

GRAND MASTER'S CHARITY FOR 2017-2018
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 2017-2018, our Grand Master, M.:W.: Richard G. Hoover, has chosen "The Masonic Home of Florida" as his Grand Master's Charity, specifically the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc., a 501(c)(3) corporation. His thoughts inspire the similar words of Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz with the Phrase **"There is no Place Like our Home."**

For over 96 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 a children's home almost a century ago has transformed, through hard work, financial support, and planning, into one of the finest Masonic Homes in North America with a five star rating that Florida Masons can be proud of. This year by participating in the Grand Master's Charity fundraising campaign, you can help support Most Worshipful Grand Master Hoover, and our endeavors to make the Masonic Home of Florida a proud place of tradition for many more years to come.

Committee Mission Statement and Goals:

It is the Mission of this Committee to spread awareness of our Home and create and facilitate a simple fundraising program that can be used as an effective means to generate revenue to help with the financial operation of our Masonic Home. We want to encourage Lodges or individuals to establish fundraising activities specifically designed to raise funds for the Grand Master's Charity, as well as encourage individual donations by Lodges, Groups, or Brothers reminding them of our needs to generate funds to assist the already in place MH-100 Committee to establish a long-lasting foundation and base of operation for our beloved Masonic Home.

District Deputy Grand Masters:

Congratulations on your appointment as the Grand Master has chosen you as his representative in your District. Your leadership is paramount for our philanthropic undertaking to support our Masonic Home. The District Chairman you have appointed and his activities are of great importance as he will be the voice of this committee. Please encourage him to communicate with the Zone Chairman who overlooks your District. Become familiar 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. When you start your Lodge Visitations, please stress simple fundraising programs, as well as donations that can be utilized to raise funds for the Grand Master's Charity Committee and our Masonic Home of Florida.

Zone Chairmen:

You were appointed and entrusted by the Grand Master to manage the activities and promote the raising of essential capital for our Masonic Home within all the Districts in your Zone. Your participation and involvement is consequential to this committee's success. You will follow the same guidelines as the District Deputy Grand Masters and should establish a working relationship with each in their Zone and assist them as needed. Ask the District Deputy Grand Masters for the contact information of the District Chairmen they appoint to the Grand Master's Charity Committee and establish a line of communication with each 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. You are the voice of this committee to the Particular Lodges. Work with the Worshipful Masters and Craft to instruct them about fundraising ideas for the Grand Master's Charity, our Masonic Home. Encourage Lodges to have dinners, auctions, golf tournaments, walk-a-thons, or any other activities that may generate revenue as fundraisers. Your understanding of Florida Statutes Chapter 496 (Solicitation of Funds), Florida Statutes Chapter 849, Section 0935, and a working knowledge of IRS charitable contributions tax requirements is also essential. As you visit the Particular Lodges in your District, talk about fundraising ideas as well as encourage individual donations to the Grand Master's Charity, the 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.

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 establish activities to generate funds. 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 or me as State Chairman for assistance. We as Masons all have the same goal, which is to support our Masonic Home of Florida and its solvency.

Finally, Brothers, I am extremely proud to be on this committee with all of you. Success in this Grand Master's Charity Committee can be achieved by working together as a team. Our Masonic Home will prosper if we establish a committee with solid leadership, and a willingness to think out of the box on activities and fundraisers, as well as the ability to reach out to those inside our organization for donations and support. If we can attain what we set out to do our Masonic Home will thrive, because of the long tradition of care and high standards we have placed in supporting and making the Masonic Home of Florida the very best facility for our Brothers and Ladies.

Sincerely and fraternally,

R. : W. : Lawrence A. Williamson, P.D.D.G.M.
State Chairman, Grand Master's Charity Committee