

**1989**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**COMMISSION ON INFORMATION**  
**FOR RECOGNITION**  
of the  
**CONFERENCE OF**  
**THE GRAND MASTERS OF**  
**MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA**



**A.D. 1989 / A.L. 5989**

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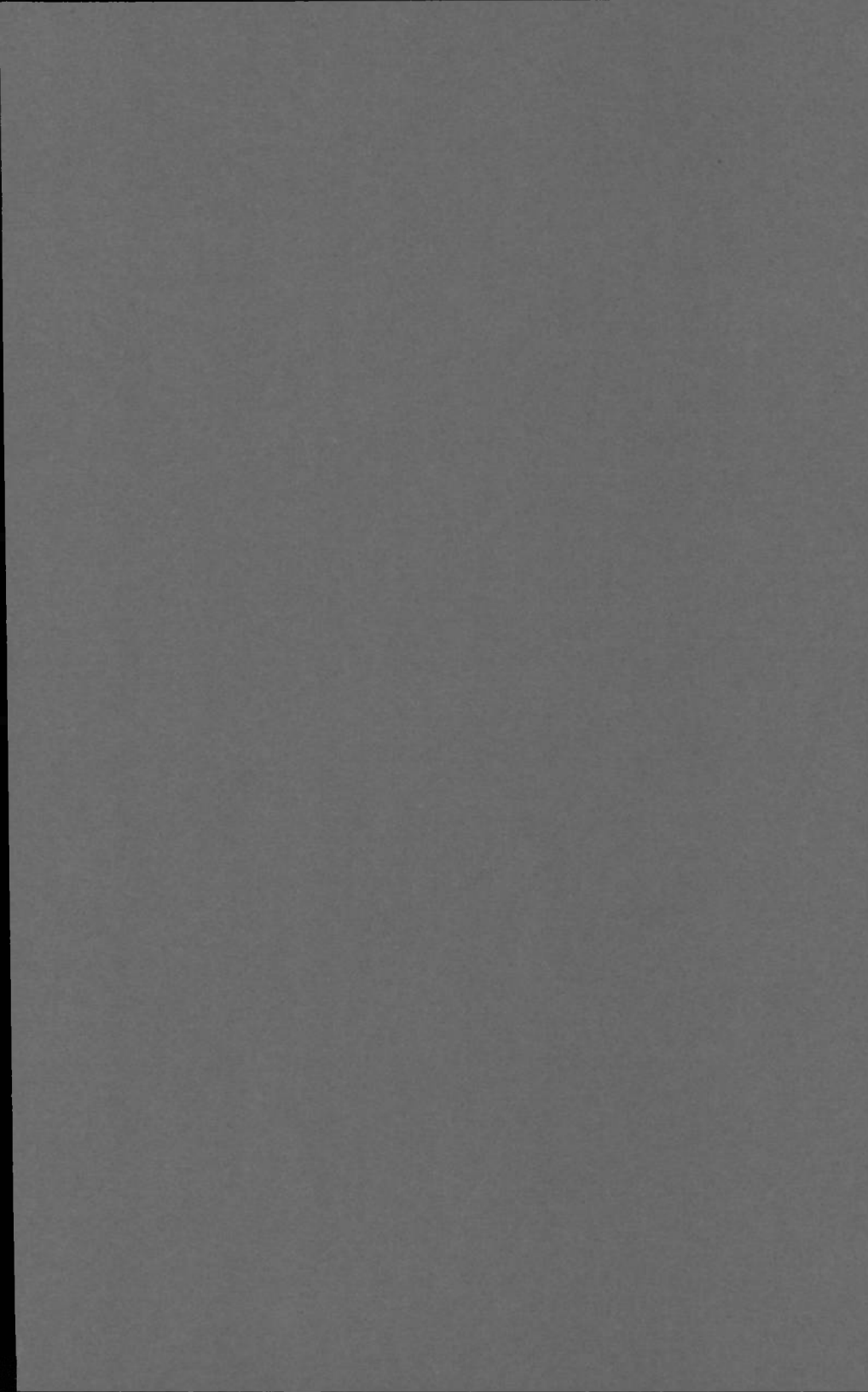
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COMMISSION ON INFORMATION  
FOR RECOGNITION  
of the  
CONFERENCE OF  
THE GRAND MASTERS  
OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA



**ANNUAL REPORT**

given at  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA  
February 21, 1989



## PREFACE

The Commission on Information for Recognition was organized in 1952 as a facility to gather, collate, and from time to time revise information on Grand Lodges in other lands, as a service to the Grand Lodges of this Conference.

The Commission neither advises nor recommends that recognition be given to any Grand Lodges, but merely indicates whether or not it considers that a Grand Lodge in question satisfies the conditions of regularity.

The Commission consists of six members of wide geographical distribution. One new member, usually a Deputy Grand Master, is elected each year, and serves for six years.

After each Annual Meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters, the report, given to and adopted by the Conference, is printed and copies mailed to the Grand Secretaries and to the Chairmen of the Committees on Fraternal Relations of the Grand Lodges of the Conference. Copies are mailed to many interested brethren who are not members of the Conference.

This report is based upon the most recent information available, and in some cases after a conference with members of some of the Grand Lodges mentioned in the report.

All comments on this report and all inquiries on other matters of information on Grand Lodges throughout the world may be addressed to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission, R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.

# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION

To the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America:  
Most Worshipful Brother Chairman, and Most Worshipful and Right Worshipful Brethren:

It is again my honor and privilege as Chairman of this Commission to present to you the thirty-seventh annual report of the Commission on Information for Recognition. During these past seven years, it has been a pleasure to serve with some of the most distinguished Masonic leaders in North America, as well as having the opportunity to meet outstanding Freemasons from throughout the world. My appreciation and understanding of the universality of Freemasonry has been enhanced as a result of my participation in the deliberations of this Commission.

It is also again my pleasure to recognize R:W: Brother Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas, who has faithfully and efficiently served this Commission as Secretary-Treasurer for the past 22 years. He is the single point of contact in matters concerning recognition, and his knowledge and dedication is indispensable to the effectiveness of this Commission, and is a valuable asset to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America.

I now am pleased to present the other members of the Commission in order of service as follows:

M.W. Bro. John B. Obenchain, Past Grand Master of Virginia  
M.W. Bro. L. Robert Baker, Past Grand Master of the District of Columbia  
M.W. Bro. W. R. Pellow, Grand Master of Ontario  
M.W. Bro. Earl L. Wunder, Grant Master of Arizona

During this past year, M. W. Bro. Lawrence D. Inglis, Past Grand Master of Illinois, resigned from the Commission due to an increasing judicial workload. He was in his fourth year of service to the Commission. For that reason, two nominees will be submitted for election by this Conference this year to fill the vacancies left by the retiring Chairman and M:W: Bro. Inglis.

Since new delegates participate in this Conference each year, I will use this occasion to acquaint you with the purpose of this Commission and the standards for recognition that were established at its origin in 1952. The Commission serves only in an advisory capacity to this Conference, and its function is to investigate and report on all matters pertaining to a jurisdiction's qualifications for recognition by members of this Conference. Our report is therefore to be used by member Grand Lodges of this Conference to act upon as they deem proper.

The established standards for recognition that must be met to receive a favorable recommendation by this Commission are:

1. Legitimacy of origin
2. Exclusive territorial jurisdiction
3. Adherence to the ancient landmarks; specifically an unalterable and continuing belief in God, the Volume of the Sacred Law as an indispensable part of the furniture of the lodge, and the prohibition of the discussion of religion and politics.

The deliberations of this Commission during the past year involved several Grand Lodge Jurisdictions, and are summarized in the following report.

### **BRAZIL**

Brazil has adopted a new Federal Constitution and as a result, the former Federal Territory of Amapa in the northeastern corner of Brazil fronting on the Atlantic Ocean, was organized as a new state named "Estado do Amapa with its Capital in the City of Amapa.

Freemasonry has followed the organization of this new state. On October 22, 1988 the Grand Lodge of Para in the State of Para, which is adjacent to the new State of Amapa on the south, chartered the new Grand Lodge in Amapa, with headquarters in the Capital City of Amapa. The new Grand Lodge is called "Grande Loja do Estado do Amapa."

There are now 26 state Grand Lodges in Brazil. All of these Grand Lodges are considered regular by the Commission.

The names and addresses of the new Grand Lodge officers in Amapa are not yet available to the Commission.

### **INTERAMERICAN MASONIC CONFEDERATION (C.M.I.)**

The XIV Grand Assembly of this Confederation of 56 Grand Lodges of Central and South America, Mexico and the Caribbean was held in April, 1988 in Rio de Janeiro. The Assembly approved an ambitious Regional Masonic Plan instituted by the Grand Lodge of Peru in 1985. This plan contemplates the eventual creation of a World Masonic Plan to help underdeveloped countries overcome "critical economic and social crises." In Peru this has involved a proposal to establish schools, a blood bank, clinics, a Masonic Medical Center and other worthwhile projects. Some of the program has been accomplished.

The Assembly also proposed "to celebrate a Pact of Peace and Friendship between the Conference of Grand Masters" and the C.M.I., and appointed the following Freemasons to present the Pact to this Conference:

1. M:W: Maximino Lopez, Grand Master of Puerto Rico
2. M:W: Carlos Paniagua, Grand Master of Costa Rica
3. M:W: Hipolito Marcano, Past President of C.M.I.
4. M:W: Juan Mattos Cindron, Past Grand Master of Puerto Rico.

The Condeferation celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 1987 and began the publication of a monthly newspaper, "Masonic America" in three languages: Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

In the April, 1988 issue of "Masonic America", the cover page of the Commission's 1988 Report is reproduced. An accompanying article refers to the visit of M:W: Ray V. Denslow, Past Grand Master of Missouri to the meeting of the C.M.I. in Mexico City in 1952 and the resulting publication in 1956 by the Masonic Service Association of Brother Denslow's work "Regular, Irregular and Clandestine Grand Lodges, A Study in Foreign Recognitions", which included a favorable comment on the C.M.I. Masonic America is informative and should be a unifying force in Latin American Freemasonry.

The President of the C.M.I. is M:W: Carlos Bolana, Grand Master of Uruguay.

The Executive Grand Secretary is Ricardo Noriega Salaverry, Grand Master of Peru whose address is:

|               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Apartado 3722 | FAX 286243             |
| Lima 100      | TELEX 27002 PECP-CESAR |
| Peru          | TELEPHONE 462-2447     |

During 1987 these brothers, together or individually, visited Grand Lodges in Puerto Rico, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, Argentina, Panama, Guatamala, and Mexico.

## ITALY

Freemasonry in Italy has been of constant concern to this Commission since the early seventies. This concern constantly increased until 1986 when this Commission reached the opinion that the new constitution of the Grand Orient of Italy had eliminated the third standard of recognition namely monotheism — an unalterable and continuing belief in God, and the volume of the sacred law as an essential part of the furniture of the lodge. We therefore, at that time, recommended that the members of this conference withdraw recognition of the Grand Orient of Italy as a regular Grand Lodge.

Since our report in 1986 we have continued to evaluate the situation in Italy. We have met with representatives of both factions, we have corresponded with other



Grand Jurisdictions closer to the Italian situation, both fraternally and geographically, and we have individually, and collectively, sought and received additional information.

Our task has not been easy, the results may not be perfectly clear, but we have discharged our duties in a manner in which we believe you elected us to do. Some may not agree with our procedure or with the interim actions taken by the Commission but we now feel that because of our procedure and because of our actions the Grand Orient of Italy is now more in line with Freemasonry as we know it. We feel that they have reviewed their past and re-evaluated their future, and that they, as well as others, have a better understanding of this Commission and this Conference and to what is expected of them in their relationship to us particularly in respect to the belief in the supreme being and the volume of the sacred law.

As a result of this continued review and concern, we are now of the unanimous opinion that the Grand Orient of Italy meets the standards of this Commission that are required for recognition.

### **IVORY COAST**

On February 19, 1989, the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) constituted a new Grand Lodge in Africa -- the Grande Loge De Cote D'Ivoire (the Grand Lodge of the Ivory Coast). The new Grand Lodge will begin with eight constituent lodges chartered originally by the GLNF.

### **PORTUGAL**

The GLNF has chartered two lodges in Portugal, one is located in Lisbon and one in Porto. The GLNF is looking toward setting up a District Grand Lodge and eventually a Grand Lodge in Portugal.

**BRIEF HISTORY  
OF  
THE COMMISSION ON INFORMATION FOR RECOGNITION  
OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS IN NORTH AMERICA**

The dedication of the first publication of the Commission on Information for Recognition of the Grand Masters Conference of North America was to the memory of Brother Karl J. Mohr, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, who served as Executive Secretary of the Conference of Grand Masters of Masons in North America from 1946 to 1955. To paraphrase the dedicatory language, it was Brother Mohr's passion for World Brotherhood that led him to envision the Commission on Information for Recognition as an instrument to promote World Brotherhood. In February of 1951 at the Annual Meeting of the Conference of Grand Masters, the Grand Master of Masons in Pennsylvania, Right Worshipful William E. Yeager read a resolution to the Conference. In substance the resolution stated that the recognition of foreign grand lodges must be based on reliable information concerning such grand lodges, and that there was then in existence no common means by which the grand lodges of the Conference could obtain the necessary information.

Brother Yeager therefore proposed that the Chairman of the Conference be authorized to appoint a Commission of five or seven from reigning Grand Masters, Past Grand Masters, or such other Masonic authorities as in his judgment might be proper to study and report the following year upon the formation of a facility to "gather, collate, and from time to time revise information on grand lodges in other lands as a service to the member grand lodges of the Conference." It was stated that this information would be used by the grand lodges of the Conference in arriving at their own conclusions concerning any application by foreign grand lodges for recognition.

The resolution was adopted by the Conference and the Chairman appointed six members to the Commission including Brother Yeager who had proposed the resolution, and Brother Thomas S. Roy, Past Grand Master of Massachusetts who later was to become the longtime Secretary to the Commission on Information for Recognition.

The Commission met several times during the year, and in February of 1952 made a definitive report to the Grand Masters Conference. The report proposed the establishment of the Commission on Information for Recognition, and set forth the manner in which it was to be organized. The Commission was to consist of seven members serving staggered terms of six years except for the Secretary who was to serve for one year, and would be the only member of the Commission eligible for reelection. The structure provided that each year thereafter a member of the Commission was to be elected from among the Deputy Grand Masters of the Conference if that was possible, and the new member elected would serve for a period of six years. In the event of a vacancy, the Conference at its next Annual Meeting was to elect a person for the unexpired term.

The report stated the following as the purpose of the Commission: "It shall be the duty of the Commission to assemble and collate information on grand lodges as a service to the member grand lodges of this Conference."

The activities of the Commission were to be financed by voluntary contributions from any grand lodges which might elect to participate. The rates of contribution were fixed depending upon the size of the grand lodge.

The report was adopted by the Conference, and members of the Commission for the ensuing years were nominated and elected.

The Commission adopted for its own purposes a set of standards of recognition, based upon the universal standards, either formally adopted, or generally practiced in matters of recognition by the grand lodges of the Conference. These standards in broad general terms were (1) legitimacy of origin, (2) exclusive territorial sovereignty, and (3) adherence to the ancient landmarks.

Under ancient landmarks, the Commission referred only to three items as follows: (1) Monotheism - an unalterable and continuing belief in God, (2) Volume of the Sacred Law - an essential part of the furniture of the lodge, and (3) Prohibition of the discussion of Religion and Politics within the lodge.

Papers were prepared on these standards and read before the Conference, and then printed in a volume entitled "Grand Lodge Recognition" which has been widely distributed in the Masonic World. All of the discussion papers were presented by members of the Commission with the exception of the paper on "Exclusive Jurisdiction" which was prepared by Brother Roscoe Pound, Honorary Past Grand Master of Nebraska and former Dean of the Harvard Law School. The book "Grand Lodge Recognition" was published in 1956, and two years later the Commission published another book entitled "Information for Recognition." This book discussed the history of Freemasonry in South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Europe, the near East, the Pacific, and the far East.

In 1960 the Commission published a third book which was entitled "Recognition Lists of World Grand Lodges." This book is now out of print and also out of date in that so many changes have been made in Recognition Lists since 1960.

The Commission has met annually since its formation in connection with the meetings of the Conference of Grand Masters, and each year has published a report which has been read to the Conference. The Annual Reports are presented to the Conference and then printed and mailed not only to the members of the Conference, but also are mailed to many of the Grand Lodges in the World. The Annual Reports are also found in the Proceedings of the Grand Masters Conference. The individual Reports date from 1962, with the most recent one dated February, 1989.

The Grand Masters Conference of Masons in North America is composed of all of the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges in the United States and Canada, as well as

the Grand Masters of the Grand Lodges of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the York Grand Lodge of Mexico. Following World War II a number of Masonic grand lodges in Germany were amalgamated into the United Grand Lodges of Germany and included in this amalgamation was the American-Canadian Grand Lodge which is composed largely of American and Canadian Masons who are military or government personnel stationed in Germany. A few years ago the Conference admitted to membership the Grand Master of the American-Canadian Grand Lodge of the United Grand Lodges of Germany.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Dallas, Texas  
February 21, 1989

### TO THE CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS OF MASONS OF NORTH AMERICA

This report is an accounting of the funds of the Commission on Information for the year just past, ending at December 31, 1988. Since January 1, 1988, 55 Grand Lodges have contributed \$2,940.00.

Balance from Report dated February 24, 1988

\$11,440.68

Receipts from Grand Lodges between January 1, 1988 and December 31, 1988:

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Alabama              | \$100.00 |
| Alaska               | 15.00    |
| Arizona              | 15.00    |
| California           | \$100.00 |
| Canada               |          |
| British Columbia     | 50.00    |
| Manitoba             | 15.00    |
| New Brunswick        | 15.00    |
| Nova Scotia          | 15.00    |
| Prince Edward Island | 15.00    |
| Quebec               | 15.00    |
| Saskatchewan         | 15.00    |
| Delaware             | 15.00    |
| District of Columbia | 15.00    |
| Florida              | 100.00   |
| Georgia              | 100.00   |
| Idaho                | 15.00    |
| Illinois             | 100.00   |
| Indiana              | 100.00   |
| Iowa                 | 50.00    |
| Japan                | 25.00    |
| Kansas               | 100.00   |

|                                                 |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Kentucky                                        | 100.00            |
| Louisiana                                       | 50.00             |
| Maine                                           | 50.00             |
| Maryland                                        | 50.00             |
| Massachusetts                                   | 100.00            |
| Mexico - York Grand Lodge                       | 15.00             |
| Michigan                                        | 100.00            |
| Mississippi                                     | 50.00             |
| Montana                                         | 15.00             |
| Nevada                                          | 25.00             |
| New Hampshire                                   | 15.00             |
| New Jersey                                      | 100.00            |
| New Mexico                                      | 50.00             |
| New York                                        | 100.00            |
| North Carolina                                  | 100.00            |
| North Dakota                                    | 15.00             |
| Ohio                                            | 100.00            |
| Oklahoma                                        | 100.00            |
| Oregon                                          | 50.00             |
| Pennsylvania                                    | 100.00            |
| Puerto Rico                                     | 15.00             |
| Rhode Island                                    | 15.00             |
| South Carolina                                  | 100.00            |
| South Dakota                                    | 25.00             |
| Tennessee                                       | 100.00            |
| Texas                                           | 100.00            |
| Utah                                            | 15.00             |
| Vermont                                         | 15.00             |
| Virginia                                        | \$100.00          |
| Washington                                      | 50.00             |
| West Germany - American-Canadian<br>Grand Lodge | 15.00             |
| West Virginia                                   | 50.00             |
| Wisconsin                                       | 50.00             |
| Wyoming                                         | 15.00             |
| Total Contributions                             | <u>\$2,940.00</u> |

Expenses between 1-1-88 and 12-31-88:

|                                                                                             |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Dallas Scottish Rite Bodies -<br>(supplies, copying, miscellaneous)                         | \$ 657.85 |
| Glover Rubber Stamp Corporation<br>(new bank deposit stamp for<br>NCNB Texas National Bank) | 15.98     |
| Postage                                                                                     | 248.49    |
| Printing Commission Report 1988                                                             | 500.00    |

|                                        |            |             |
|----------------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Pantagraph Printing & Stationery Co.   |            |             |
| (7 copies List of Lodges               |            |             |
| Masonic - 1988)                        | 33.25      |             |
| (7 copies List of Lodges               |            |             |
| Masonic - 1989)                        | 33.25      |             |
| SS Printing Company (Printing on       |            |             |
| Commission Report mailing envelopes    | 15.00      |             |
| Secretarial                            | 1,000.00   |             |
| Travel & Hotel for Secretary-Treasurer | 945.01     |             |
| Total Expenses                         | \$3,448.83 |             |
| Balance as of December 31, 1988        |            | \$10,931.85 |

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Dillard, Jr.  
Secretary-Treasurer

This concludes the 37th Annual Report of the Commission. This Commission will persist in working for international understanding and maintaining the basic precepts that bind us together into a society of regular Freemasons.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtis N. Lancaster, P.G.M., Chairman  
John B. Obenchain, P.G.M., Vice Chairman  
L. Robert Baker, P.G.M.  
W. R. Pellow, M.W.G.M.  
Earl L. Wunder, M.W.G.M.  
Robert L. Dillard, Jr., P.G.M.  
Secretary-Treasurer

## ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION FOR 1989

At a meeting of the Commission on February 21, 1989, the following organization was voted for the ensuing year:

### Chairman

M:W: John B. Obenchain  
Past Grand Master of Virginia

### Vice Chairman

M:W: L. Robert Baker  
Past Grand Master of District  
of Columbia

### Secretary-Treasurer

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr.  
Past Grand Master of Texas

**NAMES, ADDRESSES AND YEAR OF RETIREMENT  
OF COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS**

- 1990 - M:W: John B. Obenchain, Past Grand Master of Virginia,  
29 Laurel Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060.
- 1991 - M:W: L. Robert Baker, Past Grand Master of District of Columbia  
1417 Mayflower Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101
- 1992 - R:W: William R. Pellow, Grand Master of Ontario,  
240 Wharnccliffe Road N., Suite 300  
London, Ontario N6H 4P2 Canada
- 1993 - R:W: Earl L. Wunder, Grand Master of Arizona  
506 N. Verde Heights Drive, Cottonwood, Arizona 86326
- 1994 - R:W: L. Ray Chamberlin, Deputy Grand Master of Iowa  
1540 68th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50311
- 1995 - R:W: William A. Gallmeister, Senior Warden of Indiana  
8301 Larch Lane, Evansville, Indiana 47710

R:W: Robert L. Dillard, Jr., Past Grand Master of Texas  
P.O. Box 1850, Dallas, Texas 75221.  
Secretary-Treasurer



