Semi – Annual Board Meeting

How to better preserve and maintain the Memorial, with a special presentation on fundraising, was the major focus of the Semi-Annual Board Meeting held at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial on August 20.

Special guest speaker Jim Cole, SGIG from Virginia, PGM of Virginia, and Director of Development for the Masonic Home of Virginia, stressed the need to build relationships with the public in order to maximize interest in the Memorial.

With the surge of patriotism in America today, he encouraged each jurisdiction to develop a program that introduces George Washington the General, the Founder of our Country, the First President, and the Mason. Patriotic enthusiasm combined with Washington’s Masonic connections can be an effective tool to introduce Masonry to the public. Brother Cole suggested that the best media to use today are those that “reach beyond geographic borders,” such as video and the internet. He also advised that Grand Junior and Senior Wardens should become more involved in the process so they will be ready to implement successful programs when they become Grand Master.

In other discussions, the Board again reinforced its support of the Executive Committee’s goal of a per member contribution from the Grand Lodges.
Memorial Offers New “Masonic” Tour

The Memorial is pleased to announce the introduction of a new “Masonic” Tour that debuted at the Memorial in August. Developed and conducted by Harry Shaffer, Tour Guide Director, Freemason and retired Art/Art History teacher, the Tour focuses exclusively on the Masonic aspect of the Memorial, Freemasonry in general and George Washington as a Freemason. The Tour is tailored for Freemasons, men who are interested in becoming a Freemason, and people who would like to know more about Freemasonry. Tours are conducted Wednesdays and one Saturday each month.

Harry retired in 2002 after teaching for 38 years in the local school system. That summer he began work at the Memorial as a Desk Attendant/Tour Guide. He was soon promoted to Tour Guide Director, giving him a new job and a new classroom. He considers his work at the Memorial the perfect job for both his teaching skills and his love of Freemasonry.

Last fall Harry started the “Art and Architecture” Tour which is also conducted on Wednesdays and one Saturday each month. That tour highlights the sculptures, murals, and paintings within the Memorial. The artwork relates to George Washington as a man and as a Freemason. Architecture, both inside and outside is viewed and discussed, along with photographs of the Memorial being built from 1922 to 1932.
In recent years, we have strived to increase the Memorial’s visibility in the greater Washington, D.C. area through such outreach programs as concerts, plays, symposiums and lecture series. This is the fourth year that we have offered free concerts by the various United States Military Bands. This is the fifth year that we have hosted the George Washington Symposium in partnership with the City of Alexandria. We also provide meeting space for our neighbors, our schools and local charitable organizations. And we are pleased to announce that the Memorial is the new headquarters for the National Masonic Foundation for Children. This spring they co-hosted the “Prevention Through Service Alliance” summit with over 40 representatives from government, private and Masonic organizations in attendance. These events bring new visitors to the Memorial and help to foster a greater awareness of and appreciation for the Memorial and the Craft.

Paralleling the success of this new outreach program is an increased knowledge and awareness of Freemasonry and the Memorial at the national level that we have not seen for several decades. Positive media coverage of the Memorial has expanded dramatically over the last year with outstanding recognition in two History Channel specials, a segment on the Discovery Channel and on a local PBS station, the cover story of a recent September issue of U.S. News and World Report, and featured stories in The Washington Times, Washingtonian magazine, and American Spirit magazine.

In 2010, the Memorial Association will celebrate its 100th anniversary. In anticipation of this milestone we are planning for a major restoration to return the Memorial to its original splendor. We want to do all that is possible to present the Memorial to the public and the Fraternity in the safe, sound and beautiful condition it was in when it was dedicated as part of the Bicentennial of Washington’s birth in 1932. The restoration will require a significant amount of funds, which will have to be raised in the near future. The Memorial was conceived, funded and constructed by the Freemasons of the United States. The actual owners of the Memorial are the 50 Grand Lodges of the United States and the Grand Lodges of the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. At the present time approximately one-third of the Grand Lodges give a per member contribution to the Memorial annually. But to secure the financial future of the Memorial, all the Grand Lodges need to contribute on a per member basis.

Nearly all the Appendant Bodies support the Memorial. The Scottish Rite, both Southern and Northern Jurisdictions and the Imperial Shrine continue to make significant annual contributions. Some of the York Rite Bodies make annual contributions and some do not. We desperately need the support of all members of the Masonic Family to keep this Temple to George Washington, the Father of our Country and our Foremost Freemason, as a safe, sound and beautiful Memorial for present and future generations to visit and enjoy.

George D. Seghers is the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association.
Leadership, By George! Washington’s Ethical Principles of Success
By James P. Hodges

Unscrupulous stealing, cheating and lying threaten to destroy America’s cherished institutions. Adam Smith, whose book, “Wealth of Nations” was owned and read by George Washington, stated that democracy (political freedoms) and capitalism (economic freedoms) will not survive in a country unless the people treat each other ethically and honorably. We can help save our nation’s heritage by restoring ethics as the norm for all. Yes, we can withhold our dollars from unethical businesses and our votes from corrupt politicians. However, there may be a better solution. By conducting our personal and business affairs in the most ethical manner possible, we can be a positive force for good to all those we encounter. We could demonstrate that the advice of Stephen R. Covey is true. That noted management expert and author of Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, stated that a strict adherence to ethical principles such as loyalty, integrity, character, morality, truth, justice, honesty, perseverance and respect for human dignity can improve one’s effectiveness and productivity by up to 500%.

After an exhaustive search of American leaders, I determined that George Washington is our best. He deserves his eulogy, “first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen.” A study of his life proves that leaders are made, not born. As with any discipline, one merely needs to learn the principles and apply them. He made himself a leader. When Washington was born in 1732, the world was mostly governed by Kings enthroned either by birth or by conquest. When he died in 1799, he had, by using these principles, led in the establishment of a new world order of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Since these principles are easily transferable to today’s business environment, they can be used immediately to improve the bottom line.

Everyone can be a leader. Would it be safe to assume that most people feel room for self-improvement? If so, why not hone your skills by learning from the best? George Washington has accomplished more for his country than any other person. He has done so by honoring the highest ethical standards.

James P. Hodges, Ph.D. is a member of the National Speakers Association, who helps leaders and their organizations increase ethical leadership, improve communications, build better relationships and boost performance through leadership education. He is a member of Andrew Jackson Lodge No. 20 that meets in the Memorial, a life member of Benjamin B. French Lodge No. 15 in Washington, D.C. and an endowed member of Holland No. 1 and Anson Jones No. 1313, both in Houston. He can be reached at 713-666-1080, james@leadershipbygeorge.com or at www.leadershipbygeorge.com.

Charitable Trusts

A Charitable Trust is another way to help generate income to the Memorial. Trusts are instruments used for the prudent and flexible management of one’s assets. A Trust is a financial plan that helps you to meet your current needs, but also the needs of your beneficiaries. The use of a Trust allows you to protect your assets. It could also cut estate settlement costs and more importantly, reduce taxes.

There are many uses of Trusts and different Trust arrangements. Always keep in mind the need to consult with legal counsel. Trusts are legal documents! The Memorial is pleased to offer any assistance, especially regarding the benefits a Trust would offer.

☐ Please send me Planned Giving information
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Comments:

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For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side
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by Tony’s Tigers

Memorial Receives Cemetery Interment Rights

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association is the recipient of Interment Rights as an Unrestricted Contribution. The Rights are in National Memorial Park located in Falls Church, Virginia. If you are interested, please contact the Memorial to arrange a tour of the park.
The Memorial Library – A Great Work in Progress

By Dustin Smith

The Memorial Library has come a long way in the past two years. My first job as Librarian was to organize the Memorial archives. Sorting through the old blueprints and historical records of the building, I developed an understanding and a deep appreciation of the organization for which I was working. What nobler purpose could there have been for those patriotic and true Masons at the turn of the last century, following the lead of Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, than to erect a Memorial to the first President and foremost Freemason of the United States of America? From the original pencil sketch of the future edifice, conceived by the firm Helmle and Corbett, building architects of New York, to the 1932 blueprints of the Memorial; from minutes of Association Board Meetings spanning nearly a century to hundreds of postcards and published articles over the years, some sense of the continuity and depth of the single national structure for Freemasonry in America began to form itself in my mind.

The first year in the Library was a heavy work order. 20,000 books were carefully cleaned, preserved and sorted. In many cases, repairs were made and books rebound. The books were then ready to be catalogued. The main goal of the Library was to establish itself in the new Millennium and initiate the development of an on-line catalog. With the help and generosity of the Supreme Council 33º, the Memorial now has its own independent catalog system. The Museum, too, is benefiting from the new on-line catalog as Museum objects are also being entered into the catalog. The electronic catalog has been steadily growing and will be available in the future on-line via the Memorial’s website.

Increased public interest in Masonry has brought the Memorial well into the public eye. It has been interesting to experience the rise in visibility of the Fraternity from the popular book, The Da Vinci Code and the blockbuster film “National Treasure,” to more documentary ventures like the recent Octagon Project in which the Memorial was proud to offer its support. As Librarian-Curator it has been my pleasure also to have worked with the National Archives, the Smithsonian, on productions for the History Channel, and for numerous publications, as well as with many diverse visitors to the Memorial. With the increased interest in the Fraternity in a time of renewed patriotism in America, one can only muse upon what the future has in store for the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Dustin Smith has been a valuable asset to the Memorial as its Librarian and Curator. In addition to making significant progress in the Library, he has helped to increase the Memorial’s visibility through articles to other Masonic publications and through his efforts to assist and educate national and local organizations interested in Freemasonry and the Memorial. After two years of outstanding service, he is leaving the Memorial to pursue opportunities in the political and social science arenas as he relocates to Florida in October. We wish him all the best in his new career.

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