

# Board Approves Major Projects at Semi - Annual Board Meeting

The time and effort spent by the Board of Directors in intensive workshops last year has resulted in a strong, inspired, directed and functioning Board of Directors. The actions of the Board at the Semi - Annual Board Meeting held at the Memorial in August are evidence that the Board is committed to insuring a viable future for the Memorial. Under the leadership of President Brumback, plans and strategies were discussed and are being developed to strengthen support for the Memorial in the



*The Board of Directors on stage in the Memorial Theater beneath a portrait of Washington as Master of the Lodge by Hattie Burdette, commissioned for the bicentennial of Washington's birth in 1932.*

Member Jurisdictions. The Board approved to proceed with several long-delayed projects including renovations for Grand Masonic Hall, (formerly Assembly Hall) and exterior maintenance and repairs. (See *Message from Alexandria*, page 3, for details) The Board also approved the continuation and development of the digitization project and the design and installation of the Freemasonry exhibit. The members of the Board of Directors are to be commended for their vision, their dedication and their courage for taking these giant steps forward. They are committed to return the Memorial to its pristine condition when dedicated *before* the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Memorial Association in 2010.

## Greetings From The President



**Michael D. Brumback**

As we contemplate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association in 2010, I marvel at the courage and foresight our predecessors demonstrated when they built this magnificent vision of Freemasonry. Not only did they dream and construct an architecturally significant memorial honoring George Washington and Freemasonry, but they were confident that our Fraternity would be equally strong in the future. They, like George Washington, possessed character and vision.

I am proud to inform you that the current Masonic leaders on the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic Memorial are equally bold and visionary. Our emphasis has shifted from primarily maintaining the Memorial, to focusing on our mission of projecting a positive image of Freemasonry for the future.

We have approved a major project to design an exhibit on Freemasonry. It is amazing to note that although there are numerous exhibits on the Appendant Masonic Bodies, there has never been an exhibit to portray the principles of Freemasonry. Our exhibit will be professionally designed to teach both the general public and Masons about

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Photography by Chester Simpson

## Greetings From The President, *continued from page 1*

the Fraternity. It will utilize the character of George Washington to exemplify the virtues and character of Freemasonry. Benjamin Franklin, Andrew Jackson, and Harry Truman will represent Freemasonry in the 1700s, 1800s, and 1900s respectfully.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial has never fallen into disrepair, but at 75 years old, continued maintenance and upgrades are necessary. We have approved several projects including a new roof, self-service elevators and returning Grand Masonic Hall to its original grandeur as a reception and dining hall. All of these plans are looking to a prosperous future for Freemasonry.

Masonic membership has both grown and declined during the last 100 years of our history. The George Washington Masonic Memorial is looking forward to another growth period for Freemasonry, and we are positioning ourselves for that resurgence. It is our pledge that this Memorial, to which all American Freemasons contribute, will always stand with pride.

If you would like to make a personal commitment to the future of Freemasonry, you could become a Member or Patron of the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Your tax-deductible contribution will demonstrate that you exemplify the vision and character of George Washington. Please use the application in this issue of *The Messenger* on page 6, or visit our website at [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org).

If your Grand Lodge has not increased its support of the Memorial to the national goal of \$1 Per Member annually, please use your influence to encourage them to join the several Jurisdictions that have already made this commitment.

## An Emerging Opportunity for Freemasonry

By W. Kirk MacNulty

A new opportunity for Freemasonry is emerging. It is an unusual opportunity in that it is the result of a profound and positive change in American society. The good news is that it can be a real help to Freemasonry in dealing with a declining membership. This decline is due in part to the perception potential members have of Freemasonry. These perceptions are various and it's important that we understand them if we are to behave in such a way as to attract members.

In the United States, the general public appears to be largely unaware of Freemasonry. When asked what they think about our Order, most people would say that we are a bunch of middle-aged or old men who meet in secret and do weird ceremonies. If one pursues the subject, a good many people will acknowledge that they have heard of Masonic charities; but few know very much about what those charities do. If one points out

## Historic Prints Returned to Mount Vernon

Two 1761 prints owned by George Washington were returned, on loan, to Mount Vernon by the George Washington Masonic Memorial Association during the Board of Directors meeting in August. The prints were unveiled in an upstairs room of the mansion before a gathering of the Board; James C. Rees, Mount Vernon's Executive Director, and other Mount Vernon officials and guests.



*Mount Vernon's Executive Director James C. Rees (left) and Memorial President Michael D. Brumback in front of one of two engraved prints on loan to Mount Vernon from the Memorial.*

The prints are engraved from pastoral landscape paintings by George Lambert. They were purchased by the Memorial Association from Anne and Patty Washington in 1966. Both family tradition and historical research concludes these prints were purchased by George Washington and hung in Mount Vernon for many years. The prints are under highly detailed reverse-painted glass and gilded frames.

that many of the founders of the United States, such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin, were Freemasons, many people will acknowledge the Order's patriotic orientation. Many others, however, will raise the subject of conspiracy theories and introduce the idea that Freemasonry is a secret society that seeks to rule the world. I think it's fair to say that today Freemasonry is not very well understood by the American people.

It's also important to consider how Freemasonry is understood by Freemasons. Our basic principles are "Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth." Probably the majority of Masons, and certainly those 40 and older, think of the Fraternity in terms of Brotherly Love. They attend Lodge because it is an environment of good fellowship and mutual support. Membership in the Order is enjoyable and rewarding in terms of good companionship. In this context, Freemasonry is primarily a social institution; and many see it that way. While the enjoyment of good fellowship is an entirely reasonable view of the Order, in some respects, it is incomplete. In addition to these social activities, Masons support Masonic charities with upwards of two million dollars a day, evidence that these older Freemasons are also involved with the principle of Relief.

The principle of Truth receives less attention, but it's instructive to note that among our younger Brethren, there is a very definite interest in the philosophical aspects of Freemasonry. For some years I have observed this philosophical interest among young men, both Masons and non-Masons. The fact that many of these young men have this interest is encouraging. I have written several publications that present

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## Message From Alexandria



George D. Seghers

This is the most active, directed and truly functioning Board that I have had the privilege to work with. They have authorized several long-delayed and much needed maintenance projects. As part of the long-term plan to return the Memorial to the truly magnificent structure that it was designed to be, the Board has renamed Assembly Hall, *Grand Masonic Hall* and is preparing to enclose the space, and install air conditioning and elevators. In addition, the Seal of every Grand Lodge that contributes \$1 Per Member annually, will be placed around the Hall. In Grand Masonic Hall there are eight massive granite columns that support the entire tower. The Seals of the Grand Lodges around Grand Masonic Hall will be symbolic of the Grand Lodges supporting the Memorial.

The Board has also approved to replace the roof on the second and third levels, realign, reset and reseal the front steps, replace the wooden disability ramp at the North entrance, and upgrade the tower elevators to self-service. In addition, we are moving ahead with the Masonic digitization project and the Freemasonry exhibit on the first level. A new exhibit on Masonic buildings has already been installed in the North hallway. (See related article on page 7.)

The Memorial recognizes and thanks the Grand Lodge of Washington, the only state named after George

Washington, for not only adopting the \$1 Per Member annual contribution to the Memorial, but also retaining the \$5 Per Initiate contribution.

During our Annual Meeting in February, we asked our Active Members, the Grand Lodges, for permission to send *The Messenger* to their Lodges. In response to that request, this issue of *The Messenger* will go to every Lodge in several Grand Jurisdictions. Our goal is to send each Lodge in America each issue of *The Messenger*. We must be in contact with our Member Lodges if we are to provide information and education. In a letter to Mathew Carey, June 25, 1788, Washington wrote, "...I entertain an high idea of the utility of periodical Publications: in so much that I could heartily desire copies of the Museum and Magazines, as well as common Gazettes, might be spread through every city, town and village in America. I consider such easy vehicles of knowledge more happily calculated than any other, to preserve the liberty, stimulate the industry and meliorate the morals of an enlightened and free People."

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of your Memorial.

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*George D. Seghers is the Executive Director of the George Washington Masonic Memorial.*

## 2007 Holiday Ornaments *Collector's Edition*



The George Washington Masonic Memorial is pleased to present two Commemorative Holiday Ornaments for 2007, the Memorial and the Eastern Star emblem. Both have been re-issued due to popularity and demand. Both have attractive new designs and were crafted in America.

The Order of The Eastern Star is the largest Masonic organization in the world to which both men and women belong. It was founded on the beautiful and inspiring biblical examples of heroic conduct and moral values. The Memorial was built to honor the memory and legacy of America's foremost Freemason, George Washington. It symbolizes the power and strength of Freemasonry and represents the Masonic ideals of Washington.

To order these or any of our commemorative ornaments, please contact the Memorial Gift Shop at 703-549-9234 or visit the Memorial's website at [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org).

*Crafted in America. Historical booklet included.*

## Book Review

### *The Rosslyn Hoax?*

By Robert L. D. Cooper

Published by Lewis Masonic, United Kingdom, 2006



By Mark A. Tabbert

**M**y Dear Masonic Brethren: I am sorry to rouse you, but our long collective fantasy is over. Like a sharp rap of the Master's gavel, Robert L. D. Cooper's *The Rosslyn Hoax?* wakes the Lodge from its dreams. Within 416 dense pages and nine chapters, *The Rosslyn Hoax?* examines, dissects and disposes every theory, conjecture and hearsay heaped around the medieval Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel and Freemasonry in the last 200 years. Researching as only a Scots historian can, writing as only a Scotsman can, and defending the craft as only a Scots Freemason can, Cooper skillfully combines cold facts with warm humor to create a new reality that is as enjoyable as the fantasies he dispels.

*The Rosslyn Hoax?* begins with an explanation of the myth and its development. Cooper is careful to delineate between that which is believed and that which is documented. He is not interested in destroying fables, legends, or myths per se, rather he assures the reader that he is a "card caring" historian and is only concerned with what other self-proclaimed historians, journalists or scholars have written. He begins this process with a review of common mistakes, fallacies in logic and pitfalls of poor scholarship and how they generate myths and legends. His most important point is that Scottish Freemasonry is substantially different from English, Irish or any other form of Freemasonry. It is through this difference alone that most theories about Rosslyn Chapel collapse.

With his framework established, Cooper recounts the known history of the medieval Knights Templar, Rosslyn Chapel and Scottish Freemasonry. He then examines the development of Templar and Rosslyn myths and when they intersect with Freemasonry. For example, James Anderson's 1723 *Constitutions of the Free-masons* contends the Craft to be far older than the Crusades and erroneously concludes that it was the Freemasons who created the Knights Templar. Cooper pinpoints the time and books when this theory was reversed in the 1790s and the reaction Scots Freemasons had to the "revelation" they descended from the Knights Templar. Cooper focuses the remainder of the book on Rosslyn Chapel and its builder, the St. Clair family. Begun in the 1440s, Rosslyn Chapel has long been used as the link between the destruction of the Knights Templar in 1307 and the first Scots Masonic Lodges in the 1600s. Using primary source documents, records and the Scottish archives and quoting from the 1835 official *Genealogie of the Saintclaires of Rosslyn*, he allows the family to tell their own story of why they built the Chapel.

Chapters 5 and 6, some 68 pages, closely examine every aspect of the Chapel. He begins with the bold statement: "There is no Masonic symbolism within Rosslyn Chapel!" Moving out from the Chapel, Cooper examines the famous Kirkwall Scroll. Popular writers say it's a 12<sup>th</sup> century Templar map, but like Rosslyn Chapel, it's amazing how much sense this curious item makes when compared to the Books of Genesis and Exodus. With a few Bible passages, Masonic facts and study of Masonic symbols, suddenly the scroll does not reveal the Holy Grail's location, but is only an important late 17<sup>th</sup> century Masonic tracing board.

In the last chapter, "Other Evidence," Cooper quickly dispatches such foolish ideas of a Templar fleet, Templar churches, grave slabs and the Knights Templar and Robert the Bruce. My favorite is the historical re-write that a flying column of Knights Templar won the Battle of Bannockburn. If this is true, Cooper asks, why didn't the Templars save Bruce from previous defeats, why was the Grand Master of the British Knights Templar fighting with the English and killed at an earlier battle, and lastly, why didn't the English report they were defeated by the Templars rather than young men and peasants guarding the baggage train?

Finally, *The Rosslyn Hoax?* contains what all scholarly books must have, endnotes after each chapter, a 15 page bibliography, an astounding 11 appendices and a proper index. Indeed it is arguably the most important Masonic book written in the last 20 years—if not longer. Cooper has done his very best to shake his brothers out of the fantasy state they have lived in for many years. Tragically, the Knights Templar and Rosslyn Chapel have distracted the brethren from the many serious issues that plague the Craft. Alas, with *The Rosslyn Hoax?* we must accept the true, ancient and honorable history of the Craft. Freemasonry was indeed created by common men determined not to be warriors or priests, but only wanting to be free. The question still remains, do Freemasons still wish to be free or live in a fantasy?

*Paperback, 416 pages, color illustrations, "in text" line drawings*  
**\$15.95 - Discounts available for 10 or more copies**  
*To order, visit the Memorial's website at [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org) or call 703-549-9234*

Mark A. Tabbert is the Memorial's Director of Collections

**An Emerging Opportunity**, *continued from page 2*

Freemasonry as a codification of the philosophical essence of the Renaissance. These publications demonstrate that mystical and philosophical growth is the purpose of the Order. This idea is also being widely promoted by the Masonic Restoration Foundation. Indeed, some Grand Lodges have taken note of this idea and have directed their focus to the principle of Truth and the associated philosophical understanding.

Recently I discovered a study conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) which provides information that is both interesting and relevant to our Order. The study is entitled, "Spirituality in Higher Education: A National Study of College Students' Search for Meaning and Purpose." In 2003, a questionnaire was provided to 112,000 freshmen entering 236 colleges and universities. According to their response, 76% of these students were "searching for meaning and purpose in life;" 77% indicated that the goal of "attaining wisdom" was either "essential" or "very important" to them. The survey can be accessed at [www.spirituality.ucla.edu](http://www.spirituality.ucla.edu). The survey is designed to assist the academic community in meeting the needs of students. While it is not, in its detail, particularly relevant to Freemasonry, it is an important insight into American society; and that insight can be of great value to our Order. The website and the study it contains are well worth visiting.

It occurs to me that the most important thing here is that three quarters of the respondents are "searching for meaning and purpose in life." Now, the detailed data in the survey refers only to the attitudes of its respondents. However, I believe it is not unreasonable to think that this large proportion of people seeking "meaning and purpose in life" exists not simply among college freshmen, but in the "under 30" age group in the population at large. This gives us an interesting insight into the group of people from whom petitions for the Degrees of Freemasonry will come in the future. The principle of Freemasonry in which members of this group are likely to be most interested is Truth.

Freemasonry can take steps to determine how the Order is perceived by American society. "Old men who meet in secret to do weird ceremonies" is not the optimal image. The image of good friendship and mutual support is better. But the image of a scholarly organization committed to the study and communication of philosophy and to the understanding of one's self in order to facilitate one's personal growth, is likely to be by far, the most productive.

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*An active Freemason for over 40 years, Masonic scholar W. Kirk MacNulty is a member of Lodges in Virginia, the District of Columbia and England. He is the author of three books, The Way of the Craftsman; Freemasonry: A Journey through Ritual and Symbol, and Freemasonry: Symbols, Secrets, Significance. All are available through the Memorial.*

## Planning for the Future

As the George Washington Masonic Memorial prepares for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Memorial Association in 2010, many festivities and events are being planned to mark this milestone in the history of the Memorial. While we commemorate and celebrate the past, we thank those who are making the future of the Memorial possible. Please be sure to visit the new link on the Memorial website - *Planned Giving and More* ([www.gwmmemorial.org](http://www.gwmmemorial.org)). It provides a wealth of information for estate planning, bequests, annuities and other opportunities for remembering the Memorial. Thank you for considering this commitment to the George Washington Masonic Memorial and to George Washington.

- Please send information about including the Memorial in my/our will.
- Please send information about Planned Giving.
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  - will
  - trust
  - other arrangements

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*For additional giving opportunities, please see reverse side*

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| Alvin B. Dugar                         | CT  |         |
| Norman E. Emerson                      | PA  |         |
| James B. Endslow                       | MA <b>Correction</b>                          |         |
| Nancy J. Esty                          | PA In the last issue, under Tree Dedications, |         |
| Kenneth J. Faub                        | NC East Denver Lodge No. 124 was listed       |         |
| Neal Mills Forney, Jr.                 | PA incorrectly. It should have been East      |         |
| David E. Fulford                       | CA Denver Lodge No. 160. We regret the        |         |
| Ben I. Funk                            | IL error.                                     |         |
| Russell A. Goodwin                     |   |         |

## New Exhibit Opens

### Memorial Readies for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Mark A. Tabbert

In anticipation of the Memorial Association's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010 and to fulfill its new vision, in part, to "inspire humanity through education," the Memorial has unveiled a new exhibit, is planning for more and is undergoing some exciting renovations.

Grand Masonic Hall (formerly Assembly Hall) will undergo a complete renovation to restore it to its original purpose for social functions. (See *Message from Alexandria*, page 3, for more details.) The hallways surrounding Grand Masonic Hall have been repainted, with new lighting fixtures installed. These hallways now display framed, enlarged postcards of great Masonic buildings. This exhibit, titled "The Golden Age of Masonic Architecture," when fully complete, will include one Masonic temple from each state built during the same period as the Memorial.



This 17,500 sq.ft. temple built in Fargo, North Dakota in 1902 featured a two-story auditorium with balcony capped by a 40 ft. diameter dome.

In the history of the Memorial there has never been an exhibition that explained what Lodges, Grand Lodges and Freemasons do. To correct this gapping void, a permanent exhibition on Freemasonry will open in May 2008. It will highlight four great American Freemasons: Franklin, Washington, Jackson and Truman. The exhibition will educate visitors on Freemasonry's self-improvement purpose, whose members, like the four highlighted, improve themselves as they improve society.

The gift shop is now located at the Memorial's entrance for visitors' convenience. Where the gift shop was will soon be an exhibition on the history of Alexandria, Shooters Hill and the construction of the Memorial. It will incorporate historic photographs and archaeological objects. Another display of the Association's history will include all the busts and photographs of the Past Presidents and Secretary-Treasurers.

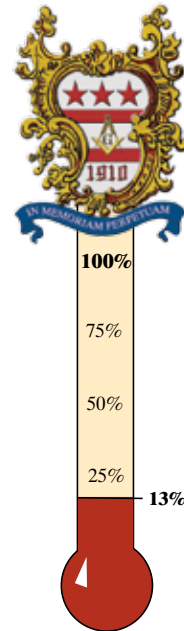
Mark A. Tabbert is the Memorial's Director of Collections

## "100% Participation By Our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"

### Seven States on Board

### Local Lodges also Participate

Unveiled at the Association's Annual Meeting in February, this exciting new campaign is directed to all Grand Lodges with the goal of receiving \$1 Per Member annually in every Grand Jurisdiction by the Association's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2010. Seven states have already made this commitment, including Washington that recently passed this resolution at their Annual Communication in June. We hope all other Grand Lodges will come on board to make it unanimous. If you are a local Lodge reading this and support this idea, please take your enthusiasm to your State Ambassador to the Memorial and encourage him to rally behind this at the Annual Communication. (Please call the Memorial if you do not know who your Ambassador is.) However, some local Lodges have already done more! The Memorial thanks *New Harmony Lodge* in Mount Orab, Ohio and *Commonwealth Lodge No. 325* in Fitchburg, Wisconsin that sent a contribution to the Memorial of \$1 for every member in their Lodge.



One hundred years ago, the founding members had a vision: build a great memorial to forever honor the memory and legacy of America's Foremost Freemason and First President, Brother George Washington. Today that vision is realized with the George Washington Masonic Memorial. But we must continue their original commitment to support this magnificent tribute. Get on board. Let's "inspire humanity" and show the world that "the virtues, character and vision of George Washington, the Man, the Mason and Father of our Country" will be forever preserved for all generations to come. Let every Jurisdiction unite behind this one symbol of veneration for Washington and let that unity ring out 100% strong by 2010!

### Participating Grand Lodges

District of Columbia  
North Dakota  
Alaska  
Michigan  
Virginia  
Maryland  
Washington

All Jurisdictions that contribute \$1 Per Member annually will be honored with a large seal of their Grand Lodge to be prominently displayed in Grand Masonic Hall at the Memorial.

## Scott Stoner Honored with Window Dedication



Memorial President Michael D. Brumback (left) and Right Worshipful Grand Master of Pennsylvania Ronald A. Aungst, Sr. welcome Phyllis Stoner to the Memorial Library for a Window Dedication to honor the late W. Scott Stoner, immediate Past President of the Memorial.

widow, Phyllis Stoner, his two daughters, son-in-law, and three grandchildren were also present. In addition, several visiting and local guests were also in attendance. In a moving tribute to Brother Stoner, Right Worshipful Grand Master Aungst acknowledged his many years of dedicated service to Freemasonry and to the Memorial.

W. Scott Stoner, immediate Past President of the Memorial Association, was posthumously honored at a Window Dedication ceremony in the Memorial Library by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania on Sunday, August 26. Brother Stoner passed away last year on March 1. He served as Right Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for two years in 1990 and 1991. Officiating at the ceremony were Ronald A. Aungst, Sr., Right Worshipful Grand Master; Michael D. Brumback, President of the Grand Lodge line. Brother Stoner's

## Memorial Participates in International Conference

The first International Conference on the History of Freemasonry was held May 25-27 in Edinburgh, Scotland. More than 300 attendees from around the world participated in this academic conference, including Mark Tabbert, the Memorial's Director of Collections. Tabbert gave two lectures, one on the history of American Masonic philanthropy and another on the Memorial's digital history projects. Other lectures covered such diverse topics as Freemasonry in Turkey, Freemasons' and English Music Halls, and Natural Law and Philosophy in Freemasonry. Along with tours to many important sites in Edinburgh, a gala ball was held in the National Museum of Scotland. Plans are underway to hold the second conference in 2009 in conjunction with the 200th birthday of Freemason Robert Burns, national poet of Scotland.

## Over 1000 Visit Memorial during Supreme Council

Thanks in part to the free shuttle service provided by the Memorial, over 1000 Scottish Rite members from several Jurisdictions around the country visited the Memorial during the Joint Supreme Council Session held in Washington, D.C. in August. The shuttle ran continuously throughout the week at designated times between the Memorial and a nearby Metro station.



## Association Officers

Elected February 19, 2007

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Michael D. Brumback  | President                  |
| Anthony P. Wordlow   | First Vice President       |
| Roger A. Simmons     | Second Vice President      |
| Donald G. Hicks, Jr. | Third Vice President       |
| George D. Seghers*   | Executive Director         |
| Donald M. Robey      | Exec. Sec.-Treas. Emeritus |

## Board of Directors

Term expires February 22, 2008

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Bradford L. Barco     | Rhode Island |
| David E. Carter       | Kentucky     |
| Ronald S. Coppedge    | Oklahoma     |
| Albert F. Garner, Jr. | Georgia      |
| Ridgely H. Gilmour*   | Utah         |
| Roger A. Simmons*     | Alabama      |
| John R. Quinley       | Virginia     |

Term expires February 22, 2009

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Donald G. Hicks, Jr.* | Massachusetts  |
| Alvin W. Jorgensen    | Washington     |
| John E. Kavanaugh     | Florida        |
| David J. Lamprey, Sr. | New Hampshire  |
| Darwin D. Lloyd       | Arkansas       |
| Lawrence J. Mersberg  | Kansas         |
| W. Berry Rigdon       | North Carolina |

Term expires February 22, 2010

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Michael D. Brumback*   | Indiana          |
| Robert P. Conley       | Michigan         |
| Frank R. Dunaway, Jr.* | A-W Lodge No. 22 |
| Reese L. Harrison, Jr. | Texas            |
| John L. Palmer         | Tennessee        |
| Michael A. Sutton      | Idaho            |
| Anthony P. Wordlow*    | California       |

\*Member of Executive Committee

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