

Report of the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

*136th Annual Grand Communication
North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, NC*

September 30, 2006

Most Worshipful Grand master Milton F. "Toby" Fitch, Jr., Grand Lodge Officers, Elected and Appointed, Past Grand Masters, Past Masters, Worshipful Masters, Wardens, Brethren and visiting Dignitaries from various Jurisdictions

Greetings:

As we begin another Grand Communications, this office appears before you to give a brief review of my tenure as Grand Secretary.

We have experienced many changes in this office this year, and I totally embrace them. As a result of these changes, there is an even flow of business, and better distribution of the workload in this office and harmony with the membership in general. Sometimes we as individuals resist change without even a chance to experience the change, whether it's good or bad. There are still some growing pains that we are experiencing, but this too will pass.

I have had nothing but, the complete cooperation from Grand Master Milton Fitch, Jr. and his Executive Board members. I applaud their willingness to assist and advise this Grand Secretary. Grand Lodge Staff, thank you for all your assistance to me and your loyalty to this organization. I wish to give special thanks to my daughter Mitchelle for the countless and free hours that she has donated to this office. I love you. I would also like to give special thanks to Past Master David Holeman for his willingness to step in and assist this office and me after the passing of our RW Grand Treasurer James A. Mitchell, Sr.. Last but not least, I want to express my gratitude to PM Elizah Bazemore for affording me the opportunity to utilize his computer skills to put together our programs for this session.

We have again; this fiscal year experienced some of our lodges being behind in Grand Lodge Taxes. This office has spelled out the criteria for lodges and it members sitting or voting in an Annual Communication when Grand Lodge Tax is in arrears. Letters will be mailed to all lodges explaining their financial position.

We are still making improvements in services. We have had to pay strict attention to the details of communications between the Grand Lodge Office and subordinate lodges in the matters of reporting operations and services. For the past year we have and still are making surveys and studies to get information to the Grand Lodge that is requested to show true pictures of our status and needs.

We are still working on:

1. Adequate bonding for Worshipful Masters, Secretaries and Treasurers.
2. Completing and maintaining adequate membership records.
3. Update manual of Administration for Blue Lodges
4. Improve Image and relationships of subordinate lodges in the communities.
5. Adequate time at Grand Lodge Sessions and Regional Meetings.

We have some recommendations for improvements in our operations:

1. That Grand Lodge Executive Officers take a critical look at Income and Expenses to determine what steps can be taken to improve the financial status of the Grand Lodge.
2. That the Grand Secretary continues to have responsibility of the Grand Lodge Computer operations and records and that the Grand Lodge observes the Privacy of Information Act.

Fraternally Submitted
M. Trent Carmon
RW Grand Secretary