

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA 2010-2011

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, J. Dick Martinez, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Officers, Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees, Distinguished Masons throughout the State of Florida and Guests.

It continues to be an honor and pleasure to bring you heartfelt greetings from the residents, staff and volunteers of the Masonic Home of Florida. While so many organizations struggle fulfilling their mission, we are fortunate to continue providing the highest quality care and services to the deserving men and women who call our Masonic Home their "home". We always look forward to sharing some of the past years events, accomplishments, challenges and meaningful stories.

In late March 2010, the Masonic Home of Florida received an inspection of the Assisted Living Center (ALF) conducted by the State of Florida Agency For Health Care Administration. The hard work and dedication of the staff along with positive feedback from residents resulted in a zero deficiency review. For three long days in January 2011, this same regulatory agency conducted the annual inspection of the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF). This review also had outstanding results and enables your Masonic Home of Florida to maintain a 5 out of 5 star quality rating!

We continue to honor your mission of providing retirement care and services for qualified Masons and their wives or widows. Last year we reported that due to improved healthcare and technology, residents are entering the Home at a later age. This trend continues with our average age of 86 years. We continue serving 2 generations and even 2nd generations of the same family. This time last year, your organization approved offering admission to the mothers of qualified Florida Masons through the private pay or pay as you go option. A few months ago, we had our first mother enter our Home. The decision your fraternity made to add the private pay option in 2005 has served us well and provides additional revenue from families in the financial position to utilize our care and service.

A new addition to our services in 2010 was the launch of a state-wide Outreach program. The Grand Lodge Officers examined ways to best serve the needs of members throughout the state whether they planned on utilizing the Masonic Home now or in the future. The Outreach program is also available to members and their families throughout Florida who may intend to remain in their existing communities. There is a toll-free number to reach Masonic Home staff members with experience in services and benefits for retirees.

When given the opportunity to discuss our Masonic Home, I most enjoy sharing the true stories that make this community so special. Mr. Benjamin Watson comes to mind. He is a proud member of Lake Lodge No. 72 in District 13 who celebrated his 100th birthday in July 2010 who still tells his friends "let's meet back here this same time next year"? When asked about his secret of how to live to 100, his response is usually "don't die at 99". Mrs. Beatrice Preikschat, sponsored by Nitram Lodge No.188 in District 21 lived in the home almost a year when one day out of the blue told us she was finally ready to call the Masonic Home her "home". Another example is the note we received from Jim Billberry of District 35 shortly after his mother entered

the Home which simply stated “I have never been prouder to be a Mason”. We have the joy of caring for countless widows who are comforted by the fact their husbands always told them the Home would be there for them. Approximately 2 months after a resident moves into the Home, they are asked to share what they would do differently if given the chance. Almost always, their response is “I would have come earlier”. Each day there are dozens of stories about the wonderful lives our residents have lived and how they continue to enrich the lives of others. One of the most difficult situations for our team is to visit with residents when they are hospitalized. It is also one of the most inspirational and rewarding times as a caregiver. To hear them speak of their home with pride and how much they wish to return to it moves one beyond words.

On March 19, 2011, we hosted the annual Pilgrimage Day. The highlight was the official re-opening of the Board Room/Auditorium. This incredible project was made possible due to the tireless dedication of First Lady Nancy Martinez. Throughout the year, she and the Grand Master worked to make this vision a reality. Due to their dedication and your generosity, there is new carpet, chairs, paint, window treatments, furnishings and a home theatre system for the resident’s enjoyment. The residents and staff are very grateful for this outstanding home improvement. Another fantastic component of Pilgrimage Day was the 4th Annual Charity Ride of the Widows Sons. It seems like yesterday that Johnny Brock of Orange Blossom Lodge No. 80 called to say he and others were getting this program off the ground to benefit the Masonic Home and it just keeps getting better and better. The residents look forward to seeing and hearing 100 plus motorcycles arrive and leave behind a donation of over \$8,000! Pilgrimage Day was made even better this year due to a committed group of members from District 21, led by David Neveitt and Rick Hoover, who established a committee and planned for months to make the day fun for the entire family.

Our Masonic Home team works throughout the year to make the best use of the financial resources which you provide. They search for opportunities to conserve funds while continuing to provide the highest quality of care and service. Their efforts along with the support and guidance of the Board of Trustees and Grand Lodge Administrative and Accounting team have resulted in completing the fiscal year 5.5% under budget which translates to approximately \$400,000.

Every member of the Fraternity deserves our appreciation for continuing to provide the tools to make the Masonic Home of Florida a leading provider of retirement care and service. The Grand Lodge Officers and Board of Trustees have respect for our past and the vision for our future. The outstanding women in their lives share their vision and constantly bring love and respect to the residents. It has been an honor, pleasure and true learning experience to have served under the leadership of Jim J Harris, Deputy Grand Master and Board Chairman this year.

Little by little, everyone in the organization is likely to be in a situation where they must help a friend or family member find senior care and services. How fortunate we are to have this wonderful home and its resources available. Every year, I summarize this report with commending this organization for staying true to your mission. This remains true and I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your past, present and future. Congratulations on another remarkable year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Tsotsos
Administrator
Masonic Home of Florida