. A colt will hold, will carry the most weight. If you're a female horse, a filly, then you're going to carry a little bit less, and if you're a gelding, and I won't go into what a gelding is, you will carry also less weight than a colt will.

The fastest Derby run by a super horse named Secretariat, 59.4. The slowest Derby run was 1908 run in 2 minutes and 15 seconds. They checked, and yes that horse did have all four legs.

The largest attendance, again, 2012 had 165,000. The smallest in 1952, 60,000. People say what's the deal in 1942? It was called the Streetcar Derby because gasoline was being rationed and they encouraged people not to drive to the Derby. It was really a local Derby that year and people only took the Street Car.

Along with the hats -- I understand you all had a hat parade last night. Is that true? Did all of you guys wear hats? Okay.

The payouts, again, the highest being \$184,000, the lowest being \$3.30. Not very good odds. We have had 94 degrees for the Derby, we have had 36 degrees and sleet for the Derby. Again, two disqualifications, Dancer's Image. Dancer's Image, which was a doping disqualification in 1968. It went to court and lasted for three years, then this last year.

So Kentucky is more than the Derby though. I got to tell you two things about it just real quick. Mammoth cave. That's, you know, I looked it up to tell you what city it was, and I can't really say it's a cave city, and I can't really say it's a horse cave. Because it's huge. In fact, Mammoth Cave is the longest cave system in the world, and it's in western Kentucky, midwestern Kentucky. If you get a chance, there's a national park there, and it's a great tour. They recently found a petrified shark head there. How did sharks get into Mammoth Cave? Apparently when the earth was young, this area was all

flooded by the seas and there was sharks swimming around. Either that or high school kids pranked and put the shark head in there, but the scientists believe that it's real.

If you're in Bowling Green? Anybody travel up here by I-65 from the south? Okay. You come through Bowling Green. Stop in Bowling Green, there's a National Corvette Museum. If you like fast cars, the Corvette is only made in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

If you're from Northern Kentucky, if you are going up 75 to 71 from Louisville, you're getting ready to cross into Ohio, into Cincinnati stop in Covington. There's a lot to see up there, including the Cathedral of the Assumption. This basilica has the world's largest hand-made stained-glass window. It's beautiful.

Any basketball fans here? Any Cats fans here? Come on Kentucky people, I know you're out there. In Lexington, Kentucky's second largest city, take 64 and go east, there is the Rupp Arena, which is the home to the eight-time NCAA Women's Basketball champions, Kentucky Wildcats.

Cumberland Gap, that's where Daniel Boone came across and the other settlers that really helped found the country and opened up the Midwest.

Kentucky bourbon. I don't know if you all are familiar with that or not, but Kentucky Bourbon, you can find it all along the Bourbon Trail. That's in Louisville here, it goes to Bardstown, it goes to Lexington, they're even in northern Kentucky and western Kentucky. You will hear bourbon referred to as mother's milk. You will hear bourbon referred to as Nectar of the Gods, or some people just call it the Spirit of Kentucky. Just Jack Daniels is not bourbon. Jack Daniels is sour mash and it comes from Tennessee. Where are the Tennessee people? Okay. Sorry about that.

Most importantly, here in Louisville, 90 percent of the world's disco balls are made.

(Laughter.)

There's a company about 12 blocks from here called Omega National Products. So, if you want to buy a disco ball while



you're in town, give them a call, I'm sure they would open up for you and sell you one.

So, before I let you go and, again, thank you so much for letting me be here today. Thank you for visiting Kentucky and for being a part of our tourism efforts, being part of our Masonic heritage, and for being a part of the Derby experience with your activities last night.

I just wanted to share a little video with you.

(Video played.)

BROTHER MICHAEL BERRY: Kentucky, horse racing, tobacco and bourbon. Have a great day.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you again, Brother Berry, for your presentation. It was very nice. At this time I want to express our sincere appreciation to the brethren that are responsible for this 2020 Conference Session. Now, the Committee Chair will introduce their committee members later during their report. We also want to thank the brethren of Kentucky for their hours of preparation for us to enjoy this great weekend. Thank you.

(Applause.)

I am going to ask all of our past officers of the Conference of Grand Masters in North America to please stand, introduce yourself and give the year that you served.

M.W. JOHN MAXWELL: Past Grand Master, John Maxwell, 2015 Time and Place Chairman.

M.W. DOUG POLICASTRO: Doug Policastro, Past Grand Master of New Jersey, Time and Place 2006.

M.W. JERRY CARVER: Jerry Carver, Chairman 2009.

M.W. THOMAS STURGEON: Tom Sturgeon, Pennsylvania, Conference Chairman 2010.

M.W. JACK MAURER: Jack Maurer, time and Place 2005.

M.W. DALE KINNEY: Dale Kinney, Washington, Chairman Planning Committee 2010.

M.W. RICH MARTIN: Rich Martin, I was Vice-President in 2012.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you, brethren, all for your past service to the Conference. We certainly appreciate your commitment and dedication to Masonry throughout North America.

(Applause.)

I note, brethren, for all who are interested in attending the 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock breakout session, it is close to the hour. We have a breakout, Guarding the West Gate, by Most Worshipful Brother Mark Manning. That will be in Salon 1.

The Great Carnac Foretells the Future of Masonic Membership, that will be my Illustrious Brother Brent Morris in Salon 2.

So if you wanted to make your way to those Salons to begin at 10 o'clock. A couple more announcements here. The Time and Place will meet to receive bids for hosting the 2024 Session. Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Lowell Domier, Grand Master of North Dakota will call that to order Monday at 3:30 and work until 5:00 in the Grandstand Room. They will prepare recommendations to report later in the Conference.

Brethren, we have a list of members that are representing in their jurisdictions, Right Worshipful Brother Boyd Robertson from Arizona is representing Grand Master Greg A. Vasquez.

Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Steven Petri, Connecticut is representing Grand Master Melvin Johnson.

I understand that Maine, our Grand Master from Maine is not present with us. Who is representing from Maine?

M.W. RICHARD NADEAU: Richard Nadeau.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Richard Nadeau representing from Maine. Is he the Deputy Grand Master?

M.W. RICHARD NADEAU: Yes.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Are there any other jurisdictions not represented by their Grand Master?

M.W. MARLIN MILLS: Sir, I'm Marlin Mills representing Richard Nagle, Grand Master in Maryland.

M.W. RON YATES: British Columbia and Yukon, Past Grand Master Ron Yates for our Grand Master.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Brethren, you have heard the reading. We have representatives from Arizona, Connecticut, Richard Nadeau of Maine, and Maryland and British Columbia. We need to have a Motion to have them represent their Grand Masters at the table this weekend. I have a motion. Do I have a second? Second. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Any opposed? Motion carried. Thank you, Brethren.

Now we can begin our Executive Session. I would like to begin by calling on our Chairman of our Planning Committee, Most Worshipful Brother Ian Murray, Grand Master of Newfoundland and Labrador for his report.

M.W. IAN MURRAY: Grand Masters, Brethren all, good morning.

(Good morning.)

I didn't find out until yesterday I was expected to give a report, which sounds very Masonic of me. Then I wondered how do you report on something that hasn't happened yet. So I thought I'd do just what I normally do, I'm just going to get up and speak, tell you here is what I think, here is what I observe and here is what I recommend.

First I want to thank the committee that nominated me last year. It eludes my intellect how they can ask a Grand Master from the second smallest Grand Lodge in Canada, that is as far east in North America as you can possibly get. Six miles due east of my home, if you put your toe into the salt water and start walking, you will come out somewhere in England.

Here in Kentucky you admire your ingenuity and your manufacturing in preparing your bourbon and we are more basic,

we just like good old mother rum. Our biggest concern was not about the snow and where to put it, it was if we run out of rum before God decided to bring spring back to our island again.

I want to thank Most Worshipful Brother Mark Austin; Most Worshipful Brother David Cameron; and Most Worshipful Brother Ron Eggers who served on the Planning Committee with me. But more especially I want to thank Most Worshipful Brother Michael DeWolf our Executive Secretary. Quite frankly, if it wasn't for his glue and Scotch Tape, all of the things that we did, and putting them together in a cohesive format, we wouldn't have arrived where we have.

Brethren, when we took over the planning, we didn't know quite where to start. In line with that, I promise to meet with the Planning Committee Chair for the 2021 Conference, that I will prepare written notes and send it to him, to his Committee so these advise him as to where we left off, hoping they can pick up from there.

Planning a conference for this many Grand Lodges is not an easy task because we have so many diverse interests. What we did, is we took the questionnaires that have been sent out by the Executive Secretary in the previous two years, and we tried to bring them into a cohesive spreadsheet to give us context.

I can tell you, as I worked intently on that, that was very frustrating. Brethren, at some point or another we all took an oath to do what we could for our loving craft. I want to remind you of that oath. You will be getting questionnaires based on this years Conference. Please take the time to complete them. Yes or no answers most of the time are not the right answers that we need to build and plan. To say that everything went fine or everything was terrible, again, is not the right answer. We need details. If when filling out the questionnaire -- everybody should receive one, certainly the ones who are attending the breakout sessions.

If you have ideas good or bad, you have comments good or bad please put them in. We are all mostly adults. We should be used to constructive criticism and there is nothing wrong with constructive criticism. As long as it is constructive, even if it's negative, it can still be constructive. Please take the time to input. What you input, what you send back is how future

conferences will be planned.

By the way, we took all of the answers, we broke out the ones that were of value, good or bad, and we talked about them and we kept pressing down, and compressed them down, as you will see, the breakout sessions for today, tomorrow and Tuesday. Something that we were quite pleased with, there is a Breakout Session for the Spanish speaking delegates. There is also one for Canadian delegates because we think the Canadian is a distinct language and society on its own. I come from the Grand Lodge, we all have another language called Newfanees. If you ever want to challenge us, bring a bottle of rum, give me a call and I will come up and give you the test. First will be dispose of the bottle of rum.

So, brethren, it's up to you to determine the successful paths that would be followed in future conferences. This conference has already been planned. It will be whatever it is. We call it read it and weep. But the conference for next year and ensuing years will be determined by the input that you put in and the feedback that you provide. So when you provide it, our Grand Lodges are spending a bunch of money to attend this conference. Let us provide value for future brethren. Again, I want to thank the conference committee for -- I want to thank the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. We didn't stroll in until about 2:30 Friday morning. There were two brethren there. Whether they had a penance there at 2:30 or not, I didn't ask. I don't think I wanted the real answer. Did they ever look after us. Grand Master, I would extend my personal thanks to everybody here. What a fantastic job by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and a true showing of brotherly love.

Brethren, is there anything I can do during this conference to help you, and to the Planning Committee, as I already mentioned for the year 2021, just have to reach out, let me know. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been an education. It has been a pleasure to be here with you here this morning. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you to all of the brethren who served on the Planning Committee as well. Do we have a motion to accept the report from the Planning Committee? Motion. Second? Second. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Any opposed? Report is adopted.

At this time I would like to introduce our Executive Secretary, Most Worshipful Michael A. DeWolf, currently the Grand Secretary and Past Grand Master of Wisconsin.

M.W. MICHAEL A. DEWOLF: Good morning, brethren. Most of you that know me, know that I don't usually read a report, but this time since it is formal, I am going to do that.

To the members of 107th Annual Communication of the Conference of Grand Masters, it has been two years since you elected me to the office of Executive Secretary and Treasurer of this Conference. Time has gone fast, we have made a lot of progress. Permit me a short recap of activities and progress over this past year.

I am extremely pleased to report to you that after several years of declining attendance, that this year for the second consecutive year we have had a substantial increase in Conference presence and attendance. This year as of this morning we had 915 reservations. That's incredible. In addition, our financial outlook has substantially improved, financially we are in the black for the first time in many years after doing the Conference. I will continue to work to improve the communications and transparency. Constant contact is used to send frequent messages and reminders. Our website includes copies of our 990 Forms, proceedings and other important publications and events. You can now register for the Conference online. We have set up credit card payments and we can drill down on our event to get more information than we have ever been able to give in the past. I was a strong proponent of working smarter and utilizing modern tools and technologies to improve communication and to instill convenience for everyone.

Last year we started using Grenadine software to help plan and manage this event. Grenadine has proved to be a responsive company and the software allows us to register online, to accept credit card payments, and to maintain and access or data in all of our events.

Having good data that is easily accessible helps us improve the event in addition to helping us control our costs. This past year we worked with Grenadine to improve and update the software. The speed and ease of ticketing and registration is one very obvious benefit of the system, and I trust something you all have noticed and appreciated.

Brother Ben Franklin said, "Time is money", and this past year we were able to save a little bit of both using WebEx to communicate in our conferencing and our preplanning meetings, thereby saving numerous travel hours and thousands of dollars. We have successfully transitioned from the old checks in the mail system, and a cash handling system to process, that accept credit cards and electronic payments and registrations. This year we also instituted a new accounting system to manage funds. Switching from QuickBooks to Wave Accounting Software. Wave has proved to be much easier to use.

Now, let's take a look at the future. We know that we will be in Seattle next year and Milwaukee in 2022, and Arlington, Virginia in 2023. I encourage the Grand Lodges to put in a bid to host this great event.

I will tell you it does take hard work and it takes coordination. But at the same time it brings the Masons of your state together and instills pride. It's a great honor to host the Masonic leaders from around the world and to showboat Masonry in your jurisdiction. It provides your constituents a unique opportunity to host and network with Masonic leaders from all around the world.

We look forward to Seattle next year. We have a great planning and host committee and they are promising nice weather. I remain concerned with the contract for the site four years ago, I talked about this in the past, with the hotel in Seattle. My concern is a very high minimum for food and beverage in light of the lack of concessions that we would normally get with the contract of our size.

I will continue to negotiate with them but I do ask that you all make an extra effort next year to attend dinners and consider hosting other events at the host hotel.

My thanks to Most Worshipful Keith Newton, Grand Master of Ohio for his contributions last year, to the Planning, Time and Place and the Nomination Committee members, and all of the other officers of this 107th Conference. Our sincere appreciation goes to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky and the nearly 100 Kentucky Masons who came up in force to welcome and entertain us. You did a wonderful job. Thank you, Grand Master.

Thanks to all of the sponsors and a very special thanks to the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, and the MMRL for their generous financial support this year. To all of our ladies, and my Lady Annie, to Most Worshipful Arby Humphrey, Past Grand Master of Wisconsin and his lady Cindy. Thank you for your ongoing assistance and support. To Most Worshipful Brother Robert Strader, Grand Master of Wisconsin for his support, and that of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin for allowing the Conference to headquarter in the Wisconsin Grand Masonic Center.

Finally, thank you to each and every one of you for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of this great Masonic organization, I am truly honored. Brother Chairman, I move that this report be accepted and spread upon the minutes of this Conference.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: It has been moved to receive the report of our Executive Secretary. Do we have a second? Second. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Aye. Any opposed? None. Report adopted.

At this time I would like to introduce Most Worshipful Brother Robert Strader for his report from the Nominations Committee.

M.W. ROBERT STRADER: Protocol having been established. Good morning.

(Good morning.)

First, it is quite an honor to have been voted as vice-Chairman of the Conference, which brings along with it the role of the Nominating Committee.

I want to bring you a welcome from the State of Wisconsin, and from my home in Milwaukee, the home of beer, brats, bowling and brotherhood.



As Chairman of the Committee, I first want to recognize the other members of the committee: Most Worshipful Brother Keith W. Newton, Grand Master of Ohio. First I want to say, considering this the grand ball of the Midwest. Most Worshipful Brother Mark A. Manning, Grand Master of Michigan; Most Worshipful Brother Kenneth Roy, Jr., Grand Master of Indiana; Most Worshipful Brother William R. Crawford, Grand Master of Iowa, and Most Worshipful Brother Ethan A. Seaburg, Grand Master of Minnesota.

Prior to our coming to Louisville, a survey of information submitted to the Executive Secretary by those who would be sitting as Grand Masters at the time of the 2021 Conference were reviewed. Your nominating committee submits the recommendations to serve as officers and committee members for the 2021 Conference of Grand Masters.

Let me add lib a little bit here. I said of the survey which we received, and it was really a poor receiving. So I would encourage all of you Deputy Grand Masters, if you want to be involved next year and be contacted by the Nominating Committee, make sure you get those surveys. I understand they go to the Grand Secretaries, and most of the time our Grand Secretaries are busy and they may not get those out to all of the officers. So if you don't get that survey, and you want to be involved, go talk to your Grand Secretary after this conference.

For Conference Chairman, 2021, Right Worshipful Brother Dan Lawes, Deputy Grand Master of Utah. For Conference Vice-Chairman, Most Worshipful Brother Walter Disher, Grand Master of South Carolina; for Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Most Worshipful Brother Michael A. DeWolf, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Wisconsin.

For the Planning Committee Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother Robert Monacelli, Deputy Grand Master of New Jersey. As members of the Planning Committee, Right Worshipful Brother Craig Maison, Deputy Grand Master of Michigan; Right Worshipful Brother James Golladay, Jr., Deputy Grand Master of Virginia; Right Worshipful Brother Chris J. Coffman, Deputy Grand Master of Washington, Right Worshipful Brother Charles Mixon, Deputy Grand Master of Tennessee; Right Worshipful Brother Gary Kauffman, Deputy Grand Master of Rhode Island.

For Time and Place Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother Ken Gorgen, Deputy Grand Master of Wisconsin. Members of the Time and Place Committee, Most Worshipful Brother Stephen Oakley, Grand Master of Illinois; Right Worshipful Brother David Wicker, Jr., Grand Master of North Carolina; Right Worshipful Brother Richard Kessler, Deputy Grand Master of New York; Right Worshipful Brother Robert Davis, Deputy Grand Master of Oklahoma.

Respectfully submitted, Robert C. Strader, Conference Vice-Chair and Nominating Chair.

I offer this report be accepted and spread across the minutes.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: The report has been read. Is there a motion to accept? Motion to accept. Do I have a second? Second. To receive the report of the Nominating Committee. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Report is adopted.

At this time I would like to ask if there are any additional nominations for any of the offices for the 2021 Committee? Are there any additional nominations for any of the offices for the 2021 Committee? Are there any additional nominations for any of the offices of the 2021 Committee?

Hearing none, nominations are closed. We have an unopposed slate, so I would like to entertain a motion to cast the unanimous ballot in favor of all unopposed nominations. So moved. Second. Moved and seconded. Please signify your consent by saying Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Motion carries. Officers have been elected.

At this time I would like to call on Right Worshipful Brother Dan Lawes. Do you accept the Chairman office for the 2021 Committee.

M.W. DAN LAWES: I will, Most Worshipful. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Most Worshipful Brother Walter Disher, Vice-Chairman, do you accept?

M.W. WALTER DISHER: I accept, Grand Master. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Most Worshipful Brother Michael DeWolf, do you accept as Executive Secretary Treasurer?

M.W. MICHAEL DEWOLF: I do, Most Worshipful. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Robert Monacelli, do you accept the Chair of our Planning Committee?

M.W. ROBERT MONACELLI: I accept. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: For members of our Planning Committee, Right Worshipful Craig Maison, do you accept? Most Worshipful Robert Strader, does Brother Craig Maison accept?

M.W. ROBERT STRADER: Yes. He accepts.

(Laughter.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Brother James Golladay, do you accept?

M.W. JAMES GOLLADAY, JR.: I do, Most Worshipful. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Chris J. Coffman, do you accept?

M.W. CHRIS J. COFFMAN: I accept.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you. Right Worshipful Brother Charles Mixon, do you accept?

UNIDENTIFIED: Most Worshipful, I accept for him.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Gary Kauffman, do you accept?

UNIDENTIFIED: I accept for him.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Ken Gorgen, do you accept the Chairman of Time and Place Committee?

UNIDENTIFIED: I will speak for him. He will accept.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Serving on the Time and Place Committee, Most Worshipful Brother Stephen Oakley, do you accept?

M.W. STEPHEN OAKLEY: I accept.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you. Right Worshipful Brother R. David Wicker, Jr., do you accept?

UNIDENTIFIED: I accept for him.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Richard Kessler, do you accept?

UNIDENTIFIED: I guarantee you he will.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Right Worshipful Brother Robert Davis, do you accept?

UNIDENTIFIED: I accept for him.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you to all of those brethren for their commitment to the upcoming Conference in just under one year.

The first duty of the 2021 Officers, which include the Chair and Vice-Chair, our Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Chairman of the Planning Committee, and planning members, as well as Time and Place Chair and their members, is to be present at the initial meeting which will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday in the filly Room. We also welcome representatives of the 2021 Washington Host Committee to attend as well.

So at this time a special thanks to our Nominating Committee for their hard work. They certainly are difficult tasks. We thank them for their efforts.

(Applause.)

Is a representative from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories present? I ask someone to step outside the door right there and see if he is available at the booth.

As he makes his way up here, I would like to thank him for providing these lanyards for us to wear for this weekend from the Masonic Medical Research Laboratories.

(Applause.)

BROTHER CUCCI: Good morning.

(Good morning.)

Most Worshipful Chairman, Most Worshipful DeWolf, Conference Secretary, Most Worshipful Brethren all, brothers, ladies, guests, friends. Good morning.

My name is Brother Anthony Cucci. I serve as the Director of Development at your Masonic Medical Research Institute. The reason I say, "Your" is because though we are located in the Jurisdiction of New York, we are amity of every jurisdiction in this building. We have strong ties with many other jurisdictions and we are proud of that.

A little bit about myself. I am a proud Senior DeMolay, and I am Past Master Counselor, Past Jurisdictional Officer. I was raised a Sublime Master Mason eight years ago, and I am also proud to say I am Nobel of the Shrine for the last eight years as well.

Though I do not come from a Masonic family myself, I have enough people in my lodge, and my Shrine and my DeMolay Chapter to have 10 families. I have such a bond with them, and my biological family also has a bond with them as well. I am very proud to be here today.

So, Masonic Medical Research Institute. We are proud to be the only biomedical research entity in the world that was founded and operated by Freemasons. Let that sink in for a second. Our Masonic ideals of helping all of humanity, not only ourselves, not only our brothers and sisters, is conducted in our science every day. We are proud of that.

Masonic Medical Research Institute. What you see above us is our new mission statement and the two images are of Doctor Khanh, who is one of our Post Doctoral Fellows and his laboratory assistant. So Masonic Medical Research Institute not only fosters new science, but also breeds the next generation of clinical researchers as well.

As I said, Masonic Medical Research Institute is located on the beautiful Masonic Care Community Campus in Utica, New York. Though we are both, in my opinion, the top two jewels of the Grand Lodge of New York, we are two separate entities, though we do share a campus. We are two separate 501(c)3 not for profits as well.

So, where did this all begin? Our three pillars. In the middle is the Most Worshipful Gay Brown, during his administration as Grand Master of Grand Loge of New York he decided to create a foundation to fund the study of the rheumatic diseases. Rheumatic fever was the big thing in the medical community at that time.

He appointed the gentleman, Most Raymond C. Ellis, the President of that Foundation. A little over 10 years later, when Raymond Ellis became the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, he said, you know, why don't we build our own brick

and mortar facility. Why don't we conduct the research? Why don't we study what we would like to. That is exactly what we did. We built the buildings. The gentleman on the bottom is Right Worshipful Gordan K. Moe. He was our first Director of

Research and he is also a Grand Master. These three men are our three pillars and we would not be here today if it was not for them and not for philanthropic endeavors of our fraternity.

So where does our money come from today? We have three principal avenues of resources. First of all, way to the left is Development and Fund Raising. That's me. Philanthropic endeavors, fraternal relations, fraternal affiliations gets me support. That is our bread and butter and is our primary that we are most proud of.

On the bottom is the state of New York and the perforated line, I am sure it will come to a surprise to many of you that doing business with the state of New York is a little bit of give and take. We have to raise "X" amount of money, or bring in "X" amount of employees to get "X" amount of funding.

All the way to the right you see the science and NIH. NIH is the National Institute of Health. That is where our scientists get their funding from when it comes to research grants. They do their science, all of their experiments, they send data to the National Institute of Health, say this is where we believe that we are going, and they get grants and it goes directly to the scientists and their labs. The NIH grants do not come to operation expenses of the administration of the institute. It is solely for the labs and the scientists.

We have a couple different giving societies as well. We have our Golden Heart Society, donation \$2,500 up to \$5,000. We have the Vine of Life, which was actually Most Worshipful Roswell T. Swits Charity Project when he was the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York in 1983.

He decided that he wanted to put the structure inside of the Masonic Medical Research Institute to show good faith and the large gifts of the donors. These are for \$5,000 or more. You get your name on a leaf, you get a statute, special presentation. I am willing to travel anywhere to give a lodge presentation, a talk anywhere at all. I don't have my passport,

but I'm working on it.

In the center we have the Cornerstone Society. Just as we all know, you don't have a cornerstone, you don't have a foundation. Our Cornerstone Society is for those who have left us legacy gifts. A legacy gift shows that you have commitment and that you truly believe in the entity.

So where are we now? Masonic Medical Research Institute has been around for a little over 60 years, as I said from the dates. On the left-hand side you will see the area of research that started at MMRI. Primarily cardiovascular, electrophysiology and ailments of the heart.

A couple of years ago we got our new Director of Research, Dr. Maria Kontaridis who will be speaking to the ladies on Tuesday during the ladies' program. She is dynamic, she is full of energy, full of life and she has completely revolutionized the Masonic Medical Research Institute.

We still do cardiovascular research, but we are now also in autoimmunity such as Lupus. We are in cognitive disorders such as dementia, Alzheimer's, autism. We have expanded into obesity, diabetes and metabolism. We also have pulmonary embolisms. Autism has its own lab itself.

So how do we do all of this science? What is the technology, the method that is used to conduct the cutting edge research that we do? First, is the third floor of our lab is a complete, full barrier clean room. Though this is not a picture of our clean room, ours is very similar. What I mean by a full barrier clean room is that once you are in, you are in. Particles that are in the room, are in the room. It is air sealed, Tyvek suits, gowned up. Anybody that works in the medical field knows about contact precaution. It's that times ten. Once you are in the room, you finish your science, it takes you about a half an hour to get ready to go in, about a half an hour to decontaminate to come out. The reason for that is we keep very sensitive tissue samples in there.

We also have about 2,000 mice up on the third floor. These are not field mice. I will get into that a little more. These are intellectual property. So to keep everything completely sterile, you have no cross contamination, you must go through



these procedures.

So nanotechnology, microimaging and targeted drug delivery systems. The next slide, we use this technology to image and track the cellular level. So we're not just putting dyes in, watching the screen and seeing how the dyes go through. We are actually going down to the cellular level to track how the different drugs and chemicals are interacting with the mice and other specimens that we have at the institute.

Through this technology we are able to get a precise image of where the drugs are being delivered, how they are being delivered, how effectively they are being delivered.

This slide you will see Dr. Chase Kessinger sitting down, the man in the rear is Dr. Jason McCarthy and the gentleman in the front is from the copy who is explaining how to use one of our microscopy or microimaging equipment.

This slide demonstrates the nanotechnology that I was explaining. The image that you see before you is one of our intellectual property mice. The three smaller dots you see in the upper part of the chest cavity is where the drug that is being targeted should have been delivered. Now, this wasn't one of our drug delivery systems. This was something you would find commonly over-the-counter or like a heart pill. So take a pill for your heart, we have all heard of side effects. What we call off target effects. It actually, the drug that was used, ended up in kidneys and the liver. Part of our nanotechnology we are trying to reverse that completely. Our goal is to have zero off target effects by using targeted drug delivery vehicles. We are able to isolate the effective cellular area and target just that. So you don't have to take a pill that is for your heart that 90 percent of it goes to your kidneys, your liver, and you have off target effects, you get sick. We are trying to eliminate that completely.

These, again, are not field mice. These are intellectual property of the researchers and their labs and last I knew the most expensive mouse that we had, believe it or not, I am not making this up, was \$22,000. These mice are predisposed to genetic ailments, lupus, autoimmunity, congestive heart failure, obesity, diabetes. We are able to use these models to have a

direct way to study the effected areas and diseases.

So genetic sequencing and Crispr/Cas9 before? Anybody ever heard of genetic sequencing and Crispr/Cas9 before? Couple people. Who has heard of 23 and Me or Ancestry.com? They use genetic sequencing. So, your genetic code. You send in your sample, you swab your saliva or something, take a little bit of a blood sample, you send it in. The way they are able to tell you your ancestry is through your genetic code. Different areas of the world have different biomarkers where they can tell where your genetic code is from. The way it is sequenced also tells that. So they say you're 50 percent Italian and 10 percent Irish, 30 percent this, 30 percent that. We take it a step further. We use Crispr/Cas9 technology.

So the slide in front of you shows that the DNA strand, if you straighten it out it kind of looks like a zipper. We take specific technologies and unzip that DNA strand. We can take a section of genetic material out, analyze it, work on it and put it back in. Now, we are not rewriting the genetic code, nor are we genetically modifying an organism like you think GMO foods or anything like that. We are doing it to take it out to isolate the affected genetic area, cellular area to get the most direct

and authentic information possible. This technology will lead to revolutions in our healthcare system. We are hoping to be the first ones to bring it to clinicians.

iPS stem cells. First and foremost, I cannot stress enough that these are not embryonic stem cells. Embryonic stem cells are illegal in the United States. We are in full compliance with all of the laws. What these are pluripotent stem cells, or manufactured multiple use stem cells.

iPS stem cells are used by taking a sample from a patient, such as a cotton swab of saliva, most commonly a small blood sample. You take those cells in a petri dish and we introduce them to iPS stem cells. iPS stem cells are derived from an embryotic state, they are not embryotic as in an embryo. They are an embryotic state. When introduced to patient's cells, we are able to grow a specific part of the organ. So if we have samples, we can grow brain organiods, we can grow small sections of the heart, we can grow skin tissue, we can grow liver tissue. I'm not saying we can completely grow a beating heart or an

operating kidney. If we did, we'd probably have about 300 different MMRI's with the revenue it would bring in, but we are going to get there one day.

So with this science we are actually able to not just take a genetic sample from a kidney where we didn't know where it came from, and we don't know how long it's been in preservation. This is the most direct way to study this.

Where to use it the most, in the next few couple slides is your autism and neurocognitive disorder research. The way that we grow the brain organoids gives us a very direct path to ASD, or Autism Spectrum Disorder and the different functions of the brain as well.

So, who does all of this research? These are our facility members. These are primary investigators. By primary investigators, I mean they are kind of like the captain of the team. They may not be the one that's always down in the dirt doing all of the lab research, or working with chemicals, working with the chemistry, but they are the ones who guide the ship, make sure every check point is hit, make sure we are going the way that we should be going in a positive and progressive way.

We have Dr. Maria Kontaridis, who is our Director of Research. She looks at autoimmunity, cardiovascular health and she actually has all of our lupus research.

Next to her is Dr. Zhiqiang Lin. Next to him is Dr. Jason McCarthy, who is our chemist. He is the man. He ties everything together. All different areas of research go through him. He is the one that is developing the drug delivery vehicles or drug vehicles to affect the targeted cellular areas. Dr. Jonathan Cordeiro, is our electrophysiology, which is the flow of ion channels in the heart, or electrical current. That is part of our more historic research when we started out with cardiovascular and electrophysiology.

Dr. Ademuyiwa Aromolaran, next to him. Also works in electrophysiology, but encompasses that into all of our other facets of cardiovascular health and cardiovascular medicine.

Finally, Dr. Coralie Poizat, who is a genetic expert in cardiac

heart failure. Epigenetics is the way environmental factors influence gene expression. What I mean by that is, as we grow up, from infancy through adulthood, the air that we breathe, the water that we drink, the food that we eat, all of that has a direct correlation to our genetic expression. That is why some areas of the world have higher elements of autism, and some have more heart disease, deep vein thrombosis, or lung, or air quality. It's amazing how much our environment is directed to our genetic expression.

So this is Dr. Adife Gulhan Ercan-Sencicek. I will only say that once. She heads up our Autism Spectrum Disorder research. She is dynamic. She has been working on Autism Spectrum Disorder for the last 10 years. She heads up our iPS stem cell core. Anybody that uses stem cells goes through her. This is our newest areas of research, youngest area of research. But it's fast, it's growing. Autism research has been taking off for the past couple of years.

A kind of reoccurring theme, all of our research is, these are kitchen table issues. These aren't one off diseases. Everybody in this room should know somebody that is affected with autism, or congenial heart failure, or DVT blood clots, or what have you, diabetes.

That's what really matters, is that we're not just working on issues that are way up here, or one off, or medical mysteries, we are working on issues that affect everybody every day, in every family.

Dr. Zhiqiang Lin, what is very interesting about him is, a little while ago he authored a paper about the YAP protein. Y-A-P. The YAP Protein is Dr. Lin's elevated protein. What it does. If you have a heart attack, as I am sure you all know, you can survive the heart attack but there is a scarring on the heart. Your heart cells either completely die, or are damaged, or survive. This elevated protein, the YAP Protein when introduced to a damaged heart cell in a specific amount of time, it is actually shown to fully repair those damaged heart cells which shrink the size of the scarring on the heart, which cuts the recovery time in half.

The slide next to him shows that the image on the left is damaged heart cells that were not introduced with the protein,

and the one on the right were. So as you can see, it doubles in size, it grew, it got bigger, looked much healthier as well.

This is not in clinical use yet because it is only in research, but he is far enough along in his research that he can publicly talk about it and does have a paper authored on it that I barely understand.

So here is our web site, [MMRI.edu](http://MMRI.edu). It's not medical research, but we have all of our latest information on there, all of our labs, all of our researchers, our administrative staff, our Board of Directors, everything that we do. If you would like more information, come talk to me, visit [MMRI.edu](http://MMRI.edu).

In the backbone of our institute is 15 Freemasons. Like I said, we are the only biomedical research institute who is founded and operated by Freemasons. If it was not for these 15 men, we also would not be where we are today. These are dedicated brothers. These are men who go above and beyond the call of duty and they don't do it for large aprons, or big jewels, or recognition, they do it because they care. They understand biomedical research is helping all of humanity just as we as Free and Accepted Masons are charged with helping all of man.

I supplied my contact information. I do have a short video to show you. We have a new logo. For those of you who have been here in the past, we had the red logo. We changed our logo to what is on your lanyards and at my booth to represent the new wave of our science into the genetic phases, the ribbon that goes into the top of the square and compass is to represent the DNA strand, and that DNA is genetic and is the basis of most, if not all of our research.

Masonic Medical Research institute also found the genetic basis for SIDS, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. We also ultimately discovered and implemented catheter ablation therapy. So if you have an arrhythmia of your heart and burn a small section of the heart, it fixes the arrhythmia. I am sure there's just a couple people in here that know about that.

So, if Grand Master DeWolf is ready, we will play our video.  
(Video played.)

BROTHER CUCCI: Sorry, we're having technical issues. We're going to take a look at it, see if we can play the video in a little bit later.

The message I would really like to drive home is that Masonic Medical Research Institute is on the cutting edge of kitchen table biomedical research. What I mean by that is exactly what I said, this isn't one off ailments. This is stuff that I am sure just about every single person in this room is affected, knows somebody that has been affected with.

Masonic Medical Research Institute is proud to be founded and operated by Freemasons and we are proud to be on a Masonic campus. We are proud to have ties with other jurisdictions. It is my goal to have ties with every single jurisdiction in this room.

I would be proud to come to your jurisdiction. I would be proud to sit at lodge with you and proud to call every single one of you my brothers. Thank you for the work you do. Thank you for the work you are going to continue to do. God bless America. God bless Freemasonry. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you, again, Brother Cucci. Very nice presentation. We're going to see if we can get that video rewound and cleared up, maybe be able to present that in the near future.

A few announcements before we call out for lunch. The lunch sessions today are Grand Master and ladies luncheon will be in the Kentucky Salon E. That is hosted by Most Worshipful Brother Geary Laird and Lady Terri, as well as myself and Lady Sharon.

Our Deputy Grand Masters and their ladies luncheon will be in the Marriott Salon 7 and 8, hosted by Right Worshipful Brother Oel Smith, Deputy Grand Master of South Carolina and his Lady Debbie.

Our Warden's Lunch and ladies, is in the Marriott Salon 9 and 10. That will be hosted by Right Worshipful Brother Ty G. Treutelaar, our Senior Grand Warden of Missouri and his Lady Cecily.

The Grand Secretaries and ladies' lunch will be in the Rose Room. They have a speaker today, Joe Hardesty, who is the library director.

We do have a change for our post for the Deputy Grand Master and their ladies' luncheon, again, in Salon 7 and 8, that will be hosted by Right Worshipful Brother Robert Monacelli.

We have the Commission on Information and Recognition meeting this afternoon, or actually starting at 11 o'clock. It is going to run from 11:00 to 2:00. That is in the Filly Room for anyone having an interest there to connect with the Commission on Information for Recognition.

Please note the breakout sessions that will start at 11:30. This afternoon we do have three breakout sessions. The first is on Rural Lodges and Mergers and that is in Salon 1. The second is Developing a Grand Lodge Budget, that is in Salon 2; and we also have Recruitment and Retention in Salon 3, those are from 1:30 to 2:30. It will start at the same time we call the Conference back to order from lunch.

Most Worshipful Brother DeWolf, do we have any more activity before we call for lunch?

M.W. MICHAEL DEWOLF: No.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: The lunches all begin at 12:00. Brethren, please use this time for your visitation and networking out there. At this time we will call off for lunch.

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(Lunch.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: I hope your lunch was enjoyable.

(Applause.)

We are going to play the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory video in full and maybe make that available for anybody that may have missed that.

At this time I would like to call our session back to business. Our first order is to invite Brother Tyler Moyer, International Master Counselor for the Order of DeMolay. Please welcome him.

(Applause.)

BROTHER TYLER MOYER: Grand Masters, distinguished brethren, ladies and friends all, good afternoon.

(Good afternoon.)

I would like to thank you for the recognition and the opportunity to address you today, however, I am going to keep it short as you will be hearing a bit more from me on Tuesday morning.

I just want to express to you all that it is my absolute pleasure to be here with you all, and to be able to represent the tens of thousands of members of the Order of DeMolay throughout the world as we continue on into our second century.

You should have received a letter informing you about our telethon on April 14th. We hope that you will tune in and continue to support us in this endeavor as well.

I hope that you all continue to have a great Conference and look forward to our opportunity to talk throughout the weekend. So thank you so much.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you very much, Tyler. Now, if I could please have our International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Abby Lane Blair, Past Grand Worthy Advisor of Kentucky. Please welcome her.

(Applause.)

ABBY LANE BLAIR: Right Worshipful Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Grand Masters, distinguished brethren, ladies and guests. Good afternoon.

(Good afternoon.)



It is an honor and great pleasure to bring greetings to the Grand Masters Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on behalf of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, Supreme Worthy Advisor, Joanie Jacka; Supreme Recorder, Mary Adeline Bradford and our Supreme Deputy of Kentucky, Kassie Parrish. Ms. Jacka's motto is friendships bloom where Rainbow is planted. Tonight, we plant Rainbow colored seeds here in this room in the hopes of friendship and collaboration between the Masonic organizations and our youth organizations as we continue to grow. As our leader, Ms. Joanie Jacka continues to grow Rainbow through positive work in the spirit of love and service. She would like to extend a very warm welcome and invitation to our International Supreme Assembly to be held in Reno, Nevada, Friday, July 24th through July 28th at the beautiful Peppermill Resort.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the state of Kentucky, home of Churchill Downs and the most prestigious horse race in the United States, the Kentucky Derby. Kentucky is known for its beautiful horse farms, tasty bourbon and the UK Wildcats. Kentucky is also the home of Miss Kassie Parrish, our Supreme Deputy of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. Our YaYa, Kassie Parrish, is the champion for 9 Kentucky Rainbow Assemblies across the state.

Our Rainbow assemblies are active in their communities and engage in philanthropic activities and service. The 2020 state wide service project and philanthropy is the Dessi Scott Home and their sister homes throughout the state of Kentucky. The homes provide a safe haven for mentally challenged children.

Our Kentucky Rainbow sisters would like to extend an invitation to our "You Got A Friend In Me" Grand Session June 5 thru 8, 2020 at the Scottish Rite Temple here in Louisville, Kentucky, hosted by our Grand Worthy Advisor, Nancy Howard.

As Kentucky Rainbow strives to stay relevant, we are focusing on our membership. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls will be 100 years strong in the year 2022. As indicated on our Rainbow website, January 2020 was a great month for Rainbow, we initiated 58 new sisters across the country. Just as exciting, Kentucky Rainbow will have our 75th year anniversary in 2025. Our Supreme Deputy, Kassie, has an ambitious goal to have 75 new members initiated by 2025 and we

are well on our way.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak this afternoon as I would like to thank the Grand Masters, from your many jurisdictions, for the continued support of our Youth Organizations. It is because of the amazing Masonic family represented here this afternoon and your interest in our youth organizations that we have an opportunity to prepare for a brighter future. Rainbow is not only a gateway to bolstering Eastern Star and Masonic membership, but an avenue for young girls ages 10 through 21 to learn lessons of which to live. The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls promotes faith in God, hope for the future, charity and service to others. As one of Kentucky's Past Grand Worthy Advisors, and a member of the Eastern Star, I have been blessed with the teachings of Rainbow since I was 11 years old. I learned leadership skills, learned to speak deliberately, and learned to be a ritualist. Most of all, I learned to be a lady with etiquette, grace and integrity.

Again, thank you for allowing me to share Rainbow with you this afternoon and I hope you continue to have a successful conference keeping in mind the wonderful treasure you have in your youth organizations. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you very much, Abby. If I could call our Job's Daughters International, Miss Christina Mae Garcia, Miss International Job's Daughter. Please welcome her.

(Applause.)

MISS CHRISTINE MAE GARCIA: To the dignitaries, Dad Masons, and distinguished guests present here today, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for welcoming the Supreme Team of Job's Daughters International to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America 2020, and allowing us a few minutes of your time to speak to you on this occasion.

I am Christine Mae Garcia, Miss International Job's Daughter 2019-2020. It is such an honor to be speaking on behalf of over 11,000 wonderful girls from the United States, Canada, Australia, the Philippines and Brazil.

Let me ask you, how do you want to be remembered? We all strive to live an extraordinary life. In the ordinary hours of every day, we try to find ways to leave lasting legacies. We all have that inherent wish to count for something, to be remembered by the work that we do or the accomplishments that we have achieved.

In 1920, Ethel T. Wead-Mick took the first step in building a legacy for hundreds of thousands of young women around the world. For the past 100 years, Job's Daughters have dedicated their lives to continue this legacy for generations to come. The time has come for us to create our own.

Job's Daughters International is a Masonic sponsored organization for girls ages 10 to 20. Yet, I have always viewed Job's Daughters as more than just an organization. It is a family bonded by timeless values that have been instilled in us since the moment it was founded a century ago. Beneath the lines of our Ritual, beyond the work that we do, our members strive to live and breathe the essence of what it means to be a Job's Daughter, a young woman equipped with faith, compassion, patriotism, leadership, respect and strength as she matures to womanhood.

However, times have changed. Despite our utmost efforts, membership is not what it used to be. For the longest time Job's Daughters was intended solely for young women who had direct relationships to Master Masons in good standing to honor the Masonic heritage we proudly uphold. A few years ago, we removed that exclusivity. We have opened the order to be more accessible for the development of all young women. Despite this, our numbers are still dwindling, and Bethels are either forced to close its doors or to merge with neighboring jurisdictions. We live in a challenging era.

Indeed, times have changed. We live in a society full of conflict, injustice and subjectivism. Yet, in the midst of it all, what awes me most is how our Order provides direction and values, relevant to a time that changes so rapidly. The presence of the ideals and morals that Job's Daughters International aims to uphold remain and sustain the very core of our Order. Through my travels this year, I have been able to witness the growth in sisterhood of the Daughters as they journey through their day to day affairs. They carry the

lessons taught inside the doors of the Bethels to the outside world, raising funds for our Philanthropic Project, healing children hard of hearing, participating in Church services, engaging in leadership activities and conquering the world with one single act of kindness at a time.

We must work cohesively to continue providing an environment where the greatness of our leaders are measured by the leaders they produce instead of the followers they collect. We train young women to lead with the wisdom of generations past and utilize the resources of today in order to flourish and create a lasting impact on our communities. Our adults in Job's Daughters guide us to view the world not as it is, but rather, what it could and should be. We aim to create visionaries who serve with purpose and who dream of instigating change where needed.

This year, we are celebrating our Centennial Year. We honor a legacy built on the lessons surrounding leadership, public speaking, self-confidence, charitable service, respect for parents and family and love on one's country. We welcome you all to witness the dawn of a new age for Job's Daughters International.

Leaving a mark on this world is not determined by the carvings on gravestones, but through the lives changed and hearts touched. The course of this legacy rests on how it lives on in the future generations. If you desire a legacy that will transcend time, why not invest in the Masonic Youth? We are your future. The Youth groups may be of different rituals, cultures and practices, but the commonality we share is that we emphasize the importance of virtue. Rainbow strives to add color by painting the seven virtues into the lives of the world around us. DeMolay prepares young men to embark on journeys that entail carrying the seven flames of virtue. Job's Daughters inculcates the value of being virtuous, as that is what adorns a woman. We are your future, and this is our legacy.

We would not be the Job's Daughters that we are today if not for the guidance and support you have devoted to us all these years. You are our heritage, and we are beyond grateful. We ask for your continuous assistance in promoting Job's Daughters. Make it known that we hold the power to a brighter future. Let your

jurisdiction know of the potential our Daughters have, and how your own daughters and granddaughters may be part of something profoundly special. With the power available to you and your high office, you Grand Masters, will be able to contribute to bringing in young women from all corners of the world, to bloom, lead and soar together in Job's Daughters. Thank you very much, and a good afternoon to all.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: I don't know about you, brethren, but I know our future is in very good hands listening to Tyler, Abby and Mya. Thanks to each of them for bringing their words and I hope that they have touched each of you Grand Masters, and I hope that each of you has good strong Youth programs in your states so that we can mentor the future of our fraternity. Thank you. Brother Mike, come on in.

M.W. STEVE HALL: I am not -- no. You cannot make me. No.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Well, welcome, Mark Twain.

M.W. STEVE HALL: Thank you. Can I address the illustrious group here?

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: I think you might be in the wrong room.

M.W. STEVE HALL: Well, they asked me to come in. This fellow, I haven't talked to him now, Brother, but his name is Michael and his middle name is Dot.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: He invited you here?

M.W. STEVE HALL: He invited me here. He told me I could talk.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: We'd certainly like to hear a story if you have one to share. Would you like a microphone?

M.W. STEVE HALL: Can you all hear me? Can you all hear me without a speaking device? Why don't I go ahead, if I could, if you don't mind.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Okay.

M.W. STEVE HALL: It is just real good to be here. I have to tell you though, that Michael fellow, I don't know if you all know him, Michael Dot DeWolf. That's a gal's name.

I was talking to him, you know. Fellow, I don't know if you all know Alexander Bell? You all heard of him? You know he put one of them daggone telephonic devices right in my house. Only person ever calls me is my lawyer. I don't answer it if I don't have to.

But I got to tell you, I was talking to that Michael fellow on the telephonic device and I says to him, I says, "So where's it gonna be?" He says, "In Kentucky." Well, brother, I have a good relationship with the fellows in Kentucky down in Bourbon County. Elijah Craig, I don't know if know who he is? Another friend down in Tennessee named Jack who I get along with. But anyway, I was talking to that Michael Dot fellow. That's still an odd name, Dot, for a fellow. But I was talking to him again and he invited me to come. I said, "Well, let me ask you, can you give me some ideas about the folks I am going to be talking to?" And I said, "Can you tell me about how old they are?" He said, "Oh, don't worry, Mr. Twain, there's gonna be fellows a lot older than you there." Then I reminded him I was born in 1835. And he said, "Like I said, Mr. Twain, there's gonna be fellows a lot older than you are." I didn't believe him until I got here. My guess is some of you all became Masons along with that Doug DeMolay fellow. Lord have mercy. You know, brother, if we could embalm some of these fellows now, maybe go downstairs get some good bourbon.

I got to tell you, when I got here, they told me to come and I decided to come. They offered me the, you know, three meals and a place to sleep. I didn't realize it was in the local jail, but that's all right. They let me loose. When I got the ticket, I usually let my wife Livy get the ticket for me, don't you know. I made the mistake of going to get it myself, and when I got the ticket I got the local instead of the express, which would get here, all of the way down here to your town.

When I got up, I can tell you brothers, they good people here in Kentucky. Real good. I got up and I was looking around and this woman comes up to me and she's talking to me, sees the suit. Apparently I look like a celebrity, is who I look like. She says, "Sir, how old are you?" I told her I was pushing 60

and she just laughed, and laughed, and laughed. She told me I was pushin' it from the wrong side now. You know what I am talking about.

Anyway. So, I get here, I thought somebody'd come and get me, and I had to walk through to the train station over here, is what I had to do. I got to tell you, there's a couple ladies, and when I came in -- and when I came in one of these ladies came up to me and she said, "Listen, do you get your hair cut around here anywhere?" I said, "No." She said, "Good." She says, "You never been to Michigan, have you?" I said, "No." She said, "Good, because I don't want my husband to get his hair cut wherever you do."

(Laughter.)

You wouldn't have anybody here with you, would you, sir? A woman traveler? Oh, good. Just want to make sure it wasn't somebody with you.

And then this little boy, I was outside, you know, just kind of taking a breather. You know, they would not let me smoke my cigar in here. But they sure can't stop me from chewing on it, I am going to tell you that much. Laws are changing. Everything's changing. It's an odd thing. So this little boy comes running up, he had his arms spread like this (indicating). I thought oh, he recognizes me. He knows who I am. And he came up, he wrapped his arms around my leg, looked up at me with the adequate love and adoration I deserve, and he said, "I love you." I said, "I love you too, little boy." He says, "And you know what? I love your chicken."

(Laughter.)

You know, we never had no chicken, so I wasn't sure what he was talking about. Anyway, I thought I would tell you, you know, they wanted you all to be educated and so on. I thought I'd tell you a little bit about myself. I was born, and as I said, back in 1835. Now here's a quiz, because I am told of this, the most brilliant minds in the nation will be in this room. So ladies, I have a question for you all, and those of you, if you have an answer you can (inaudible). I'm going to embarrass you first. Where do you reckon I was born? Anybody else want to guess it, as to where I was born? Ladies, you can go ahead and

raise your hand. Anybody? Raise your hand? Bless their hearts. I was born in the small town of Florida, Missouri. Now, do you know where that is, Florida, Missouri.

I got to tell you, my daddy was awful good at being no good at anything. Any lawyers here before I continue? Just raise your hand, so I know if I'm talkin' bad about anybody. Don't be ashamed.

Now, any preachers in here? Oh Lord have mercy. What denomination are you, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED: Presbyterian.

M.W. STEVE HALL: You know, I don't have any stories about Presbyterians - today. No priests, I'm assuming, except for a high priest and so on, and different things.

I just got to tell you, my daddy failed at all he tried. He was awful good at it. It didn't do no good. I'm glad I smoke these things. I only smoke about 20 a day. They say they're good for your lungs. Trying to open up the airways.

Anyway, we moved when I was four years old. We moved from Florida, Missouri down to Hannibal, Missouri. The first thing I guess I should say is, since we got somebody actually from Missouri here, I can't lie about that. So, anyway, daddy bought a mercantile. Do you all know what a mercantile is, like a general store? He had it for a year or two, he failed at that, too. So they auctioned everything off, except one thing didn't go up for auction because nobody would buy it, they left four big old 55 gallon barrels of code liver oil. My folks, John and Jane, being part Scottish. You know, actually it's not Scotch and Irish. Did you all know it's not Scotch and Irish? It is, cuz Scotch and Irish are both whiskey. I personally didn't have a problem saying I was Scotch and Irish, but some people don't like that. Anyway, mom and daddy didn't want to waste anything, don't you know? So every day they fed all of us youngins a big tablespoon of that code liver oil. Now, how many of you had code liver oil in your lifetime? Lord have mercy. You know what, I had so much cod liver oil I could eat a half a gallon of plaque and pass it with no trouble. Lord have mercy. I could have. And we moved there and we, you know, got to know Hannibal



and kind of did some things. My daddy died when I was 11 years old. That's why I turned out as good as I did, because I got out from under the influence of my daddy who just didn't do well at anything.

When I was 11 years old, my momma needed me to go to work. So my brother Orion, he had a print shop and newspaper. Did you know that, sir? You didn't? Anyway, I went to work for my brother Orion. I was working for him and I was a printer apprentice, learning the trade. Some of you all know some of the things that I'm getting ready to tell you. This is the educational part of the thing, you know, this is one of them things you give whether you want it or not. So there's the thing. When you are working on print, all of the little pieces, the letters, they all have to be backward when you set them. You set it in the plate. You all know what I'm talkin' about? Anybody that has ever worked in a newspaper setting type? I got to be careful, because I can't lie if you know stuff. So anyway, we had an Irishman, and my job was to set the type and everything. When I was doing it, I learned something that you all learned in school, you didn't even know it. Because when you was in school, you was told to be careful. And you was told to be careful in the way that we was told in the print shop, because they told you to watch out for something. Who knows what you had to watch out for in the print shop? Ma'am? You got in trouble in school, didn't you? I know. Lady back here? She spoke up, and I said raise your hand next time. Brother, you're gonna have trouble with this group when I leave, I can just tell you that. So ma'am, back here? What is that, that you learned?

UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Watch your P's and Q's.

M.W. STEVE HALL: Do you know why? Hold on, let's go back over here to Idaho. So, why did we say that? That's true, the P's look like Q's, and the Q's look like P's when they are backward. You know that means something dirty. I don't know if Masons are allowed to say that, so if you know, you might need to go around and apologize to everyone in the whole group after we're done.

There's another thing that we learned that you all use all of the time. When you talk about the big letters when you start -- and raise your hands this time. When you start you start with the big letters. The name starts with a big letter. What is

that call? Mr. Utah, you are not on a game show. For five dollars, the answer, sir?

UNIDENTIFIED: Upper case, lower case.

M.W. STEVE HALL: You know why?

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible.)

M.W. STEVE HALL: Most Worshipful, why is that?

UNIDENTIFIED: (Inaudible.)

M.W. STEVE HALL: Because the letters you used the least you used the big letters, upper case letters. The letters you used the most was in the lower case. So that's -- so brethren, you had the educational part of this event right here. So I have to tell you. I saw -- I saw a story not too long ago about me, and it said when I was in my misspent youth, that I sold thousands of apples, and peaches, and pears. That is a lie. I will tell you how I know that's a lie. Because they didn't grow no pears in Hannibal, I will tell you. As I look across this room, there's some of you all that are guilty of the same thing I'm guilty of. Because some of you, just like me, walking down maybe an alley, or out in the country where you grew up, you saw a forbidden fruit hanging from somebody else's grove and you reached up, you pulled it down, you took it. You know something, I can look at you all, I can tell who is guilty of that crime. There's several ways I can tell. One way I can tell is they look right at you and don't want to even admit that they ever stole an apple off somebody else's tree.

I read a story, I don't know if it's true, but I heard a story that up in the New York, with the help of the Grand Master that they (inaudible) than any other state in the nation. Did you read that, Most Worshipful? I don't know if you all know this, but you might have want to have New York giving you all a lesson because they, I had a brother call me on the telephone device, he said, "Listen, I'm gonna tell ya. They got fellows they renew their memberships. They're in good standing." I said how in the world? They said, you know what, "The Most Worshipful Grand Master, the whole state of New York actually sent letters out to folks and asked them to join back up, to pay their dues." And said, "And it worked." Lord, yes, it worked. I said, "How

did it happen?" He said, "Well, I got the letter right here." He read it to me. He said, "I have sent a letter back to the Worshipful, to the Grand Master, the Worshipful Master of my lodge and I apologized to him." I said, "From now on I'll pay my dues when they're due." I said, "You know, that's pretty good. How did that happen?" He says, "Well, I told him, I said that I will never do it again. I appreciate your letter, you being to the point." He said, "I put a P.S. in there." I said, "What was your P.S.?" It said, "Dear Most Worshipful, thank you for your letter, but I need to mention to you, there's only one "T" in dirty, and no "C" skunk." You all have to think about that a little bit.

I became a Mason down in St. Louis, but I was in Hannibal. When I was 18 I decided to hit the road, go out see what was going on in the world. I left Hannibal and I first, I went to St. Louis and I was a newspaper reporter there. Then I went to Cincinnati, Ohio and I was a newspaper there, reporter there. Then I went to New York City. I did, I went to New York City and I wasn't a newspaper reporter there and they asked me to be a newspaper reporter in grand old halls of Congress. You all know Congress, don't you? That grand institution for the criminally insane.

Not too long ago when -- several years ago when I was living out in California, just before I wrote The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, I went out with my brother. Mr. Lincoln, paid for him to go out to be secretary to the territorial governor of Nevada. While I was out there I tried my hand at violin and failed miserably. I take that after my daddy.

I went out to California looking for a job, but I got to tell you, I was very, very particular about what kind of job I wanted. Because I didn't want to work. Well, never mind.

I got real bad sick. I used to play billiards with the doctor in town. I got real bad sick and I said to him, I said, "Listen, I am real bad sick, can you come and see me, I think I am going to die." I beat him at billiards several times don't you know, and he sent me a letter back and he said, "You know, I don't mind the idea of you dieing at all." I sent him a letter back, I said, "Listen, you need to come because I can't die. I can't die in California." He came, he wanted to know, he said, "Why can't you die in California?" I said, "Brother, if I die

in California, I'm going to be the only democrat for the next 170, 200 years."

So, my landlady, I went down, I made myself mustard plaster, don't you know. I put it by my bed trying to get better, and I had a roommate, I went down to get myself a water downstairs and when I was getting myself a water I was talking to the landlady and I said, "Leslie, I just don't know, I feel terrible. I don't know what to do." Her being a Kentucky gal, she said, "You need to do what my daddy always did." I said, "What's that?" She said, "He'd get a fifth of bourbon and he'd drink it straight down." I said, "And he got better?" Yeah. You know what else she said, she said, "You need to go, I'll bring it up to you." So I gave her a little bit of money, and my roommate told me the same exact thing. Brother that made a half a gallon. And if I remember correctly, I did get better. Problem is I don't remember anything for the next three weeks.

Now, being equal opportunity here, you know, talking about California I got to be equal opportunity. Because I got to tell you, I was talking to a fellow who was from Michigan and, you know, over to the other side of the river apparently they don't like Michigan over there. I do not know why, because they didn't fight against each other in the Civil War or nothing like that. But they just don't have much to do with Michiganders or Michiganees, either one.

I'll tell you what, I heard hell of a fellow years ago, way, way long time ago, he was running for Sheriff up there in one of the counties way up in that upper part of Michigan. He was trying to get votes, and he was trying to get people to sign his petition so he could run for sheriff. So where did he go to get names for the petition? The only place that's easy to get names, and that was the graveyard. He is writing down names. He has got a cousin with him that might be his deputy. He went, he's writing down names, and writing down names, and he only needs a hundred, don't you know. He said, well, I got 103, we might as well go. His buddy says, "Uh-uh, we ain't going right now." Why not? He said, "Because the people buried over here have just as much right to vote as anybody else."

So, when I went out to California, I heard a story in the mines that, as I was sitting around, and listened to fellows about this frog that could out jump any of the other frogs. When I

got to California, I wrote about that frog called The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, which pretty much turned into newspapers, then another one, and another one, and another one, and another, and another one after that.

They took me over to the holy land, and I wrote about that, wrote about coming over and back, and I turned that into a book and it did really well. Called Innocents Abroad. That's where I met my future brother-in-law, my wife Livy's brother.

If you all ever been on a boat, or a ship or anything where they got cholera? Raise your hand, don't be bashful. The ship I was on when I went over there, they got cholera, and when I was sleeping, I'd wake up and I'd hear something kind of flip and splash. So I got up one night and there was a fellow, he was one of the crew members, he is walking along. I knew he was a Mason because we had talked. I shook his hand and I told him I needed to talk to him. I said "What's goin' on?" We talked privately as Masonic folks will do, and he told me that cholera was on board and people were dieing and they were sliding them off at night so we wouldn't know. I stayed in my cabin a whole lot after that.

So, you know I kind of like to tell you one of my stories, if I could. It's a story I'd like to share with you. When I was a boy in Hannibal, Missouri, this fellow, he worked down on the dock, don't you know. He was an Irish fellow and if he didn't never tell this story until he got very well lubricated. He had cough all the time, and every time he took something for his cough, he'd get more and more lubricated, and when he got lubricated -- and you all, Masons don't drink, don't you know. Anyway, he would tell this story, it's one of my favorites. I just -- it's as close as I come to the truth, and I thought I would share it with you today. Now, ma'am, I'm gonna lay my cigar right here, you leave your hands off. I'll be watchin' you.

So this old fellow, he was talking about things and he had been well lubricated. One of my friends came and he said, "Joe's ready to talk, he's had a few drinks, he is ready to talk." We went down, he was sitting on an old powder keg, and he was smoking his pipe. He sat back and he said, "Well, I remember it real well." He says, "It was my grandfather. And my grandfather had sheep's, is what he had, and he needed a ram for his sheep."

Now, you all don't understand that part of it, then you're from the city and I don't have time to explain it to you. He needed a ram for his sheep. So he went from Hannibal, all the way down to St. Louis and he found a fellow -- you all gonna like this. This is one of my favorite parts. I'm going to tell it just like Jim Smiley did.

I got to tell you something about Jim Smiley as I get into the story, because Jim Smiley had a memory like a trap. He could remember everything, if it was about people, or places, or things, he could remember that. The problem was, and ladies over here, some of you all know what I am talking about because you know. Here is the thing, fellows don't remember anything when you want them to. We've learned that. It's evolution. Selective hearing, it's the same way. And you know how a preacher, or maybe a lawyer, or maybe, you know, a man from the lodge or Most Worshipful type, they'll be talking and their mind sometimes gets off on other things. You all know what I am talking about?

Jim Smiley was like that, so you gonna like this a whole lot. He said, you know, I remember when I was a little boy, my grandfather needed a ram and he went down to St. Louis and he met a fellow that found a pretty ram, big old horns, curled around and around. Good lookin' ram. He paid this fellow to come up here. He told him if he came up and delivered that ram, that his wife, my grandma would feed them dinner. Now dinner is noontime meal for those of you all that ain't from the south. Supper is the evening meal.

Anyway, the fellow comes up and he has his ram, the wagon pulled up. He pulls up and he opens the gate to the field where the ram is going to stay. They open the back of the wagon and the ram runs in there and runs up a hill, don't you know. Turns around and looks and my grandfather. Now, like a lot of fellows on the farm, he always had himself a red bandana, and the red bandana -- you all know where I'm going with this. It hung out of the back of his pants like that (indicating), and that old fellow, his name was Smith from down in St. Louis, he was talking and they was settling up and everything. He asked what time they was going to have dinner and my grandfather, he reached in his pocket to get out his watch and see. As he did, a silver dime fell, and it fell into the grass. The Smith fellow, he said, "You dropped a silver dime down there." That

old ram, he is up here, he's looking' for business. My grandfather -- she's just waiting. This is my favorite. He reaches down like that (indicating), to get that dime out of there, that big old red bandana in his pocket, don't you know.

I don't believe that was the Smith fellow at all. You know how I know that. I don't believe it was that Smith fellow because of the Smith fellow, he had an uncle, uncle Lem. Uncle Lim had a dog named Skippy. How about that? Skippy was a good dog. How many of you all raised a good hunting dog? You raise a good hunting dog, you know they're hard to come by. Skippy -- let me tell you. Skippy was a good hunting dog. He could hunt anything. Absolutely anything. I went hunting with Uncle Lem one time and Skippy was on the track of something and he's goin' through the fields and he sniffs this way, and sniffs that way, looks over, and that dog jumped up about six feet and jumped up and then down. I said, "Uncle Lem, what was that about?" He said, "That dog is such a good tracking dog, we had a fence right there about 10 years ago and that dog knew it." Now that is a good huntin' dog.

Another time -- you don't think that's good? Another time they was hunting and old Skippy, arh-ooo, arh-ooo, like that, just following the trail. He came down, there was an old coal mine that, you know just a little old mine that they just kind of kind of grabbed around, got little bit of coal here and there for the farm. Skippy went down and you could hear this echo, arh-ooo, arh-ooo, like that. What in the world could be down there. Real careful like we went down looking around and we saw Skippy, he was stopped and was just like this (indicating). He looked, and we didn't see nothing. I thought maybe there was a ledge up there and there was a coon, raccoon up there on that ledge. We held up our torches, there weren't no coon. I said, "There ain't nothin' in here." We didn't see nothin'. I started out, Uncle Lem started, turned around to see what Skippy had tracked down. There, in that wall, hard veins of coal, was the whole skeleton of a three billion year old dinosaur. He tracked down a three billion year old dinosaur right there. Now, that is a hunting dog.

Uncle Lem, he worked at a lumbar yard, don't you know. Skippy's job was to chase and kill the rats. He's real good at it. One day he found a rat hole, and must have been four, five foot, probably weighed 150-200 pounds. It was a big old rat. Old

Skippy was running after it arh-ooo, arh-ooo, like that, going after it. It jumped up on a log and Skippy was right behind it, had his nose down. You know what I am talking about when the dog is on track, and Uncle Lem was off doing something, and the rat was running along, and the rat was apparently smarter than Skippy because the rat realized the whole log was moving on a conveyor belt. Skippy was on track, and he had his head, sniffing along, and before you knew it the rat jumped off, but Skippy was on the trail and Skippy didn't see a big old buzz saw six or seven feet across, going so fast you could hardly see it. Before you know it that buzz saw was right smack dab in the middle of the dog and split that dog in half. Half of him went this way, half of him went that way (indicating).

Uncle Lem came running and it was a good dog. Uncle Lem said, "Oh, boy, I can't let that dog die." So he got the only medicine he had, which was kerosene and grease. He made up a salve. You all know this salve because it's good medicine. He mixed up that, and he tried to put it on like you put on a hot dog, on both sides of that dog's body, still breathing. Slapped it together like that and took out his hanky and wrapped it up and put it over by the wood stove to keep him warm so it would heal. Because you don't want to lose a good dog.

Three days later Skippy is just laying there all wrapped up in that red bandana. Uncle Lem's boss can and said, "Brother, I don't think that dog's gonna make it, you might as well take it and bury it somewhere." And Uncle Lem said, "All right." He went, he picked up the body of his dog Skippy, started to walk it -- I'm sorry, I just -- you know, what I'm talking about. I get a little upset.

He started moving, he saw the dog, there's maggots and stuff, because Skippy stuck his nose out, and he pulled his head out, and commenced to lick Uncle Lem, and Uncle Lem unwrapped him. He was so glad to see that his dog was alive, it took him a minute to realize that in his haste, when he put the pieces together, he put tail one end, and tail this end, and he stuck the dog together with two feet up, and two feet down, half tail this way, half a tail that. I won't even tell you what it sounded like when that dog barked.

I'm going to tell you this, brothers, I have to tell you this, that dog became the best hunting dog anywhere in Missouri



because it would run on them two bottom legs until it got tired, and would flip over on them other legs for hours and hours. That was a good dog.

That's how I know it wasn't the Smith fellow. Who I think it was, now that I kind of recollect, I kind of think the Hagerdorn fellow, he come there when the ram was there, and my grandfather, he had dropped his dime, and Hagerdorn said, my grandfather bent over to pick up that dime and -- no, I don't even believe it was a Hagerdorn fellow. I'll tell you how I know that. Because the Hagerdorn fellow had a niece that married a fellow who was a missionary and they went down to South America to be missionaries to the cannibals in South America.

Now, how about them apples. Do you know what happened though while they was down there, they was missionaries in South America? Them cannibals ate them. They ate them. They did. A few years later things settled down, the cannibals got right with the Lord, they went down to see if there is anything left he could bring home and bury, maybe a hip bone or something. When they got to the cannibals you know what they was told? The cannibals told them they didn't mean to do it, that it was an accident. Now, let me ask you all that, how do you accidentally eat someone? Well, they was walkin' up a path and they fell into the soup pot and nobody saw them kicking around. Now, I don't know. I don't think it was an accident, brothers. I think it was divine providence, because them cannibals, they ate the missionary and the wife and they got right with the Lord. You all gonna love this part. You know that made me think maybe it wasn't that Hagerdorn fellow at all. You know who I think it was, brother, I think it was the fellow named Joe Wheeler, is who it was. Joe Wheeler, I know this, I am sure this. Mr. Wheeler is over there, my grandfather, he leans down and he's picking up the dime and the old ram is just looking for business up there. And Joe Wheeler says, hey you better look.

Joe Wheeler was a good fellow, he was more interested in people than the Hagerdorn fellow. He was a good Christian man, more interested in people than the Smith fellow was. His wife, good woman, good woman, you know, she was Eastern Star, she was. She was Eastern Star, and I am going to tell you something, good lookin' woman, too.

She was working, Eastern Star decided to have a big candy sale at Christmas time, several years back. They decided to make taffy. They was going to make different taffy, but the problem is, they had taffy cookin' and it got too hot, they had a lid on it and the whole thing blew up. Taffy went everywhere. I don't know if you all have ever been in a serious taffy accident, but it went everywhere and hit the Wheeler woman right in the face and pulled her eyeball right out of her skull. That ain't the funny part.

Anyway, Mr. Wheeler loved his wife. He didn't want her going around with an empty socket in her head. So, he sent all the way up there to New York City and had a glass eye. She had a brown eye on this side, he had a glass eye, blue ice, real pretty, made for her up in New York City, filled with 14 carat gold on the back. They have one of them in the jewelry department over here if you want one just like it.

She's wearing that, and then she has her hair kind of down over the other eye so you wouldn't see that old muddy brown eye, don't you know. She'd go around and wink and blink, and people just oh, you got the prettiest eye I have ever seen in my life. Good christian woman.

Well, I got to tell you, she had a gal friend that was sitting right beside her, Ms. Collins, and when that thing blew up, that gal friend got it, too. She lost the same eye. Mrs. Wheeler was such a good woman, that the woman was an old maid. When she went courtin', Ms. Wheeler would lend her eye to the Collins woman. Now, that's charity right there. Only problem was, Ms. Wheeler wore a size seven and the Collins woman, she ws excavated for a 14. When she would put Mrs. Wheeler's eye in, got to winkin' and blinkin' at the fellows, that eye would go from blue to gold, blue to gold, blue to gold, blue to gold. This happened like one of them one arm bandit things. The adults didn't mind it a bit, but it scared the youngins, it did. Good woman though.

Did I mention to you that she also lost her leg in that same accident? She did. Most Worshipful, you shouldn't be laughing at maladies of other people. Here is why.

It may sound like a terrible thing. But, the church that they went to, there was a fellow that had been a sailor on a whaling

vessel. He lost his leg in a terrible whale accident, and he made himself a leg, scrimshawed it. He put hair on it, he put a little anchor on the side, and then a toe. Oh, it was pretty. And when Ms. Collins needed to go courtin', she would borrow that leg from that sailor fellow from her church. The only problem with that, Most Worshipfuls, is that he was 6'2" and Ms. Collins was 5'2". So when she would put the leg on, got in on, don't you know, she tried to walk and as she would walk, she'd take a step and throw that leg, take a step and throw that leg. It took her a while to get anywhere. And she might have been real attractive, except for one thing. She had male pattern baldness, didn't have hair on her head.

Now, there's a woman -- and you aren't supposed to be laughing at another woman's maladies. I know you all sitting back there in the cheap seats, but you're laughing. Now, I am going to tell you something. One of the Eastern Star gals, she had a husband that was an undertaker. They had wigs that they would loan out. When Ms. Collins went to courtin', they would give her one for free. One of them horsehair wigs. She'd put it on and she'd go out and Lord have mercy, I'm gonna tell you. It was wonderful. She looked good, only thing, she was a sweaty woman.

I don't know how to say that any other way. Because when you perspire, that's not the same as sweating hard. She did, and she would go out courtin, lookin' for the fellows, and she'd take a couple of steps, throw that leg, take a couple of steps and she'd throw that leg. And she would spin around like that, and that eye got goin' from blue to gold, blue to gold and that horsehair wig, because she was a sweaty woman, it went round, and round, and round. You know, I don't know how to say this, because it's sad, but you know Ms. Collins never did get married.

Well, I'd like to tell you that she lived happily ever after. Mr. Wheeler got himself a job down in Georgia. You know something brothers, they have some of the nicest carpet mills down in Georgia, don't they? They do. Well, Mr. Wheeler, he got himself a job down there, years ago, at one of them fancy carpet mills. They made the best and finest three ply wool carpet that the world has ever seen.

Well, one day they going along, the loom is going back and

forth, back and forth, like they do, and one of them stopped, and the whole thing, the whole factory, they went around looking and they said, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Wheeler, you won't believe it, but a screwdriver has fallen down between two of those hubs. We got it stopped, we don't know what to do. He went, he looked, he said, "Okay. You all get on this side and pull that carpet back, and some of you get on this side and pull the teeth back that away." They did. He said, "I am going to reach down and I'm going to get that screwdriver and pull it out. They pulled, and he reached down and he pulled it out and when he pulled it out." He threw his hands in the air, said, "I got it now, I got it now." But the whole factory started back up at that moment, and don't cry, sir, because this is about Georgia. Because the foot that was supposed to pull the yarn into the loom got ahold of Mr. Wheeler in the back of his shirt, and pulled him into the loom and pull him back and forth, back and forth, until he was loomed up and made into 27 yards of the finest three-ply carpet that anybody knew. Mrs. Wheeler was so sad, that she took all 27 yards. She took him home and she put him in the front entrance, in the parlor and the living room, back to the kitchen, the bedroom downstairs, up the stairs, two bedrooms upstairs.

If she had had five or six more yards she could have put him all the way back downstairs. Just didn't have enough. But Most Worshipfuls, here is the problem. It wasn't hundred percent wool, and it didn't wear very well. So after about 10 or 12 years Mrs. Wheeler decided to roll him up and bury him. She didn't have enough money to buy a plot, take him all the way across 27 yards. So she wanted them to dig 27 yards down, across a couple yards, at least two yards to bury him in. They wouldn't dig that deep. So she decided what she is going to do is put two yards down in there, put cement around it.

They had a memorial, and when they got to the church, all rolled up to actually go in the front door. When you opened it up, one on this side, one on this side. And they slid him through for the memorial service. Then they put him in the ground, two yards of him, and they shellacked him so he wouldn't rot in the rain and sun and everything. And she put a plaque on him, plaque said, "Here lies -- now I got to interrupt my self and tell you. I've been telling the story just like that old fellow did sitting down on the dock. He had had a little bit to drink, and as he was telling us, he started getting sleeping. He gets

to that point and he said, and the plaque said. Yeah. Here lies, and his head nodded, and they poked him and he woke up, said, lies 27 yards", and his head bobbed again, they poked him again. "27 yards of the finest husband any woman has ever known." And with that he went to sleep. And you know what, we never did learn what happened to his grandfather or that old ram. That is my story today folks.

(Laughter.)

I am going to give you -- hold on. Not yet. I got one more thing I need to ask. Because I have decided this year I'm going to run for President, and I need you all to write Mark Twain in. I have got some pledges to make to you, because here's the way I see it. Might as well vote for me as any other scoundrel running for office. I was down in eastern Kentucky and talking and visiting around and they was calling the rollcall of the county commissioners down there, they were saying names. They say, "Present." So, when they got to number 12 and they just said 11, they called his number, he said not guilty. So, anyway, I'd like for you all to write my name in and vote for Mark Twain. All you vote for me, I will promise this. I will never put off until tomorrow, the things that I can do the day after tomorrow.

Last but not least, as I close with this illustrious body, I make this promise, and this is a serious promise now. This is my motto. I promise you this, and I promise this to you. A broken promise, my brothers, a broken promise is better than no promise at all. With that, I thank you so much.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Brethren, ladies and friends, this is Steve Hall, Past Master from Xenia Lodge Number 49, state of Ohio.

(Applause.)

M.W. STEVE HALL: I do travel, and I left some postcards, and some business cards, free tickets out on the registration table. Thank you all so much.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you. At this time I would like to call Right Worshipful Brother George Seghers, Executive Director

of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

M.W. JEFF WEBB: Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, brother Masons, guests all. I'm Jeff Webb and I call this meeting to order. I will ask that you join the Most Worshipful Brother Claire Tusch as he addresses the prayer.

M.W. CLAIRE TUSCH: Brethren, can we be in spirit of the prayer?

(Prayer.)

M.W. JEFF WEBB: Good afternoon, brethren.

(Good afternoon.)

I'm the Past Grand Master of Louisiana, President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. I do declare a quorum present, call this 110th annual meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association to order.

I would like at this time to introduce the members of the Memorial Board of Directors who are present. We certainly appreciate their attendance and their dedicated service.

Brother Claire Tusch, Maine; Brother Ken Nagle, California; Brother Thomas Sturgeon, Pennsylvania; Robert L. Darling, Minnesota; Brother Gale H. Kinney, Washington; Brother Rill, Ohio; Don A. Stapleton, Oregon; Bo Kline, Alaska; Mike Rodman, South Dakota, John S. Ryan, New Jersey; Scott A. Thomas, Arizona; Michael P. Bible, A.W. Lodge No. 22 in Virginia; Brother Richard Elman, Indiana; Brother Russell Reno, Nebraska and Brother Carl Willi, Rhode Island.

Brethren, I would now receive a motion to dispense with the reading of approved minutes of the 109th Annual Meeting as printed in the 2019 Annual Report. You each have a copy of the report. I will make a motion to dispense with the reading. If you all want me to, I can. Second.

We have received a motion and a second to dispense with the reading of minutes. All in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Not in favor same sign? Thank you, gentlemen.

We will now have the report of the President. I am going to ask

you just see my full report in the Annual Report, and I would just like to say a few words to you. This is certainly an honor and a privilege that you have granted to me. Not only serving as President of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, but also the opportunity to address this august body of Masonic leaders, the voting members of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.

On behalf of the Memorial Association, I extend our thanks for your support of the Memorial during the past year. It has proven to be a very productive year. Restoration of the Memorial is pressing along with additional improvements.

The Memorial is truly a beacon of light for Freemasonry and for American Patriotism. It proudly reflects the character and virtue of our foremost founding father and Mason, General/President and Brother George Washington. Without his efforts, we would not have this great country that we are so blessed to live in.

Again, I thank you for your support. We will now proceed with the report of the Executive Director.

M.W. GEORGE D. SEGHERS: Brothers my report is in the Annual Report, read it at your leisure. I will be outside if you have any questions, please come see me. Thank you.

M.W. JEFF WEBB: I will now ask brother Ken Nagle our Second Vice-President, Chairman of the Cornerstone Centennial Celebration.

M.W. KEN NAGLE: Good afternoon, brethren.

(Good afternoon.)

Grand Masters, at your places you will find two copies of a postcard size card here that says on it "Saving the date." That date in particular is Monday, February 20th, 2023 when we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. We want each of you to be there. Although you won't be sitting Grand Masters, we want you to come back. Second we would ask that you give that to the brother that will be the sitting Grand Master in 2023 so we could have him there as well.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has graciously agreed to host the Conference in Crystal City and we will be a part of that celebration in coordination with them. Our Conference Secretary, Most Worshipful Brother Mike DeWolf has set aside Monday of that Conference so we can recognize the Memorial and celebrate it all day long.

We at the Memorial will have transportation for you from the Crystal City host hotel to bring you into Alexandria for the celebration. We are going to start in the morning with laying of the wreath at the George Washington tomb in Mount Vernon. We will then take you to the Memorial where you will start your morning deliberations in our auditorium at the Memorial. Just before 12:00 we will then transport everyone to King Street to where we will have a staging area for a parade that is going to come down King Street, through Old Town Alexandria, to the base of Shooter's Hill and up the driveway to where the property is.

In 1923 there were some 19,000 Masons who assembled on King Street and marched up that street to lay the cornerstone. The President at that time was President Calvin Coolidge, Howard Task, our Supreme Court Justice, Governor of Virginia and many other dignitaries. We hope to have the same in 2023. We want this to be a national event.

When we get up to the top of the hill where we will reenact the laying of the cornerstone, the Grand Master of Virginia, then Most Worship Jack Lewis, will officiate along with his group. But each of the sitting Grand Masters from all of the jurisdictions will be a participant in that celebration. We hope that you will be able to be there to be a part of this once in a hundred year opportunity.

At the end of the celebration, we will transport you back to the host hotel where we will have a birthday bash gal to honor President and Brother George, many, many toasts, free food and a lot of fellowship. Please save the date. It is exactly three years tomorrow. Come and be a part of what we have. Come see what the George Washington Memorial is all about. Remember that the Memorial is owned by each of you and every single Mason in your Jurisdiction. We want all of you to be present. I'm not naive enough to think we are going to assemble 19,000 Masons, but we want to have as large of a group as we can, and hope to have the largest gathering of Masons on the east coast since



that hundred year in 1923. Come be a part of what we have.  
Thank you, brethren.

(Applause.)

M.W. JEFF WEBB: I think about the transportation, horse and buggies and what have you in 1923. I think we will have that many for the celebration, so please you all mark your calendars.

Brethren, we will now hold election of the members of the Board of Directors, and ask Most Worshipful Brother Steven Pence, if he will please come forward and present the report of the Nomination Committee for members of the Board of Directors.

M.W. STEVEN PENSE: Most Worshipfuls, I have the Nominating Committee, consisting of myself, Grand Master of Louisiana; Mark E. Rustin, Grand Master of Maine; John Trauner, Grand Master of California.

We present the following brethren for your consideration as members of the Board of Directors of George Washington Masonic National Memorial to serve a term of three years until February 2023. The names for consideration is Kenneth G. Nagle, Past Grand Master of California; Lewie Fletcher, Grand Master of Montana; Clifford "Chip" Stamm, II, Past Grand Master of Connecticut; Leonard Proden, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia; Michael A. DeWolf, Past Grand Master of Wisconsin; Jimmy E. Windham, Past Grand Master of Mississippi; John M. Taylor, Grand Master of Alabama; and John W. Westerman, III, Grand Master of Florida. All of these brethren have been contacted and are willing to serve if elected.

M.W. JEFF WEBB: Brethren, all in favor of the report of the Nominating Committee electing these brothers as Board of Directors, please signify by saying Aye? Opposed? None. Thank you, gentlemen.

Thank you Grand Master Pence, Grand Master Rustin, Grand Master Trauner, for serving on the Nominating Committee.

I now declare the members of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association duly elected and installed.

Moving on to new business. Brethren, we have copies of the proposed change to Section 5 of the Memorial Association bylaws. For our bylaws to change will require a unanimous vote to be adopted. The proposed changes have been proposed by five active members of the Association. Steve Pense, Grand Master of Louisiana; Mark Rustin, Grand Master of Maine; John E. Trauner, Grand Master of California; Harold D. Ireland, Grand Master of South Dakota and Ralph A. Easley, Grand Master of New Mexico.

I will allow time for you to review the proposed change. All right, gentlemen, I pray that you had time to take a quick look at these changes. All in favor of adopting the proposed changes to Section 5 of the Memorial bylaws please signify by saying Aye. Aye. Opposed like sign? None. Carries. Bylaws are changed.

I did have a few names wrong here, put them in the wrong area, but we'll get them straightened out in the official record. If you take care of that, I would appreciate it.

I would like to recognize our Board Members. They serve for three years and then they rotate off the Board of Directors. This is done to allow all of our 52 active member Grand Lodges the opportunity to serve on the Board. These Brethren have done an outstanding job the last three years, and we thank them for their dedication, hard work and their input and all they have done for the Memorial.

The retiring Board members are Robert L. Darling, Minnesota; Gale H. Kenney, Washington; Stephen J. Ponzillo, III, Maryland. Steve, he is in hospice right now. He is in very bad condition, so please remember Most Worshipful Brother Steve Ponzillo in your prayers. Barry A. Rickman, South Carolina; Robert C. Rill, Jr., Ohio; Don F. Stapleton of Oregon. Thank you for your service, we appreciate it.

(Applause.)

Would the Grand Masters of South Dakota, North Carolina, Ohio, New Mexico and Board members Mike Rodman, Carl Willi, Rob Rill, please join us down in front. Then what I'm going to do is for brevity, I'm going to call this meeting to a close and I will lighten any Grand Master of Grand Jurisdiction that have checks to present, to come down on the floor after we close. We want

to present these plaques first, and then checks, photo opportunity. I am going to go ahead and close the meeting. I now declare the 110th Annual Meeting of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association adjourned. Thank you, Brethren.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: At this time I would like to introduce Most Worshipful Jeffry Carlton, Past Grand Master of Arizona for his report. He is currently the President for the National Masonic Foundation for Children. Please join me in welcoming him.

(Applause.)

M.W. JEFFRY CARLTON: Most Worshipful brother, distinguished guests, brethren all. We are the National Masonic Foundation for Children. This august body, in 1986, in an effort to overcome alcohol and drug abuse of children, created this foundation through the Conference of Grand Masters. It is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization that works with Grand Lodge Jurisdictions in order to offer the student assistance programs in schools throughout our nation. Many of you are not aware of this organization and we are one of your committee.

We are backed by a professional group of psychologists and sociologists under the guidance of Newman Stecher International. It is an education consulting firm that provides -- our goal is to provide training to school districts, state departments of education and community groups throughout the country, so the materials for these programs are developed by Newman Stecher.

Our current programs will be -- our Executive Director will give you a little bit of insight. It's a school based early intervention approach to enhance educators with identifying the at risk students in schools throughout the nation.

One of the things that we have to do today, gentlemen, is we have to elect the Board of Directors again. I would like to take this time to introduce the existing Board of Directors, those that are here.

Right Worshipful Ron Aungst, Past Grand Master of Pennsylvania,

will you step forward, Ron? Thank you. Brother Doug Policastro, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. Doug, thank you. Brother Vourvoulas, he is the Right Worshipful Grand Master of Maryland. Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Patton Hart, from Kentucky; Most Worshipful Brother Rob Lemon, Past Grand Master of Ohio; Angelo Deserio from Illinois; Most Worshipful Brother Tim Farerro, Past Grand Master of Michigan; Richard Martin, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Oregon, and I think that's all of us over here.

I also, at this time, would like to introduce our Executive Director, Most Worshipful Brother Tom Velvin, Past Grand Master of Maryland. I want to introduce to you, brothers, the heart and soul of our organization, and that's our Executive Secretary, over here on my left, Abby Morgan.

(Applause.)

Without further ado, brothers, we have a Nominating Committee to put before you these guys to serve four years. We don't do a three year term. These three men are all going up for, I believe, their second and third three year term. First of all, like to put before you Most Worshipful David Done of California. David is home sick. Most Worshipful Yancy Smith out of South Dakota. He is also home sick, but we have with us Brother Angelo Deserio, from Illinois. Without further ado, may I have a motion. Moved. Second. All in favor? Aye. Opposed? Thank you, brothers.

Without further ado, brothers, I am going to -- oh, before I step aside and let our Executive Director talk to you. I know a lot of you aren't familiar with this program. Abby has put in front of you one of these flyers. If you take a look, I would appreciate it. Abby, if you would like to run a short little thing that we have before we turn it over. I'm not going to try and ramble, be as disjointed as Mark Twain was here.

(Video played.)

Thanks for your attention, brothers. If you had a chance to look at the brochure or the video, this is a pretty important project that the Conference of Grand Masters and the Committee has taken on, and it is basically saving lives of children and intervening in suicides, and drug interventions. The program

and the needs of society have drastically changed. The original goals of this foundation were that of simply drug and alcohol related incidents. As you can see, mental health, bullying and various other things that teachers in the schools must be aware of, that they deal with on a daily basis, and hopefully recognize it. The early course of action that might be taken to save children.

Before I turn it over to the Executive Director, I would like to introduce to you, yesterday we elected them into the Board of Officers. We would like to introduce them to you today. The now President for the next three years will be Most Worshipful Ted Ferraro, Michigan; the Vice-President will be Most Worshipful Pat Hart from Kentucky; the Secretary, continued will be Most Worshipful Yancy Smith out of South Dakota. Yancy is home sick. Most Worshipful Richard Martin from Oregon, who has been Treasurer for the past three years, has agreed to continue. Thank you, Richard.

Without further ado I would like to turn this over to the Executive Director, Most Worshipful Tom Velvin, and maybe he can give you insight into some of the programs that we are currently running right now.

Brethren, only 14 jurisdictions out of the 52 who are dealing head on with the problems of children in schools, and issues that they face, both social and mental. I hope you will give us a thought and take this brochure home.

You're done, Past Grand Master almost. No matter if you were installed yesterday, but we would like you to pass this on to your Wardens and your Deputy Grand Masters for consideration for future financing out of your jurisdictions and become a member of this group. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. TED VELVIN: Thank you Most Worshipful Jeff. As Jeff just said to you, we need your support, whether it be \$100, \$500, or more. In addition to what we get for doing training, which is basically passed from our hands to -- from your hands, to our hands, to our contractor, Newman Stecher International.

In this brochure that Abby handed out to you earlier, are the

synopsis of several of the programs we now offer. Originally, as Most Worshipful with Jeff just said, we started out with doing Masonic Model Student Assistance Training which was basically teaching teachers and administrators in the public schools how to deal with kids who were involved with drugs and alcohol. It has evolved into other areas as time has marched on.

Today we offer 14 trainings for teachers, as we always have in the past. Oregon in particular, are doing four trainings a year, two up near Portland for majority of the schools we are also doing two, and in the town where I live we have been very successful in doing that. Our biggest customer over the years, in recent times, has been the Grand Lodge of Illinois. They are responsible for doing probably something like 30 trainings, or 20 some trainings this past year. They are planning to do 30 in the coming year.

In the past year we did 95 days worth of training. Work that down into about 42 for other programs, 54 days of training for the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

As I said, our biggest problem these days seems to be cash flow. Because of declining membership in our lodges, and because of now declining contributions to the letter campaign we send out for you to participate for many, many years. In 2013 or '14 we would have about \$50,000 a year from the campaign down to 13,000. It does not make my salary or Abby's salary and the administrative costs of running the program. The Grand Lodges typically have given us somewhere in the 50 to 75 Thousand Dollars previous years' donations, above beyond what we normally get for doing trainings in their jurisdictions. So just mention it.

In recent years, the last two or three years donations we have received have dwindled away to the point where it is very difficult for us to keep our doors open and keep going. We are dedicated to the fact that we want to continue to do this training for the kids and for the staff at our schools, so we continue to do it. So, we look for your support.

As Jeff mentioned, we have had as many as 26 jurisdictions participating in the program over the last several years, and that's down a little bit now even though we are doing more

trainings per year.

Because of the diversity we have added to the program over the past couple of three years, we are doing different trainings than the past. We are still continuing to put our faces in front of teachers and administrators and provide the training.

This is one of the few places in the world where this training is available. Masons took it on themselves in 1986 to assemble one of two foundations funded by the Congress of Grand Masters back in those days and we continue to do that now. There have been a couple more foundations added over the years, but we are still second. The Masonic National Masonic Memorial is the first one. About three years ago met with Tom Stecher and Larry Newman, and Abby was with me. We sat down and talked and decided what we could add to the programs in terms of new trainings and we have continued to do that. This brochure gives you some insight into what is available. If you want more detailed information you can stop by our table, which is way down around the corner, down there near where the Youth Organizations are, and I have a more detailed description of each of the trainings.

The last couple of years we have also added Masonic Youth Training for our DeMolay, Rainbow Girls and Job's Daughters. They're eager. We're starting to see the results of that. We did our first training in New Jersey a couple of years ago and this past year we did four trainings for our youth organizations. The coming year we think we're going to do some more. So that's all in the wheel.

I think that's about all I have this morning. Thank you for your time and for your funds, and we look forward to receiving some donations from you out here also. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. JEFFRY CARLTON: Brother Mike Watson, will you stand up?

Gentleman, if you turn over here to the corner, the gentleman standing up back there is brother Mike Watson. He is one of the original directors from Ohio in 1986. Let's give him a hand.

(Applause.)

My brothers, if you have donations, we are going to be down front just like the George Washington Masonic Memorial was. We appreciate your attention and we hope you will get on board with this and pass this information down. We realize that monetary constraints have you Grand Masters locked in and you can't help us, but we also hope that you will pass it down to your Deputies and Wardens as they go forward with their budgetary planning, and you become a part of this wonderful organization. Thank you so very much for your donations. Thank you, brothers.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: There's a Masonic Renewal Committee meeting today at four o'clock, 4:15 in the filly Room. We have a couple of breakout changes for tomorrow. The breakout from 3:00 to 4:00 in Salon 2 will be Data Analysis by the Senior Grand Warden of Ohio, Tim Wheeland. Then the breakout session on Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:00 in Salon 9 will be Most Worshipful Brother Arby Humphrey, and he will be presenting Education and Mentoring. If you're in Guarding, you will be with Mark, unfortunately he was unable to make the trip so Brother Mark Rustin, Grand Master from Maine, will be there. Keep him in your thoughts.

Is there any other business to come before us today?

UNIDENTIFIED: One question. Data Analysis, what room is that going to be in?

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: That will be, let me see, Tomorrow 3:00 to 4:00, that's going to be in Salon 2. Taking the place of Education and Mentoring session. Anything else?

(No response.)

All right, brethren, we'll call off until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock. Please enjoy the rest of your evening. Be safe.

(Sunday session concluded.)

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**Monday 17 February, 2020 Louisville, Kentucky**

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: We will have Chaplain of Kentucky, Archie Smallwood, for our prayer.

(Prayer)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Did everyone have a good evening last night?

(Applause.)

Nice event, I hope you enjoyed it.

At this time we would like to start right in to our first presentation, Be a Mason Now. I would like to call Illustrious Brother David Glatley, 33rd Degree, our Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Counsel of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Please welcome him.

(Applause.)

ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHER DAVID GLATLEY: Thank you, Grand Master Newton. Thank you everybody. It's a pleasure to be here with you. I don't know if you had a chance to stop by the Scottish Rite booth outside here, but we are giving away socks. We said if you really want to be a cool Mason, you got to wear the socks. You definitely have to wear the socks. Now, all you cool Masons that have the socks on, you stand up. Now, those of you sitting, look around at the cool Masons.

(Laughter.)

Thank you. We have something a little special for you here today. As you know, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction got a piece of the platform with the Masonic Renewal Committee and we started to introduce the marketing plan that we started. We started with the Path Forward Program, that was developed because of surveys. To make a long story short, we had a company that surveyed men across the country to find out if Masonry is still a viable organization in today's world. What we found out is it is absolutely nothing wrong with Freemasonry. One more time. There is absolutely nothing wrong with Freemasonry. We only need a better marketing program for

ourselves. That is when we started, Not Just a Man a Mason, and that campaign, most of the Grand Lodges here have used the material, and we are glad to do that, because we want Freemasonry to grow.

Last year we started our own campaign for Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction and did a survey, electronic video campaign out there for people to find Scottish Rite. We said, well, we have to have an electronic application, because it doesn't make sense to have these videos and everything and then tell people, you have to do a paper application. Not in today's world.

So we started collecting applications for Scottish Rite, and hundreds of them came in. It was really good. But, we found out something, we had a little challenge. We rejected hundreds of applications. The reason why we rejected is because they were not Master Masons. A lot non-Masons were trying to be in Scottish Rite Masonry because they liked our campaign. So that brought about a whole other situation. What do we do with all of these interested men that want to become Masons? So we said, all right, we need another site. Be a Freemason.org. That is what we are going to announce to you today.

There is an overview on the video I am going to play momentarily, but the main part of this video is, we control the narrative. We control what to say about Masonry. We tell them what a lodge is. We tell them what degrees are. Not some guy at the garage, not some crazy guy overseas or something. We control the narrative on what Freemasonry is.

When a man goes to this site and gets interested, there is a little area there where he can fill out some information and say I'm interested, put in the basic contact information. Guess where that information goes? To you, directly. We don't get it. If the interested man is in Oregon, it goes to the Grand Lodge of Oregon. If the interest man signs up, puts Rhode Island on there, it goes to Rhode Island. So, this is an overview of the site. It explains it to you. Be a Freemason.org.

(Video played.)

BROTHER DAVID GLATLEY: Now, there were couple things on the bottom of one of those screens. It ws two double headed eagles

and a fez. And my favorite part of this project is my partners. Let me introduce you to them. Imperial Sir Jeff Sowder, Imperial Potentate of Shriners International and James Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Counsel of the Southern jurisdiction of Scottish Rite, United State of America.

(Applause.)

SIR JEFF SOWDER: Good morning.

(Good morning.)

I can tell you this is a historic day in Freemasonry. The three of us, Scottish Rite Northern and Southern jurisdictions and Shriners International partnering for the benefit of our Grand Lodges.

We all realize that while we may benefit eventually from getting new members, we realize that we have to build Blue Lodge Masonry to build this fraternity. So, today we invite you to join us with this great program in your grand lodge to promote it. We must work together to better our fraternity.

Please welcome Jim Cole, Sovereign Grand Commander Southern Jurisdiction.

(Applause.)

SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER JAMES COLE: Thank you. Thank you Dave and Imperial Sir Jeff. My brethren, you may be asking why you are here on this historic occasion. None of your predecessors witnessed this, these three organizations coming to stand with you. Coming to support you.

Let me give you one of the why's to this. Somebody asked me a question out there just a few minutes ago. Why did you do this? And I said, "Because it's what we need today." 19 years ago I sat over there behind that Virginia sign where Doug is sitting today, and you talked about our membership crisis. We used that word a lot. We need new men. How come they are not coming in? Is it something -- is there something wrong with us? Well, we did a survey and found out, no, there's not. But, you know, when I sat there 19 years ago I did not have one of these

(indicating). Now, I know -- Let me just have a show of hands, how many of you are using their smart phone right now? Come on, hands up.

We didn't have that 19 years ago. I did not know then that Google would become a verb. Google was only incorporated two years before I was sitting there. The smart phone, the iPhone, for example, came out years after I was sitting there. Actually it came out the year after the good brother I put in the line became Grand Master five and a half years later. We didn't have smart phones. Okay. We just had smart Grand Masters, at least we thought so. Freemasonry is too important to leave to Google. I hold this up as a phone call comes in from one of our West Virginia Masons, but that's the point. We are never out of touch now. You literally are holding it up, somebody was back there taking a picture of this with your cell phone. That will break it for sure.

(Laughter.)

You don't want to leave to someone, to Google, and then work through the list of inaccurate information. After having a good marketing and branding program, as was started with The Path Forward, and putting a positive image out there, immediately most people -- and I am not just talking about 20 year olds. I was sitting with a 73 year old at lunch a couple of days ago, and he said, "Let me Google that." Literally, age does not matter. Okay. It's too important. We want the quality information out there. We developed the site so that the interest in Freemasonry can be directed to a proper place. It's important that people who look us up on the internet have a place to go.

It is important when we do market that we can point to the right place. So that if you sign up -- if you decide to do this, if you decide to join, then you can start using literature. You can start putting it on your website, on your Facebook page, you can tell people where to go for information. That's why we're here. We are here to try to direct the interest through the social media and internet to your door. We are not going to step across the threshold. We want to bring them to the door and if they want to knock, and you want to let them in, they are in your hands at that point.

We are here on this historic occasion, never before in the history of Freemasonry, in this Conference, have you seen these three organizations standing here stretching forth our hands to assist you. You can find more information about this at the booth on the other side of the wall.

I got to tell you, they just told me they're out of socks. So if you -- we are Masons so don't be snatching up somebody's socks that are laying around here. Although, I think the rule is if they walk off and leave, then after 90 seconds you can take them. I think I was taught that in Fellow Craft Degree, I'm not sure.

Brethren, we believe in you. You know, Dave Glatley has spent his life working with DeMolay for our Masonic youth. A few years after I sat over there, this good man sat at the table behind the Kansas sign. We understand your journey. We are here to just do what we can to help. What you do going forward, we hope you make a decision to join us, but if you don't, that's fine, too. We're still here to do anything we can to support you. Come see us at the booths on the other side of the wall. Thank you for this time, and thank you for what you do for Freemasonry.

(Applause.)

BROTHER DAVID GLATLEY: That's a really great step forward. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: At this time we would like to call Most Worshipful Brother Patton Hart, Past Grand Master of Kentucky for the Masonic Renewal report.

M.W. PATTON HART: Good morning.

(Good morning.)

Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipful Sirs, brethren and guests. Thank you for allowing the committee the opportunity to make our Annual Report to you. It has been a productive and successful year for our committee. We have made considerable progress and wish to share with you some of the remarkable undertakings by the committee. Let me tell you about the affairs of the Masonic Renewal Committee and some of the initiatives that we are

pursuing in the future.

I am Patton Hart, Past Grand Master of Kentucky and serve as President and Chair of the Masonic renewal Committee I would like to acknowledge our committee for the work they are doing, Dean Alban, Vice-President 33 Degree Scottish Rite, Supreme Council, William H. Berman, Past Grand Master, Secretary/Treasurer of the committee from New Jersey; Al Jorgensen, Sovereign Grand Inspector General in Washington, Assistant Treasurer; Richard Lynn, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Florida; Roger S. Van Gorden, Past Grand Master of Indiana; Michael DeWolf, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary Wisconsin, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Conference of Grand Masters; George Taylor, Director of Membership Services for the Northern Jurisdiction Scottish Rite; Ronald P. Jacobson, New Jersey; Joshua Woodwyk, Past Grand Master of Michigan; Sir Knight Jeff Bolstad, Grand Encampment, Knights Templar; Brother Eduardo Velasco of York Mexico. Also I would like to appreciate all of the special committee members, those who are representatives of various Grand Lodges, to rise and be recognized at their places. Let's recognize and extend our thanks to the committee for a job well done.

(Applause.)

I would like to provide a historical perspective with the Masonic Renewal Committee. The MRC was formed in 1988 and published its first Masonic Membership Kit in 1992. In 1996 we offered renewal seminars for Grand Wardens. The MRC produced many outstanding resources in the past to serve our fraternity. Some of the resources are still relevant and are credible documents today. Through our concerted efforts, we have assisted Grand Lodges and Lodges to revitalize Freemasonry. Most of the publications, pamphlets and brochures are highlighted on our web site and are available for you to use.

In 2008, a resolution was adopted by the Conference of Grand Masters to make materials on programs and ideas of member Grand Lodges available electronically. The Committee has worked in the past to fulfill this directive by establishing a web site and a reference tool for all Masonic leaders of North America to use as a resource.

I would like to highlight the mission statement for your

consideration "Pioneering Innovative Resources for Freemasonry". The committee continues to work to further our mission with the services, programs and products that we have produced and identified to better enhance Masonic renewal and serve our great fraternity. We can take pride and satisfaction in knowing that the previous MRC resources have been developed, continue to be useful and beneficial to all. Therefore, we are continuing our search to regenerate Freemasonry today.

We have several initiatives that we have been working on during the course of the past year. I will highlight them for your review and consideration.

I am excited and pleased that we will be partnering with the Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction and Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite and Shriners International with their web site [www.bea Freemason.org](http://www.bea Freemason.org) to incorporate our initiatives and plans. The web site serves as a reference and resource tool for Masonic programs for Grand Lodges and all Masonic leaders. You can still go to [www.masonicrenewal.org](http://www.masonicrenewal.org) to access and experience a Masonic awareness of education and information. The ongoing initiative Path Forward Membership Program has been beneficial to numerous Grand Lodges. The team of Masonic and Shrine leaders of Scottish Rite with the Northern Jurisdiction and Shriners International has updated the materials, signs and videos, increasing their focus on all three R's: Recruitment, Retention and Restoration. This is a remarkable program that is highly recommended to access ordering the materials, so you and your Grand Lodge can make a significant impact.

We have produced a universal New Members Orientation Guide and Mentoring Guide to serve our Grand Lodges and lodges with their programming. The resources will appear on our web site for your review. Our hope is that you will find the resources to be generic and applicable to all Grand Lodges and lodges to utilize.

The MRC has made available at previous Conferences of Grand Masters some recent marketing materials to consider. The marketing tools were A Guide for Grand Lodge Officers to Grow and Develop Lodges and a brochure highlighting the mission and services of the Masonic Renewal Committee. You're welcome to come by and check out our display in the marketplace.

We hope you enjoyed the two breakout sessions that were presented by Illustrious S. Brent Morris yesterday. The MRC is proud to have had the opportunity to partner with the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction to bring Illustrious Brother Morris to the Conference this year to share his powerful thoughts about the future of Masonic membership. During the conference, we also hope that you will have the opportunity to attend the Recruitment and Retention Session presented by Brother George Taylor, IV, a core committee member of the MRC, representing the Scottish Rite Northern Jurisdiction.

We have a wealth of outstanding MRC leaders who are available to serve as presenters in addressing the Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries to deliver quality programs of interest on Masonic Programs, as well as visit your jurisdiction. The core committee serves as the Speakers Bureau for the Masonic Renewal Committee.

The MRC, in conjunction with the Southern Jurisdiction of Scottish Rite, are pleased to sponsor a membership conference entitled ENGAGE 2019 that focused on communication, information and education in Washington, D.C. at the House of the Temple. We had representatives from Shriners International, Northern and Southern Jurisdictions of Scottish Rite, DeMolay International and members of 21 different Grand Lodge Jurisdictions from the United States, Canada and Mexico. The primary highlight of the conference was to provide future Masonic leaders of various Masonic bodies with tools that restore, retain and recruit members, as well as consider the membership trends for the future. Overall, the event was very successful, and received and was a huge success.

We hope that you have the opportunity to attend this morning's breakout session regarding Academic Lodges, which will be hosted by the Masonic Renewal Committee and presented by Most Worshipful Roger Van Gorden, Past Grand Master of Indiana, as a core member of the MRC. We have continued to develop a partnership with the Academic Lodge Program to strengthen the connection between Freemasonry and higher education. There have been several Academic Lodges that have been chartered and formed recently on college and university campuses. There are active

Academic Lodges located within Grand Lodges in North America that are functioning today to better enhance the academic and



fraternal experience. Academic Lodges can be a tremendous source for membership to consider for the future.

The MRC presented Acacia Fraternity, a social fraternity on college campuses with an Affiliation Agreement in November of 2019 for review that presents multiple options for mutual assistance and cooperation. The Agreement is being considered by Acacia Fraternity at the end of February 2020. Acacia has a long and unique relationship with Freemasonry, having been started at the University of Michigan in 1904 by Freemasons. Acacia Fraternity is active on college campuses today and they specialize in starting up new chapters with local Masonic support. MRC's vision is a cooperative network where young men can progress from DeMolay, to Acacia Fraternity on a college campus, to an Academic Lodge, to a general Masonic Lodge, to the Masonic families and beyond.

The overall goal of the Academic Lodge Program is to strengthen our relationship with higher education that builds and holds great promise to increase membership, promote the professional study of Freemasonry, and portray the Craft in a professional manner to the general public.

We are pleased to announce the 2020 Masonic Communication Awards Incentive Program. The awards program has been instituted to enhance the channel of communication and recognize excellence in Masonic communications. The MRC was challenged by the Conference of Grand Masters to establish the web site as a way to enhance communication and provide Masonic publications as tools for Masonic training, membership, education, communication and leadership to the Craft. We achieved these initiatives and want to offer our expertise in initiating and retaining communications with the Grand Lodges and lodges in North America. The competition is open to all Grand Lodges and lodges within North America. It will be based on the five categories: Magazines, newspaper/newsletters, e-mail communications, web sites and Facebook. By your participation, we can learn from each other the importance and value of communications. The winning submission in each category will be recognized at the Conference of Grand Masters in February, 2021. We urge you to go to our web site to receive further information regarding the rules and guidelines of the Masonic Communication Incentive Program.

The MRC has established a Jack Jones Humanitarian Award to recognize the significant accomplishments and contributions that Imperial Sir Jack made to the Conference of Grand Masters. The Masonic Renewal Committee, Shriners International, and families of Freemasonry. Imperial Sir Jack was a founding member and adviser to the Masonic Renewal Committee when the committee was established in 1988. Jack was a Past Imperial Potentate for the year 2008-2009, Honorary Past Grand Master of DeMolay International and Past Imperial Recorder for Shriners International for many years. He was renowned as a Shrine Mason for his loyalty in exhibiting the fraternalism of unity with all Masonic families. We are pleased to present a deserving recipient for all he has done to further Freemasonry and uphold the valued principles of Jack Jones. This year's recipient, Most Worshipful Brother Robert P. Conley, Past Grand Master of Michigan, Past Grand Secretary of Michigan, Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Lodge of Michigan, Past President and member of the Board of Trustees for the George Washington Masonic Memorial, former Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters in 2001 and former President with the Masonic Renewal Committee. Bob Conley was a close friend to Sir Jack and they worked on many projects and activities together throughout the years to enhance the family of Freemasonry.

I would like at this time to have Most Worshipful Grand Master Mark Manning come forward to receive this recognition on behalf of Bob. He couldn't be here this weekend, so remember him and his very deserving, distinguished award.

(Applause.)

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Grand Masters who submitted nominees for this award. Each nominee was worthy of the award. Making the choice of who best represented Jack's legacy was a difficult task indeed. We would like to continue this honor of recognition of Jack Jones for years to come. Nomination forms and information are available through or Masonic Renewal Committee web site. We would like to encourage your Grand Lodge to make a nomination for the recipient for 2021.

We are exploring the option to offer a new program that has been approved by the MRC - the Masonic Leadership Academy Correspondence Course. The online Masonic education and

leadership course was developed with the entire fraternity in view. The program was devised with 150 questions overall. It is our hope that the program would be promoted as an educational course to our Masonic lodges, Grand Lodges and the Conference of Grand Masters. The course format is similar to the Order of DeMolay Leadership Correspondence Course that is offered on line to the young men of DeMolay. If the members graduate from the course, they would receive some form of recognition for their achievement. The questions pertain to Masonic leadership, history, Masonic Degrees, administration, overview of our fraternal families, etc. The correspondence course that checks your Masonic knowledge is comprised of multiple choice and true-false questions.

Our committee instituted a sub-committee named the MRC Representatives' Special Committee. Its purpose is to more efficiently share the goals and objectives of the MRC to every Grand Jurisdiction by means of communicating with a designated brother within all jurisdictions. As of this date, 42 of the 62 Grand Jurisdictions which comprise the Conference of Grand Masters of North America are represented on this special committee. We would like every Grand Master, if you haven't done so, to send your name of a designee for the MRC Representatives' Special Committee to our Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Berman, Past Grand Master of New Jersey. He has sent e-mails to jurisdictional contacts and is an amazing way to network on a regular basis. The members serve as important links about membership growth, retention and other issues that affect your jurisdiction, as well as promote successful programs that exist in your Grand Lodges.

We continue our pursuit and search for new ideas and services to assist our Grand Lodges of North America. If any of you have a thought or a program regarding Masonic renewal or interest to be involved in our committee, please don't hesitate to seek one of our committee members out and receive more information. We have made great progress, but there is still more work yet to be done to strengthen and work with each other so we can succeed in better serving Freemasonry.

The MRC is a 501(c)(3) committee. As such, the committee is not funded by any Grand Lodge. However, it does encourage tax-deductible donations from Grand Lodges and other Masonic bodies to provide monetary support for our endeavors. Your

contribution, whatever it may be, will be used wisely to help our cause.

In closing, the committee is comprised of representatives from all across North America, including members from local Symbolic Lodges, several Craft Lodges, Scottish Rite, York Rite and the Shrine. The members are genuinely interested in supporting all of you, the Masonic Jurisdictions and Freemasonry to succeed. We want to wish each of you and your Grand Lodge the very best. It is our hope that you will have a harmonious and successful Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries. Thank you for your attention and for all that you do for Freemasonry.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: So here we have another tool for the tool belt, right? I have a few announcements to make. First off, our breakfast tomorrow, the Frank S. Land breakfast is going to be in Salon E through G. So, that's a misprint in your program. We're not in South Dakota this year. The 11 o'clock pictures for Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries, our Grand Masters will be in aprons and collars. So if you didn't bring those with you, we will be breaking here a little bit early so you will have plenty of time to go get your aprons.

I wanted to talk about, just remind you, I guess, on the 10 o'clock breakouts we have this morning in Salon 1, Academic Lodges by Most Worshipful Brother Roger Van Gorden, Past Grand Master of Indiana. In Salon Number 2, Rural Lodges and Mergers, and that is going to be facilitated by Right Worshipful Brother Thomas Gamon, IV, Grand Master of Pennsylvania; and Salon Number 3, Recruitment and Retention by Brother George Taylor, IV, Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction.

Another correction to our program is our next facilitator is our Senior Grand Warden from Ohio, Right Worshipful Brother Tim Wheeland, who is going to present Analyzing Membership Data, and I would hope that you would welcome him for his presentation.

(Applause.)

R.W. TIM WHEELAND: It is certainly a great day for Masonic Data Analysis here in the great state of Kentucky. As the Chairman said, my name is Tim Wheeland, Senior Grand Warden of the Grand

Lodge of Ohio.

I have done quite a bit of analysis over the last several years on our membership data in Ohio and we started to expand that and widen the scope of what we are looking at.

The Grand Master of Ohio has extensive insight into our data. We have worked with various vendors, MORI and Grandview over the years and can access our data and provide significant analysis. We have taken a look at a number of different aspects of our membership.

So we've got membership acquisition. We looked at traditional degrees completion dates, one day statistics, membership reinstatement rates, suspension non-payment of dues. What our overall membership churn was like. Does everybody understand what churn is? If you know what churn is, raise your hand? Okay. Membership churn is basically the loss of membership over a period of time. So when you are taking a look at suspensions, and death, and demits those kind of things, and you add those up, you compare them to your overall membership rate, that's called your membership churn rate. We will talk a little bit about that coming up.

The other things we have done is taken a look at sharing data, not only between other jurisdictions, but also with the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. I will show you the analysis of what we have seen there as well. Then just last month, working with our friends from Indiana over here, we have started to do some cross jurisdictional comparisons to see how we compare with the different aspects of membership churn.

So just to highlight, Ohio membership, about 75,000. About 2,500 of those members are dual members, so they're members in multiple lodges. Over the years we have talk about the different types of members, or how men are initiated into Freemasonry. Primarily we always talked about two different types of members. We have talked about the traditional member, we are all familiar with that. They go through the three degrees over a period of time, they finish that out. That's what I call a traditional member.

Then we talked about this jurisdiction that has them, the one day class members. Members that go through the one-day process

and become a Mason in that one-day period.

As I have done some analysis recently, I also came to realize there is actually a third type. That third type is what I call traditional starters. A traditional starter, at least in Ohio, what has happened is they started their degree work in the traditional process. They have been initiated, maybe made Fellow Craft, but for whatever reason their journey stopped. What we are trying to do, is we encourage them to finish their degrees however they can finish them. So, we allow them in our one day class process for those men to finish their degree work in the one-day process.

So at first I didn't know that that mattered, but those would have been considered one day members or not, but it turns out that they have unique characteristic of the membership and the membership churn based on that one segment.

So, I can show you a little bit what I am talking about there. About 86 percent -- 14 percent of our members live outside of Ohio. This is what our charts look like. This is currently today. You can see the biggest majority of our members are traditional members. About 21 percent finished their degree work in one way or another in a one-day class. So when people are in Ohio, you are looking around, you are sitting at lodge, your Masonic events, people looking around the table, one of five men in Ohio that are sitting there came through the one day process.

Now, take a look at what has happened more recently. So, I went back to 2002. 2002 is when one day classes started in Ohio. Since 2002, 62 percent of Ohio Masons were raised at a one day event. So, we are generating a lot of memberships. A lot of good members come through this organization through the one day class events. The number of traditional raisings have decreased significantly since 2002. We were around 1,100 per year traditional raisings and that number has now decreased to under 700. In Ohio we have 152 lodges. If you do the math on that, that is less than 1.6 raisings per lodge. There is a good number of lodges that haven't raised men in years. I am sure that probably applies to a number of our jurisdictions. That is a problem.

The other issue that we have seen in this analysis, I call it

the last 30. But in Ohio, we found that 30 percent of the men who are going through the traditional degree process don't finish. They never make it to Master Mason. That is a very significant issue. If you think about it, if we were -- if we owned a production line, if we owned a business, and 30 percent of our product coming off that line was rejected, we would all be looking for new jobs. I assume we would be looking for new jobs.

It just came to light recently, and the Brother from Ohio can attest to it. I have been pounding my fist on the table for the last couple of years saying, we can't continue to lose 30 percent off the top. We have got to figure out what is going on there.

A few days ago I got some information from one of the other vendors says "Hey, we took that analysis you did and we applied it across the jurisdictions that we control." He said, "I know you have been pounding your fist on the table about this. I just want to let you know your observation is right, you're actually one of the highest jurisdictions with this rate."

So, we're at 30. The average number of jurisdictions is actually 43, and some of them is as high as 60. So when we are talking about traditional members, we have got to figure out why we are losing so many. They are not even counted as members in member jurisdictions, so we have got to figure out what is going on there.

Without a one-day class at Ohio, we would see 21 percent less members. About 15,000 members would not be in our rolls today. Those members that did come through the one-day class are currently generating about \$1,000,000 a year in revenue to the Fraternity.

So the original chart, what that looks like. That was the total membership. Lodge members that were raised in Ohio since 2002. You can see the traditional piece of the pie is much smaller than the traditional -- or I am sorry, the one-day class rates have grown significantly.

Just a quick snapshot. This is what it looks like, the volume of raising in 2002. You can see the blue bars down here at the bottom. Blue bars, those are the traditional raisings. You can

see it over here in 2002, about 1,100, and they kind of go down. You don't want to see those blue bars go up over time. You can see the contributions every year of the one-day class member. The orange star at the top, the top stat, those are one day class members. The gray bars in between those are traditional starting members. Those are the members that started in the traditional manner and decided to finish their process or finish their journey in a one-day class.

We talked about the lost 30. This is what it looked like since 2002. You can see in 2002 only about 11 percent. 11 percent of -- yeah, 11 percent of our guys didn't finish. Over time that has crawled up, and since around 2013 or so, that number has really started to go up.

Now, this sharp uptick in 2019, little concerned because it says 52, but not too concerned because other analysis that we have done have shown those members who are, who come through the traditional degree and finish, will do it in a year, a year or less. So, that sharp uptick is actually still a work in progress. We expect that 52 percent number to come down, but it's probably going to come down into that 30, 32 percent range. Nothing real surprising there.

Suspended non-payment of dues. I assume that non-payment of dues is a concern for everybody in here. As expected, suspension non-payment of dues goes up over time. So in that first year, nobody is suspended because they just joined. But as those years tick on, those rates go up higher and higher.

Members who are raised in a one-day class actually suspended at a slightly higher rate than traditional members. That kind of makes sense, but what was shocking to me, or not shocking to me, interesting to me is, the traditional starter members actually suspended at higher rates than the other two categories. So, that was something that was interesting. These guys joined our fraternity through the traditional manner, they did finish in a slightly different way, but why do they end up having different rates of suspension than guys that came in traditional. So that's just something that I don't quite have the answer to, but it's definitely an interesting point to note.

One of the keys here, this third bullet point, based on prior analysis, our suspension rates are actually high. Now, we



started to dig into this, and then we had another group do some additional research. What we found is that rate could be as high as 28 percent higher than what it really is. The reason that is, is those guys have not suspended not paying their dues, those guys have died. So here is the scenario which contributes to all of our high SNPD numbers. Man comes into Blue Lodge, he is a member for years. He is paying his dues. For whatever reason he moved away, or not been in touch with the lodge for a while, continues to pay his dues. He then passes away. His family never reaches out to the lodge to say that that man has passed away. So that lodge hopefully year, two, three years carries that man on their rolls to keep him good. But over time somebody says, we haven't heard from him, he hasn't paid his dues, we're going to suspend him. He goes down in history in our organization as somebody that did not pay their dues. That man is not a deadbeat, that man just died. So when that number came to light, that was shocking to me. We talked about communicate, communicate communicate. The more communication you do with your members, the more likely we are to find out about those situations and fix those situations.

SNPD is obviously one of the biggest components of our membership churn that we find that we actually can control. We can't control death, but we can certainly do something about suspension non-payment of dues.

This is just a quick chart of what suspension non-payment of dues looks like over the year. You can see in year one, as I said, nobody churns. As we go over time, those members that were raised in 2018, one year later, about three percent of them will have churned off because of suspension non-payment of dues. In two years, eight and three years, this is 10, and that number climbs all the way up until about 18 years, about 37 percent of those members that join, 18 years later will be suspended non-payment of dues. This is what it looks like in Ohio. It might be different in other jurisdictions. We are going to talk about that here in a minute.

Members in good standing. If you take a look at all of the data that you have, and you look at the overall churn rate, those members are leaving the organization, you can easily calculate how many people stay in the organization. That's your good standing rate.

Let's see here. In Ohio, and I think it's this way in most jurisdictions. I think California may be different, Pennsylvania may be different, but in Ohio you are not included in our membership records until, or membership count until you are actually raised as a Master Mason. So these numbers on these charts show that.

When we looked at data previously, we also looked at it as when that man was raised. So all of our membership numbers were based on the year that that man was raised. When we started looking at some other data points, it came to light that we may be thinking about that wrong, or that at least we needed to consider another way of analyzing those men and that is really about analyzing them at the year of their initiation. If you don't look at it as the year of initiation, then you're losing and not calculating in the losses that are associated with the members that aren't completing their degree work. Those members, even though they're members of the fraternity, are not technically in good standing with us because they are not members, and they are not paying dues.

Bottom note. In Ohio, if you look at this by initiation, the members by the year of initiation, it takes 10 years for a traditional member to equalize to the same level of good standing as one day class members. The chart will show you it here in a second.

Lots of bars might make your eyes go crossed, but you can just focus on the colors. These blue bars over here (indicating), those blue bars are the initiations by traditional members. The gray bars and the orange bars, ones that are a little higher, the left side of the screen, those are initiations by one day class members either traditional starters or one day. It makes sense. In 2019, anybody that finished in a one-day class got a hundred percent. They are in good standing, but only 60 some percent are in good standing for traditional members. Since we have that 30 percent and greater in some area's loss at the beginning, and even though one day class members churn off for suspension non-payment of dues at a higher rate, it takes 10 years for those parts to come together. 10 years. So, we're collecting dues and counting men in our fraternity for 10 years before we start to equalize with the traditional member. Just something to think about.

So, everything we have talked about is Ohio. In Ohio just a single day class in hundreds of jurisdictions. So what we try to do -- what we tried to do recently is we said how does this data compare with other jurisdictions? Because unless we know if we are good, if we're bad, if we're, you know, where we stand, these are just data points.

So last month, our friends from Indiana reached out and we said let's share some Grand Lodge data. Let's take a look at how these components of churn look against one another. This is not a one jurisdiction that is better than the other jurisdiction. This is about looking at the individual components and trying to figure out what each jurisdiction is doing better. Because until we figure out what the best practices are against all of our jurisdictions, we're going to be struggling with this for a long time.

So, what do we see. The Brother Richard over there, I sent him a template, and said Brother Richard, can you have your guys fill this out. So he went, he got the data, he filled it out and sent it back to me. That night we had a long conversation. A good conversation.

What this shows us right here is suspension non-payment of dues, this is what it looks like. The orange line is Indiana, and the blue line is Ohio. Now, this is based on percentage of membership. So that equals out, our jurisdictions is slightly bigger than Indiana, but we're going to take a look at it as a percentage of membership and see how we equate to each other.

One of the first things I thought was interesting is right here, those lines are the same (indicating). Little different volume, but they're the same. We don't know why. We didn't work together for those years. See that side that stays put are kind of interesting. You can see right there about 2010, both started to pick up right at the same time. That's kind of interesting.

Now, we know in Ohio what happened in 2010. In 2010 Most Worshipful Brother Posey implemented a Suspension Non-Payment of Dues Program. One of the aspects of that program is they had to reach out, a lodge had to reach out to a member three times and have personal communication before they are allowed to suspend that member. That drove down suspension non-payment of dues

rates a little bit. We're still trying to figure out what has been going on in Indiana at that time, but they had a similar downward turn. So, you can see Most Worshipful Brother Posey left office. It was not -- that program was not continued on, and whoop, up went the suspension non-payment of dues rate. Right back up.

So another thing we are looking at is, you can see in Indiana in 2013 to '15 suspension non-payment of dues rate dropped. Trying to find out what happened there. Because, again, if we can figure out what causes these low points, and what they did with those low points, maybe we can learn from them and figure out what we need to do to improve our processes.

This is what reinstatement data looks like. Reinstatement. Somebody is suspended, going to come back in, going to pay a fee, they're going to be reinstated. Again, Terry told me part of his program was he sent reinstatement letters five years back. We have a tremendous jump in reinstatements that year. You stretch this out, in 2018, this was the first thing that Richard and I talked about. He said, "What did you guys do in 2010 to 2018 to make these things go up? Make those lines go up." I said, "Well, in 2018 Most Worshipful Brother Eric Schau, he implemented a restoration program. He went back three to five years, communicated with those members and we got a really good response rate back on that. What is even better is, we are tracking these members. We are a little smarter about what we are doing here. We know those guys. We know who reinstated. We've got the membership numbers for the whole lodge in here. We're checking them year, after year, after year.

After the first full billing cycle, the following cycle when those men would have to pay their dues again, 89 percent of those men paid their dues on time. So, one of the thoughts of this process was that we were going to lose those men a year later. 87 percent paid their dues on time, and in April of this year we are going to get to see what the next cycle looks like. So, I am looking forward to being able to do that analysis.

This is just kind of a combined reinstatement, obviously suspension non-payment of dues, so I combined them. Every year some people suspend, some people reinstate, those equal out. I won't say they equal out, they offset each other to some extent. This is what the overall lines for that look like.

This is an interesting chart we're trying to figure out. This is demit. So Ohio, we have a very steady line of demits of .5 percent a year demits. Indiana it goes up and down. We don't know why this goes up and down. We're trying to figure that out. Because if we can help Indiana lower their rate to lower, that is hundreds of men a year that don't churn off. We're looking at that. That is what we are working on.

Then again, if you take everything, all churn, all acquisitions, all new members, reinstatements, everything, you throw them all together in a pot, you can come up with your overall churn rate and you can see that regardless of the different shapes of the lines, and differences overall in the end. Again, those lines track pretty close. We are about, what does that number say, 11 percent. There is about 11 percent difference between Ohio and Indiana right now in overall churn rate when you combine everything. But their's is individual processes that impact each one of those components of churn. If we can figure out how to lower some of it, how to increase other parts of it, we can all benefit from this.

The last thing I really want to talk about as well is, we just wrapped up an effort where we took 125,000 records from the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. We mapped those records to almost 400,000 records in the Grand Lodge of Ohio. We mapped 90 percent of our members from beginning of time between Blue Lodge and the Scottish Rite. What that allows us to do, we can now look at status of members on both sides. I can see members that are in good standing in Ohio that are suspended in Northern Masonic jurisdictions. I can see people that are in good standing in Northern Masonic jurisdiction who are suspended in Blue Lodge in Ohio. So you shouldn't have -- you can't have members that are not in good standing in your Blue Lodge. I can tell you, you do. I don't look at that as a negative right now, I'm looking at that as a positive because those members are high probability to get reinstated. I am going to tell you a majority of these guys don't even know that they're suspended. If they're paying dues in one Masonic body, and they're suspended in another, all bets are, I put my money on the fact that they don't know that they're suspended. If we reach out to them and make sure they know, that is a big opportunity for us to return those men to good standing in the Blue Lodge.

Just some quick checks, what I did. So here, these are Northern

Masonic Jurisdiction members in good standing. Another interesting thing we found, 2.2 percent of those guys have deceased. We talked earlier about the higher churn rates and suspension non-payment of dues due to death. Here is a quick way we can figure out. This scenario this man's Blue Lodge and maybe also Scottish Rite. Man passes away. Somebody let his Scottish Rite know he passed away but they didn't let the Blue Lodge know. We're not doing data transfer among these bodies, so we're not going to know. So, if we can set up a payment -- if we set up a process where we are exchanging data with our appendant bodies, then we are going to know that somebody has been informed that that man may have just died. So 2.2 percent of those men have passed away, and we see that about 1.7, or almost 400 men are suspended non-payment of dues on Blue Lodge.

Then this one is just the opposite. If we started with who is good, who is good in Blue Lodge, what are their status in Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. Again, I am a half glass full kind of guy, I look at this 11,000 guys that are active in Blue Lodge, good standing in Blue Lodge but suspended in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. They left for some reason. That's 11,000 guys that we might want to reach out to and try to get them back into Scottish Rite.

So, recommendations from all of this. We continue doing this. We continue looking at this membership data. We continue working with our appendant bodies like the Scottish Rite to share this data back in forth so we have good member statuses and streamline our processes at the Grand Lodge office level.

We need to work with our vendors. In Ohio we work with ^^ Grampion, some of you work with ^^ Amorey, some of you work with Patriot, there's probably a hand full of others as well. We need to work with those systems. We need to be able to exchange data between these systems and we need to be able to track our churn rates so we can share them with other jurisdictions.

Key point here is, we need to continue to work with other jurisdictions and share these data points so we can learn the best practices that each one of us are doing. Then I would suggest that we form a cross jurisdictional committee to do just that. Let's find some groups. My trip here, we already heard from Connecticut. We know Indiana is on board. Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, anybody that is interested in working

with us, we are here. If you want to know more of what we are doing and actually deep dive into some other data, there's a breakout session today three o'clock to four o'clock in Salon 2 I have been asked to put on. I will share some of the other in-depth data that I have that we have done in Ohio.

Anybody want to reach out to me, that's my e-mail address. Feel free. I am always here. I am willing to help jurisdictions however I can. That Most Worshipful Brother Newton, is what I've got.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you very much, Most Worshipful Brother Wheeland. I would like to ask you to stick around for a minute. If anyone has any questions for Tim at this time, we are opening the floor.

(No response.)

Thank you, Tim. We appreciate all of your efforts. I know Ohio, we talk about that quite often when we get together in our travels as Grand Lodge Officers trying to figure out what the formula is.

I would like to read a letter that I received from the Grand Lodge of Bolivia, to the Conference Chairman of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America. Dear Most Worshipful Sir and Dear Brother Grand Master. On behalf of the Confederation Masonica Iberoamericana, C.M.I., (Iberoamerican Confederation), which represents Grand Lodges, including the Grand Lodge of New York and the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia. I want to wish you and all the Grand Masters attending this important Masonic meeting a very successful 2020 Conference of Grand Masters of Masons of North America.

I am sure that at this Conference many key Masonic issues will be discussed, and as a result Freemasonry will have new ways to meet the challenge of moving our beloved fraternity forward to face successfully the modern world. Sincerely and Fraternally, Most Worshipful Jose Adolfo Crespo Bonadona, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Bolivia, President of Confederation Masonica Interamerica.

We thank him for his greetings.

Do we have any other items for this morning?

Brethren, a few more housekeeping items and we will be good. We can take a break and go get those aprons. For our 11 o'clock conference photo session, the Grand Masters of the Conference will be in aprons and collars. They will go first for the pictures. That is the order of the photos. The second group will be the officers of the Conference. They will also be in aprons and collars. Visiting jurisdictions with Conference Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary will be in aprons and collars. Grand Secretaries will be in business suits.

Again, those photos are right here at 11 o'clock.

I also want to remind you of the men's lunch. Our guest speaker today is Brother Warren Alter, Sons of the American Revolution Foundation. That lunch will be in Salons E through G.

Lastly, before we call off for lunch, I want you all to think about your topics that you may like to consider discussing at our open mic session this afternoon. If you want to submit those to me, or you can wait until this afternoon and bring them up as we talk, but I want you to be thinking about those as we prepare.

If there is no other business, at this time we will call off for lunch. We will meet back here at 11 o'clock for those pictures.

(Lunch.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Did everyone have a nice lunch?

(Yes.)

At this time I would like to call Most Worshipful Brother Craig Davis, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Iowa to begin our MSA Annual Meeting. Please welcome him.

(Applause.)

M.W. CRAIG L. DAVIS: Most Worshipful Grand Masters, Right



Worshipful Brothers, brethren all, distinguishes, my name is Craig Davis, I am past Grand Master from Iowa in 2010-2011. I am currently the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Iowa, and I also serve as Administrator of Masonic Service Association of North America.

I am going to give you a brief introduction. You will find -- on your desk you will find a -- this is our official report, and you will also find a draft of the financials. Any other papers you find on your table are propaganda and not property of the MSA.

Let me start off by trying to explain some of the things that are happening with the MSA. We continue to operate in the address that the MSA operated in the past. With transition comes challenges sometimes, and we'll talk a little bit about that later. But first off, I would like to recognize Most Worshipful George. Most Worshipful Brother George Braatz, Past Grand Master and Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association. He has been part of the transition team this year, and without his help, you know, we wouldn't be in the position we are right now. We appreciate that, George.

(Applause.)

George has been doing the Short Talk Bulletins, the MSA Notes and also put together the green envelop appeal. As some of you may have noticed, near the end of the year there was a little lull in the action when it came to this, and that was because as of transition time there was nothing in the hopper ready to be sent to the printer. So, we didn't have Short Talk Bulletins and MSA Notes ready to go. But, George has done a great job catching that up. He also worked with the printing company to get the green envelop appeal letter out, and we are happy to say we are getting good return on that.

We also have Brother Michael Smith from the Grand Jurisdiction of Maine. Michael continues to do the Short Talk Bulletins Pod Cast. If you are not familiar with this, you should go out to the MSA Facebook site and log on and catch one of our pod casts on one of our previous Short Talk Bulletins.

I would like to also recognize the Grand Jurisdiction of Minnesota this year. They donated \$12,000 from their foundation

to sponsor those pod casts so the money does not come out of our operating budget. So thank you to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

(Applause.)

Our disaster relief appeals continue. There has been some challenges with the distribution of monies. As you know, I have not really been privy to how that worked in the past, so we are working through those issues to get that money distributed.

We also continue our hospital visitation program. Richard Torrocki, Burtonsville, Maryland, he oversees this process of the Masonic Service Association. He is working with volunteers on a regular basis. It is our duty right now, we are in the process of putting together a process you need to go through to volunteer in your local Veterans' Hospitals so it makes the process easier to get approved.

One of the things you might find out in Masonry is that in most jurisdictions we have a system in place, you know, how you mentor a potential candidate, how you mentor candidates, how you mentor from EA, Fellow Craft to Master Mason. Then once you get past that we have the mentoring going on when a brother becomes an officer in the lodge. You know, you keep advancing up the lodge, as the mentor ahead of him prepares him for the next position. Well, that's the situation that is usually in place when you have a transition in leadership in a Masonic Organization. I think that back when George took over for Dick Fletcher, there was a three or four-month period where he was working with Brother Fletcher to learn the duties and responsibilities of the office. Then when Simon LaPlace took over for George, there was another three to four-month period where they worked together so they understood what was happening.

Now, when we took over -- when I took over in October of this year, there was not a three month or four-month period. There was no time that we had to get together so I could learn the operations of the Masonic Service Association. So that's why the commissioners put together a transition team with George and I, and the Commissioners, to get to the point where we can figure this stuff out.

So moving forward, that has been our problem. When you go in

and you try to figure out everything that is happening, and get it on a timeline, and we are in the process of doing that. With the fourth quarter billing last year, if you did not receive a bill, we had no idea when the bills went out, or who had been billed, or anything like that.

When I went into the office in Burtonsville, low and behold I find out that there are no hard files and no electronic files in the office. That information had been taken from the office, and so we had no idea of what billing, and when the billing had been done. So, that's kind of why we are a little bit behind on getting the billing out.

We look forward to having the MSA move come to Iowa and operate in Iowa. We are in the process of setting up a server so the MSA will be, will have a place for backup, where right now we are on individual computers in Maryland and there is no backup. So, we are in the process of that right now.

At this time it gives me great pleasure to introduce your Commissioners for the year. First I would like to introduce Most Worshipful Brother Lanny R. Sander, Past Grand Master from Oklahoma; Lanny is the Chairman of the Commissioners. The next one is Most Worshipful Brother Stewart L. Aronson, from New Hampshire. Stewart is not here this weekend, but I wanted to make note that he is a Commissioner. Next up we have Most Worshipful Brother Clayton J. Chip Borne, III, Past Grand Master from Louisiana. Next up Most Worshipful Brother James H. Kendall, Past Grand Master from Washington, and also Most Worshipful Brother Barry Weer, Past Grand Master from Illinois. At this time I will turn the meeting over to Most Worshipful Brother Lanny R. Sander.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you Most Worshipful Craig. Thank you for your comments and your introductions. My brethren, welcome to the 101st Annual Meeting of the Masonic Service Association of North America. Each Grand Lodge which is a member of MSA is entitled to one vote at this annual meeting. I understand that a quorum exists and I officially call this annual meeting to order.

I would entertain a motion that the minutes of the previous annual meeting be approved. So moved. Second. It has been moved and seconded that the meeting minutes of the previous

meeting be approved. All in favor usual sign of Masonry? Hands down. Those opposed same sign? Motion prevails.

A copy of the Amendments to the Constitution, which was forwarded to you in a timely manner. There is a copy for your review in front of you. I would now call on Most Worshipful Barry Weer, our Secretary for comments on this Amendment.

M.W. BARRY D. WEER: Good morning, brethren.

(Good afternoon.)

Yeah, it's afternoon isn't it. Things fly by you sometimes. I'm delighted to be with you Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, and one of the things I was asked to do. I am going to divert a little bit from the introduction that Lanny just gave to talk a little bit more in detail about some of our transition and what we have been dealing with as your Commissioners of the association.

Last year we had the opportunity to greet you at our 100th annual meeting. In the meeting and the accompanying report we referred to the commissioners engaged in several initiatives to enhance our position of service to the fraternity, add value to our ongoing programs and develop new outreach, demonstrating that the Masonic Service Association is Freemasonry in action.

Since that time, one of the major emphasis has been administrative realignment and financial control. The commissioners determined that we needed a thorough review of our business operations, practices and performance. Commissioner Stewart Aronson of Vermont, who had significant executive management experience, including restructuring of operations and change in management, was asked to make a business review designed to steer the Masonic Service Association toward a model of financial sustainability, to address our service delivery and explore potential future expansion of services.

His six page report served as the necessary catalyst for our discussions and ultimately the roadmap for the ensuing series of decisions that we made. I do not have time today, nor would you want to hear the details of all of the steps that we have taken, but I will take a moment to summarize some of those significant elements.

Our management model needed to be overhauled. The commissioners recognized the need for the Board to serve as the engaged liaison with our member jurisdictions, be responsive to the member's needs, and frankly to be cheerleaders for our programs and to become the face of the Masonic Services Association in their division.

Our national office needed to concentrate on operational control and management of the affairs of the Association and a manner of physical prudence, efficiency and effectiveness. The Board had been meeting only twice a year. We realized that to be proactively setting the policies and in a responsive manner, it required us to be far more active, taking responsibility for and directing the change which we envisioned. We instituted regular conference calls, which frankly have become weekly as our activity has accelerated.

The position description of the Executive Secretary was redesigned and the position retitled administrator to match future expectations and eliminating extensive travel time and expense. As part of this change, it refocused these responsibilities to the commissioners within their division. In response to this change, we have the proposal which Lanny just mentioned to expand the number of divisions, reduce their geographic reach to be more manageable. It's hoped and expected the commissioners will now be more directly connected with and responsive to the needs of their Grand Lodges.

We decided we also needed to move out of the expensive beltway area of Maryland, both for salary and personnel cost control, among other considerations. We have a summary in your packet of our relocation project. The Board requested proposals from across the nation and we received a number of them. From those proposals we selected a move to Iowa. In September of 2019 Commissioners Sander and Weer attended their annual communication and were pleased to announce our agreement to move into the Grand Lodge's Library Complex in Cedar Rapids. We also announced bringing on board as a part-time administrator, Most Worshipful Brother Craig L. Davis, current Grand Secretary of Iowa.

As noted, we needed to be fiscally responsible and prudent in the administration of MSA's financial activity. What you pay in each one of your jurisdictions, we need to pay our way. The

association depends on our member jurisdictions for dues as a part of that support. We have not had an increase in the Association's dues for some extensive number of years, anecdotally it's been reported since our beginning in 1919. Whether that claim is accurate or not, we are compelled to recommend an increase and that information is in your packet as well.

One of the things I would like to do is, before you consider that recommendation, I want to emphasize an extremely important fact. Your Masonic Service Association is a recognized charitable entity, an IRS 501(c)(3) organization. A number of our member jurisdictions are aware of this fact and they draw their annual dues report from their charitable funds. For those of you who are concerned about the impact this increase might have on your already tight or stressed fraternal budget, if you have the capacity within your charitable fund, to move to that source for the funding of these dues, that may ease your concern and allow you to feel more comfortable in supporting our recommendation.

Entering the second century of service required a thorough revitalization of our continuing services to member jurisdictions, their lodges, and most importantly, the Master Masons. We are determined to enhance our connection with the membership and enhance the value of our deliverables, our educational materials, including the Short Talk Bulletins, newer pamphlets and publications need to be aligned with current best practice for delivery to users. We have aggressively moved to digitalization, converting to a point of demand, technology in our printing, reducing the carrying costs of inventories and other initiatives that we're taking.

We have been excited by the production of the pod cast utilizing our Short Talk Bulletins by Brother Michael Smith of Maine, which Craig mentioned a little earlier. This service has just been continued with a grant from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota's Charitable Foundation of \$12,000 for MSA. That is sustaining this beneficial pod cast service. I wish that you would join me in thanking the Grand Lodge of Minnesota's Charitable Foundation for this most meaningful support.

(Applause.)

The acceptability of the pod cast is being used to enhance Grand Lodge programs in supporting their various constituent lodges. In my own state of Illinois, the leadership and membership development committees have circulated links to different series of these pod casts to assist members in developing programs and activities to directly benefit their local lodge. This is a resource you might consider. We will be highlighting this activity in an upcoming MSA note that is published and available to all with the Short Talk Bulletin.

Our hallmark VA hospital visitation and representative services remains an extremely important part of our program. As mentioned earlier, Richard ^^ Torrocki is continuing the primary support of our efforts to make sure that we have all the assistance necessary for those meaningful volunteers of their time and direct support of these efforts.

We are continuing our relationship with the Department of Veteran's Affairs Voluntary Services National Advisory Committee, and Most Worshipful Brothers Davis and Braatz will be representing the Masons at their annual meeting and conference in San Antonio, Texas in April.

As an aside, I would recount the conversation I recently had with Most Worshipful Brother Mark Manning, Grand Master of Michigan. He talked about the opportunity he had to make a visit with one of the hospital representatives in Michigan. There he met with an administrator who was seemingly unaware of the patients in the hospital who were Masons. As they talked, more and more of our brethren heard that the Grand Master was visiting and they seemed to come out of the woodwork, in his words. She left the conversation convinced of our strong fraternal bond and our care for one another as Masons. I would urge you if you have not taken advantage of an opportunity to join with one of your VA hospital representatives, that you ought to do that. Take a few minutes, or take a few minutes with Mark and he will convince you of the value and the impact your visit will make.

We are the national focus of efforts to provide disaster relief through the impacted Grand Lodges directly to their membership. Every request must emanate from a Grand Lodge. Several questioned why we have not initiated an appeal for Australia. It is because we have not yet received a request for one from

their Grand Lodges. We have reached out to them, but they have not made a request to date.

We just received a request from the Grand Lodge of Puerto Rico for assistance with the recent devastating earthquake. Please take a look at Note 5 in the Auditor's Review in your packet of materials for the detailing of the relief donations from members across the nation to your jurisdictions during the last couple of years. Again, Freemasonry in action.

A number of additional activities are in their planning stages. We need to revise and expand the activities of our Masonic Information Center. We desire to hold synergies with proven effective partnerships with other educational programs in the fraternity, such as corroborating with the Masonic Renewal Committee and exploring ways to support and reinforce the Scottish Rite Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, The Path Forward, and we would encourage you to provide additional suggestions to your divisional commissioners on how we can be more effective in supporting Freemasonry.

These are exciting times and the Masonic Service Association is gearing up to remain a significant part of our vibrant fraternity, indeed to be Freemasonry in action.

As was also mentioned in your packet of materials, there is a constitutional change. What is set out there is the current division of the service association that elects commissioners to serve you in the administration of the association. Currently we have five. As mentioned in my presentation, we believe that the geographic spread of some of these Jurisdictions is too broad, and we need to reduce the number of jurisdictions that commissioners are responsible for, particularly in the Western and the South Atlantic and southern areas. The delineation of those divisions is contained in that material. The change would merely provide for the new divisions to be recognized, it be moved out of the body of the Constitution and into an appendix, the alignment of the division so that in the future if we make a change of divisional alignment, we will not have to change the body of the Constitution, but merely publish a newly updated draft of the appendix and attach it thereto.

Mr. Chairman, I turn it back over to you for the presentation.



M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, Most Worshipful for that overview of the Masonic Service Association. I would now entertain a motion that the Amendments to the Constitution be approved. Do I hear a motion? So moved. Second? Second. Is there any discussion? Is there any discussion?

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: Mr. Chairman, I want to make sure that --

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Please state your name?

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: Walter Disher, South Carolina.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you.

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: I just want a clarification. Are we voting on proposal for the new dues with this? Which are we getting ready to vote on? Thank you.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Jason Jefcoat, Grand Master of Mississippi. I have two questions. First, on the proposed increase in fees.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: We are not voting on that.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: The Resolution to reorganize?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: We are voting on that.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Okay. Excuse my ignorance, please, but as it is now, who chooses the representative from each region, us as a whole, or individual regions?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The Grand Masters of that Division.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Of that division. So if this Resolution were to change, as they get smaller, you're going to have fewer Grand Loges picking their representatives?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Correct.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Okay. Now, this will reflect on the previous question, which I know we are not voting on yet. But, with the increase of the number of representatives, is that going to increase the cost of running Masonic Service

Association? I guess, what I am asking, is that the reason for the huge increase or huge request for increase in spending, because we're going to have more representatives?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Correct. What we're running into is the only way for the Executive Secretary was traveling out of Maryland to all these Jurisdictions. It will break up our divisions so that each Commissioner will be in basically a driving time. So that means that the expenses would come down. Expenses should go down. That's what we're looking for.

M.W. JASON JEFcoat: That is what my question is. If we are going to have more representatives representing fewer Grand Lodges -- I know we are not voting on the increase, but can they tie together? If we are going to have more representatives and our expenses go down, why would we have the request for an increase in our dues money?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Discuss that.

M.W. JASON JEFcoat: To me, they're the same issues. One related to the other directly. I apologize for my ignorance. If expenses go down with more people representing fewer Grand Lodges; correct?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: We anticipate that the dollar expense will go down as we reduce the size of the areas that they are traveling in. What is not addressed in that, you have propounded here is the fact that we have been having to draw about \$100,000, this last year was \$191,000 off of our investment portfolio to meet current operating costs.

M.W. JASON JEFcoat: Okay.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: We are doing everything we can do to control costs, reduce costs and be as efficient and effective as we possibly can. Part of our need is to increase income as well, and thus the dues increase is a separate proposal.

M.W. JASON JEFcoat: Understood. And I am sure every Grand Master in this room can sympathize with the need to increase revenue, but by the auditor's report that you handed out, or somebody did -- I presume it was you all -- the MSA has an asset of approximately \$67,000 more this year over last year.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: We do. Once again, that is just a little bit of a separate question. Our return on the investment was 19 percent this last year, was the net on our investments. We actually had more return than we took off those investments. But, the trend is that that investment portfolio is decreasing because of the continual need to move funds from it to cover operating expenses and we need to stop that. So it's really our rainy day, our backup, and we would hope to get it down to the point more like an endowment. We could take just a small percentage of it annually in order to support our ongoing operations.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: But my question was, I appreciate that fewer Grand Lodges per representative is going to mean a lower cost.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Yes. And as a Commissioner, I can tell you that a lot of money comes out of Commissioner's pocket that MSA is not able to reimburse on travel to your jurisdictions. That's just part of it. We don't have money to do that. If we're going to have more Commissioners, which their expenses should not be near as great. But, by the same token, you don't want to go ask a brother if he would like to be a Commissioner that's going to take everything out of his pocket. So, it's one of those kind of deals we have to do. Everybody has that problem, I know.

M.W. RON YATES: Ron Yates, Past Grand Master from British Columbia and Yukon. Your realignment of your jurisdictions you got Canada finally being recognized as two districts. What I am seeing here is Canada East 2020 and Canada West 2021. What does that mean?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: What we have in our Constitution is a three-year term, and those dates are the beginning dates of the terms that would be assigned to those Jurisdictions. They're a staggered date so that the first one recognized is the one going to be in '21 would be a full three-year term. The other would be, I believe, it's a two-year unexpired term, then it would start the regular three-year term cycle.

M.W. RON YATES: So Canada West would not be represented then for 2020?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: It wouldn't be represented, it would just be an unfulfilled term and the full three-year term would start then when it came up for full three-year term.

M.W. RON YATES: Thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Any other questions?

(No response.)

Okay. It has been moved and seconded that the Amendment to the Constitution be approved. All in favor of the motion signify by the voting sign of a Mason? Hands down. Opposed same sign? Motion prevails.

UNIDENTIFIED: Thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Now, we get to the dues question. That has been somewhat discussed, it is in front of you. Many of the reasons, I will call on Most Worshipful Brother James Kendall, our Commissioner for discussions on the dues increase. Most Worshipful?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: I will say good afternoon.

(Good afternoon.)

The old saying, "Somewhere in the world the sun is over the yardarm." So, if you want to say good morning, you're welcome to. West coast guys are still on the morning clock.

First, Brother Yates, I brought one for you.

M.W. RON YATES: Thank you.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Bear with me. So this is called taking the new guy and throwing him under the bus. I get to talk about the proposed dues increase. As you heard, it is our belief that dues have not been increased essentially for the past 100 years. I would challenge you as Grand Masters of your jurisdictions to say the same. Nobody can.

In part this was because, like many jurisdictions, and especially our lodges, have been operating off the earnings of

your investments or you may have very large endowments that you can operate off of. I can tell you that my Jurisdiction in Washington is not lucky enough to have that, and so we there continue to work with our per capita and work on other ways to bring in operating funds.

In a very real sense the MSA has limited ways of doing that. The ways of doing that we are implementing the move to Iowa, for example, will reduce our office costs by more than 50 percent. That's a substantial savings, and one of the reasons we decided to make that move.

We are downsizing the inventory. We are selling the inventory that we have at a reduced rate to get it out of storage, which is an expense. So we will have a minimum amount on hand to meet demand, and then we'll have the print on demand function as well. You've heard some that. I believe it's in your packet.

The current formula is Six Cents for the first 25,000 members of your jurisdiction. Six Cents. ^^ (here he says 4 cents, next sentence 5 cents) Four Cents for each of the next 50,000. So, if you have 75,000, the first 25,000 are Six Cents, the next 50,000 are Five Cents. Five Cents. Then after it goes to Two Cents. The current minimum is 300 and we're proposing to make that a minimum of 500. The current maximum is 5,000, and I don't believe we want to change that. If you wish to give more, you're welcome to. We certainly, as all organizations, can use the revenue. We are taking steps to increase the revenue. You heard a little bit of that described and it is in your packets and we intend to develop those programs.

Savings and moving to an electronic format for publications will be substantial, but it is in flux right now. We're still working on it. So, I am not going to read that handout that we gave you. I think it is pretty self-explanatory. I honestly don't think we're asking too much here. If you want to throw a percentage out there we're going up 150 percent, or whatever it is. Okay. But an increase from Six Cents to 30 Cents is perfectly reasonable, when you consider that the other organizations are asking for dues getting a dollar, George Washington. They need that and they should have that.

We are not going there as yet. This will not fill our coffers so that we will by this alone be able to cover all of our

expenses. This is a combination of all of the things that we are doing. So, this proposal is to raise the dues is not one that we take lightly. It is our fiduciary responsibility to see that the Association's needs are cared for. This, we feel, is an important thing for us to do, to propose to you, the members, so that the MSA can continue into our second century.

So the Association is in a transitional state. We are making some fairly dramatic changes, as you now are aware. Once we get settled in, I think you are going to see some really, really nice products coming out and a better MSA than was left to us. As pointed out earlier, if you feel that this is going to be a budget hit, if you have a charitable fund that you have access to, you can pay these dues out of that charitable fund and not really affect your budget.

So, brethren, this is our proposal. Not hard, but straight forward. I submit to you that we, as all who are Masonic, have to do our duty to the organization. And this, my brothers, in my view, is something we really don't have a choice. We are not asking, mind you, too much. It's more, but it's not too much in the current environment. So, brethren, thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, Most Worshipful. Did I hear a motion to approve this change on our dues?

M.W. MARK A. MANNING: Michigan moves in support of the proposal.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Second?

M.W. NORMAN K. GUTCHER: Second.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Motion and second to approve the adjustment of dues. Is there any discussion? Please go to the mic, state your name, title and jurisdiction, please, for the record.

M.W. RICHARD MAGGIO: Richard Maggio. Massachusetts has been a longtime supporter of MSA. I congratulate you, thank you for all of your efforts. However, I find the lack of information that would be given ahead of time inappropriate and really not reasonable. I think most of us have a Board of Directors to

answer to. Funds are not unlimited. You haven't provided us with an annual report, or any financial information in advance. I think that would have been very helpful.

So without having that information in advance, I find it hard to support a Six Cent to 30 Cent increase. Now, that may very well be appropriate but, again, we have no financial information in advance. Thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you for your support of MSA.

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: Mr. Commissioner?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Yes, sir?

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: Walter Disher, South Carolina. I agree with my Worshipful Brother from Massachusetts. I also would like to remind the Commission that South Carolina has been a great supporter of MSA, always has been. I think every man in this room understands the budgetary frustrations that we all have. However, from the position I have under a Code/Constitution that my Grand Lodge holds me to, I cannot obligate my Grand Lodge to something until I go back and I bring the pertinent information to them and allow the Grand Lodge to make a decision. I have with me my Junior Grand Warden, my Deputy Grand Master. Our Junior Grand Warden also is our Chairman for MSA in our state. I think it is information for our officers to be here to understand what is going on. I can only imagine not having a dues increase for a hundred years, sir. However, that is not the fault of the men in this room, or the Past Grand Masters that have served in the past.

I can tell you that even though I understand, I know you and I know that you need money, I cannot vote for that proposal under the obligations I have taken as Grand Master for the state of South Carolina.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

M.W. CRAIG L. DAVIS: One thing I wanted to throw out there. If this proposal goes into effect, it does not go into effect immediately. It does not go into effect until 2021. So, if that helps. Yeah, the calendar year 2021. So, January.

M.W. DAVID COBERLY: David Coberly, Grand Master of Colorado. Our budget was set last August. Our members vote individually on line items in the budget. It does not accommodate this increase, and considering we did a 10 percent across the board budget cut last year, I don't anticipate accommodating it next year. We have been paying above the quoted amount for a number of years. But, given the number of members in the Craft in Colorado, and the fact we do not have a non-profit, that it is hard to have this type of use, we have general funds that is very targeted to scholarships and to Masonic Relief. This would have to come as a per capita increase. I assure you I can't support it.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: This is why the new kid gets thrown under the bus. Your remarks are to the point, and we certainly understand and agree you need to have authorization to do an expenditure. We are, therefore, going to withdraw this proposal. We will send it out to all of the jurisdictions so that you have an opportunity to look at it and discuss it. As part of our visits as Commissioners we will discuss these raises in more detail, about what we are doing with the proposed monies that we want to raise.

I have to say in defense, that some of the late dissemination of information and activities we are doing is because all of the records for the last three years were taken away when Simon left. They were on his computer and he took them with him. The Drop Box backup was emptied out so we didn't have access to that. So most of these procedures we are going to have to go back through histories and rebuild from scratch and build new ones. That's in the process. I'm confident that we will get that done, but in any case we are going to withdraw the proposal to raise the dues and bring it back up next year after the information has been disseminated and you have an opportunity to vote in your annual communications to approve the increase.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Once again, Jason Jefcoat, Grand Master of Mississippi. For information purposes only, when I go back home do I need to tell my people that this Resolution will be presented as is for next year's Grand Master Conference?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: It's my consideration it will probably be proposed as is. If during the course of the year we hear your input, which you are certainly welcome to put in and we'll take



that into account. If there are changes that need to be made, we'll make them.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: We need, I think all of us can agree, if this is what it is going to be, that's what we can take home with us. If it changes, we need, I would say a minimum of 90 days.

M.W. CRAIG L. DAVIS: I agree.

M.W. JASON JEFCOAT: Whatever we bring home to vote on, we need to know about it. Thank you.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: I got the nod from the other Commissioners, we'll stick to what we have proposed. So, thank you. Any other questions?

M.W. EVAN R. MOODY: Evan Moody, Grand Master of Delaware. How are you, sir?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Well, I was doing better before I got thrown under the bus.

M.W. EVAN R. MOODY: I understand your predicament. We have got to respond and answer to thousands of men who pay their dues each and every year. I have one simple question. Was Simon LaPlace, Past Grand Master of Connecticut, was he consulted with this situation?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: He was not. He left and we put this information together over the last six months. Anything else? Fire away, brethren.

M.W. RICHARD MAGGIO: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to know if I heard you correctly. Mr. Chairman, you had stated a moment ago, you said lack of information was due to the fact that Brother LaPlace has all of the records, or took all of the records. I just wanted you to clarify, did he take all of the records from The last three years?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: He -- the records are missing. Let's just put it that way.

M.W. RICHARD MAGGIO: Okay. That's very different from what you

said. You said he took the records.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: The records are missing. Leave it at that. I stand corrected. Thank you. Can I get out from underneath the bus yet?

M.W. STEVE HALL: No. My turn.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Thanks, guys.

M.W. STEVE HALL: Steve Hall, Grand Master of Idaho.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Hi, Steve.

M.W. STEVE HALL: I notice that you have a minimum increase of 300 to 500. Why did the maximum not go up?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: For the reason, in my view, is because of remarks here. We know how sensitive everybody here is to dues, and dues increase.

M.W. STEVE HALL: When you look at that and you look at the size of lodges in the smaller jurisdictions, the burden goes up exponentially greater. So, if you are going to raise the minimum up you should correspondingly raise the maximum that same percentage.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Is that okay with California? Can I do that? That was a rhetorical question. This has been withdrawn. We don't need further discussion. If you have questions, or comments, certainly forward them to us.

UNIDENTIFIED: Are we done?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Oh, I hope so.

M.W. JOHN E. TRAUNER: John E. Trauner, Grand Master of California. We have been the recipient of over \$200,000 from the MSA in fire help. The question I have to the Commissioners. Was it ever discussed about doing a graduated increase instead of one fell swoop?

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: Actually, yes, and this was a compromise. This was a compromise. I'm done. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. SHAUN BRADSHAW: Shaun Bradshaw, North Carolina. First, I would like to publically acknowledge and thank the MSA for the support. As you see, North Carolina has been a recipient recently due to the hurricanes and other things we have been hit by. We are very thankful for that support.

There was a comment made earlier, and I did some math. If you want to take it off line, that's fine. But Note 6 on office lease does not seem to indicate a 50 percent decrease in the lease cost as was indicated for moving to Iowa. So, again, I don't think we need an answer in public, but as I do the math, it doesn't compute.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The comment concerns the lease at the current location. That lease is up 1 October and ends. The arrangements in Iowa are significantly lower, but they are not addressed in the financial report.

M.W. SHAUN BRADSHAW: Very good. Thank you.

M.W. JAMES KENDALL: I'm off the hook, but I did want to say thank you for passing the change in the reorganization, because I get to go from 12 jurisdictions to six. It's a big help.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: I am going to ask at this point in time, do you wish to withdraw your motion on dues increase?

M.W. MARK A. MANNING: Yes, sir.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The second is withdrawn also?

M.W. NORMAN K. GUTCHER: Yeah.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Okay. The motion and second have been withdrawn, the dues increase. My brethren, thank you. You know, I have been to a lot of these, and I have sat here, stood here and we have gone through MSA Program and no one ever said a word. You all are awake.

Okay. Maybe this one will work okay. You have a copy of our Annual Report for review. Are there any questions on that report? If not, do I have a motion and second to approve our

Annual Report.

UNIDENTIFIED: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: All those in favor of the motion to approve the Annual Report, vote by the usual voting sign of Masonry? Opposed same sign? Motion prevails.

Moving right along. At this point in time we are at the election of the Commissioners for the current years. I call on Most Worshipful Sandy Peters, Grand Master of Oklahoma for a nomination from the Central Division of the Masonic Service Association of North America. Most Worshipful Brother Peters?

M.W. SANDY PETERS: Most Worshipful Sirs, Right Worshipful Sirs, I bring you greetings from the great state of Oklahoma. On behalf of the Grand Lodge, and the 19,000 Masons of Oklahoma, we respectfully submit for nomination Past Grand Masters Lanny R. Sander for Commissioner. Thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, Most Worshipful. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? If not, I move that Lanny R. Sander be nominated for another term with MSA. All in favor of the nomination, let it be known by voting sign of Masonry? Those opposed same sign? Motion prevails.

Thank you, Grand Master. Thank you, brethren. I enjoy serving as your Commissioner. This past year has been so much different than in the years past. We're now 100 years old. Many things take place, many things changing and it's hard to keep up with a lot of it. You have heard today what goes on at MSA at this point in time. We appreciate your support and we will do our best to bring to you the services that we can provide on your behalf. I now call on the Grand Master of New Hampshire for a nomination for the North. Grand Master?

M.W. KENNETH CLAY, JR.: Most Worshipful Brother, first on behalf of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, I would like to thank my jurisdiction for the continuing support of the MSA. I would also like to extend my personal thanks to Most Worshipful Past Grand Master, Stewart L. Aronson, who did yoman's work in

support of that service organization.

My brethren, it's my pleasure and honor to put forth a nomination of which has received the acceptance and approval of the Board, and that would be for Most Worshipful Brother Earl Washburn, Past Grand Master of Vermont and current Grand Secretary. I would also note that I have received a personal e-mail requesting the nomination of Most Worshipful Brother Simon LaPlace. So I will submit those two names, but I will simply say that on behalf of Most Worshipful Brother Aronson and the Board, their suggestion is Most Worshipful Brother Earl Washburn. Thank you.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: You are nominating Most Worshipful Brother Earl Washburn, correct?

M.W. KENNETH CLAY, JR.: Yes.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations?

M.W. RICHARD MAGGIO: Richard Maggio, Grand Master Massachusetts. And, again, I want to thank you for all you do. I think you have done a terrific job under difficult circumstances and I applaud you for your efforts. I look forward to presenting you with another large check, as we have done every year, but I would also like to nominate Simon L. LaPlace to fill the one-year unexpired term of the Commissioner of the North Atlantic Division.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, sir. I appreciate it. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? My brethren, we have two brethren nominated for the Commission, Most Worshipful Brother Simon LaPlace and Most Worshipful Earl Washburn.

M.W. KENNETH POYTON: Kenneth Poyton, Grand Master of Rhode Island. Is this being voted on by the divisions or the entire body, these names?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The entire body. All Grand Masters vote. All member Grand Masters. Okay. All in favor --

M.W. KENNETH POYTON: Ken Poyton, Rhode Island. Being that

these brothers are from New England, can we do this on a paper ballot? I would move that we do this particular one on paper ballot.

UNIDENTIFIED: Second.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: They will have to get something for us. At this point in time I am going to put this election on hold and we'll go to another. We have another election to be held.

M.W. WALTER C. DISHER, II: Mr. Commissioner, Walter C. Disher, Grand Master of South Carolina. I apologize, but earlier we voted that the gentlemen that were Grand Masters from each area would be selecting. That's why I had a question. I apologize.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Okay. Passing out the paper ballots at this time.

M.W. KENNETH F. POYTON: I'm sorry I keep coming to the microphone, but I, when I came up earlier I asked the question of when we voted on the resolution about the divisions, if it was going to be voted on by the region or by the body as a whole. My understanding was the region. Now, my only thing about that is, I'm from Mississippi. Okay. I should have a say over who my representative is, but not necessarily who Wisconsin's representative is. That was my understanding earlier, and apparently I was misunderstood.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The tradition has been that the district, Commissioner District nominates the Commissioner.

M.W. KENNETH F. POYTON: They nominate but they are chosen by the body as a whole?

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: The entire body votes. We are voting on Earl J. Washburn and Simon LaPlace. Everybody has one vote. Our tellers will pick up your ballots. I appoint the Grand Master of Massachusetts and the Grand Master of New Hampshire to be counters.

I will now call on the Grand Master of Louisiana for nominations.

M.W. STEVEN PENCE: Steven Pence, Grand Lodge of the state of

Louisiana. I want to appoint or nominate Most Worshipful Brother Cliff Borne, to serve another three year term for the South Central Division. I have traveled with Chip over the last four years to many sister jurisdictions in the Southeast Conference, attended Southeast Conferences, conventions with him and attended these sessions. It is a pleasure to nominate him to another three year term.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, Most Worshipful sir. Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Are there any other nominations? Hearing none, Most Worshipful Chip Born will be Commissioner South Central, Southeast. All in favor signify by the usual voting sign of Masonry? Hands down. Those opposed same sign? Most Worshipful sir, do you accept?

M.W. CHIP BORNE: Certainly I will. I thank you for the vote of confidence for three years. This has been quite an experience in the transition period. Go on to bigger and better days and I just want to share, Brother Jefcoat, serving an additional term on this Board, these are not billable hours.

(Laughter.)

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you, brethren. We had a total of 52 ballots, which included one for Earl Washington. Not sure who that is. And the winner is by popular vote, Most Worshipful Earl J Washburn. Congratulations, Earl.

(Applause.)

Earl, will you approach the podium?

Most Worshipful Earl J. Washburn, you have been elected Commissioner. Do you accept?

M.W. EARL J. WASHBURN: Thank you Most Worshipful Lanny. I do accept. I appreciate the backing of this Conference and I will work my hardest for MSA and in the service of this Conference. Thank you very much for your confidence.

(Applause.)

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Thank you for your patience with the MSA today. We do our best for your support to make sure that the

Masonry happening is happening well. I would entertain a motion that this association endorses the acts of the Executive Commission, and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer and Administrator for the period January 1st, 2019 thru December the 31st, 2019. Do I have a Motion?

UNIDENTIFIED: So moved.

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: Second?

UNIDENTIFIED: Second that this be adopted,

M.W. LANNY R. SANDER: All in favor signify by the usual sign of Masonry? Hands down. Opposed same sign? If any Grand Lodge or any organization has any presentations to make to help the MSA and Masonry, I will be pleased to meet you on the level over here aside of the podium to receive them. I now call the 101st Annual Meeting of the Masonic Service Association in North America closed in peace and harmony. Thank you, my brethren. Thank you very much.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Next agenda, while you are making your way there, I will announce the three o'clock breakout sessions this afternoon. If you wanted to get there, now is the time to start moving. They are Salon 1, Building Consensus and getting your Boards to work Together. In Salon 2 there is a change, Tim Wheeland will be in there presenting more information on the data analysis for those of you who want to talk more about that with him. In Salon 3, Dealing with Difficult Masonic Issues.

Brethren, at this time we have -- the agenda item is the Open Mic Session, which has become pretty popular. I am excited to see that we -- I hope we have some good conversation here today.

I have one suggestion, and I guess we'll start off with that and ask you to, again, go to the mics and introduce who you are and get some good conversation going.

The first question that was proposed is what is the state of your Grand Representative?

M.W. DAVID CAMERON: David Cameron, Grand Master of Ontario. That was my question, so I'm wondering about Grand Representatives near another Grand Lodge. We have that. We



have a large number of men who are Grand Representatives. Mostly they don't do anything. It has become an award for service. Some of the people do manage to go to the Grand Lodges they represent and interact. Others are representatives to Brazil, they don't speak Portuguese, or to Australia and they don't get there very often. So, my question -- and also, it seems that, from asking around, that some Grand Lodges are doing away with that and not having it. So, before we go and revamp what we have, I am wondering what other people do. Do you still have this? Do you still use it? Thank you.

M.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: William Sardone, Grand Master of New York. We do have Grand reps. We have those who are in the United States and we do not appoint any more. We do have a lot of international traffic that comes through the Grand Lodge of New York and as a result we have International Grand Reps. Before I appoint any, first question I ask them is, when is the last time they were at that Grand Master's house? If he doesn't know them personally, and doesn't know the Deputy Grand Master personally, just go there on vacation, that's not enough for me to appoint somebody. I appoint somebody that has a relationship with the Grand Lodge, makes trips, and goes there and is engrained in what they do and can actually represent me or my Grand Lodge at their location. But if he just goes there on vacation, and they like traveling to Brazil, or Mexico, or wherever, that's not enough. They have to have an engrained relationship with the Grand Lodges of that Jurisdiction and for me to acknowledge maybe one of those, let alone appoint someone.

In New York you become a Right Worshipful when you become a Grand Rep and, you know, there is a lot of people that would like to be Right Worshipful, but you have got to earn it. Thank you.

M.W. RONALD YATES: Ron Yates, Past Grand Master of British Columbia/Yukon. Two years ago we stopped appointing reps, however, the current reps are in place until they either give up the post or pass away. But nobody will be appointed for a rep. It will just die a natural death.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. DAVID CAMERON: David Cameron, Ontario again. No one else wants to, so could I just have a show of hands how many people

have Grand Reps that are active? How many people are like British Columbia and Yukon, still have them, but -- okay. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Very good. Does anybody care to introduce another topic?

M.W. MICHAEL D. NICHOLAS, SR.: Mike Nicholas, Grand Master Washington D.C. This is more of public service announcement for all Grand Masters, but if any of you know, we are close to Arlington National Cemetery and we have a Military Lodge in Washington D.C. So if any of you have Masons who are going to be buried at Arlington, and they need a Masonic funeral, our Military Lodge performs that obligation. So please just contact us or the Grand Secretary's office, or reach out to me. Usually we find that a man gets buried at Arlington sometimes months or even a year after he passed away. The challenge of that is the family is usually somewhat removed from that process. So if you want to make it easy for them, we know how to do it. We know where to do it. We would be happy to perform a Masonic funeral at Arlington for any veteran or anybody to be buried at Arlington. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: Not a public service announcement, but an update. Bill Sardone, Grand Master of New York. All of you who were here last year heard me grab a microphone and tell everybody I was doing a telethon. I did. March 19th we did a telethon, 18,000 people watching on the Internet and it galvanized our jurisdiction to one night, looking at one thing, and it was a positive move. Not only did it galvanize the jurisdiction, not to brag about it, we raised \$700,000 in an hour. One man gave \$150,000 because he said finally Grand Lodge is doing something different.

So the bottom line is, while we look at the graphs, and the charts of what's hurting us, where we are not going, we have taken it in another direction in New York where we are now going in a positive direction. As a result of that telethon, our membership participation has gone up, the interest has gone up. I installed my sixth new lodge last week. We have lodges that are coming back to me saying, don't give me anymore candidates, they have too many. We still have struggling lodges. That is

going to happen in areas where industry and everything has moved out. That's going to happen. When there is no homes, no people, there is no lodges, there is no bowling alley, there's no 4-H, there's no nothing. So, I get that. But, in other areas where there is population, we are now doing it.

We also have put some money into advertising. I am sure you Facebook and Instagram. We have taken advantage of all of these opportunities and ratcheted them up to another level for New York. As a result of that, the leads that we used to have, about 25 a month, now we have 110 to 120 a week. Out of those, they trickle down until you get a positive candidate. But, when we do get one, they are a solid one. It's an innovated program that we have used in New York, and we rolled it out just after the telethon that we put on.

Now, I know I am hosting another telethon for DeMolay on April 14th, but also participating, or have participated in the two Scottish Rite Telethons for both Masonic jurisdictions. These are not expensive to put on because you can drive it right over the Internet, and you can drive it right to people's laptops, their TV's, or whatever. So we have managed to figure out how to do this. I would like to do another one. I would love to do another one, but I'm running out of time. We are looking to do one also for DeMolay on April 14th, and that will be worldwide, just like our last one was.

So basically I went ahead and told the world what we were about. I told them we take care of seniors, we take care of children, we have a library, we have all of these other things. Basically the simple message was, you have a problem with them, come at me. Nobody really did. The bloggers and hackers that were after me for a couple of weeks went away. You know the temple that we have in New York City is a target. We had somebody throw a Molotov cocktail at us, at our back door. You will be happy to know that the police department caught that guy and he was arraigned in federal court because we had international clients in the building, so it became a federal offense.

So we have a lot of things going on, but looking at the positive side of what we did do in these charts, these bar charts. These graphs are all good, but I'm looking to see where we can spike them up and not realize where they are going on the downward spiral.

So the telethon was a success. We did it, and I would imagine at some point in time we're going to probably do another one again. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. RICHARD MAGGIO: Richard Maggio, Massachusetts, retired ballot counter. I think we have an opportunity here today. We had a wonderful photograph of Grand Masters of North America. I would ask you to look back to the October 8th, 1962 Cover of Life Magazine which had all of the Grand Masters of North America on the cover. I was wondering if anyone in the room had the wherewithal to contact a national magazine like Life, still does a few things, but I think it is a great opportunity. I think we are missing something here if we don't take advantage of that.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. ETHAN A. SEABERG: Ethan Seaberg, Grand Master of Minnesota. I raise a brief personal note. Many of you here know that I'm the Grand Master of Minnesota because our Grand Master passed away just seven days into office. So from Fargo, North Dakota to Meridian, Mississippi, this year has been as easy as it could be because of the support of all of you. So I am rising to say thank you very much for that. Thank you all.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: I believe it was last year, I am not sure if it was before that, but there was consideration of moving the Conference time frame, and it was proposed to a September/October time frame of the year. Is there any interest to talk about that today? Everybody pretty content on the current timing? Okay.

M.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: I have something else if you want it?

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: William Sardone, New York. In light of something that has been dropped in my lap over the past three months. We do background checks on everybody who wants to be a Mason. It's still up to the lodge to make a decision what they

want to do. We give the background check to them and the investigating committee makes a decision.

We have one lodge that takes background checks, they take them further and they found out that Harry was really Harriet at one time. Now, what do you do?

So, I let this one go because Harry has a full beard, smokes cigars with the guys, and they seem to like the guy and he seems to get along well. But, I have no idea if Harry is still Harriet. I have hired a law firm to look into it to see at what lengths I can go and check and see if Harry is Harriet. I'm waiting for them to come back with some kind of an answer because legally I can't ask him for medical papers. I can't ask him to physically show me. Our degrees don't always denote because we know the shape of some of our guys. No offense to anybody, but you know what I mean.

So, that's the thing I am facing. It just happened with one, so I went back to my guy that does the background checks. I said, "You may need to ratchet it up." I have four more that have come through that are like that.

Now, I have got to actually go back and see if they have changes of Social Security Numbers or something, to see if they have something wrong with their past and there hasn't been. Licenses are no longer the way to go. Some states you can have your license say female, or say "X", or something else. Personal information can be changed in some cases.

I am not sure what to do. Now, my Constitution Committee says that the Constitution will hold up. I said when they are picketing around 71 West 23rd Street, Manhattan they're going to throw things at me when I hold up that Constitution, so I have to have a better answer. I'm not sure that we are going to get the answer we want to hear, but it is something that I think we all need to start thinking about that is coming down.

Now, people say England has on their web site how they think, and I like that. But, I'm not England, and New York is not England. Whatever they put out is not always the right answer either, but is what they feel is right. But this doesn't go down deep enough to determine if Harry is Harriet, and that's something that we're now faced with in New York. I am waiting

for my law firm that is a law firm that works in the not for profits, and luckily the owner of it, of that division is a Mason, so I didn't have to explain the entire organization to him. But, that's what we are up to now. Has anybody got thoughts on that one?

M.W. JOHN E. TRAUNER: Yes. John Trauner, Grand Master, California. Believe it or not we have dealt with this. We have dealt with it pretty easily. There's a Harriet that has applied like you said as Harry, and gone through the process in the lodge. The lodge -- we leave it at the local lodge level. They do not have to select anyone they do not want to have. We leave it at the lodge. Conversely, if Harry is a Mason and becomes Harriet, and identifies clearly as a Harriet, then that person is no longer a Mason. That's how we deal with it. We have never been questioned. We have never been challenged. It has never been an issue. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. ROBERT STRADER: Brothers, Most Worshipfuls, Bob Strader, Grand Master of Wisconsin. I have been canvassing some of you already because we're dealing with this issue. We have dealt with men that now think of themselves as women that are brothers. We have had at least three that I know of in the past year. One has come to lodge twice in a dress. Luckily all three of those brothers we have counseled and talked to them about whether disharmony in their lodge upholds the obligations they took. We were able to convince all three of those brothers to resign from the fraternity.

Now, if they hadn't, you know, the one where the lodge, where the brother came twice in a dress, half the lodge was not coming to lodge anymore because they were afraid to see that brother in a dress. So luckily we didn't have to take that any further, but we were at the point that we were going to document that disharmony and determine what we had to take from there. But, we are dealing with the other side also. We have had inquiries from a woman that identifies as a man. I don't know if his body was changed or not, but we also engaged an external attorney that has some expertise in the area. I don't mean that specific area, but in the subject matter to give us a lot of legal, a lot of things to read and a lot of them about Boy Scouts and a lot of other things, other legal matters. But we looked at it, and

I talked to some Grand Masters here. Some say if the state considers the person a male, then by rights what do we have to consider any different. Others, a doctor certificate. We were -- our jurisdiction is thinking about going the doctor's certificate route. If a doctor, a medical, or psychological, or whatever, a doctor considers this person a man, then we would consider that person a man.

So, I think as one Grand Master pointed out, Grand Lodge of England, U.K., that whole thing has kind of muddied the waters a bit because they now consider, a man considers himself a woman, but he's still legally a man, he can join. And a woman that considers herself a man can join. Nothing medical, nothing beyond what they feel.

So we're in the midst of all of this too, so we have not made any determination on that. I just wanted to say it is an up and coming topic for a few of us. If any you have -- maybe California has the answer. So, leave that to local lodge. I heard a couple Grand Masters say they are leaving it to local lodge level. Maybe that's the answer. Thank you.

M.W. RICHARD M. NADEAU: Richard Nadeau, Deputy Grand Master of Maine. It's ironic that this question, this concern comes up this afternoon because we have debated this for the last few years. No one that has had his turn in that cycle has actually come around. At six o'clock this morning I fielded a question from one of our district officers in Maine saying that a Master of the lodge was going to attend a Fellow Craft Degree and found out that the young man had not always been a young man. I have sat in lodge with this young man who transgendered approximately 10 years ago. He is a fire fighter, cigar smoker, deep sea fishermen and hunter. You would never know this young man to be anything but what he presents himself as. Very well liked by his lodge for the most part. Some of the individuals that found out that he had transgendered decided they would take a demit and move elsewhere.

So far, unless we are going to put a camera down a young man's pants at their application, we really should just follow the tenants of our profession. Until the Grand Lodge can come up with a one size fits all decision on how to handle this, I think in Maine what we do is we leave it at the lodge level.

The Grand Lodge doesn't make Masons, the lodges make Masons. It stops at the ballot box or starts at the ballot box. So I would continue with what we are doing until, of course, we would probably come up with a different decision and find a different reason to handle it differently. We did have to handle that this morning. I don't know if that Master of that lodge is going to go to that Fellow Craft Degree now, but it's here, and it's now, and it's really up to the lodges to make that decision. Thank you.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you.

M.W. ROBERT STRADER: Bob Strader, Grand Master of Wisconsin again. We had discussed that very thing, leaving this at the lodge level. Unfortunately if you leave things at a lodge level and a lodge really messes it up, and there's a lawsuit, the deeper pockets are Grand Lodge. In many of our jurisdictions, a bad lawsuit could sink the Grand Jurisdiction. So, again, I am not sure we can leave it at the lodge level because lodges are not always the most logical and make the best decisions. So, I will leave it at that.

M.W. MICHAEL D. NICHOLAS, SR.: Michael Nicholas, Grand Lodge of D.C. I don't know the answer to the question posed by the Grand Lodge of New York. I understand wanting to leave it at the lodge level, but we have all taken an oath not to raise a woman. So his quandary, and hopefully not mine any time soon, is how do you tell whether that person is a woman or a man, and based upon plumbing or whatever. Without getting sued, how do you tell that? I think it is incumbent upon me as Grand Master not to make that decision for a lodge, but I would expect lodges to come to me and ask for advice or counsel as Grand master. I think it is important for us to tell them what they should be doing and not leave it up to the lodges because they feel differently about different things. So I still think we have to solve that issue, but hopefully New York gets sued, and then I will know what to do.

(Laughter.)

M.W. KENNETH F. POYTON: Ken Poyton, Grand Lodge of Rhode Island. A few years ago, not too many years ago, Most Worshipful Brother Steve Doan of California did a great speech about this very topic. He is an attorney. He is very well versed on these



things, and he may be a great resource to go back to if you have questions.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Anybody else? All right. I know we in Ohio also addressed this issue and I guess we don't have a solution yet. I was hoping to hear some good things today. Maybe if there are other jurisdictions that have policies, or their stand, or something documented on what your Grand Lodge is doing. I don't know if that's been recorded yet, but we are in the process of creating that for Ohio.

M.W. WILLIAM SARDONE: William Sardone, New York. The problem I have in New York is there are Grand Masters in New York is that I don't think there's going to be an answer that everybody is going to like, but I have to deal with it. I have to find the best answer that I can. And the lodge level? Yes. But the lodges are calling me and asking for advice. If I leave it up to them, I could have that lawsuit. Each one of our lawsuits is a \$15,000 start. 15 grand every time there's a lawsuit. Have a few of those put together, it's more of a financial issue. It's a public relations issues.

I'm sure you have all seen the Knights of Columbus are changing, their degrees are now public. They changed it around and now the mysterious secrets are now gone. So they are transitioning into something that they are trying. I don't think that is going to work for us, but the thing is, that the more we mishandle some situations, the more pressure we might need, we might be pressured to do something.

My real issue is, how do I understand legally if that person physically became a man? I can't go by what the state says because the state has various ways of denoting that in their legal documentation. That's where I'm looking for my legal counsel to try to come up with it. I am not going to put policy in writing, on our web site, or any of that stuff. Once I do that, then there will be a lawsuit. But, I need to have something in my back pocket that I can at least hopefully give to the Deputy Grand Master that is moving up as a guide on how to do this because we need to handle it the best way possible. Whichever way we handle the situation, I know that there will be some people who will want to get up and demit. I know some people will want to get up and quit. I know some people will want to do other things. You can't help that kind of stuff. I

mean there is some people who just don't like -- you know, so they'll never be happy. We had a cross dressing guy that came. We told him he couldn't dress like that. He finally said, well, then what about lady's night? So, I said, "No. I'm sorry, lady's nights are out also."

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Brethren, any other topics we would like to transition to? Anything else on your mind while you have this forum?

We are ready for our afternoon break? Looks like it.

All right, brethren, if we don't have anything further to discuss, or bring out on the floor in this open format, we are going to proceed to call off at this time. Call back tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. I look forward to seeing you at the banquet dinner tonight. Thank you.

(Applause.)

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(Monday's session concluded.)

**Tuesday 18 February, 2020, Louisville, Kentucky**

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Most Worshipfuls, Right Worshipfuls, Brethren all, good morning.

(Good morning.)

This is another great day for Freemasonry, right?

(Yes.)

We would like to begin our day with our opening prayer. If I can call at this time, on Right Worshipful Brother Archie Smallwood to offer that. Please rise if you are able.

(Prayer.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: So as we begin our final day, I believe our friends from Kentucky refer to this as the home stretch. How did everyone enjoy the banquet last evening?

(Applause.)

Last night's entertainment by Amber Martin and ^^ Rodney Fritz, it was really nice. I also would like to express our thanks and appreciation to our Imperial Potentate of Shriners International for the Frank S. Land breakfast this morning. For all who were able to attend, I hope you were moved by both of the presentations from our speakers there this morning. At this time I would like to call on Doug Bradburn, President and CEO of the George Washington Mount Vernon. Please welcome him.

(Applause.)

MR. BRADBURN: Thank you, all. Thank you all, gentlemen, for having me here. I am Doug Bradburn, I am President and CEO of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. My Board meetings look a little different than this. All of my Board members are women, although they do all represent states.

I appreciate you letting a stranger and interloper here amongst

you. I think you will find as I talk this morning -- and I will be not too very long -- that we have a lot in common. I want to thank Keith Newton and the organizers of the Conference for all of the work they put together in bringing me here today.

I work at George Washington's Mount Vernon. When George Washington, who was one of your illustrious brethren passed away, the idea that his example would teach generations was clear. John Adams was the President of the United States at the time remarked, "His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue to Magistrates, Citizens and children not only in the present age, but in future generations."

It is our mission at Mount Vernon to make sure that his example is still teaching future generations wisdom and virtue. But I think we wonder whether or not his example still is doing that work across the United States.

In this country we're in the midst of a crisis of confidence. Faith in institutions of government, in Congress, in the Presidency, in the justice system, in media are polling at all time lows.

I think we're also in a low period of civic understanding. In 2011 the Annenberg Public Policy Foundation did a poll of all voting age Americans and asked them the name of the three branches of government. Only 38 percent could name all three branches. They did another poll in 2017 and that number was down to 29 percent.

Civic education and the importance of community activities and access is a crucial factor in this country and its success. Washington himself in his inauguration and his farewell address attempted to persuade his countrymen that a society that governed itself needed an informed citizenry, schooled in learning, service and virtue.

That's what we do at Mount Vernon. I think you will also recognize that the institution of the Masonic Fraternity works in virtue, discipline and education as well. In the early age of the American Republic these efforts worked hand in hand with the growth of American Democracy.

So how we serve our mission in Mount Vernon is Mount Vernon

Ladies' Association, of course, saved the home of George Washington in the 1850's. We do our work through preservation, and education work. This is what Washington's home looked like when the Ladies' Association discovered that it was in dire, dire need.

If you don't know the story, it's really a remarkable one. The Washington family, where the tomb of George Washington is, where his fantastic home was, could no longer maintain it. They offered it to the United States government, they offered it to the state of Virginia. There was no National Park Service at the time, there was no idea of what to do with it. So a group of women led by Ann Cunningham from South Carolina said, "If the men of America won't save the father of their country's house, then the women shall." And they did.

We still are a private institution. Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and we've been open for the public to learn about George Washington and his values since 1860. So we're in our 160th year. This is, of course, a challenge that is ongoing. We have not only the main house, of course, we have got 15 other 18th Century buildings, 15 recreations, including George Washington's tomb itself built in the 19th Century.

This past year we did a fantastic project where we stripped the mansion bear, back to 18th Century wood and resurfaced it. You'll get a nice look at the kind of ongoing preservation work that we do there regularly.

Now, to get to the point of why I'm here, your great brotherhood has been a crucial part and partner with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association since the very beginning. So 1858 when the Ladies' Association first made the deal with the Washington family to purchase the place, it was indeed the Grand Lodge. The Masonic Order in Virginia passed a Resolution in January 1858 to invite the brotherhood throughout the union to unite and embody with the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in the purchase of Mount Vernon.

The utility of sentiment of the Union that existed and its action which characterized the order, as well as the deep reverence felt for their Illustrious Brother, George Washington, left no doubt to the members as to the final result of this movement. They thank the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association for

the zealous prosecution of this great and glorious object in its present form, the Masonic Fraternity are indebted to you, Ladies' Association, and in after times you will justly merit for your noble actions and great achievements.

I am happy to say that the initial efforts of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association had to raise \$200,000 in the 19th Century to purchase the estate at Mount Vernon, the Masonic Brotherhood was a big part of that movement to raise that money. Not only in Virginia, but throughout every state in the Union contributions came in for part of that initial treasure that was able to purchase and sustain Mount Vernon in that generation.

Now, one of the challenges our institution faces today, and has continued to face, happened in that early moment when brotherhood was working very closely with Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and many other civic organizations as well, our fundraising was interrupted. They were going to create a grand endowment to help sustain the institution forever, but it was interrupted by the Civil War.

So the Civil War came and Mount Vernon was able to be purchased by the ladies, but they were only able to barely keep it going for a long time afterward. Nevertheless, it is an extraordinary story.

So I come back to you today because I want you to raise awareness about some of the current needs that Mount Vernon has. Particularly one that I think should appeal to the brotherhood, and that is the ongoing restoration and maintenance of George Washington's tomb. That is what I am going to talk about the rest of my comments here.

Now, early on, of course, George Washington's memory was important to the brotherhood, and here we have one of our great items in our collection here the, "Eulogium Sacred to the Memory of the Illustrious George Washington, Columbia's Great and Successful Son: Honored be his Name." It was a Masonic eulogy that was popular and widely circulated throughout the country. This version is from 1817. But one lovely quote in here you can't read, but I will read it for you. "Tho' shrined in dust, great Washington now lies, The Memory of his Deeds shall every bloom: Twin'd with proud Laurels, shall the Olive rise, and wave unfading o'er his tomb."

If you will indulge me, I will give you a little bit of the history of George Washington as a Mason himself. Many of you may know this, and better than me. I see great Mark Tabbert back there, the wonderful librarian at George Washington Masonic Temple, and library to much of what I've learned from. I will be brief.

Washington joined Freemasonry at the Lodge of Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was 20 years old when he received the first degree of Entered Apprentice on November 4th, 1752. He paid the lodge two pounds and three shillings to join. Ten days after turning 21, on March 3rd, 1753, he was passed to the Second Degree of Fellow Craft. On August 4th, 1753 he was raised to the third degree of Master Mason.

Many of Washington's brothers in the Fredericksburg Lodge later served with valor in the Continental Army or the Virginia Regiment, including the the gallant Hugh Mercer, George Weedon and Thomas Posey.

Washington's mother lodge was renamed and numbered as Fredericksburg Lodge Number 4 after the creation of the Grand Lodge of Virginia in 1778, and it continues to meet today. They often are seen laying wreaths at Mount Vernon on George Washington's death day, or on his birthday, which is this coming Saturday.

Beginning in 1778, through the remainder of his life, George Washington was a frequent participant in Masonic ceremonies. In the United States as it was breaking out of its Monarchical culture in the Revolutionary Era and generations beyond, Masonic membership became an important school of virtue. How do you create a republic of citizens who have orderly virtues, and yet make sure they can come from any religion. One you break down religion, as the American Revolution did. The Masonic movement was seen as a crucial role to play in creating the rising citizens of a virtuous republic. Washington participated in these civil rituals as a way to emphasize the importance of order and education in the development of virtuous citizens.

So on June 24th, 1779, for example, Washington attended American Union Lodge's celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist. That lodge comprised of officers and enlisted men within the

Connecticut regiments.

After the war, in 1784, he accepted the invitation of his friends and neighbors to attend a June banquet at Alexandria Lodge Number 39, where he was elected honorary member. Four years later he agreed to be a charter member of that lodge when it transferred its allegiance from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to the Grand Lodge of Virginia.

In 1794, the lodge commissioned William Williams to paint Washington dressed in Masonic regalia. After Washington's death, the lodge changed its name to Alexandria-Washington Lodge Number 22.

As President, Washington often exchanged letters with different lodges across the country, I will quote one momentarily. He met delegations of Freemasons during his visit to Rhode Island in 1790 and 1791.

His most significant Masonic activity, as many of you know, are quite familiar with, was he presided at the Masonic ceremonial laying of the United States Capital Cornerstone. On September 18th, 1793, dressed in Masonic apron, placed a silver plate on the cornerstone, covered with corn, oil and wine. There was a prayer and the brethren performed the chanting honors. The civil break bread in the 13th year of American Independence, in the year of Masonry 5793.

Now, one of the things he wrote that I think speaks to the way George Washington thought about the importance of Masonry in the early republic, in his response to the King David's Lodge of Newport, Rhode Island, he wrote, "Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promotive of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother." Of course Masons were there at his death.

At Washington's 1799 funeral, brothers of Alexandria Lodge performed Masonic Rites. After Martha Washington died, the lodge acquired many items from the estate, including an apron sent from France in 1793. With these items and many curiosities, the lodge opened a museum of George Washington in 1812. The first museum of George Washington anywhere in the



country. So, we share that, his mission very closely, I think.

Now, the tomb at Mount Vernon is really an extraordinary thing. The old tomb where he was entombed originally is on the far right-hand, built in the 18th Century. Washington considered it to be in a terrible location and his will asked for the construction of a new tomb. The old tomb, he thought, might slide into the Potomac at some point. It is on a cliff face.

Now, there was a wrangle over his body. The U.S. Congress tried to get Washington interred in the capital building. Many of you know that in the capital there is a crypt that was designed for Washington that you can see, which would have been right underneath the great abosis of Washington ascending to heaven, he would have been encrypted below the capital. Congress never got their act together and figured that out. Then the British burned the capital building in the war of 1812.

So eventually Washington's executor finally got around to creating the new tomb. It itself was a process. It started as a small vault like structure, not unlike the old tombs in the 1820's. Then it had to be expanded because these two beautiful sarcophagi that were carved for George Washington when he intended to be in the crypt at the capital, arrived and they didn't fit in the small crypt. So they had to build the outer vestibule that the beautiful sarcophagus rests in the 1830's. They ultimately covered it the 1880's.

It is a place of pilgrimage and has been since George Washington's death. Of course, this is actually the first visit of the British Royal to America after independence. This is Prince Edward arriving with James Buchanan. You will see that the Ladies' Association are there. We also, of course, have through time many great nation's leaders, and one of my favorite ones here is Churchill and Roosevelt who came to the tomb of George Washington one month after Pearl Harbor. Above, the colored photograph is President Macron and President Trump at Mount Vernon laying a wreath at the tomb. That was in April of 2018. But, the picture below that is also a very historically significant moment. This is after the United States declared war in 1917, in World War I. The three allies, the French, the Americans and the British came out to George Washington's tomb and pledged to fight for liberty in the name of George Washington.

The tomb is a place of great pilgrimage, is a great importance to the civil culture of our nation, and to the ideals of liberty that are shared by so many around the world. I know that you know that since 1860 Mount Vernon has been open to the public. Over 3,000,000 people have visited Mount Vernon in last year. That includes 350,00 school kids. As you see, here are wreaths given by the recent local Lodge, Alexandria Lodge, Fredericksburg Lodge, George Washington Masonic Memorial, and Mount Vernon Lodge. There's a good shot of the inside of the tomb, the wreath laying.

So the Masons have been allies to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association since the very beginning. Money came in from every Masonic -- every state in the Union between 1858 and 1860. As the brother gave an address on the Great Lodge of Virginia in January of 1860 wrote, "Let Mount Vernon, le Masonry divine, lay off ring the Pilgrim shrine."

So there it is. The Masons were with Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in our efforts to save George Washington's home and tomb from the beginning. The tomb remains a significant location for understanding of that great connection between the father of our country and the work of the Masonic Fraternity. I encourage you all to think about us as still allies in that great fight to inculcate virtue and educate citizens to inculcate forward in discipline as well.

Now we have a very special challenge at Mount Vernon. It is 2020. In six years it the be 2026, the 250th anniversary of American Independence. I have many challenges at the estate, and in preservation from George Washington's original stable, to the mansion that I showed you in earlier pictures. We're resurfacing that whole mansion. We got work to do in the foundation. At the same time I'm building up an endowment so that this great site can last forever. So our children's children and our grandchildren's children will be able to see Mount Vernon and learn about the history of the founding the same way that we have all been able to do and in ongoing fashion.

The project of the tomb is one that I very much hope I can get support from the Masonic brotherhood across the United States. Last April the ceiling of the tomb shown here fell in, the plaster failed. As I mentioned, the ceiling was created in the

1880's and there was no visible signs of any leaks or any damage. It's not exactly clear what is going on. It is a material building many ways because it has the old crypt that's sort of buried into the side of a hill, then the enclosure, then it has the top on it, the roof on it. Then, of course, around it we have six acres of parklike setting. It really is a special area to commemorate and to memorialize George Washington.

So we are in the process now of beginning to raise funds for the restoration of his tomb. My goal is to assess it, I know that will \$50,000. We are going to work with a wonderful architectural firm to help us understand the whole area, help us understand the landscape around it, and then we will need a few hundred thousand dollars to do the work to restore it to it's perfection. Then I want to build a big endowment that is for the tomb itself and the maintenance of the area around the tomb.

So our goal is to raise about 1.5 Million Dollars for this tomb project over the next five years. My goal here this morning is to encourage you all to help us spread the word among the fraternity that this is a project the Masons could own. The tomb could be your project to help serve Mount Vernon Ladies' Association as we did work so well together in the original saving of George Washington's estate. I very much appreciate your time here. I think I've got time for questions, but that's up to you all. Thank you.

(Applause.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Any questions at all, brethren? Thank you very much. At this time we are going to call on the report of The Commission for Information and Recognition by Most Worshipful Brother Raymond Lemons, Past Grand Master of Michigan.

M.W. JOE R. MANNING, JR.: Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren, my name is Joe Manning, Jr., Past Grand Master of Oklahoma, Vice-Chairman of this Commission. I am filling in today for Most Worshipful Raymond C. Lemons, Past Grand Master of Michigan who is our Chairman.

It is my honor to present the 68th Annual Report of the

Commission on information for Recognition. At this time I am pleased to present the other members of this Commission in order of their length of service.

Most Worshipful Lemons, our most senior member. I am second in seniority. Most Worshipful Glen A. Cook, Past Grand Master of Utah is next in seniority; Most Worshipful Jorge L. Aladro, Past Grand Master of Florida; Most Worshipful Richard Stewart, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts; Most Worshipful A. H. Brown, Past Grand Master of Saskatchewan, and Most Worshipful Brother David Worel, Past Grand Master of Alaska. I also would introduce our Secretary-Treasurer, Most Worshipful Joseph C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee.

Since the delegates of this Conference changing each year, I would like to repeat the standards of recognition adopted for our guidance when the Commission was formed in 1952. These are the guidelines used by us to evaluate the regularity of a Grand Lodge and thereby determine whether it is worthy of consideration for recognition by other member Grand Lodges. This Commission provides the 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:

Brazil State Grand Orients

The Grande Orient of Rio De Janeiro, the Grand Oriente de Bahia

and the Grand Orient of Paulista were each recognized by and the treaties signed with their respective State Grand Lodges in 2019, along with the Grand Orient of Brazil. Each of these bodies is also recognized by the CMI and the United Grand Lodge of England. It would be reasonable to assume that these grand orients are practicing regular Masonry and recognition would be appropriate if you so desire.

#### Grand Lodge of Republic of Georgia

Representatives of the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Georgia contacted the Commission in a timely manner to pursue recognition in 2017. Due to the continued instability of government in this country, action on this matter was deferred until the 2018 or 2019 Conference. No representative from this Grand Lodge were present at the 2019 Commission meeting. At this session the Commission was presented with the following information. On March 14th, 2015 representatives of the Grand Lodge of Russia and three lodges regularly constituted by the Grand Lodge of Russia met and formed the Grand Lodge of Georgia. In 2018 the Grand Lodge of Russia, Ukraine, Turkey and Armenia met and formed the United Grand Lodge of Georgia. At this time the Commission does not have adequate information to present findings on this matter.

#### Grand Lodge of Cuscatlan

A packet was received in a timely manner from representatives of the Grand lodge of Cuscatlan. However, no representatives of this Grand Lodge were present at the 2020 Conference to speak on behalf of this grand lodge. Therefore, no action was taken on this matter.

#### Grand Lodge of Ecuador

A packet was received in a timely manner from representatives of the Grand Lodge of Ecuador. However, no representative from this grand lodge were present at this 2020 Conference to speak on behalf of this grand lodge. Therefore, no action was taken.

#### Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Louisiana

A packet was received in timely manner from representatives of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Louisiana requesting information on how to obtain a seat at the table of this Conference. However, no representatives from this group were present at the 2020 Conference to speak on this matter. Therefore, no action was taken.

#### Additional Information

1. A communication from the GLNF was received concerning the Grand Lodge of Tahiti. Nothing contained in that communication would cause the Commission to change its position published on Page 6 of the 2012 Commission report.

2. In 2004 the Commission reported that the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges had undertaken an extensive study to identify those grand lodges in Mexico which were practicing regular Masonry and could reasonably be considered for recognition. Additional grand lodges have been added to that list since 2004. A complete list of those grand lodges recognized by the Confederation of Mexican Grand Lodges will be included in the 2020 report of the Commission on Information for Recognition book.

Also, as information and to remind everyone, the deadline for reports to be filed with the Commission to be considered at the upcoming session is December 1st. We will not accept any new material that is received after that date.

At this time I would call on Most Worshipful Joseph C. Harrison for the Secretary-Treasurer report of our Commission.

M.W. JOE C. HARRISON: Good morning, Brethren.

(Good morning.)

Some of you may have already heard, due to the bankruptcy of our mailing agent in Memphis, the initial mailing of our Commission report for 2019 wasn't complete. We discovered this in the late fall when I started receiving inquiries about the report. A second mailing was begun in January and membership now has the 2019 report, or will have them shortly.

A recap of the Treasurer's report is brief and unusual because of this. The report is an accounting function of the Commission on Information for Recognition for the period just passed, ending January 31, 2020. Since January 31, 2019 no Grand Lodges contributed to the Commission due to the failure of the first mailing of the report. Checks are beginning to arrive now as a result of the second mailing. Those donations will be identified as 2019 donations and itemized along with the 2020 donations at the 2021 Conference.

We began the 2019 year with \$3,070.05 in the bank account. We had expenses for the Conference of \$1,142.94, printing \$355, postage \$252.90. We had no -- there was no cost for secretarial services and our website continues to be managed at no cost. We had office supplies/photo copies \$43.30. Total expenses were \$1,794.14, leaving a balance on hand as of January 31, 2020 of \$1,275.91. Respectfully submitted. Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master Tennessee, Secretary-Treasurer.

M.W. JOE R. MANNING, JR.: Thank you Most Worshipful Brother Harrison. Upon the retirement of Most Worshipful Brother Raymond C. Lemons, a vacancy exists on the Commission from the Midwest Conference. The Commission recommends that Most Worshipful Brother Anthony Cracco, Past Grand Master of Illinois be elected to fill the vacancy. The normal term of service for a new Commission member is seven years.

The organization of the Commission for the year 2020 will be as follows: Chairman, M.W. Joe R. Manning, Past Grand Master of Oklahoma; Vice-Chairman, Most Worshipful Glen A. Cook, Past Grand Master of Utah, and Secretary-Treasurer, Most Worshipful Joe C. Harrison, Past Grand Master of Tennessee.

Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful brethren, my sincere thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to serve this Conference. This concludes the 68th Annual Report of this Commission. Respectfully submitted, by each of its members. Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, I move the acceptance of this report.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: It's been moved. Do we have a second to accept the report? Second. Any discussion? All in favor signify by saying Aye? Aye. Any oppose? Carried. Thank you.

At this time I call on Lowell Domier, Grand Master of North Dakota for the Time and Place Committee report.

M.W. LOWELL DOMIER: Good morning. Rollcall having already been established, hello Brothers.

(Good morning.)

The Time and Place Committee meeting was at 3:30 yesterday in the Grandstand Room of the Louisville, Marriott Hotel. All officers were present, Most Worshipful Louie Fletcher, Grand Master of Montana; Most Worshipful Steven Hall, Grand Master of Idaho; Most Worshipful John Taylor, Grand Master of Alabama; Most Worshipful Walter Disher, Grand Master of South Carolina; Most Worshipful Mike DeWolf, Past Grand Master and Grand Secretary of Wisconsin and Executive Secretary-Treasurer of this Conference; and myself, Lowell Domier, Grand Master of North Dakota.

To the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, our recommendation for the site of our 2024 Conference, with all information available to us is Guadalajara, Mexico, pending a favorable contract for lodging, meeting space and meals with all hotels. I will move for the acceptance of this report.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Do we have a second? Second. All in favor signify by saying Aye. Aye. Any opposed? Report accepted.

(Applause.)

Thank you to Most Worshipful Domier and his committee for that hard work of that committee.

At this time do have a representative from Washington Host Committee to talk about our 2021 site report? Please welcome him.

(Applause.)

M.W. JIM V. MENDOZA: Good morning, brethren.

(Good morning.)

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jim Mendoza, Past



Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington 2016-2017. It was that year that we came forward to you to ask for your consent to host the 2021 Conference in my hometown of Seattle, Washington and you all unanimously accepted. If you didn't, I'm going to say unanimous anyway.

(Laughter.)

What you're looking at is the Seattle Skyline. That view exists nowhere, but it looks really cool. Those of you who are fans of the television show Frazier will remember the view from his apartment. Those that live in Seattle can tell you, that doesn't exist either, but that's okay.

So before we get started, I do want to go ahead and share with you a little about Seattle and what you can expect when you get there. This video was provided to us by our friends at Expedia. So with that, if you can just hit the play button on that, Mike.

(Video played.)

While the Conference is scheduled the 20th through the 23rd, we want you to come early, we want you to stay late. We want you to enjoy everything we have about Seattle, not just strictly the conference. Like I said, it is February 20th to the 23rd and we will be headquartered at the Westin Downtown Hotel. This hotel is in the heart of downtown Seattle and you're going to find downtown Seattle to be an incredibly walkable place.

Not only is it central downtown, but it's also kitty corner with modes of transportation being used to get you to and from your tours, and that is the Seattle Monorail which was built alongside the Space Needle back when the World's Fair was in Seattle back in 1961.

So, let's talk first about how we are going to greet you. We want to make sure that you have a wonderful time when you get there and it's going to start when you hit the airport. When you hit the airport, we will have an airport team there to get you from baggage claim to the buses, and from the buses to the downtown hotel. Those same buses will get you back to the airport when that time comes. So, yes, we want you to feel loved the instant you hit baggage claim.

Once, you get to the Westin, on the first evening, we will have a welcoming gala. We are calling it a Taste of the Northwest, with a sample of some of the foods that are specifically indigenous to the Northwest. We will also have the dance troupe of Filipinia present. We have a large Philippine community in the Grand Lodge of Washington and a large Philippine community in the entire state. We are looking forward to sharing a little bit of that culture with you. Some of you will be challenged to want to take on the Tinikling dance. Does anybody know what that dance is? It's where people jump between two sticks and the sticks get progressively faster. The idea is to not break your ankles.

So, I had mentioned that the tour will be at Seattle Center. The museum tour will be museum of Pop History, formerly known as the Experience Music Project. This is Paul Allen's tribute to science fiction and music. So, this particular museum you are going to know right away when you see it because the architecture is rather unique. What you get inside, the artifacts are absolutely incredible. From Jimmy Hendrix's guitar, to original uniforms from the Star Trek series and others. This is going to be a great place to be and we look forward to having you enjoy that.

The ladies tour, give you some insight into Museum of Pop History there. The lady's tour will be split into two different tours, but each will be able to go to both things. One of them is to go to the observation deck of the Space Needle. Now, I do need to point out that the Space Needle has been recently renovated, specifically the observation deck. The observation deck has a glass wall, but it also now has a glass floor. That's right, a glass floor. I believe it's like 502 feet. It's up there. So, you're going to enjoy that as well.

Additionally, to clinking glasses there, for those of us who went to the Maker's Mark Tour, we got to walk through one of the warehouses there, we saw a Chipolee glass ceiling. Chipolee is a renowned glass artist based out of Seattle. Many people will tell you that going to Chipolee Glass Museum was the highlight of their stay in Seattle. So, again, the ladies will be able to enjoy that as well. So the Space Needle with the glass observation deck and, of course, the Chipolee Glass Museum.

Also, based upon the success of Kentucky and their Maker's Mark

pre-tour, we will also be working on a pre-tour for those people who arrive early. There will be more details coming out on that. You can also bet that, yes, we'll get to go to Pike Place Fish Market and you will get to see some fish being thrown. So for those of you who want to have that experience, you will get to have that.

Now, let me tell you about the Seattle team. We presently have 100 volunteers, and I expect 100 more over the course of this coming year. This will include our airport team. These are people who are going to greet you at the airport and make sure that you get to the hotel and back to the airport on your return trip and see that you get to your plane in a timely fashion.

We will have an onsite concierge team. They are people who speak multiple languages. We want to make sure that you feel welcome the instant you get there. I will also have a team that will be assigned to go on every tour, and to come with you if you need something, to help guide you through Seattle.

Additionally, my lodge, my own personal has put up \$5,000 for onsite hospitality. Again, we want you to feel welcome. One of two things that my Grand Lodge has instituted over the last several years is a medical service response team. They are Registered Nurses and medical professionals in the event that something should happen. That medical response team will be onsite for the entire conference. So, guess what, if there is a medical emergency, we will have people there ready to help.

Thanks to the Brethren of Spokane Shrine we will have Masonic Uber. So for those Grand Masters who wish to take their delegation on a special dinner, or any delegation that wants to go on their own private excursion, that Masonic Uber team will be there to take you wherever you need to go. All they ask is that you put a little something in the tip jar and all proceeds from the Masonic Uber will go to the Spokane Shriners' Hospital.

Additionally, the Grand Lodge of Washington will have a photographer. We will archive the entire event and make photos available on a dedicated website for download or printing for a very nominal fee.

So, all of that is going to be available to you by the team that I put together and will continue to put together. So, in the

interim, we ask that you go ahead and like the Conference of Grand Masters Facebook page that will be updated on a fairly regular basis.

On top of that, our good friend at Visit Seattle, which is essentially our Chamber of Commerce/Tourism and Visitor's Bureau has set up a dedicated website for us on their big web channel. So you can see the address of the website there. I encourage you to jot that down because that will be updated as well.

So, again, February 20 to 23rd. One more thing in the interim. I have an information table just around the corner, across from Salon 4. If you have any questions, by all means I am happy to take those questions when you get there.

Additionally, we have cast a special coin and pin for this event with the logo on both. The coin is \$15, the pin is \$5. This is to help us defray some of the costs we are going to have to put this whole thing together. That said, on behalf of the brethren of the Grand Lodge of Washington, and my Deputy Grand Master, Worshipful Brother Chris Coffman, will be your host on that weekend. We thank you so much for your time. We look forward to welcoming you to our great state.

(Applause.)

M.W. MICHAEL DEWOLF: So, brethren, we're going to have a good event over in Seattle. The host hotel, as you heard, is the Seattle Westin. Now, reservations will be via a web link and those reservations will go live on May 1st. So if you call the hotel now, they're not going to take a reservation. It is a controlled reservation. So May 1st is the opening day to make reservations at Seattle Westin. We will look forward to seeing you all there.

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: Thank you Most Worshipful Mendoza for that report. We are looking forward to the next session in 2021. Our introduction of new Conference of Grand Secretaries is going to be delayed. They're not quite ready with that report, so we will make that announcement tonight at the banquet.

Also, the pictures from yesterday are available at the registration table. If you will please go over there to pick up those pictures, then you can pay for them there at the time of

pick up.

Now, we do have several breakouts here at ten o'clock and then at 1:30 and Three o'clock, so we are going to be able to attend a lot of those.

I would like to offer some final comments here. As this 107th Conference of Grand Masters of North America draws to a close, brethren. We witnessed a historic event yesterday, the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, Southern Masonic Jurisdiction and our Shrine, Imperial Shrine working together in concert for the betterment of Freemasonry. Again, this morning we heard more about that from Imperial Potentate, Imperial Brother Jeff Sowder. I don't know about you, but I am very excited about the next step that Masonry is taking with the opportunities to focus on Blue Lodge Masonry. You know, brethren, it is up to each of us to prepare our Grand Lodges to get ready to catch these candidates. We need to be prepared when they look for landings to start their Masonic journeys.

We want to thank Jill Fry for her work over these last few days. Special thanks to Most Worshipful Brother Mike DeWolf and his lady Annie, as well as Most Worshipful Brother Arby Humphrey and his lady Cindy for their countless hours of dedication. No one really sees the hours that go on behind the scenes, and it's a great effort to bring this Conference to you. I hope you have enjoyed that. Also, to our Vice-Chair, Most Worshipful Brother Robert Strader, who has been a great help to put this all together.

Thank you to our many friends from Kentucky, from the Masons from the Commonwealth of Kentucky under their leadership of Grand Master Geary Laird. Brother Laird, we certainly thank you and the brethren for hosting. What a great job you've done. Thank you.

It has been an honor to work with all of these brethren and ladies as we try to bring you a valuable and memorable conference in Kentucky. We wish the best of success to our 2021 Chairman, Right Worshipful Brother Dan Lawes and his committee, and the brethren of our host state of Washington for an even better Conference in Seattle.

Is there anything further to come before the Conference of Grand Masters here for the 107th conference?

Brethren, as they said, we have ten o'clock breakouts that you can get to, and if you follow your program there's also 1:30 and three o'clock, breakouts.

Our National Sojourners Grand Master's Chapter Number 916 will meet this afternoon. I think they are on the schedule for 2:00 to 3:30 here in this room. They are probably going to move that up, so be watching for communication on that.

I don't think we have anything else to go before us today, so with that if I could ask our Grand Chaplain, my new friend, Right Worshipful Brother Archie Smallwood, to come up and lead us in a benediction as we prepare to close the business meeting of this Conference. Please rise if you are able.

(Prayer.)

M.W. KEITH NEWTON: I now declare this 107th Conference of Grand Masters of North America Business Session closed. Brethren enjoy the rest of the morning and afternoon. I look forward to seeing you at the banquet this evening.

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(Conference concluded.)