

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA 2007-2008

To The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida:

To Most Worshipful Grand Master, Robert P. Harry, Jr., Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, Honorable Members of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees, Distinguished Masons throughout the State of Florida and Guests,

On behalf of the Residents, Staff and Volunteers of the Masonic Home of Florida, I wish to bring you our sincere and warm greetings. Each year, I am happy to tell you about all the wonderful accomplishments and this year is no different.

In September 2007, the Home underwent the annual survey of the skilled nursing center conducted by the Agency For Health Care Administration. This comprehensive review is unannounced and takes 3-4 long days to complete. All aspects of care and services are thoroughly examined. Homes are rated using a 1 to 5 star system. Once again, our Home is deemed one of the few 5 star facilities in the State of Florida.

In March of 2008, the Agency For Health Care Administration conducted the review of the assisted living center. There were zero deficiencies found! The survey team commended the Masonic Home for setting the example of high quality care and service.

During these inspections, Staff is carefully monitored to ensure their knowledge and care. The performance of the Staff was outstanding throughout the year and was reflected in the results. Conferences are held with Residents and their Families to gauge their satisfaction. We are very proud of the Staff and Residents and feel fortunate they choose our Home to serve and live. We appreciate the Members of the Grand Lodge of Florida who provide us with the resources to get the job done right.

We reached a few milestones this year. We have had several Residents move in whose parents previously resided at the Home. It's exciting to think about second generations of families being cared for here. Two sisters were reunited here as Residents. We had a Staff Member checking out at a local store who started a conversation with the cashier and by coincidence said they were caring for their aging parent. Without knowing where our Staff Member was employed, the cashier said "you should check out the Masonic Home, that place is the best."

In November 2007, we received an impromptu telephone call from the Tampa/St. Petersburg CBS affiliate television station. Earlier that day, they ran a feature on some of the "not so good" health care centers. They wanted to do another segment on the "finest" health care centers that evening. They asked to interview Staff, Residents and their Families with only 40 minutes notice. The high quality of the Masonic Home of Florida was the lead story on the 6 O'clock news that night!

It's been three years since the Grand Lodge of Florida voted to accept qualified members from other Grand Lodge Jurisdictions through the private pay or pay as you go plan. This time last year, we reported 13 applications through this plan. There are now 26 private pay Residents in-house and 35 Residents served total. It is interesting to note, that half of these Residents are Florida members. Although our census has not increased much overall, this program provides over 1.4 million dollars of revenue each year. When we informed the Residents prior to accepting private pay applicants, their response was they supported whatever it took to ensure the Home would be around for another 100 years. Lifecare applicants continue to be the majority and no Florida Mason

or their wife or widow has ever been delayed admission due to a bed not being available to meet their needs.

Most Worshipful Harry's Masonic Home Ladies Project has been a tremendous success. Betsy Griffith, wife of Danny Griffith, Grand Marshal, has done an extraordinary job of leading the fundraising and selection of a new dining room serving line. Residents prefer the cafeteria style delivery to table service so they can see their options and then make selections. As you know, food is a focal point at the Home! Many advances have been made in serving systems since our previous equipment was purchased 20 years ago. Better lighting, heat lamps and serving counters are just a few of the improvements. We appreciate all their hard work and your contributions to this worthwhile cause.

On any given day, the Masonic Home Service Guild is present. These wonderful volunteers contribute over 2,000 hours annually. They provide services such as Corky's Cupboard, Gift Shop, Ceramics, postage stamps, and more. We could not do what we do without these dedicated individuals.

We recently issued the 5th issue of the Masonic Lifestyles newsletter. Many of you have written or called to say how much you enjoy reading about what is going on at the Home. We hope you find this information useful and meaningful. Debra Neveitt, Admissions Director, and I are pleased to once again have a resource table available at your Annual Communication. Our goal is to be available to answer any questions you or a fellow member may have. Your feedback is always appreciated.

Due to the diligence of the Masonic Home Management Team and the Board of Trustees, we completed the fiscal year approximately 2% over budget. While we would have preferred to have been within budget, this was a year of many challenges including increased energy, fuel, food, insurance, medical care, and labor costs. We continue to look for savings each day to maximize resources.

Our Grand Master, Grand Lodge Officers and Board of Trustees have been instrumental in this year's progress. Each of them brings unique talents and experience and collectively work as a successful team to benefit our Home. It has been my honor and pleasure to have worked under the leadership of Joe Fleites, Deputy Grand Master, this past year.

The Grand Lodge of Florida's Administrative and Accounting Team work hand in hand with us to provide smooth, effective daily operations. We would also like to thank the District Deputy Grand Masters for their efforts on behalf of current and future Residents.

In closing, I consider it a privilege to be part of this organization. The mission of providing care for the aged has always been important. The need for this service will certainly increase as our population ages. How fortunate we are to already be established and known as a leader in this industry. On behalf of Most Worshipful Harry, Right Worshipful Fleites, Board Members, Staff and especially the Residents, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your tireless support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Tsotsos
Administrator