

**FRATERNAL ADMINISTRATIVE ENDOWMENT FUND (F.A.E.F.)
COMMITTEE PROGRAM 2015-2016**

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To: District Deputy Grand Masters
Zone Chairmen and District Committeemen
Worshipful Masters of the Particular Lodges
All Masons in Florida

My Brothers:

As we enter the 2015 Grand Lodge Masonic Year our challenges are the same as they were 22 years ago when this program was founded. In 1993, the Corporate Board changed the employee retirement program for Grand Lodge that existed, and found that there was a surplus in the accounts and established what we know today as the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (FA-100).

Article XV, Constitution

Section 11. *There is hereby established a Grand Lodge Fund to be designated the Grand Lodge Administrative Endowment Fund of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. Said fund is hereby designated and dedicated as a Sacred Trust Fund, the principal amount whereof shall not be expended for any purpose or purposes whatsoever save for investment and reinvestment. The income therefrom may be expended for the use of the Administrative Budget of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Florida. All monies received from the Grand Lodge proportion of the Perpetual Membership Program in excess of the current per capita shall be paid into this fund. (1993)*

The FA-100 or Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund is often confused with MH-100 or the Masonic Home Endowment Fund. MH-100 is a program that supports our Masonic Home and is truly important but is totally separate. Of equal importance is the FA-100 in ensuring that our Grand Lodge can provide quality support to Florida Masonry.

The Fund above was started with an initial investment of **\$87,000.00** as a trust fund account that, through the years with donations, along with good investments, has grown a surplus to help with the budget of The Grand Lodge of Florida and its operating expenses. The purpose of the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (FA-100) is to raise funds for Grand Lodge, so the fund investments will eliminate the need for the Per Capita Tax to all Lodges, but as we have seen with diminishing membership and rising expenditures we have had to increase this tax and the need for the fund will continue until a time when we can comfortably do without it.

In simple terms, like a business Grand Lodge is our home office, and the Lodges are separate branch offices that operate to promote our organization and carry our message into the communities throughout the state. Like all our Lodges we have established budgets and operating expenses. As shown in the annual budget for Grand Lodge our operating expenses were approximately **\$1,600,000.00** which ranged from day to day office expenses, employee salaries, Grand Lodge Communication expenses, travel, administrative programs, building maintenance, along with a myriad of other budgeted items. Each year

with the decrease in membership through the Lodges, we have seen a need to transfer on average **\$100,000.00** or more in funds from the account to cover costs not covered by the budgeted amounts we receive through the Per Capita Tax. Last year we withdrew **\$119,285.00** out into the budget which shows our withdrawal far exceeds our donations and net income per year. **In summary, our need to raise the Per Capita Tax from \$14.00 to \$20.00 in simple math with 35,500 members x \$14.00 our income is \$497,000.00 that we will receive this year. Next year with declining numbers of say 33,500 members x \$20.00 our income is \$670,000.00 which will still fall well short of our annual budget for Grand Lodge.**

This year we will continue with one of the primary means of creating funding for this endowment as in recent years we have been making special neckwear designed by the Grand Master available to the Craft. It has been established that with a **\$50.00** donation, Brothers would receive a tie and funds would go to support the FA-100 Program. With a purchase the Brother shows his support of the program as well as his support for the Grand Master by wearing his tie. This program, if promoted and supported with the assistance of all the Brothers, yearly nets us around **\$25,000.00** and with other donations the potential is around **\$40,000.00** for the year.

Our committee will introduce a new brochure explaining the purpose of the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (FA-100) as well as other fundraising ideas that will provide means of financial support for the FA-100. Other means of fundraising being looked at entails: compiling sets of the left over Grand Master Coins for Brothers to purchase of past years; a license plate frame to go along with our new Masonic Plates; researching a program similar to the Tree of Life or pavers for the Grand Lodge Building similar to the one at the Masonic Home; or the re-adoption of a new Masonic Pin, as well as tux button covers and cuff link sets we have done in the past. We will evaluate the various ideas above and others where sales will go to build the endowment fund for the future. Individual donations accepted will still be our main focus to ensure the brothers understand the importance of maintaining our Endowment fund to eliminate the Per Capita Tax.

District Deputy Grand Masters:

This year each District Deputy Grand Master is encouraged to promote the FA-100 and the need for additional funding through donations as well with the sale of the Grand Master's Ties and other opportunities that we introduce. The District Deputy Grand Master will ensure that his District Chairmen tracks and turns over all monies received throughout the year. A form will be provided at the Grand Communication to indicate how many items he will initially require and for tracking purposes. He will subsequently follow an established practice if he requires more items as the year progresses. It is critical that protocol be followed to allow for accountability and to ensure that adequate supplies are available.

The District Deputy Grand Masters should encourage the Lodges and the Brothers of his District to set aside funding in their budgets for the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund as well as encouraging individual Brothers to assist where possible. As other programs throughout the year will be put into the budget for funds from each Lodge, please don't forget a provision for this special program, and place a special emphasis on the aspect of the program when it entails. Funding from donations should far exceed any monies derived from the neckwear portion of this initiative.

Zone Chairmen: Your responsibility is to coordinate the efforts of the District Chairmen and District Deputy Grand Master's to ensure a smooth flow of information pertaining to funding and inventory accountability. See that the DDGM for each District gives you the Brother's contact information that will be representing his District. Also, ask that these Brothers to advise you of any and all donations to the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (F.A.E.F.) so that proper documentation and recognition can be given to the Zone, District, Lodge, and Brother. You will report directly to the State Chairman to

ensure this system performs efficiently and all donations are received and documented so we can provide an informative report to our Grand Master and all the Brothers of our great Fraternity.

District Chairmen: Work with your Zone Chairman and District Deputy Grand Master; seek their support, and visit the Lodges in your District. It is your responsibility to educate the Brothers about this program and of its importance to our Fraternity. Education is the key. Brothers want to know what and why they are donating to a program that many of them aren't familiar with. Many Brothers do not know much about the Fraternal Administration Endowment Fund or its purpose. On your visits to the individual Lodges, encourage each Lodge to put the FA-100 Program in their budget. Push and promote the ties as well as any other item that is presented by this program. Ask for a donation at the end of your presentation. Please make sure to advise your District Deputy Grand Master and Zone Chairman of any and all donations.

Worshipful Masters: Consider having a fundraiser to support the Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (F.A.E.F.) in your Lodge or make it a charity one month. Have a talk or use one of your monthly educational talks to explain the purpose of this program. I know you hear a lot of talk about donating money to all the activities we support. However, would our philanthropy be of the same quality without our Grand Lodge support and administrative assistance? Give the FA-100 Program a high priority, and include it in your annual budget.

Brothers All: In Summary, as we established the Per Capita Tax we acknowledge that as each year Brothers gladly and humbly support our respective Lodges by paying our annual dues. These dues afford us a safe haven, a Lodge to call home, a place to have fellowship with our Brethren. The Per Capita Tax is no less than our dues to our Grand Lodge, so that it can function and support the Craft, for with no Grand Lodge, there can be no Craft and without the support of the Craft, there can be no Grand Lodge.

Once this fund reaches its goal, these administration costs could be funded from investment income provided by this endowment fund. This would allow the current per capita tax to be kept in **your** Lodge, and we would reduce the importance of this program as it would be self sustaining. Consider making a donation today, or provide something in your will that would help Grand Lodge when you're gone. Your Help and Commitment will make this work and our Fraternity will be better for your efforts. We are all in this together and our future relies on us to provide a stable financial environment for years to come.

**Please make sure all checks are made out to The Grand Lodge of Florida and in the note section write Fraternal Administrative Endowment Fund (FA-100) so Grand Lodge can properly account for the donations.*

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you in anyway.

Fraternally,

R.: W.: Lawrence A. Williamson
State Chairman