

# Report on the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge of Delaware

From Sep 30 – Oct 01, I was privileged to represent the Grand Lodge of Canada in the Province of Ontario at the above named Annual Communication. Following is a short report on my visit.

## 1 Grand Lodge of Delaware Sep 30 – Oct 01 2012:

Held at the Atlantic Sands Hotel and Conference Center, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

Presiding Officer: M.W. Bro. Richard W. Aydelotte. 207<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication  
Deputy Grand Master: R.W. Bro. Barry C. Hughes

This jurisdiction has approximately 5000 Masons, with 28 Lodges in 3 Districts.  
The Grand Master of Delaware serves a one year term.

It is significant to note that the **average membership of each Lodge** is between 200 and 400 Masons.

Grand Master Aydelotte's theme this year was "If we want to - - We Can!" He is a very dynamic speaker who speaks from the heart and many of the Masons I spoke with were very complimentary regarding the enthusiasm he generated wherever he went.

### **Masonic Home:**

The biggest challenge facing the Brethren of Delaware is the rising cost of maintaining their Masonic Home – Highfield.

The Masonic Home of Delaware (Highfield) is a not-for-profit, Medicare & Medicaid-certified facility with a CMS Five Star Quality Rating, and private pay retirement community for adults, ages 55 and older. The home is located in suburban Wilmington.

Highfield offers accommodations for intermediate healthcare, personal care, respite care (short term stays) and private cottages for independent living. Priority is given to those applicants with a Delaware Masonic affiliation but non-Masons are welcome and currently reside here.

As with many Masonic Homes, the costs of running the Home are escalating each year. The value of investment capital diminishes, due to low rates of return forcing withdrawals from the capital base.

The Masons of Delaware will be faced with some tough decisions this year regarding their future level of support to the Home.

