

Presentation of "The Judge"
PA DeMolay Traveling Gavel
In Honor of Justin D. Killian, SMC
PA DeMolay Convention, Allentown
Saturday, July 16, 2005

Once in a while someone comes along that sets the bar a little higher for all those who will follow in his footsteps. Over the past three years I have had the distinct privilege of working with a young man who has done just that— *set the bar a little higher.*

Our state is often divided into the East and the West. Many times a state officer's school and work schedule makes travel difficult. This young man is a member of Elizabethtown Chapter, but many of us in the West feel as if he is one of our own. He is always there when we need him.

He regularly attends the Chapter meetings of Steel City, Lorraine, Lincoln, Templar and Westmoreland. He's there to help at installations, prospect parties, induction ceremonies, and even the occasional Advisory Council meeting. He is also a Master Mason, and often travels to district Masonic meetings and Grand Lodge functions.

Everywhere he goes he leaves the same impression. An impression *so* positive that DeMolay is growing again in Western Pennsylvania. People are once again talking about the Order. Masons are getting more involved and want to know how they can help. Membership is up. Advisory Council recruitment is up. Communication is improving.

On a more personal note, we all know this cannot be done single-handedly. But, this young man has been the inspiration for many people to step up their efforts, to try harder, to not give up and to not accept status quo.

As a Deputy Executive Officer he has been an invaluable asset to DeMolay in Western Pennsylvania. As a mason he has been a young I am so very proud to call a Brother and a good friend.

A few months ago I asked the chapters in Western Pennsylvania to submit a few words describing how this young man has helped their chapters. I suggested that we present these letters along with a gift of appreciation for an outstanding term as the State Master Councilor. We chose a large gavel as this gift.

What the members did not know is that this gavel has been dubbed “The Judge” in recognition of the nickname Brother Killian has adopted. It will become a statewide traveling gavel and hopefully travel all over our great state, from chapter to chapter. Details of how you can host it in your chapter will follow in an upcoming issue of the Keystone Crusader and be available soon on the website.

This gavel is being created by William Treager, a resident of the Masonic Villages at Elizabethtown. [Unfortunately, Mr. Treager was recently hospitalized and the gavel has been delayed. When completed, it will have a head that is at least 9” in diameter and be made completely of hardwoods from the Masonic Village.]

Will the members and Advisors of Erie, Lincoln, Lorraine, Templar, Steel City, and Westmoreland Chapters, please rise.

Brother Justin D. Killian, on behalf of all you see standing; I present this [symbolic gavel] “The Judge” to Pennsylvania DeMolay in honor of your outstanding service as State

Master Councilor. Congratulations and thank you for all you have done for Pennsylvania DeMolay!

“Dad” Rodney E. Boyce
Deputy Executive Officer