

**ENDOWMENT PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE PROGRAM 2024-2025
(Comprised of L.Y.P.M.G.C., MH-100, and Wills and Gifts)**

To: District Deputy Grand Masters
Zone Chairmen, District Committeemen
Worshipful Masters of the Particular Lodges

The Endowment Procurement Program has three sub-programs: “Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents (L.Y.P.M.G.C.),” “MH-100,” and “Wills and Gifts”. These programs are designed to provide financial support to the Masonic Home.

The Masonic Home is a 501(c)(3) charitable institution, as is the Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. Contributions made to the Home, including those through the Endowment Procurement programs may have charitable tax benefits. A tax advisor will need to provide guidance on claiming any such benefit.

In establishing the L.Y.P.M.G.C. and MH-100 Programs, the Lodge was designated as fiscal custodian of funds donated to these programs and tasked with forwarding such funds to the Grand Lodge. Since contributions are made to a charitable entity, they are not Lodge funds.

L.Y.P.M.G.C. PROGRAM

The “Let Your Pennies Make Good Cents” Program began in 1958. It was created with the intention of every Brother donating a penny a day, to be deposited in an Endowment Fund with the principal never to be touched. The interest from this money would be utilized for the operation of the Masonic Home and thereby ensuring the residents of the Home an exceptional quality of life which they so justly deserve. If the program were initiated today, the \$3.65/year contribution in 1958 would be \$38.48/year in 2023. Any Brother who visits our Masonic Home will consider his “pennies” well spent and will be very proud of our beautiful facility and the comfortable, secure environment that has been created for our Brothers and Sisters. I have visited our Masonic Home many times and hope that all Masons throughout the state go and visit. You will be impressed! I promise.

The Craft voted to increase the voluntary donation to \$7.30 per member to support this Endowment Fund in 2009. Again, the \$7.30 in 2009 would be equivalent to \$10.23 in 2023. We need to remind and encourage all Brothers to participate and support this program and contribute the full \$7.30. The Brothers who do not or cannot attend Lodge should be notified of the importance of supporting this program. Ask the Lodges in your Districts to put a reminder in the Trestleboard explaining the importance of this program.

Please ensure that the Lodge Secretary includes the L.Y.P.M.G.C. in their quarterly reports to the Grand Secretary in a timely manner as required so he is able to keep track of the monies received for this program. Also, we need the continued presentation of various awards that are presented to the Lodges that contribute at least \$7.30 per member. For Brothers who do contribute the full \$7.30, including all Perpetual Members, the Lodge Secretaries should remember to affix the Gold Foil Seals to their paper membership dues cards. Submission of the monies raised for L.Y.P.M.G.C. must be submitted quarterly. The Lodge is the financial custodian of funds; 100% of the funds raised for this program are not discretionary! They shall not be used for any other Lodge expenditures. It would not only be unmasonic to do so, it would violate charitable contribution laws.

I am confident that with the support of the District Deputy Grand Masters, the Zone Chairmen, and the District Chairmen, the Lodges will step-up to the challenge of 100% participation in support of this very worthy program making this a very successful year.

One last point, once the Lodge Secretaries, District Chairmen, Zone Chairmen, and I receive the quarterly L.Y.P.M.G.C. detail reports from the Grand Secretary’ Office, our work should have already been accomplished. Be proactive not reactive to these reports. If you need assistance and/or support with this most important cause please contact me at any time. Working together as a team we will achieve our goals and secure the future of our Masonic Home.

MH-100 PROGRAM

The Masonic Home operates on a budget funded by interest income from our Masonic Home Endowment Fund, Inc. Because of inflation and variations in the stock market, we need to ensure that this investment is large enough to support the Masonic Home during hard times. Our Masonic Home depends on the Endowment Fund for its existence and for the welfare of our residents and for maintaining a high quality of care. Our residents, worthy Brothers, their wives, and/or their widows are the ones each of us promised at our Sacred Altar to contribute to their relief. To maintain financial stability to keep up with, or stay ahead of, the increasing cost of living and inflation, it is necessary that we continue to procure donations for the Endowment Fund. The MH-100 Program helps with raising necessary funds while recognizing individual Brothers, Lodges, or businesses.

The District Deputy Grand Masters should become thoroughly familiar with the MH-100 Program and during each of his visits should, in the absence of the District Chairman, promote the MH-100 Program. Another recommendation is at the beginning of the Grand Lodge Year distribute an introductory letter to Particular Lodges which could include a flyer highlighting MH-100. The letter should also contain a request for each Lodge to contribute at least \$100.00 to the MH-100 Program. An excellent time to present this donation is when the Grand Master makes his Official Visit to your District. The District Chairmen could also include in this correspondence any ideas for programs they may have to obtain donations; provided the programs are within our Masonic guidelines. The District and Zone Chairmen should work together closely to organize fundraisers and to obtain donations, either large or small. To encourage further participation in the MH-100 Program, the Grand Lodge recognizes individual donations in the following manner:

\$100 Donation	MH-100 Club Level	Bronze Lapel Pin and Certificate
\$200 Donation	Ambassador Club	Red Enamel Lapel Pin and Certificate
\$500 Donation	Gold Club	Gold Lapel Pin and Certificate
\$1,000 Donation	Grand Master's Club	Blue Enamel Lapel Pin and Certificate

Donations are cumulative and will be recorded by the Grand Lodge Office. As donations increase to the next level, the award for that level will be presented. For the highest per capita donation, one Lodge in each District and one Lodge statewide will be recognized at our Grand Communication in 2025 for their contributions. It is my goal to work closely with each Zone Chairman and I expect each Zone Chairman to work with their respective District Chairmen, in order to provide an accurate accountability to our Grand Lodge.

Other donations to the MH-100 Program can be made "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone special as an expression of appreciation. Members of a Particular Lodge may compile their donations to purchase a membership in the MH-100 Club to express their appreciation of a deserving Brother.

Although the initial idea of this committee was to solicit \$100 donations, it must be stressed that any amount received will help the bottom line. Whether the contribution is \$1 or \$100, it will continue to provide a stable income for our Masonic Home.

Let us work together and raise some money for our Masonic Home. As your State Chairman, I am at your service and ready and willing to help you make this committee a success. I will be in touch with you and I hope you will call on me for assistance at any time.

WILLS AND GIFTS

One of the most satisfying things that we can do as Masons is to leave a legacy for someone or something we care deeply about. Over the years many Brothers and friends have included a charitable provision in their will or made a direct cash donation to our Masonic Home of Florida, their Lodge, or one of the youth organizations. The results of those gifts have allowed us to influence the lives of many of our fellow Brothers, widows, or youth organizations within our community.

The Wills and Gifts Committee is primarily charged with ensuring a sound financial future for our Masonic Home by educating both Masons and non-Masons alike in the various estate planning vehicles available. There are several categories of gift giving available to anyone who wishes to make a donation to our Masonic Home.

Bequest Gifts: For many of us a charitable bequest is the easiest and best way to make a gift to our Masonic Home. By means of your will or other estate plan, you can name the Masonic Home as the beneficiary of a portion of your estate or of particular assets in your estate. Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on for the benefit of our Masonic Home.

Charitable Gift Annuities: These gift annuities will provide you (and/or someone you designate) with income for the rest of your life, avoid capital gains tax, and leaves a lasting gift to our Masonic Home. A portion of this income stream may be tax-free and you will receive a charitable deduction for the value of your future gift to the Masonic Home. Our Grand Lodge has created a brochure entitled “The Charitable Gift Annuity Program” that will help educate potential donors about the advantages of utilizing this gifting strategy. We have also gathered a list of Brothers that are willing to speak to potential donors on an individual or group basis to provide further information regarding this program. You may contact me directly or a Zone Chairman in order to arrange for an educational workshop in your area.

Outright Gifts: These gifts include one-time or ongoing donations of cash or other assets that you wish to donate to the Masonic Home. Typically, these gifts have favorable tax advantages associated with them which may be received right away!

Donating Online: You can make a donation today by visiting the Masonic Home of Florida’s website and click on the “Donate Now” icon. You may choose to contribute to several of our recognition programs on behalf of yourself, your Lodge, or a loved one.

In order to assist in making decisions regarding planned giving, Grand Lodge has developed a brochure entitled “A Guide to Wills & Trusts in Florida.” The District Committee Chairmen should obtain an ample supply to disseminate among their individual Lodges. The District Deputy Grand Master’s selection of an attorney or estate planning professional to present the program is encouraged. Also, Grand Lodge can assist you in contacting an attorney, within the Fraternity, who is willing to assist Masons and non-Masons in making charitable bequests to the Masonic Home.

It is important to note that non-members of the Fraternity, once having become familiar with the benevolent nature of our Masonic Home, have made large bequests over the years. Thus, you may wish to discuss our Masonic Home and its accomplishments at Open Meetings or in your community emphasizing that it is only the interest derived from the Endowment Fund which funds our Masonic Home’s Annual Budget. Of equal importance is the fact that our Masonic Home, unlike many charitable facilities, has no corporate sponsors, nor does it receive any Federal or State assistance. Each District Deputy Grand Master should provide information to each District Committeeman for distribution. It is my intention to make a distribution to each Zone Chairman as well. The more information that is out there, the greater the chances are for a positive response.

We would like to thank, in advance, those members of the Fraternity and non-members who have found it in their heart to ensure a sound financial future for our Masonic Fraternity by making charitable gifts and bequests in the course of their estate and tax planning.

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Edward O. Kellner, Jr., State Chairman
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