

**REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR  
MASONIC HOME OF FLORIDA  
2009-2010**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Dale I. Goehrig, 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 is an honor and pleasure to bring you heartfelt greetings from the residents, staff and volunteers of the Masonic Home of Florida. Each year, we look forward to sharing some of the many outstanding events, accomplishments, and meaningful stories which take place each and every day.

As you know, each year the Masonic Home is thoroughly inspected by the State of Florida Agency For Health Care Administration. For three days in November 2009, we underwent a comprehensive review. This unannounced survey examines the delivery of our care and services. Due to the hard work and dedication of our staff, positive feedback from residents, and your support, the Masonic Home of Florida continues to have a 5 out of 5 Star quality rating. This honor is reserved for very few retirement communities in our state or any other.

We continue to fulfill our mission of meeting the needs of qualified Masons and their wives or widows, although the definition of needs has changed somewhat. Last year, we reported that due to improved healthcare and technology, we have witnessed applicants waiting longer to apply. This trend continues and the average age of residents is 89 years. We serve a population ranging in age from their mid-70's to 108. We have two different generations living under one roof, sisters, and a woman whose mother resided at the Home many years ago. This means the second generation of one family! Incoming residents have many different reasons for making the decision to enter our community, but the most common needs are for assistance managing medications and meal preparation and companionship. What makes our Home extra special is that it provides an opportunity to live among fellow members of their Masonic family. Men and women with similar moral values and character.

Our Home benefits from the positive comments shared by members and families across the State. Each year, we like to share actual stories which symbolize the Masonic Home. Here are just a few. In March 2008, I was invited to visit Desoto Lodge No. 105, District 23. After discussing the Home, I asked if there were any questions. A gentleman stood up and identified himself as Walter Ellis, a longtime member of this Lodge. He shared how he had recently been approved to enter the Home and how much he was looking forward to moving in. He spoke of how proud he was of the contributions he had made throughout his Masonic career and how he felt he was being rewarded for his efforts by having such a wonderful home available to him at a time in his life in which he needed the help of others. Nothing I had said in my presentation prior to Mr. Ellis speaking was as meaningful or powerful as his words. Shortly after Walter's passing last year, his daughter purchased brand new refrigerators for the Masonic Home Guesthouse rooms as a gesture of appreciation for the comfort these accommodations brought her in her father's final days. The Home had the privilege of caring for John O'Steen, a longtime member of Mayo Lodge No. 119, District 8. In May 2009, Mr. O'Steen was transferred to the hospital for a few days. When he returned to the Masonic Home, I saw his son and daughter-in-law. They shared that they had not slept since John had entered the hospital, but would sleep like babies that night because he was back home with us, safe, secure and loved. As healthcare professionals, there is no compliment we can receive which means more than those words. Last month,

following the monthly Board of Trustees meeting, I was approached by the wife of a member of Cypress Lodge No, 295, District 29. She simply wanted to let us know that she and her husband, along with several other members of that Lodge, had seen and assisted Gerald and Rosalie Buzik prior to entering the Home in November 2009. She said they were amazed at how much healthier they both were and how their lives had improved. There are hundreds of these stories to be told each year which exemplify how your charity continues to benefit your fellow Masonic families.

In an effort to further meet the needs of Florida members, the Grand Lodge Officers developed an Outreach Program in February 2010. The goal is to provide support and assistance to members and their wives or widows throughout the State with access to care and services for seniors. Since we are a leader in retirement services, it made excellent sense to make this expertise available to members intending to enter the Home, now or in the future, or those planning to remain in their existing community.

On March 20, 2010, we hosted the annual Pilgrimage Day. Once again, the highlight of the day was the dedication of the First Lady's project. Rebba Goehrig worked tirelessly to obtain new closets for the assisted living center. Due to your generosity, the residents now have beautiful closets with improved storage and appearance. Speaking for the residents, they appreciate this wonderful addition to their home.

We recently issued the 9th edition of the Masonic Lifestyles newsletter. Many of you call or write to express how much you enjoy reading this publication. Many Masonic organizations and individuals send checks to purchase items from the wish list. These gifts are instrumental in maintaining our Home in the highest quality. I know I speak for the Grand Lodge of Florida Officers and Masonic Home Board of Trustees, when we express our sincere appreciation for your support. Debra Neveitt, Admissions Director, and I will be here again throughout your annual communication with a Masonic Home resource table. Our goal is to provide information and assistance to you and current and future applicants.

Along with our many successes, have again come many challenges this past year. Due to economic conditions, we continue to reevaluate all aspects of our healthcare delivery. A pay freeze for all staff members was implemented in January 2009 as well as a focus on ways to improve efficiency. We have taken many measures to reduce costs while maintaining quality. Our Board of Trustees work diligently to help us best manage financial resources. Due to their hard work and that of our Masonic Home Team, we completed the fiscal year almost 3% below budget which translates to approximately \$200,000.

There are many individuals and groups to thank as we close this Masonic year. Last year, the Home was devastated by the passing of Jan Eiserman. She had served as President of the Masonic Home Service Guild for many years. We are proud and happy to report that under the leadership of Pat Milnes, member of Gulf Beach Chapter No. 241, Order of the Eastern Star (OES), the Guild continues to thrive. Each day, Pat and other dedicated men and women, all members of OES, volunteer their time and talents to enrich the lives of residents.

The staff brings their talents and experience with them each day. Our Grand Lodge Officers, Board of Trustees, and their ladies are committed to providing a comfortable, safe, and happy retirement community. The Grand Lodge Administrative and Accounting team continues to work in unison with us daily to ensure smooth operations, efficiency, and excellent delivery of services. It has been an honor and pleasure to have served under the leadership of J. Dick Martinez, Deputy Grand Master and Chairman of the Masonic Home Board of Trustees.

As I stated last year, providing care and service for the aged is admirable and needed now more than ever. You own and operate one of the finest facilities in the world. Thank you for providing the resources to get

the job done, and most importantly, done right. Please accept my gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of this organization and congratulations for staying true to your fellow man and your mission.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Tsotsos  
Administrator