

Long Term Care at Home Coming to Virginia



Exciting new developments are in the works to bring in-home care and services to our members in Virginia. (See lead article page 1.) MESH has recently formed Long Term Care at Home, Inc., a Virginia corporation under the leadership of its President Bill Greschel. "Our mission,"

says Brother Greschel, "is to help our members stay in their homes as long as possible."

To that end, Long Term Care at Home will offer a commercial long-term care insurance program to MESH members and their families through John Hancock. It is also hoped that an additional geriatric care management program will be offered to assist members with all aspects of independent living, to help members remain comfortably and safely in their own homes.

Interested members will submit an application that will include their health and financial information. The plan does require that all applicants have their own medical insurance. However, "Our goal," asserts Brother Greschel, "is to help all members, regardless of their health status or financial resources." In order to meet this goal, financial assistance will be available to qualified applicants through the MESH Charities.

Advantage Provider Program

Through a strategic partnership with CareScout, John Hancock policyholders can obtain quality information and reports on over

77,000 nursing homes, assisted living facilities and home health providers as well as provider discounts nationwide. CareScout

also has a Care Advocacy program to assist family members at the time of a claim.

Mission

To provide for the welfare and care of needy Sisters and Brothers of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Order of the Eastern Star of the District of Columbia.

Motto

The Masonic Family serving the needs of the community



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THE MESH CONNECTION

New MESH Benefit: Long Term Care Insurance, Affordable Peace of Mind

It's impossible to evaluate your personal insurance and retirement needs from the countless 30-second commercials that bombard you every day. But if you find those commercials prodding you to consider your future and that of your family, you're not alone.

MESH Is Here to Help

This month, we are introducing a discounted long-term care insurance (LTCI) program underwritten by John Hancock. As a MESH member, you will be able to purchase this important insurance at substantial savings.

Over the next few weeks, information on this new insurance benefit will be sent to you from our personal John Hancock long-term care insurance coordinator, Craig Jones. He has worked closely with us to put together a policy that truly fits your care needs.

Flexible Choices Mean Better Care

The John Hancock LTCI program offered through MESH allows you to choose from a variety of options:

- Choose either a monthly or daily LTCI benefit
- Choose your benefit period-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 years, or lifetime
- Choose your elimination period-the number of days you self-pay before your policy begins
- Inflation protection
- Partner discount and coverage
- Enhanced home care options
- Combined spouse benefit package
- Care Scout help-line assistance program

Why John Hancock?

MESH, Inc. has evaluated many insurance programs. John Hancock has been offering quality LTCI since 1987. John Hancock also offers a 30-day free look period. If you decide this policy is not right for you, simply return it and John Hancock will refund 100% of your premium.

We feel it is worth your time to review this new long term care benefit. We think you'll find that the plan provides peace of mind at an affordable price. MESH's designated John Hancock representative is available to answer any

questions. He can be reached directly at 703.287.7107 or cajones@jhnetwork.com. Also, for more information visit: www.dcmeshltc.com

MESH Benefits. Did You Know?

- MESH, Inc. is sponsoring a new long-term care insurance product.
- More than half of seniors will experience some degree of chronic physical impairment by the time they are 85.
- 40% of people who need long-term care are working adults between the ages of 18-64
- Craig Jones is our John Hancock contact. You can reach him at 703.287.7107 or cajones@jhnetwork.com.
- John Hancock has created a DC Mesh Website at: www.dcmeshltc.com

A Century of Caring

The care of our membership has been a fundamental outreach goal and mission of the Masonic and Eastern Star organizations.

In the latter half of the 19th century, both the Washington, D.C. Masonic Lodges and Eastern Star Chapters put forth a request to build a home to care for aged and infirm Master Masons and members of the Order of the Eastern Star, their spouses, widows, children, and orphans who lived in this jurisdiction.

Plans for the new building were initiated in 1895 and were followed by a number of fundraising efforts. In 1899, the Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star levied a per capita tax on its members to build a home.

On March 10, 1902, the Eastern Star Home of the District of Columbia was chartered by an Act of Congress, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt. Four years later in 1906, the Title of the Home was amended to read: The Masonic and Eastern Star Home of the District of Columbia.

In 1904, Mrs. Sarah Seek, a benefactor who supported the construction of the Home, donated five acres of land and sold an additional five acres to the Eastern Star as a site for the home.

The cornerstone for the first wing was laid in 1905. Construction of the Home was completed in 1906, and the first occupant, a Master Mason from Washington Centennial Lodge, moved in. Hundreds were subsequently housed there.

By 1939, there were 56 women, 28 men, and 16 children living there. In 1955, MESH housed and cared for 126 men, women, and children. The number of residents gradually declined in the following decades. The Home was sold in 1986 to Medlantic (owners and operators of Washington Hospital Center and the National Orthopedic Hospital), with provisions for continued maintenance of beds and spaces for Masons and Eastern Star members or their dependents. It is now known as MEDSTAR.

MESH's commitment to care for aging Masons and Eastern Star members continues. In the 1990s, new initiatives were launched to reflect the needs and interests of members who are enjoying increasing longevity and independence.

We are pleased to continue to develop programs on behalf of our members and their loved ones.

*Bill Nottingham, President
MESH Charities, Inc.*

In Memory Lenore Phillips

There may be a few members of the Grand Lodge or the Order of the Eastern Star who worked with Lenore Phillips on MESH business longer than I did, but I doubt it. I go back so far with her that I don't remember



Lenore Phillips

when my involvement with her began, certainly long before she was the President. I have been a board member for over 35 years, and I have worked with a number of presidents. Of course, Lenore was the first female president.

One of the first requirements of a board member is a commitment to service. What did that mean back then? If you care to remember, it meant going home from a board meeting AFTER midnight on many occasions. We sure loved to argue, but all of us had the Home in our hearts.

Lenore took over, and through no fault of any of us, we were placed in the bad position of disposing of our Home. How we loved that place, and how proud we were for the opportunity to care for our elderly.

President Phillips made sure that the Committees were representative of each of our

fraternities. Every one of us was important. She had a way of getting things done.

We moved from office space to office space trying to find accommodations that would suit our needs with a careful eye on the expenses.

So how efficient was Madam President? Who else had a list of phone numbers at her fingertips? Who else knew whom to call in the federal government if a member's Social Security payment that was due did not show up? She was present on each occasion of a new administration into a care facility; she could and would run through the paperwork as fast as it was presented.

Later in her time of service, she was not in the best of health, but that did not stop her showing up at the office while most of us were still in bed.

It is a pleasure to be around anyone who knows how to prepare for a meeting. She was a champion of preparation.

You must be aware of the many hours and the many decisions necessary for us to get the MESH Life Care Program underway. How unselfish she was with her time over the years for all the meetings that the program called for.

I will never say that anyone of us indispensable. We all know better, but we had a wonderful servant in Lenore Phillips. She will be missed. Many fine tributes were paid to Lenore at her memorial service. However, none more so than the comment that, "Service is the rent we pay for our place on this earth," surely then Lenore's rent book has been stamped, "paid in full."

Thank you Madam President for all you did, for all of us.

*Harold Grainger, Vice President,
MESH*

MESH Vice President Elected Honorary Past Senior Grand Warden



Right Worshipful Brother Grainger

Lodge history was made recently in Washington D.C.'s Grand Lodge. For the first time, Most Worshipful Grand Master Robert Heyat bestowed the title of "Honorary Past Senior Grand Warden" upon a member, and the recipient is MESH Vice President Right Worshipful Brother Harold Grainger.

Right Worshipful Brother Grainger first came to this continent from England as a young man in 1956. After a short stay in Canada, in 1958 he moved to D.C. where he didn't know a soul. He became a Free Mason in 1959, and the Masons soon became his extended family. Now, Grainger says, "I can list my friends and acquaintances in the thousands all over the U.S. because of Free Masonry."

Right Worshipful Brother Grainger has been a member of a Blue Lodge since 1959. As a member of Washington Daylight Lodge No.14, Right Worshipful Brother Grainger has been actively involved in governing the D.C. Grand Lodge for many years, serving as both a Grand Lodge Officer and as a member of many of the Grand Master's committees. He has been recognized numerous times for his outstanding service to Masonry and has received both the Valentine Reintzel Medal (1988) and the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Medal (1989).

Right Worshipful Brother Grainger has also dedicated himself to the Masonic and Eastern Star Homes, serving members in the D.C. area as a lodge representative to MESH since 1968. In this role, he was integral in the establishment of the original programs, has served on the Admissions and Discharge Committee, and remains a valuable resource for the current programs.

His passion for Masonry runs deep. When asked to sum up the role that Masonry has played in his life, Grainger replied with a knowing chuckle, "The Blue Lodge is the love of my life," and it has been an organization to which his dedication has been unwavering. He believes that we all have an "obligation to look after those who cannot look after themselves," and this core belief has made him an invaluable asset to MESH.