

**THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE**  
OF ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

September 1, 2023

TO:

THE OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE  
THE PAST GRAND MASTERS  
THE MASTERS AND WARDENS OF ALL  
LODGES HOLDEN UNDER THIS GRAND LODGE

GREETINGS:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1.05 of the **METHODICAL DIGEST**, the 245th Grand Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, commencing on Friday, November 10, 2023, at 8:30 O'clock A.M. My address will be delivered after the opening of Grand Lodge. Please review the budget and the resolutions to be considered at Grand Lodge.

All Masters and Wardens in attendance are requested to wear the apron and jewel of their respective offices.

As your Grand Lodge continues to seek ways to reduce costs in holding our Grand Annual Communication, the Public Ceremonies and award presentations will now be held on Saturday morning. The majority of our business will be conducted on Friday.

Times for the Grand Lodge Committees will be announced on Friday morning, November 10, 2023. Delegates are urged to attend and inform themselves regarding pending matters.

The Grand Lodge Banquet will be held for the Brethren and Invited Guests on Friday evening. On Friday, a Masonic Home Luncheon will be held. The Lodge Secretary has received specifics about each event.

The election of Grand Lodge Officers will begin promptly at 10:00 A.M., Saturday morning, November 11, 2023. An open installation of officers will be held Saturday afternoon at 4:00 P.M.

Resolutions to be considered in 2024 must be drafted in **proper form** as required by Section 1.16 of the Methodical Digest and submitted to the Grand Secretary by December 31, 2023.

Proxies for the officers are to be elected by the Lodge but if they fail to attend, the Master may, under his hand, appoint some Brother as proxy. No Brother shall represent more than three Lodges.

Enclosed are Resolutions 23-01 and 23-02. These resolutions should be gone over with care, but the delegates are urged to keep an open mind and to attend committee hearings before formulating a position.

Requests for fraternal recognition will be presented by the Committee on Foreign Correspondence for the following: the Grand Lodge Benemerito Ejercito de Oriente, F. & A.M. of the State of Puebla, Mexico; the A.F. & A.M. Grand Lodge of Georgia (the country); the Grand Lodge National Togolaise, and the Grand Lodge of Belarus.

Given under my hand as Grand Master of Masons in Virginia this first day of September 2023, and to which I have caused to be affixed the Seal of the Grand Lodge of Virginia by the Grand Secretary.



Grand Master



Attest:



Grand Secretary

**GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M., OF VIRGINIA  
PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET**

**REVENUES**

	<i>ACTUAL</i> <i>6/30/2023</i>	<i>2023</i> <i>ANNUALIZED</i>	<i>2023</i> <i>BUDGET</i>	<i>2024</i> <i>PROPOSED</i>
Dues	932,817	932,817	918,329	904,469
Fees	30,982	87,992	66,650	90,225
Investments	0	0	0	0
Sales of Publications	26,392	30,000	30,000	30,000
Fund Raiser	(18,320)	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	707	707	400	2,400
Transfer from Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>972,577</u>	<u>1,051,516</u>	<u>1,015,379</u>	<u>1,027,094</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

Masonic Recognition	1,119	3,335	1,097	3,467
Charity	0	0	3,940	3,908
Public Relations	1,600	5,200	32,000	12,000
Grand Lodge Officers	52,845	89,967	98,470	103,728
District Deputy Grand Masters	5,796	27,550	27,550	29,750
Personnel	191,441	378,012	357,759	416,920
Masonic Education	10,319	11,255	10,470	13,790
Committee on Work	2,523	11,646	24,040	19,040
Other Committees	398	796	3,750	3,619
Publications	49,851	93,992	82,000	87,500
Grand Annual Communication	194	112,650	112,650	120,990
General Support	52,508	107,427	107,427	80,115
Systems and Procedures	27,574	28,608	35,702	34,202
Building Operations	26,489	47,910	44,665	52,665
Capital Expenditures	186	48,622	48,650	35,400
Capital Improvement Fund	0	15,209	15,209	0
Technology Reserve Fund	0	29,669	0	0
Transfer to Reserve Fund	0	29,669	0	0
2023 Conference of Grand Masters Fund	0	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>422,842</u>	<u>1,051,516</u>	<u>1,015,379</u>	<u>1,027,094</u>

**PASS THRU ASSESSMENTS**

**REVENUES**

Masonic Home Assessment	210,812	211,863	211,863	208,963
DeMolay Foundation	54,000	4,421	4,421	4,375
Job's Daughters	0	4,221	4,221	4,375
Rainbow for Girls	0	4,421	4,421	4,375
George Washington Memorial	0	21,593	21,593	21,303
The Scholarship Fund	0	17,793	17,793	17,565
Library/Museum	0	8,929	8,929	8,784
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<u>264,812</u>	<u>273,239</u>	<u>273,239</u>	<u>269,738</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

Masonic Home Assessment	(210,155)	(211,863)	(211,863)	(208,963)
DeMolay Foundation	0	(4,421)	(4,421)	(4,375)
Job's Daughters	0	(4,221)	(4,221)	(4,375)
Rainbow for Girls	0	(4,421)	(4,421)	(4,375)
George Washington Memorial	0	(21,593)	(21,593)	(21,303)
The Scholarship Fund	0	(17,793)	(17,793)	(17,565)
Library/Museum	0	(8,929)	(8,929)	(8,784)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<u>(210,155)</u>	<u>(273,239)</u>	<u>(273,239)</u>	<u>(269,738)</u>

**REPORT ON THE EXPENDITURES OF THE  
2022 GRAND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION**

Hotel Costs:	
Rooms	51,891.66
Food Service	52,136.50
Printing (excluding Proceedings)	3,045.76
Photographs and Records	1,800.00
Entertainment	1,400.00
Facility Costs	299.41
Ladies Tour	757.00
Awards and Gifts	2,090.93
Supplies (Miscellaneous)	883.21
Committee on Work	<u>2,710.94</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><b>117,015.41</b></u>

**Resolutions To Be Considered**

**RESOLUTION 23-01**

**That Section 2.19 of the Methodical Digest be amended as follows:**

**Sec. 2.19. Dues of Subordinate Lodges.** — Every chartered Lodge with its annual returns shall make payment to the Grand Lodge of the sum of forty-two dollars effective January 1, 2019, for each member of such Lodge as of the date of the last stated communication in December of each year, provided, however that no Grand Lodge dues shall be paid on any member of a regular Lodge who shall have fifty years aggregate membership in a regular Lodge chartered by this Grand Lodge or by a Grand Lodge recognized by the Grand Lodge of Virginia and whose membership for the five years last past shall have been in a Virginia Lodge and whose name shall be certified annually by the Grand Secretary as having such membership. In addition to these dues every Lodge, chartered or under dispensation, shall pay to the Grand Lodge a fee of ~~forty~~ one hundred dollars for each petitioner elected for the degrees and raised by the Lodge or raised at the request of the Lodge. The name of each Brother so raised shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary following the communication at which the Brother was raised and the fee for such Brother shall be paid by the Lodge as soon thereafter as practicable.

In addition to these dues, effective January 1, 2006, every chartered Lodge with its annual returns shall make payment to the Grand Lodge of Virginia an assessment in the amount of one dollar to support the maintenance and operational expense of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial for each member for which the Lodge is liable for Grand Lodge dues. The proceeds of this assessment shall be paid to the George Washington Masonic National Memorial by the Grand Lodge Treasurer as soon as practical after receipt.

In addition to these dues, every chartered Lodge with its annual returns shall make payment to the Grand Lodge of Virginia an assessment in the amount of ten dollars for the Masonic Home of Virginia for each member for which the Lodge is liable for Grand Lodge dues, effective January 1, 2015. The proceeds of this assessment shall be paid to the Masonic

Home of Virginia's Board of Governors by the Grand Lodge Treasurer as soon as practical after receipt.

In addition to these dues, effective January 1, 2019, every chartered Lodge shall make with its annual returns a payment of two dollars for each member for which the Lodge is liable for dues, to be disbursed as follows: \$0.90 per member to the Scholarship Fund, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia, \$0.50 per member to the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M., of Virginia Library, Museum and Historical Foundation, \$0.20 per member to the Virginia Rainbow for Girls Foundation, Inc., \$0.20 per member to the Virginia Job's Daughters Foundation, Inc., and \$0.20 per member to the Virginia DeMolay Foundation, Inc. These funds shall be disbursed to the respective groups by the Grand Treasurer each year as soon as practical.

In addition to these dues every chartered Lodge with its annual returns shall make an insurance payment to the Grand Lodge, to pay the premium for one million dollars commercial liability insurance coverage for said Lodge. This insurance premium payment shall be paid for each member for whom the Lodge is liable for the dues based upon the lowest proposal received from a reliable insurance carrier. The liability coverage shall be administered by the Grand Lodge and the pro-rata share per member shall be determined by the premium amount and included in the Lodge's annual billing.

The proceeds of these dues and fees, together with all other revenues of the Grand Lodge, shall be disbursed by the Grand Treasurer in accordance with the annual budget prepared by the Committee on Finance. This budget shall be read at the first session of the Grand Lodge, and with such changes as may be deemed necessary, approved by the Grand Lodge. (2017) [Refer: E-2-1995]

*REASON:* Our raising fees have not kept up with inflation and currently undervalue Masonry greatly. In 1933, the worst year of the Great Depression, the Grand Lodge first adopted a raising fee of \$25, equivalent to \$575 in 2023 dollars. The raising fee was increased in 1982 to \$30 (\$90 in 2023 dollars) and then to \$50 in 1995 (\$100 in 2023 dollars). We believe that increasing the raising fee to \$100 will begin to restore it to a more appropriate value. Masonry is a pearl of great price and the Grand Lodge raising fee should reflect its worth.

<b>Refer to:</b>	<b>Committee on Finance</b>	Thomas Lee Varner Jr., PDDGM, PM Widow's Sons' Lodge No. 60 Frederick Peter Baerenz, PM Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 William Robert Brammer, PDDGM, PM Fredericksburg Lodge No. 4 Harris Traill Luscomb, III, PDDGM, PM Poquoson Lodge No. 49 Steven Wayne McGowan, PDDGM, PM Berkley Lodge No. 167 Freddie Edward Pearson, II, PDDGM, PM Edwards Lodge No. 308 Bobby Gale Reece, PDDGM, PM Sandy Valley Lodge No. 17 Reese Edward Carroll, Jr., PGM, PDDGM, PM Buckingham Lodge No. 242 Douglas Vernon Jones, PGM, PDDGM, PM Metropolitan Lodge No. 11
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## RESOLUTION 23-02

That Section 5.00 of the Methodical Digest and the LMIP Application be amended as follows:

**Sec. 5.01. Name of Plan.** — The name of this plan shall be: “Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity Plan of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, A.F. & A.M.” (~~Hereinafter sometimes referred to as “The Plan”~~)

**Sec. 5.02. Eligibility.** — A Life Legacy Membership may be purchased for or by any member in good standing of a Lodge holden under the Grand Lodge of Virginia, subject to the rules. A Memorial Life Membership may also be purchased for a deceased Master Mason (who was in good standing at the time of his death) in any Lodge in Virginia upon acceptance of the Memorial Life Membership by vote of the Lodge. (1998)

Memorial Legacy Life Memberships may also be purchased for deceased Master Masons of any Lodge of any jurisdiction recognized by the Grand Lodge of Virginia; provided, that his good standing has been ascertained in advance through the office of the Grand Secretary, and upon acceptance of the membership by vote of the Lodge. (2002)

**Sec. 5.03. Life Legacy Membership Fees.** — The Life Legacy Membership Fee shall be equal to ~~twenty-one (21) times effective January 1, 2018, twenty-three (23) times effective January 1, 2019, and twenty-five (25) times effective January 1, 2020~~ the amount of the Annual Dues and assessments of his Lodge at the time of the purchase. ~~or \$300.00, whichever is greater.~~ Dues for the year in which he purchases the Life Legacy Membership must have been paid before the purchase, and are not included in the total calculation, except when the purchase is in memory of a deceased member. (2017)

**Sec. 5.04. Method of Payment.** — The Life Legacy Membership Fee from a member shall be paid to the Secretary of the Lodge, who will make a record thereof and forward the fee to the ~~Grand Lodge~~ Secretary. A completed application, in duplicate, on a form prescribed by ~~the Plan Manager~~ the Grand Lodge, must be submitted with the fee. The fee is payable to Grand Lodge.

**Sec. 5.05. Administration of the LMIP Fund Plan.** — ~~The LMIP Fund Plan shall be administered by the Grand Lodge of Virginia Life Finance Committee, hereinafter, referred to as the “Plan Manager” in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Methodical Digest, as a separate fund for the sole use of the LMIP program. The original amounts paid for Life Memberships shall be forever kept and maintained as and for a permanent Life Membership Fund. Total return on investments, after all expenses and fees have been paid, shall be available for use. The investments will be managed in the same manner as the basic Grand Lodge Investments.~~ (2017)

**Sec. 5.06. Certificate of Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity.** — Upon receipt of the full purchase price, the Grand Secretary shall issue a Certificate of Membership to the Participant. Such Certificate shall be signed by the Grand Master, attested by the Grand Secretary under the Seal of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Secretary shall forward such Certificate to the Lodge Secretary District Deputy Grand Master for appropriate presentation. The Grand Lodge will issue Permanent Life Legacy Membership cards and pins to Life Legacy Members.

**Sec. 5.07. Delivery of Payments by Grand Secretary.** — Any payments into the ~~Plan~~ LMIP Fund received by the Grand Secretary shall be promptly delivered to the ~~Plan~~ LMIP Fund Manager.

**Sec. 5.08. Payments by the ~~Plan~~ LMIP Fund Manager.** — On or before January 1 of each year after the year in which the Participant became a member of the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~, the ~~Plan Manager~~ Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge shall pay from the Plan Fund the following for each qualified member of the Plan:

1. To the Grand Lodge of Virginia general fund, the amount of the existing Grand Lodge dues at the time the Participant became a member of the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~.
2. To the Participant's Lodge, the amount of the existing Lodge dues at the time the Participant became a member of the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~.

Payment to the Grand Lodge general fund of the amount of the Grand Lodge dues as set forth above shall relieve the Participant and his Lodge of the liability for the dues payment which would otherwise be required for such Participant. Payment to the Participant's Lodge of the amount of dues as above set forth, shall relieve the Participant of the liability for the dues payment which would otherwise be required for such Participant.

**Sec. 5.09. Dues Increases or Decreases.** — Future increases or decreases in the Participant's Lodge dues shall have no effect upon the payments made or to be made by a Participant or the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~ Manager of the Grand Lodge, unless any deferred payments of the purchase price are not made as required.

**Sec. 5.10. Special Assessments.** — A participant shall not be liable for special assessments. (1996)

**Sec. 5.11. Death of a Participant.** — Upon the death of a Participant, the Plan Manager shall continue to make the payments set forth in this LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~ to the Grand Lodge general fund and to the Participant's Lodge.

**Sec. 5.12. Refunds and Disciplinary Action.** — No refund shall be made from the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~ to any Participant, any other person or any Lodge for any reason. No Participant shall be exempt from disciplinary action as provided by Section 4.00 of the Virginia Methodical Digest. In the event of the suspension or expulsion of a Participant, the LMIP Fund ~~Plan~~ Manager shall continue to pay to the Grand Lodge general fund and to the Participant's former Lodge any amounts which would have been paid had the Participant not been suspended or expelled. A Life Legacy Member expelled, subsequently restored and again elected to membership in the same Lodge is also restored to all the rights pertaining to his Life Legacy Membership.

**Sec. 5.13. Dues Card.** — The Secretary of a Participant's Lodge shall cause to be issued a dues card to each Participant in good standing, with the designation Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity (LMIP) indicated thereon.

**Sec. 5.14. Dual Membership.** — A Brother desiring to purchase Life Legacy Membership and who holds plural membership within this Grand Jurisdiction may purchase a Life Legacy Membership in any or all Lodges in which he holds membership. A Life Legacy Membership in

one Lodge, however, shall not excuse the member from dues and assessments payments in Lodges in which he holds dual or plural membership.

**Sec. 5.15. Transfer.** — Any transfer of a Life Legacy Member to another Lodge within the Commonwealth of Virginia shall have his Life Legacy Membership account transferred to his new Lodge, with the new Lodge accepting the Life Legacy Membership as previously paid. A Life Legacy Membership purchased with Lodge funds cannot be transferred without approval by vote of the Lodge and the agreement of all other parties involved. [Ref: Sec. 2.121] If a Lodge consolidates, surrenders its Charter, or has its Charter arrested, the funds credited to this Lodge in the Life Legacy Membership Fund shall follow the member in accordance with the relevant section of the Methodical Digest dealing with consolidation, surrenders and arrests of Charters, for whatever reason, or has its Charter arrested, and does not consolidate shall revert to the Grand Lodge. (1996)

**Sec. 5.16. Membership in a Non-Virginia Lodge.** — If a Participant holds or acquires membership in a non-Virginia Lodge or Lodges, or transfers his membership to a Lodge in another Grand Jurisdiction, no payments shall be made by the LMIP Fund Plan Manager to such non-Virginia Lodge. The LMIP Fund Plan Manager shall continue payments to the Grand Lodge general fund and the Virginia Lodge in which he was originally a member, as herein provided.

**Sec. 5.17. Plan Manager to Account.** — The Plan Manager Committee on Finance and Grand Secretary shall hold, administer, and distribute assets of the LMIP Fund Plan as one Perpetual Membership fund. However, he shall maintain adequate records of the payments for each Participant in the LMIP Fund Plan. The LMIP Fund Plan Manager shall pay the reasonable costs of the administration of the fund ~~from the income thereof~~ and the LMIP Fund Plan Manager shall observe standard accounting practices in the maintenance of the records of the LMIP Fund Plan. At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the LMIP Fund Plan Manager shall submit a written report of their administration of the LMIP Fund Plan. At the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, the LMIP Fund Plan Manager shall also make any recommendations to the Grand Lodge as they may consider necessary and proper for the continued proper administration of the LMIP Fund Plan.

~~Sec. 5.18. Distributions of Excess Revenue. — In the event that the Plan Manager determines that the Plan has produced income in excess of amounts reasonably necessary to meet its projected obligations, the Plan Manager shall recommend to the Grand Lodge that amounts be distributed from the fund to Lodges who have participants therein and to the Grand Lodge in proportionate amounts. Such distributions to Lodges shall be based on the proportionate amounts paid into the Plan attributable to Participants who are living or deceased members of the Lodge, but any such distribution shall only be made upon approval of the Grand Lodge at its Annual Communication.~~

**Sec. 5.18. Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity Committee.** — The Grand Lodge shall establish a Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity Committee as a Standing Committee which shall be appointed by the Grand Master. Said Committee shall consist of nine (9) members. It shall be the duty of the Committee to evaluate procedures and implement changes in procedures as may be necessary for the efficient operation of the program. The Grand Master shall annually appoint one member as Chairman. All members shall serve at the will and pleasure of the Grand Master. The Committee shall annually meet prior to the time of Grand Lodge and shall report to the Grand Lodge each year. (2013)



**Sec. 5.19. Modification of Rules.** — These rules may be modified or amended at any time by the Plan Manager, subject to ratification by the Grand Lodge and, provided that no changes may affect any Life Legacy Membership in Perpetuity in effect at the time of such change.

**Sec. 5.20. Effective Date.** — This legislation is effective at the close of the 1992 Grand Lodge Session.

**Sec. 5.21. Charter Life Legacy Member.** — Any Brother applying for Life Legacy Membership before the end of 1992 will have his Life Legacy Membership card stamped as a Charter Life Legacy Member. The application and fees for a Charter Life Legacy Membership must be post-marked no later than December 28, 1992. Life Legacy Membership will always be available. (1992)

*REASON:* The means of administering the LMIP Program has changed since its implementation in 1991, and these changes reflect the current procedures. The name change from Life Membership in Perpetuity to Legacy Membership in Perpetuity allows it to be marketed more as an investment in the future of Freemasonry rather than just a method to save dues. In addition, the LMIP Committee will focus on the marketing and promotion of the program while the Committee on Finance and Grand Secretary will administer the funds, how invested, and disbursements.

**Refer to:      Committee on Life Membership in Perpetuity**

Matthew T. Szramoski, PDDGM, PM  
Mount Vernon Lodge No. 219

Wayne Duval Golden, Sr., PDDGM, PM  
Norfolk Lodge No. 1

Thomas Lee Varner, Jr., PDDGM, PM  
Williamsburg Lodge No. 6

## COMMITTEE ON WORK SCHEDULE

*All sessions will be held at the Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, 12042 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. All Master Masons are cordially invited to attend any and/or all sessions.*

### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

7:30 P.M. — Exemplification of the Degree of Entered Apprentice

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. — Exemplification of the Degree of Fellowcraft and Degree of Master Mason

## DISPOSITION OF RESOLUTIONS

No. 23-01—Adopted..... Rejected .....

No. 23-02—Adopted..... Rejected .....