

**GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY FOR 2016-2017
THE MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA**

To: Elected Grand Lodge Officers
District Deputy Grand Masters
Zone Chairmen and District Chairmen
Worshipful Masters of Particular Lodges

My Brothers:

This Grand Lodge Masonic Year 2016-2017, our Grand Master, M.:W.: Stanley L. Hudson, has chosen "The Masonic Home of Florida" as his Grand Master's Charity. For over 95 years, our Fraternity has taken the charge to insure a place of relief for those Brothers and their families that may be in need. From what started out as the Southland Hotel almost a century ago has transformed, through hard work, financial support, and planning, into a five star facility that is today one of the finest Masonic Homes in North America and a beacon of pride for Florida Masons. This year by participating in the Grand Master's Charity fundraising campaign for the Masonic Home of Florida, you can help support this decades old Masonic endeavor.

Committee Mission Statement and Goals:

It is the Mission of this Committee to create and facilitate a simple fundraising program model that can be used as an effective means to generate a revenue stream to help with the financial operation of our Masonic Home. This fundraising program model will utilize our collective talents, skills, and resources to establish a long-lasting foundation for our beloved Masonic Home.

District Deputy Grand Masters:

Congratulations, the Grand Master has chosen you as his representative in your District. Your leadership and perspicacity is paramount for our philanthropic undertaking to support our Masonic Home. The District Chairmen you have appointed and his activities are of great importance. He will be your voice of the Grand Master's Charity Committee for your District. Please encourage him to keep a clear line of communication with the Zone Chairman who environs your District. Familiarize yourself with the Florida Statutes Chapter 496 (Solicitation of Funds) and Florida Statutes Chapter 849, Section 0935, and our requirements to comply with Florida State Law. Work with your District Chairmen and Particular Lodges to help them understand our accountabilities respective to these statutes. It would also be prudent that you know which Lodges in your District are registered under Florida Statutes Chapter 496 and which Lodges have not registered. When you start your Lodge visitations, please stress the simple fundraising program that the Grand Master's Charity Committee has developed for our Masonic Home of Florida. The Grand Master's Charity Committee, Zone Chairman, and/or I (State Chairman) are at your disposal and are there to help you reach our Grand Master's goals in your District. Please do not hesitate to call upon us for assistance.

Zone Chairmen:

You were appointed and entrusted by the Grand Master to manage the activities, and promote the desideratum of raising essential capital for our Masonic Home within all the Districts in your Zone. Your participation and involvement is consequential to this committee's success. Your understanding of the Florida Statutes Chapter 496, Florida Statutes Chapter 849, Section 0935, and working knowledge of IRS charitable contributions tax requirements is essential. Zone Chairmen should establish a working relationship with the District Deputy Grand Masters within their Zone jurisdiction and assist them as needed. Ask the District Deputy Grand Masters for the contact information for the District Chairmen they appointed to the Grand Master's Charity Committee. Establish a line of communication with the District Chairmen in your Zone. Your attentive leadership will help the Grand Lodge and our Grand Master's Charity Committee to insure success.

District Chairmen:

The District Deputy Grand Master of your District has appointed you to represent him in your District. Your position comes with great responsibility for this committee. You are the voice of this committee to the Particular Lodges. Work with the Worshipful Masters and Craft to instruct them about their fundraising for the Grand Master's Charity, our Masonic Home. Create an open line of communication with your Zone Chairman. Your understanding of Florida Statutes Chapter 496 (Solicitation of Funds), Florida Statutes Chapter 849, Section 0935, and working knowledge of IRS charitable contributions tax requirements is also essential. As you visit the Particular Lodges in your District, please stress to the Craft the simple fundraising program that the Grand Master's Charity Committee has developed for our Masonic Home of Florida. As an appointed member of the Grand Master's Charity Committee, always keep your Zone Chairman informed of any activity within your District. The Zone Chairman is there to help you serve the District Deputy Grand Master who appointed you. We as committee members must always insure that we are following the letter of the law when dealing with gaming laws. If you are not sure about something, please call upon the Zone Chairman and/or me (State Chairman) for assistance.

Worshipful Masters:

You have a very important role in leadership in all the activities for our Grand Master's Charity Committee, for the Craft is at your will and pleasure. Your participation will provide authority and set the tempo for your Lodge. Please work with the Grand Master's Charity District Chairman to foster a climate of partnership. If your Lodge has eager Brothers, please consider allowing these Brothers to assist the District Chairman with his duties appointed him by your District Deputy Grand Master. If you ever have any questions pertaining to our Grand Master's Charity or its responsibilities, please feel free to contact your Zone Chairman and/or I (State Chairman) for assistance. We as Masons all have the same goal, which is to support our Masonic Home of Florida's solvency.

Finally, Brothers, I am extremely proud to be on this committee with all of you diligent and accomplished Brothers. I encourage all of you to be the leaders that I know you are, by creating conditions that cause an environment of cooperation through vision and teamwork. Together we will continue this successful endeavor to support the long tradition of care and high standards of our Masonic Home.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

R. : W. : Steven B. Walden, P.D.D.G.M.
State Chairman, Grand Master's Charity Committee