

March 8, 2009

Brothers,

There has been some interest expressed in another trip this year to the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford. Mark you calendars for July 11th.

I do not yet know how much it would cost us, but the bus has been booked, and I am still awaiting a price.

As you recall, on our previous trip we only had to pay for fuel and charged just \$15.00 per person. Still, we came up a little short last year, but I covered the balance myself. Last year the drivers also donated their time and drove free of charge; this year the bus company *may have to pay one driver*. I am guessing this year it may cost around \$30.00 - \$35.00 per person, based on 30 people should one of the drivers have to be paid. Remember, if we get thirty people to go, we still have room for 25 more, thus rebates could be issued once the final payment is made to the bus company.

I would like to get at a minimum of 30 people signed up. Last year we had over 30 to sign up, but had less than 30 to go. The more we can get signed up, the less it will cost each of us.

I have been in contact with Chris Richardson and he advises we are more than welcome, and he uses our previous dedication and determination to travel such long distance to visit as an example for others to match.

Since each lodge is required by the CODE to have a committee of three dedicated to the Masonic Home for Children, this would be a great opportunity for the lodge to “sponsor” a trip for them to visit.

As last year, your wives or guest are invited. This would be a great opportunity to show the brothers who have been raised since our last trip one of our charities. Don't forget to include our Entered Apprentices and Fellow Craft.

I know it is almost impossible for some of you to commit to an event 3 months away, but mark you calendars for Saturday, July 11th.

I'll keep everyone updated as progress is made.

Fraternally

Jim Hyde
District Deputy Grand Master
41st Masonic District of North Carolina