

FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY

The Grand Master has advised that he will not present 25-Year, 50-Year or 60-Year Awards at the District meetings this year, so please do not request these awards for presentation at his meeting in your District.

Please note that the Grand Lodge adopted several proposed amendments to THE CODE at the Annual Communication this past April, including the amendment proposed by the Grand Secretary's office to amend Regulation 54-01 (1) by adding subsection (A) to read as follows:

"A. A lodge shall be exempt from the payment of dues and assessments to the Grand Lodge on all members who have received the Fifty-Year and/or the Sixty-Year Service Awards."

This means, brethren, that we no longer have to elect our members who have received the fifty and sixty year awards to Life Membership in order to exempt the lodge from the per capita dues on them. When a member receives a fifty or a sixty year award, the lodge is automatically exempt from the per capita dues on him from that time on.

Regulation 87-01 was amended or restored to its former wording which was in effect prior to the amendment adopted in 1966. "A lodge may now make a member a Life Member only for outstanding and meritorious service to Masonry, and the lodge shall not be exempt from the payment of dues and assessments to the Grand Lodge on Life Members." (Except on 50 and 60-Year members who are already Life Members).

The proposal to amend Regulation 21-01 by adding subsection (3) and (3A) was not adopted. Action on this proposal was delayed for further study by the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence. This proposed amendment had to do with the holding of stated communications during the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

Also, the proposal to amend Regulation 51-01 (1) by adding subsections (3) and (3A) prohibiting the holding of a stated or an emergent communication on a day that a District meeting is being held in that District, was not adopted. This proposal was also delayed for further study.

Action on the proposal to amend Regulation 35-08 to divide the State into areas, requiring the appointment of Area Lecturers from the Certified Lecturers, was also delayed. This proposal was referred to the Board of Custodians for further study.

All other proposals listed in the pamphlet sent out by the Code Commission under date of October 29, 1968 were adopted. We presume the Code Commission will prepare inserts of these changes at an early

Festive Honors Paid Our Grand Master

On Tuesday, May 13, at 6:00 P. M., James B. Green Lodge No. 735, Raleigh, honored M. W. Bro. William A. Hooks, Grand Master, at a buffet dinner in the Recreation room of the Millbrook Masonic Temple. The menu for the feast consisted of such delectables as roast beef, baked ham, turnip greens, green beans, potato salad, cole slaw, pie (choice of apple or blueberry) and hot Mocha-Java coffee or iced Celon tea.

At 7:30 P.M., the Stated Communication was opened, with W. Bro. Paul Etheridge, Jr., Master, presiding, and all other officers in their several stations and places.

W. Bro. J. Frank Maddry, D.D.G.M., 25th Masonic district, introduced the following past masters: W. Brothers Dee O. Lineberry, William G. Hill No. 218; Lacy Thomas, (also D.D.G.M. 27th); Floyd Stewart, C. D. Hooks, all of Fellowship No. 84, Smithfield; Vernon Wilson, of No. 1184, Endicott, N. Y.; Paul Scott, and George W. White, Millbrook No. 97; Harrison Kauffman, Hiram No. 40; and James S. Johnson, Jr., of 735 (also P.M., of Raleigh No. 500).

W. Bro. James S. Johnson, Jr., introduced W. Bro. J. Frank Maddry, D.D.G.M., and W. Bro. R. Gage Smith, D.D.G.L., of the 25th Masonic district.

W. Bro. J. Frank Maddry then presented M. W. Bro. Robert

date. In the meantime, if you need a copy of these proposals, we will be glad to send one upon receipt of your request.

Perhaps the amendments to Regulation 72-01 and 85-01 were among the most important that should be brought to the attention of the Masters and the Secretaries of our lodges at this time.

Regulation 72-01 was amended to read that "On and after January 1, 1970 no lodge in this state shall confer any of the Symbolic degrees in Masonry for less than fifty dollars."

Regulation 85-01 was amended to read that "From January 1, 1970 each lodge shall fix in its by-laws and shall collect such annual dues from its membership as may be necessary to enable it to maintain itself and discharge all of its duties and obligations; provided, that no lodge shall fix such annual dues at less than seven dollars and fifty cents."

Many lodges in North Carolina are going to have to amend their by-laws before the end of this year in order to conform to these amendments. The Grand Secretary will be most happy to prepare a resolution to amend one or both of these articles in your by-laws if you will tell us the amounts you propose to fix in Article 9 for the fee for the degrees, and/or Article 10 for the annual membership dues. If you will follow Article 24 of Regulation 50-01 of THE CODE, it is an easy matter to adopt amendments to the by-laws.

—Charles A. Harris

N. Bass, Jr., P.G.M., of the Grand Lodge.

The M. W. Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina, Brother William A. Hooks, was received, with W. Bro. J. Frank Maddry acting as marshal. He was escorted to the East, given private Grand Honors, and seated the lodge.

W. Brother Etheridge told that in the late summer the lodge would visit our Home in Greensboro in a body, with a small personal gift for each guest, but added that he felt the personal visit would mean more to our guests than the gift. He then explained plans by lodges in the 24th, 25th and 26th Masonic districts to carry out the celebration of St. John's Day, as follows: June 21 (Saturday) all three districts meet in Raleigh's Masonic Temple at 2:30 p.m., with William G. Hill Lodge No. 218 as host, conferring the third degree by a team composed of members of all lodges in the three districts (places being drawn by lot rather than assigned), with full-uniforms of Hiram Lodge No. 40 being used in the second section. Degree work to be completed by 5:30 p.m., so that each brother could drive home and pick up his family, returning to the Masonic Temple by 6:30 for a chicken supper to be served by the brethren of William T. Bain Lodge No. 231. Each lodge was encouraged to make its own plans for church attendance in a body on June 22, with James B. Green Lodge No. 735 to attend Trinity United Methodist Church, in Raleigh (home church of the Worshipful Master).

It was announced that the Junior Past Master, W. Bro. Alex Holder, Jr., who now lives in Tennessee, had recently suffered a broken leg in a fall.

The Master called attention to the election of Brother J. C. Knowles (who served No. 735 as Chaplain for the past three years) as a member of the Raleigh School Board, and that he was being installed as president of the P.T.A. of Emma Conn School this evening.

M. W. Bro. William A. Hooks, who was recognized as Grand Master, and instructed Brother Tom Green to present Brother Raymond Walter Catlette before the altar. Brother Hooks presented a 25-year Certificate and lapel pin to Brother Catlette and had Brother Green pin the lapel pin on Brother Catlette, noting that he was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Stuyvesant Lodge No. 745, New York City, on April 6, 1940.

W. Bro. James S. Johnson, Jr., presented Brother George L. Stockstill, Chaplain, at the altar. After prayer at the altar by W. Bro. Paul Etheridge, Jr., the Grand Master presented a 50-Year Masonic Certificate and lapel pin to Brother Stockstill and had him conducted to the east where Brother George M. Stockstill (his son) pinned the lapel pin on his father, noting that he had been Initiated March 2, 1919, Passed April 5, 1919, and Raised May 11, 1919, in Carriere, Lodge No. 6, Carriere

Well Tempered Truth

"Good will ultimately predominate over evil" is but one way of saying optimism as we hear everyone talking it today.

Everyone encourages optimism, and there is no question about the competent merits of a sincere optimism. However, exactly like every other thing, either good or bad, it can be overdone. We can be too optimistic.

It is true that if we really look for it, we can find some thing good and worthwhile in everybody and everything, but is it always best to look only for the good in the everything? Shouldn't the bad . . . the short-comings of things be taken into considerations?

A coach fields a ball team with the idea of winning. He is optimistic about the appearance of the players but he never allows his optimism to run rampant. He looks deeper into the actual merits of each player.

A good coach is never so optimistic that he will believe that appearance will make a ball player.

Surely, if we are going to be fair and honest, we must admit that sometimes all the good points going for a thing are not sufficiently strong enough or important enough to justify our losing sight of its bad points. All too often the scales are balanced too far in the direction of those deficiencies.

Optimism, like so many of the other ingredients that are essential to successful living, must be realistic. With what has become an obsession for an optimistic approach to our daily existence, we must never allow ourselves to forget that, as Brethren, we should ever circumscribe our thoughts and our actions with the reality and good judgment of a tempered truth. —Exchange

No man can cash in on the satisfaction he gets out of revenge.

Mississippi. Brother Hooks pointed out in his brief remarks of presentation that the Grand Lodge and James B. Green Lodge No. 735 were jointly presenting the emblem of love to signify a half century of mutual love.

Brother Stockstill responded with a few words, saying he felt somewhat like a freckled-faced country boy on the last day of school who was supposed to deliver a speech, and when he walked out on the stage barefooted and clothed in overalls, he finally got out "Dog-gone it—I've forgotten it." He did, however, say that it was wonderful to be a Mason, and that he had memories of a very long time ago when a man rode a horse to lodge meetings, then came back and spent the night (at least, what little was left of it) at our house. Additional remarks revealed that the man to whom he referred was his father. He expressed appreciation to the Grand Master for being present making this event most meaningful. He expressed appreciation to all of the brethren for their presence.

Timely remarks by other brethren contributed to the greater good of Masonry; and the Grand Master closed the Lodge in Ample Form.