

Grand Lodge Month Program Ends with Dedication of Oklahoma Exhibit

On May 7, 2004, following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country, M.W. Brother Ronald S. Coppedge, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of the State of Oklahoma, presented the following remarks at the opening ceremony of the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma exhibit in the Memorial. *"It is an honor for me to represent Oklahoma Freemasonry in this soul stirring site. From the top of this beautiful memorial one can see so many of the great buildings which have marked the history of our nation. I have walked the streets of Alexandria and realized almost with shock that these same streets felt the tread of the men whose vision dared to dream a nation out of a wilderness. Oklahoma is honored to be recognized in this sacred place, hallowed by so many associations with deeds of honor and dignity and patriotism. In the name of the Freemasons of the State of Oklahoma, and in appreciation of the Masons of all times and all places whose generosity has established and maintained this Memorial, I dedicate this exhibit to the spirit of education, freedom, liberty and the universal brotherhood of Masonry."*



Grand Master Coppedge with R.W. Belanger, President Lichty, R.W. Callahan and M.W. Tepper.

The exhibit provided by the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma is truly one of the best that we have had the privilege to have here in the Memorial. The exhibit features the unique and colorful history and activities of this incredibly active and fertile Grand Lodge.

Grand Master Coppedge was accompanied by his wife Lannette; R.W. C. Kent Callahan, Senior Grand Warden and his wife Margaret Callahan. Also present at the dedication were President Warren D. Lichty; R.W. Ronald G. Belanger, Deputy Grand Master of Maryland; M.W. Jules S. Tepper, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia and George D. Seghers, Executive Secretary of the Memorial.

Cowboys, Indians, Missionaries and Freemasons

"Formal" Masonry came to Oklahoma when Masons working and trading in Indian Territory chartered the first Lodge in Tahlequah in 1848. Large numbers of Indians, especially the Cherokee, joined that and other Lodges. (Masonry, in fact, was to play an important role in the life of the Cherokee nation during the Cherokee Civil War.)

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Greetings From The President



by Warren D. Lichty

Support for The George Washington Masonic National Memorial comes from many different sources. Recently, my long-time friend Perry Anderson, who now graces the Office of Most Puissant General Grand Master, General Grand Council, Cryptic Masons International, has commissioned the making of a beautiful bronze medallion. Pictured on the obverse is the Memorial and George Washington. On the reverse is the Vault of Cryptic Masonry and reference to the Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation. The seventh floor of the Memorial is the Cryptic Room where the Cryptic Vault and other displays and information on this branch of Masonry can be found.

The medallions are now available from all Councils of Cryptic Masons for \$10 each and would make a great gift or presentation to any Mason. Proceeds will go to support the Cryptic Masons and the Memorial. Our thanks to Perry and all Cryptic Masons for supporting the Memorial.

Just as we are grateful to the Cryptic Masons for creating an innovative program to help support the Memorial, we are grateful to many others who believe in our mission to memorialize our great Brother, George Washington. One Brother has just made his third \$25,000 gift to the Memorial. He has made all of these generous gifts in just

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Greetings From The President, *continued from page 1*

the last couple of years. And we are very pleased to report that the Masons of Michigan have approved an increase in their per-capita to \$1 per member per year. We extend our sincere thanks to Michigan for their continued, strong support. We know that other Grand Lodges also have something under consideration to increase their financial support.

The Executive Committee was fortunate to have its May meeting coincide with a visit from the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma to celebrate *Oklahoma Month* at the Memorial. It was a pleasure to greet Most Worshipful Grand Master Ronald Coppedge and his delegation. Their outstanding display was dedicated using a special ceremonial commemoration written by Brother Jim Tresner for the occasion. (See article on page 1 for details.)

This marked the end of the first round of *The Grand Lodge Month Program*, which has been a great success. It not only gives each Grand Lodge a chance to showcase Masonry in that state with its display, but also many Grand Lodges have really enjoyed sending a delegation to the Memorial to dedicate their display, raise their flag, take a full guided tour of the Memorial and hold a Masonic ceremony in one of the Lodge rooms during their visit.

With the month of June, we begin a program to officially recognize the various bodies associated with Symbolic Masonry, starting with the Shrine of North America. *The Grand Lodge Month Program* will start over again in September 2006 with the Grand Lodge of Delaware.

There are always events going on at the Memorial. You'll read about the opening of a new theater company this summer elsewhere in this issue. But at the end of May, it was a great honor and privilege to be a satellite station for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. The public was able to come to the Memorial to see the dedication live on a large screen in the auditorium.

Our next semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Memorial on Saturday, August 14. It has been of great benefit to us to involve the entire Board more deeply in our business. The Board members become more acquainted with the workings of the Memorial Association, and by becoming better acquainted, we are all more efficient in promoting the Memorial.

Brothers, if your Grand Lodge is not doing anything beyond the \$5 New Mason fee, which was adopted by most Grand Lodges 30 or more years ago, please think about stepping up to the next level. Seven of our Grand Lodges have already enacted a per-capita gift of at least \$.50 per member per year, while leaving in place the \$5 New Mason fee which they have been collecting all along. Eighteen Grand Lodges have enacted some kind of additional support over and above the old \$5 joining fee. It is now time to increase support for the Memorial. It's the thing to do, and now is the time to do it.

The Society of Washington Lodges

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is pleased to announce the founding of *The Society of Washington Lodges* on July 4, 2004. To join the *Society*, Lodges must be named after George Washington, with the exception of Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4, in Virginia, Saint John's Lodge No. 1 in New York and Potomac Lodge No. 5 in Washington, D.C. These Lodges each have a direct historical connection to Brother George Washington. The enrollment fee is \$2,500. The enrollment fees will be used for the preservation and maintenance of the Alexandria-Washington Replica Lodge Room and the Memorial.



The Member Lodge name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the anteroom of the Replica Lodge Room and published in *The Messenger* and the Memorial's *Annual Report*. In addition, Member Lodges of the *Society* will receive the following:

- ★ Certificate of Membership signed and sealed by the Memorial Association
- ★ Gavel and base made from wood from George Washington's Mount Vernon
- ★ Print of the Hattie Burdette portrait of George Washington
- ★ Video: *Two Hundred Years of George Washington's Masonic Heritage*
- ★ Invitations to Alexandria-Washington Lodge's annual George Washington birthday celebration and annual wreath laying ceremony at the Tomb of George Washington

For information, please contact: George D. Seghers, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org.

Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

This month marks the end of a wonderful program that has resulted in literally hundreds of new friends and supporters of the Memorial. *The Grand Lodge Month Program* was created four years ago as a means to draw our members to the Memorial and to increase awareness of and support for the Memorial. The program has been exceptionally successful. We are ending this program in May with *The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma Month*.

The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma is one of the most progressive and traditional Grand Lodges in the country. The following information is taken from a brochure produced by The Grand Lodge of Oklahoma entitled, "What Have We Done For The World?" "We take our individualism for granted today. We dress the way we want, fix our hair the way we want, say what we want, eat what we want, and read what we want. But it wasn't always that way. The first major step toward individualism was taken in A.D. 1230, when the stone masons were ordered by the church to shave off their beards and cut their hair short. The first sit-down strike in Europe was the result, with the Masons insisting on the right to dress as they wished. The Church finally had to give in, and the first blow for individualism had been struck. Throughout the Enlightenment (late 1600's through mid 1700's) the fraternity actively pressed for and taught in the Lodges the revolutionary idea that each man and woman was entitled to respect as an individual, just because they were men and women. That idea spread from Masonic Lodges to the society as a whole."

This is just one example of the fine work that this Grand Lodge and many others are doing today to spread the light of

Freemasonry and helps explain the attitude and thoughts of those remarkable individuals, many of them Masons, who struggled for and eventually founded our great nation. On behalf of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those who participated in and contributed to *The Grand Lodge Month Program*.

Today in America we take our freedoms and liberties for granted. We have forgotten the tremendous struggle and the tremendous price paid for our freedom by our Founding Fathers. We should pause to remember and respect those who gave so much that we may be able to live and enjoy the individual freedoms that we are so fortunate to have.

In an address to the people of South Carolina in May of 1790, Washington wrote, "...The value of liberty was thus enhanced in our estimation by the difficulty of its attainment, and the worth of characters appreciated by the trial of adversity. The tempest of war having at length been succeeded by the sunshine of peace; our citizen-soldiers impressed an useful lesson of patriotism on mankind, by nobly returning with impaired constitutions and unsatisfied claims, after such long sufferings and severe disappointments, to their former occupations. Posterity as well as the present age will doubtless regard with admiration and gratitude the patience, perseverance, and valour, which achieved our revolution..."

No other man gave more or did more for this great nation than our First Commander in Chief, our First President, our Foremost Freemason and truly, the Father of our Country, George Washington. May his memory live forever.

Grand Lodge Month Program, continued from Page 1

One of the most important figures in early Indian Territory Masonry was Joseph Morrow. He was a Baptist missionary who, in the early days of Indian Territory, devoted his life to both the church and Masonry. He founded more than 100 churches and more than 50 Lodges. He carried a homemade Masonic altar and candlesticks in his wagon, and taught the Masonic ritual to new Masons. He also founded an orphanage and school for Indian children. The Grand Lodge of Indian Territory was founded in 1878 and the Grand Lodge for the Oklahoma Territory was founded in 1893. In 1909, the two Grand Lodges merged to form the Grand Lodge of the State of Oklahoma.

The Grand Lodge Month Program has been an outstanding success in drawing visitors to the Memorial and in generating awareness of and support for the Memorial. May was the last *Grand Lodge Month* in the current cycle. In June we will inaugurate a program to honor and recognize the Appendant Bodies of the Masonic Family beginning with *The Shrine of North America*. In July we will honor *The Scottish Rite NMJ*, August - *Scottish Rite SJ*, September - *Allied Masonic Degrees*, October - *Order of the Amaranth*, November - *Social Order of the Beauceant* and December - *Cryptic Masons International*.

WISH LIST - 2004

The following maintenance and improvement projects have been deferred due to a lack of funding. If you, your Lodge, Grand Lodge or Masonic organization would like to contribute to any of these projects please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org

Install Aircraft Warning Lights	\$15,000
Install Second Phase of Surveillance System	\$35,000
Install Emergency Generators	\$125,000
Install Security Lighting on North Parking Lot	\$9,000
Structural Survey of the Memorial	\$35,000
Install Room Dividers in Dining Room	\$8,000
Install Air Conditioning and Glass Windows/Doors in Assembly Hall	\$200,000
Remove and Reset Front Steps	\$250,000
Replace Sidewalks and Install Retaining Walls at Square and Compasses	\$8,500

Planned Giving - What Does It Mean?

By W. Scott Stoner

The phrase Planned Giving is often used, but not always understood. Basically, Planned Giving is thoughtfully selecting from a number of giving opportunities as a way to make a charitable gift that is also favorable to you, the donor. A charitable gift can help you achieve your financial and personal goals while also providing future support for the vital preservation work of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

An easy way to explain a Planned Gift is to contrast it with a direct gift. A direct gift is given to the charitable organization immediately, and in return, you would receive an immediate deduction to the extent allowed on your Federal Income Tax Return. Many Planned Gifts, on the other hand, would also provide you with a similar tax benefit. Planned Gifts may also provide you with income over your remaining life at an interest rate dependant upon your age. The tax benefits you receive depend on the type of gift and the assets you use to fund it.

Planned Giving is a personal responsibility and deserves your devoted thought and attention. I welcome the opportunity to work with you in arranging a giving opportunity that is tailored to your specific needs.

W. Scott Stoner is First Vice President of the Memorial Association and is Chairman of the Planned Giving Program. He can be reached at 717-653-9927.



Memorial Tree Program

The Memorial has lost many beautiful, older trees over the past year. Your participation in the Tree Program will help to restore the grounds to their original splendor, while giving you an opportunity to pay a special tribute. For a donation of \$500, a tree will be planted on the Memorial grounds in honor or memory of an individual or organization. A granite marker will be installed near each tree to identify the donor and honoree.

For information or to participate in this program, please contact George Seghers at 703-683-2007 or gseghers@gwmemorial.org. As always, your generous contribution to this and other Memorial programs will be received with the deepest appreciation.

The Benefit of A Charitable Gift Annuity

A popular charitable strategy is the charitable gift annuity. Your charitable gift annuity to the Memorial can create income to you and generate income tax benefits. Through a gift annuity you can lock in a guaranteed lifetime income, create an income tax deduction and support the Memorial at the same time. A gift annuity is a contract between the donor and the recipient. The donor contributes a specific amount and the recipient, in this case the Memorial, makes annual payments for life to one or two beneficiaries.

- Please send me Planned Giving information
- I have already included the Memorial in my estate plans via
 - my will
 - a trust
 - other arrangements
- I am considering including the Memorial in my estate plans

Comments: _____

To discuss *Planned Giving* options, please contact:

W. Scott Stoner
Planned Giving Chairman
717-653-9927
Fax: 717-653-0556

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail

To respond, please fill in your information, tear along perforated line and mail to:

GWMNMA
Planned Giving Program
101 Callahan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22301

Or Fax to 703-683-2163

For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side

We Invite You to Join the GWMNMA Today!

Yes! I agree that The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is a very important part of our shared Masonic heritage. Together we can ensure that this magnificent Memorial continues to perpetuate the memory of our First President and Foremost Freemason. Enclosed is my GWMNMA membership contribution of:

- 21st Century Membership** - \$1,000 Donation – You will receive a 21st Century Membership Certificate, a Memorial lapel pin, and your name will be cast in bronze and displayed in the main entrance to Memorial Hall.
- Platinum Presidential Membership** - \$500 Donation- You will receive a Membership Certificate and a Memorial lapel pin.
- Gold Master Membership** - \$250 Donation – You will receive a Membership Certificate and a Memorial lapel pin.
- Silver Craftsman Membership** - \$100 Donation - You will receive a Membership Certificate.

Already a Supporter? Great! Since Membership is cumulative, an additional contribution may upgrade your status to the next category.

Other Amount \$ _____

Check enclosed made payable to **GWMNMA**
Please charge my: American Express Discover
 Master Card VISA

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Your gift is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. All Memberships are gratefully acknowledged, published in The Messenger and permanently displayed in the Memorial.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

To respond, please fill in your information, tear along perforated line and mail to:

GWMNMA, Membership
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For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side

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Artists in Residence at the Memorial

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is pleased to announce that Natural Theatricals, a new, professional theater company dedicated to imaginative staging of classical, contemporary, and original works has taken up residence at the Memorial.

Natural Theatricals is mainly dedicated to presenting plays with classical themes derived from the ancient Greek theatrical tradition. These may include English translations, adaptations by modern masters, or new works built upon or inspired by classical themes. The Memorial provides a fitting venue to showcase such productions with its stately, classical ambience and traditional architecture.

Performances for the 2004 season will be: *The Women of Trachis* by Sophocles, June 18 - July 11, and *Antiqua*, July 23 - August 15, a contemporary, original production inspired by Sophocles' *Antigone*.

Natural Theatricals strives to present productions that challenge the imagination of the audience, respect the source material, and maintain high standards of taste. For tickets and information please call 703-739-9338 or visit www.naturaltheatricals.com.

Contributors, continued from page 5

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			TN	George Ziegler	AK
			DE		
				** In Honor of	* In Memory of



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Elected February 15, 2004

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W. Scott Stoner	First Vice President
Michael D. Brumbach	Second Vice President
Anthony P. Wordlow	Third Vice President
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*Members of Executive Committee

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