

GRAND LODGE OF TENNESSEE, FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS
JOINT BUILDING / BUILDING RENOVATION COMMITTEES

Ken Moore, Chairman
Pat Meyer, Secretary
Mike Ferrell
Royce Peterson
Earl Porter

3/26/2008

TO: The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tennessee F & AM

RE: Annual Grand Lodge session report of Committee work

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Grand Officers, Worshipful Grand Officers and committee members, distinguished guests, Brethren all, Greetings.

Again let me introduce the other members of your Building Renovation Committee; Brother Pat Meyer (762) who is serving as Secretary for the committee, Brother Royce Petersen (3), Brother Earl Porter (414) and Brother Mike Ferrell (661). Their hard work and dedication has helped propel this project along. Each and every one worked very hard and have spent countless hours and made many trips at their expense to do the best possible job for you this year. Thank you Brethren. I also want to thank Past Grand Masters, Brother Richard Durham, Sr., who started the ball rolling by funding the building study, Rev. Brother Paul Phillips, Brother Sid Dorris III and Most Worshipful Grand Master Orville Armstrong for the support and encouragement they lent to the project.

I considered making a two word report "it's done" but I decided that you deserved more than that. Last year as I was sitting up in the auditorium Brother Hoyt Samples came to the podium to address the membership and he said "next year it will be 32 degrees in here, right?" Some brother behind me muttered "I'll believe it when I see it". Well brother, if you are here, take a look. It isn't 32 degrees but we could make it that, but we opted for comfort and raised it a little. But remember last year, 85 degrees and rising. Never again will we swelter in here during Annual Communication. There is still some tweaking of the units to be done, but this year is really a test run. We had to guess what the units would do with a full house but we didn't have until today. Next year we will be better informed and prepared. There are some "hobo" units placed around the auditorium to monitor the climate, so if you see a small white unit with a blinking red light please just let it be. They will be picked up

and the information downloaded so we can see how the units did.

We hope that many of you were able to follow the work on the building through the monthly reports to the Grand Lodge line and posted on the Grand Lodge Website and newsletters. Copies of those reports are being placed in the archives along with all other documents and drawings. There will be copies of over 1800 emails, 1000's of pictures and all other items relating to the renovation. It is our hope that in another 50 years when our future brothers are working on the building that they will be able to see what we did in 2006 and 2007 and that it will help them in their endeavors.

The goal of this committee was to assure that the integrity of the building was maintained. A great effort was made to hide as much of the renovation as possible. The duct work, pipes and conduits were hidden as much as possible. There were some areas that it was impossible to do such and then painting came into play to blend in with the original decor.

What you can easily see are the new ladies restrooms, the renovated men's restrooms, the widened steps and handrails in the auditorium, the new handicap accessible ramp at the kitchen door, and we hope you notice that you can hear better with the upgraded sound system.

It was a chore to get as much done as we did and stay as close to the allowed amount as we did. The total cost of the renovation is only slightly over the \$4.45 million originally bid. The total added to the original contract is approximately \$200,000.00. This overrun is due to the new windows being added, more asbestos abatement than expected and extra painting. The amount that was borrowed to finance the construction is \$3.25 million and the interest rate for the loan is 5.78%.

All monies received from the assessment have been used only for the renovation. Most Worshipful Sid Dorris transferred funds from the Grand Masters contingency fund for office furniture before he left office in March 2007. This money was administered by the Grand Secretary so no money from the assessment was used to purchase furnishings for the Grand Lodge Office. The only furniture purchased with renovation funds were the 14 chairs in the main lobby. They were purchased at a total cost of \$599.24 for all or \$39.00 plus tax each.

Again we want to thank everyone who supported and encouraged us over the past two years; it made the job much more meaningful. Last night as I entered the elevator at the hotel a brother approached me and ask if I were on the Building Committee and when I told him I was he said "I have only one thing

to say, you brethren really did spent my \$10.00 wisely.” To us on the committee that was the best compliment we could receive.

We had anticipated that the project would be complete at this time and this committee could be dissolved but the small details of the finish are not yet complete and the committee will see it through until such time as it is complete as per the proposal passed in 2006.

Most Worshipful sir, I move the acceptance of this report.

R. Ken Moore (509), Chairman
Pat Meyer (762) , Secretary
Mike Ferrell (661)
Royce Peterson (3)
Earl Porter (414)