

BEACON

A JOINT PUBLICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO AND THE OHIO MASONIC HOME

Attend Ohio Masonic Home Day, Sunday June 8

Create a fun, family spring memory

Hot dogs, hamburgers, pork roast, chips, beans, soda, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones, hayrides, tractor rides, kids games with prizes, a Shrine parade with more than 41 units, a car display, strawberry shortcake and ice cream, the Dayton Celtic Academy of Irish Dancers, song stylist Jack Garrett, the Springfield Banjo Band, the Bourbon Street Strutters, caricature cartoon artist Dennis Porter, Janet Dobson's airbrush artwork, lots of sunshine, and friendly people. Put them all together and you have all the ingredients for Ohio Masonic Home Day 2003, scheduled to be held Sunday, June 8 at The Home's Springfield campus.

Ohio Masons, their families, Ohio Masonic Home campus residents and associates, and friends are invited to join



WHO WILL GET THE BEST SEAT? – Your entire family can get a curb side seat along the one-mile parade route and see the entire parade "up close and personal." Bring plenty of film for your camera.

the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio, Most Worshipful Brother William P. Mayberry, Sr., and other Grand Lodge officers to enjoy The Home's Annual Home Day celebration, on Sunday, June 8, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Worship Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Rickly Commons Auditorium and will start the day's activities. Masons from various districts, lodges and other Masonic affiliated organizations will open refreshment and craft booths at 11 a.m. A variety of entertainers will perform in the "Big Tent," and strolling around campus. In addition, campus walking-tours, horse-drawn wagon tours, and tractor-drawn tours (wheelchair accessible) will be available.

A major highlight will be the Shrine Parade. This year 41 Antioch Shrine parade units, and a Motorcycle Unit from Aladdin Shrine in Columbus, will participate.

Children will enjoy the games and prizes, free popcorn, cotton candy, and snow cones at the "Kid's Corner." In addition, Janet Dobson will return with her airbrush artwork.

Campus visitors may enjoy a leisurely stroll on the numerous walking trails before visiting the new model patio homes and new apartments (Iredell Gardens), have a caricature cartoon of themselves drawn by Dennis Porter, or just visit with family members and friends.



BUILT FORD TOUGH – this 1935 Ford V-8 pickup truck, refurbished and owned by Brother Cliff Ladman, is one of many vehicles that will be on display at the Community Center on Home Day, June 8.

One-Day Class succeeds again

A total of 3,102 new Master Masons were raised during a series of Grand Master's One-Day Classes in March, 2003, in Ohio.

Twenty-five classes were held – one in each Masonic district – on the five Saturdays in March.

Reports from across the state described outstanding degree work, excellent event organization, and uplifting enthusiasm and excitement among the brethren and candidates.

While the total size of the group is down from the record-setting amount in 2002, the number still represents more than twice as many new candidates as the Grand Lodge experienced all year in 2001.

continued on page 3

continued on page 10

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER



by *William P. Mayberry, Sr., Grand Master*

I want to congratulate and welcome each new member from the Grand Master's One-Day Classes held in March, 2003, into the oldest, largest, and greatest fraternity in the world. Through these March classes there were more than 3,100 candidates raised. From our One-Day Classes, we have added nearly 11,000 members in less than one

year. I want to thank all the brethren for their participation in making the One-Day Classes a success.

As I travel around the State of Ohio, I have found many of the members that joined Freemasonry in the April 27, 2002 Grand Master's One-Day Class are now serving their Lodge as officers, giving lectures, helping in the craft, and attending the meetings. I ask all the brethren to take advantage of these opportunities and become active in your Lodges and enjoy the fellowship.

I also congratulate and welcome the new members that have joined our Fraternity in the traditional way. This is an exciting time for Freemasonry in Ohio.

I encourage each member to help your Lodge with a fund raising project, with the monies going to support one or more of your Grand Lodge Charities: the Scholarship Foundation; Masonic Model Student Assistance Program; Special Olympics; Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation; and The

Ohio Masonic Home. This is what our fraternity is about, "Building A Brighter Tomorrow" for those in need.

I thank the members who have found time to volunteer as tutors for the OhioReads Program. I have been told that it is a real heart-warming experience to help these young children improve their reading skills. I ask you or any of your family members to consider supporting this worthwhile community project. If you have any questions about this program, please call our Grand Lodge office at 614/885-5318 or 800/292-6092.

I would like to invite you to attend The Ohio Masonic Home Day at Springfield, Ohio, on Sunday, June 8. This is a day to enjoy with your family and friends. There will be food booths, entertainment, activities for the children, a Shrine Parade, and The Ohio Masonic Home special strawberries and homemade ice cream. You will be able to see all the changes that are taking place at your Ohio Masonic Home, to improve the services for Masons, and their wives and widows.

On June 20, you are also encouraged to join your Grand Lodge Officers and hundreds of brethren from around the state, who will be attending the opening ceremony of the Ohio Special Olympics Games in Columbus. We will be parading with the athletes and then presenting them with a check, made possible by your donations.

Let me conclude by thanking you for serving this great Fraternity, as we continue our efforts toward "Building A Brighter Tomorrow". May God bless each of you.

"TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY," WHO'S JOB IS IT ANYWAY?



by *Joseph (Jerry) B. Kuyoth, Jr., C.N.H.A. CEO, The Ohio Masonic Home*

A Hebrew Proverb states, "Do not confine your own children to your learning, for they were born in another time."

It is abundantly clear that when it comes to senior living, both residential and healthcare, we are truly in another time. Unprecedented medical advances, affluence, and high expectations

have merged to place unrealistic demands on our government-reimbursement systems. The projected bankruptcy of Medicare and Social Security, combined with state and federal budget deficits, dominate the news almost daily.

I would contend that unless we accept that it is our job to pay for these services as individuals we will move into a spiral that has no successful resolution. Although many statistics have questionable origin, these seem irrefutable:

- In the next 25 years, the 60+ population will increase by 86 percent.
- In the next 25 years, the 85+ population will increase by 200 percent.

- By 2050, the number of people with Alzheimer's disease will triple.
- In 2000 there were 22 million care-giving households — up 300 percent over the past 12 years.
- The caregiver pool will drop from 11:1 in 1990 to 4:1 in 2050.
- Information doubles every two years; 20 percent of what we know is obsolete next year.
- In the next 35 years, payroll taxes will double.
- By 2027, 86 percent of the world's economy will be globalized.

Tip O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House from Massachusetts, is famous for noting that "all politics are local." Elected officials at every level ultimately want to know what an issue means to their district, their constituents and the people they represent, and its affect on them. It is the sum and the balance of these "special interests" that legislators weigh in making their final decisions on what actions to take and how to vote.

No one individual, however intelligent and experienced,

continued on back cover

Home Day *(continued from page 1)*

The Home's famous strawberry shortcake and ice cream, as well as a large variety of picnic-style refreshments, will be available in the vendor's tent.

Dayton's Celtic Academy of Irish Dancers, Song Stylist Jack Garrett, the Springfield Banjo Band, and the Bourbon Street Strutters will all perform at Home Day.

Also, various Miami Valley owners of refurbished cars have been invited to display their vehicles starting at 11 a.m. by the Community Center. Some of the vehicles on display will include: 1930 Model A, 1935 Ford pickup truck, 1950 F-1 Ford pickup truck, 1965 Ford Mustang, 1966 Ford Fairlane, 1962 Corvette, 1969 Corvette, 1996 Dodge Charger, 2002 Toyota MR2 Spyder, a 1988 Porsche 944, and many more.

For more information about Home Day, call the Public Relations Department at 937/525-3074 or e-mail your questions to: Jguess@ohiomasonichome.org.



IRISH DANCERS – Performers from Dayton's Celtic Academy of Irish Dancers will perform at Home Day on June 8, in the Entertainment Tent at 11:30 a.m.

2003 Shrine Parade Units

Parade Escort	Motor Corp
Lead Car	Touring Group
Legion of Honor	Dune Buggies
Pipers	Specialty Group
Potentate	Oriental Band
Divan	Kentucky Colonels
Past Potentates	Rovers
Bobbies	Funsters
Greeters	Hospital Van
Ambassadors	Red Cars
Marching Patrol	Hillbillies
Stewards	Antique Cars
Area Shrine Club	Hospital Van
Past Masters	Troubadors
Field Music	Hospital Van
Service Wagon	Indy Cars
Mounted Patrol	Hospital Van
Pote's Little Symphony	18 Wheelers
Directors Staff	Jeepsters
Temple Guard	Calliope
Brass Band	Motorcycle Corp

Ohio Masonic Home Day Program Schedule



- 10 a.m.** Worship Service, Rickly Commons Auditorium
- 11 a.m.** **All booths open and activities begin**
- Strawberry shortcake & ice cream served from the Hillman Kitchen, 2nd floor
- Strolling Bourbon Street Strutters
- Car display at Community Center with '50s & '60s music
- Kids' Corner Tent by the shelter house, games & prizes, free cotton candy, popcorn, and snow cones to kids of all ages
- Campus Walking Tours
- Horse-drawn Wagon Tours
- Tractor-drawn Wagon Tours
- 11:30 a.m.** The Celtic Academic of Irish Dancers – Big Tent
- 12 p.m.** Song Stylist Jack Garrett – Big Tent
- 1 p.m.** Shrine Parade
- 2 p.m.** Official Welcome & Grand Lodge Officer Introductions – Big Tent
- Rubicon Lodge #237 Presentation to The Ohio Masonic Home
- 2:30 p.m.** Springfield Banjo Band – Big Tent
- 3 p.m.** Community Center Dining Room Dedication Ceremony
- 4 p.m.** Conclusion of Home Day 2003

Passion for helping those in need prompts efforts for Charitable Foundation

“But the greatest of these is charity.”

With that admonition, the Grand Lodge of Ohio has been generously giving grants to needy Ohioans from the resources of our Charitable Foundation. Here are a few examples of those helped during the past year:

- A 4-year-old boy with cancer, whose family is having difficulty paying for the radiation and chemotherapy treatments.
- A Past Master of a Lodge suffering with a life-threatening chronic hepatitis C, with medical bills hitting more than \$3,000 a month.
- Two young girls, whose 26-year-old mother died after lapsing into a coma.
- A Brother Mason with multiple heart problems, waiting for a transplant.

- A 3-year-old child with acute lymphocytic leukemia
- A 4-year-old boy with acute myeloid leukemia
- A 19-month-old boy awaiting a liver transplant
- A 35-year-old husband and father of three, with no health benefits, who has cancer in his hip that has stopped him from working as a self-employed carpenter
- A young woman, comatose for nearly a year after a severe traffic accident, but now beginning to walk and worry about \$16,000 in bills not covered by insurance.

The list can go on. Since January 1, 2002, the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation has given out 28 grants totaling \$53,000. Since the first gift was given out in December of 1995, more than \$131,000 has been awarded.

This charity is made possible by the contributions our members and Lodges make to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. Only the interest from this endowment fund may be spent. As the fund grows, the fraternity can help more people.

From time to time, our members receive mailings intended to encourage contributions to the Charitable Foundation. While some members object to these mailings, others contribute generously.

The foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization and all donations may be deducted from your income tax. Checks to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation may be sent to Grand Lodge of Ohio, P.O. Box 629, Worthington, OH 43085.

Ohio receives prestigious Masonic Model national award

The Grand Lodge of Ohio's Masonic Model Student Assistance Training was recently honored with the 2003 Medallion of Excellence from the National Masonic Foundation for Children.

This annual award is given for maintaining the highest standards of quality Masonic Model Student Assistance Training. The award was presented in February at the Conference of Grand Masters in Minneapolis.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has been using the Masonic Model training to teach Ohio school personnel how to identify and help “at-risk” kids since 1995. For more information about Ohio's Masonic Model program, including how you can get involved, please visit www.freemason.com, or call the Grand Lodge office at 800/292-6092.

First Annual Grand Masters Cup Golf Tourney to support Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation

The First Annual Grand Masters Cup Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, September 9th, 2003, at the prestigious Little Turtle Country Club in Westerville, Ohio, with all proceeds going to the Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

The fees are \$90 per golfer, or \$360 per team of four. The price includes 18 holes of golf, cart rental, a box lunch, and dinner.

The tournament will consist of 144 golfers in a “scramble.” Registration begins at 11 a.m., with a shotgun start at noon.

The tournament offers an

excellent opportunity for golfers to play on Little Turtle's peaceful, wooded setting, one of the most exclusive courses in the state.

The Charitable Foundation assists our communities with projects like the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, as well as providing relief for individuals in need from our communities, our brethren, or their widows and orphans.



For more information on the tournament, along with registration information, call Mark Bernardin at the Grand Lodge office (800/292-6092), or visit www.freemason.com and click on Grand Masters Cup.

Address change procedure

If your address has changed, please notify your local Lodge Secretary as soon as possible.

The mailing list for the Beacon, for example, is produced from information each Lodge supplies to the Grand Lodge.

Athens Masonic Temple installs high-tech systems

The Athens, Ohio, Masonic Temple, constructed in 1976, has stepped boldly into the 21st Century with an impressive audio/visual communication system in the Lodge Room.

It features two 42-inch plasma, or “flat,” television screens, attached to walls in the “East,” on each side of the stage.

The system also includes six cameras outside the Lodge Room, that can broadcast pictures on the screens inside, 14 cordless microphones so officers and other speakers can be heard on the high-end sound system, and a sophisticated, computer-directed control panel.

William G. Conrad, president of the Athens Temple Company, said the goal was to install the latest possible technology in audio/visual systems, to be ready for whatever innovations the fraternity pursues in the years ahead.



William Conrad demonstrates computer-generated system.

The Athens Temple Company financed the \$25,000 cost and installation of the equipment. The company is owned by Paramuthia Lodge #25; Athens Chapter, R.A.M., Athens Council, R.&S.M., and Athens Commandery, Knights Templar. Other organizations using the building, including the Order of Eastern Star and youth groups, are able to use the equipment.

The system was installed in the last few months of 2002, and Right Worshipful Brother Conrad acknowledged they are still learning how to use all of its elaborate features.

The operator can sit at the control cabinet, near the Lodge Secretary’s desk, and see the view of all outside cameras on a tiny monitor, then decide which view he wants to broadcast on the screens in the Lodge Room.

One of the chief goals of the system, he explained, was to help some of the York Rite bodies. A portion of several of the degrees take place outside the Lodge Room, and with the use of the cameras and microphones, the action can be viewed completely by those sitting inside.

For example, there are four cameras to show what happens in the various “veils” or “arches” during Chapter and Council degrees. Another camera is fixed to capture “discoveries” in the “quarries” in the Royal Arch Degree. A camera, showing a wide-angle view of the lobby, is appropriate for viewing ceremonial portions of the full form opening at Commandery inspections.



Doug Phillips, secretary of Paramuthia Lodge, displays audio control unit.

The video system is also hooked up to cable television and DVD and VCR units, to permit such viewing by groups using the room.

A laptop computer that comes with the system can program a variety of special effects and transitions, as well as PowerPoint programs, all for viewing on the large screens.

Previously, the Lodge had eight wireless microphones, but six new, smaller cordless units were added so all officers can be “miked” in virtually all work of any of the bodies.

A significant amount of music has been recorded on DVDs to play at the push of a button for patriotic, marching, ceremonial, or degree purposes.

“Everyone was very impressed when we used the equipment for the first time at the inspection of Athens Royal Arch Chapter in January,” Brother Conrad said. He is a Past District Deputy Grand Master in the 17th Masonic District and is really enjoying learning the operation of the new system and experimenting with its additional uses.

Ordering now easier for Plumb Line clothing

Ordering items from the Plumb Line, the Grand Lodge collection of Masonic clothing, just became easier.

There are no longer any minimum orders. Orders can be placed immediately and delivered in four to six weeks.

The Plumb Line has some great items for the summer months. You can choose from polo shirts, T-shirts, shorts, and other items, all embroidered with the “Ohio Freemasonry – Est. 1808” logo. Order them now to enjoy them this summer.

For more information or an order form, please call the Grand Lodge office at 800/292-6092, or visit www.freemason.com and click on Plumb Line.

Charles A. Brigham, Jr., passes away

Charles A. Brigham, Jr., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1979-80, passed away in a Florida hospital on February 23, 2003.

During his distinguished legal career in Cincinnati, Most Worshipful Brother Brigham was active in numerous professional, civic, and cultural organizations. He was a Past Master of Madisonville (now Madisonville-Maderia) Lodge, # 419. In recent years, the Lodge has named its building in his honor.

From 1981 to 1994, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association in Alexandria, Virginia, including service as president the final four years.

Most Worshipful Brother Brigham was a respected professional in his community and a beloved Brother in his Lodge. He used his keen legal mind for many years as chairman of the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee.

Bicentennial artwork to benefit Grand Lodge Scholarship Foundation

To commemorate the State of Ohio's Bicentennial, the Grand Lodge has commissioned an original piece of artwork entitled: **Freemasonry Cornerstone of Ohio History ~ 1803-2003.**

The historic items depicted in it can all be found in the Grand Lodge Museum in Worthington and illustrate Freemasonry's presence in the Buckeye State for well over 200 years.

The print measures 14" x 20" and is suitable for framing. This commemorative piece of art is available in limited quantities for \$15 plus \$5 shipping and handling. The proceeds will benefit the Grand Lodge Scholarship Foundation, which awards 47 scholarships of \$2,000 each to Ohio college and university students, annually. Supplies are limited, so please order now.



Reduced-size image of Freemasonry Cornerstone of Ohio History. Actual size is 14" x 20"

ARTWORK ORDER FORM

Freemasonry Cornerstone of Ohio History

Quantity	Price Each	Total
_____	\$15.00	\$_____
	Shipping & Handling	\$5.00
	Total for Order:	\$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Grand Lodge, P.O. Box 629,
Worthington, OH 43085

Endowed membership entry fee to increase on July 31

The entry fee to purchase an Endowed Membership will increase from \$600 to \$800 on July 31, 2003.

Members purchasing an Endowed Membership by July 31 each year pay dues one more time, then never have to pay dues to their Lodge again. The Lodge receives a "dividend" from the investment in lieu of dues. The Lodge will

continue to receive such payment annually, even after an individual dies.

The program assures a consistent income to Lodges, and alleviates the need for suspensions for nonpayment of dues for those Masons with an Endowed Membership.

For more information on the Endowed Membership program, please contact your Lodge Secretary.

Ohio Special Olympics Opening Ceremonies set for June 20

The Ohio Special Olympics Summer Games are almost here!

If you are interested in participating in the Opening Ceremonies on June 20, please assemble by 5:30 p.m. at the Jesse Owens Memorial Track and Field Complex on The Ohio State University campus in Columbus, the same site as last year.

Attire will be black pants and white shirt, and please bring your apron. The first 500 Masons to register that day will receive a newly-designed

Special Olympics pin and a Special Olympics hat.

Still Time for Last-Minute Donations

The deadline for donations to the 2003 Special Olympics is May 24, 2003. Make checks payable to "Charitable Foundation," and send them to Grand Lodge of Ohio, P.O. Box 629, Worthington, OH 43085. Do not forget to include "Special Olympics" and your Lodge number on the check's memo line.

There are also some copies of the Widow's Son CD available for purchase. This CD was created by three Masons from the Columbus area. All proceeds from the sale of this CD will go to the Grand Lodge Special Olympics Fund. For more information on the CD, please contact Mike Cox at 614/891-8742, or visit www.astring.com/widowsson.

Several entries for the new Special Olympics pin design have been received. The winner will be announced and the new design displayed on the Grand Lodge's Web page, www.freemason.com.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



by **Timothy B. Strawn** CAE, President, *The Ohio Masonic Home Benevolent Endowment Foundation, Inc.*

Finally! Spring has arrived and, after our seemingly endless winter, we are more anxious than usual for the budding

and blossoming which signal that the season of renewal is here. Hope you especially enjoy your time out of doors this year!

This is also the time when many folks begin to contemplate their charitable giving for the year. We want to make sure you know there are several ways in which you can make your gift to The Home. For many years, a number of brethren have simply included an additional amount when they submit their annual dues to their lodge. Their individual gift is then added to

other individual gifts and forwarded to us by the lodge secretary. Others, an increasing number, send their gifts directly to the Foundation at the address found on our coupon in this issue of the BEACON.

There is another, lesser-known way in which some brethren and friends may be able to make gifts to The Home. For those who are participating in a United Way program, you may be able to make your gift through this program. While not all United Way programs permit donor designation of gifts, those that do should be able to facilitate a gift to The Home. Check with your United Way program to see if it offers the donor designation option. If you utilize this option, however, remember that an administrative fee and, in some cases, an additional fee to cover unfulfilled pledges, is deducted from the amount you pledge so the ultimate amount coming to The Home will be

less than that which you pledge. You may consider adjusting your pledge amount to assure that the amount intended for The Home actually gets to us.

And, just a reminder: some of you may be able to double your gift to The Home without taking additional dollars out of your pocket! The Matching Gifts program is made available by a number of companies to match their employees' (sometimes even retirees'!) gifts to charitable organizations. To see if your organization offers matching gifts, simply call Staci in the Foundation office toll free at 888/248-2664.

If you are interested in receiving more information about any of these programs, please use the convenient coupon here in the BEACON to request it or call the Foundation toll-free at 888/248-2664 or write us at Five Masonic Drive, Springfield, OH 45504-3658.

New Director of Nursing joins MESC team

Kevin Shields is the new director of nursing at the Masonic Eastern Star Community (MESC), in Cincinnati. "I am honored to be part of an organization that is truly resident-care focused," said Shields.

A 1993 graduate of The Christ Hospital School of Nursing and Xavier University in Cincinnati, Shields has worked as a nurse aid, charge nurse, facility-nursing supervisor, MDS coordinator, and as an assistant director of nursing. He received Gerontology Certification in 1997 from The American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Prior to becoming a Registered Nurse, Shields graduated from The University of Cincinnati with a major in business management and worked as a controller for a construction company.

His grandmother inspired him to become a nurse. "I wanted to follow in her footsteps and comfort the ill," he said.

"At MESC we are dedicated to providing our residents with the highest standard of excellence in care. We protect and preserve our greatest national treasure – our senior citizens – with dignity," he said.

Rapid Response



John D. Reese, security and transportation supervisor at the Springfield campus, responds to an emergency call with The Home's new security vehicle. The 2002 used Ford Escape mini-SUV is the first mission-specific security vehicle purchased by The Home.



Masonic-family volunteers make great contributions to OhioReads

Do you have at least one hour a week to give to a child who may desperately need your help?

Ohio students are far behind the national averages for reading proficiency, which may negatively affect their future chances for success. For this reason, the Grand Lodge and the Eastern Star Grand Chapter have adopted the OhioReads program as a way for the Masonic family to become involved in their local communities.

OhioReads trains volunteers to help kindergarten through 4th grade students with their reading skills.

Nancy Cooper, OhioReads coordinator for New Vienna Elementary, thanks the Masons of Ohio for actively participating in the academic lives of young children.

"We have two Masons who are volunteers in our school, Eldon Eastridge and Les Bower. Our



Eldon Eastridge works with a young student, as a volunteer for the OhioReads program.

children benefit tremendously by having adults, other than just teachers and staff, to show them that it is important to read," says Cooper.

Brother Eastridge is a member and Brother Bower is the Senior Warden of Highland Lodge #38 in Hillsboro. Both brothers spend two hours a week volunteering at the New Vienna Elementary, where each hour is split

between two 4th grade students. The children work on reading exercises with a computer, and the volunteers help them with vocabulary, sounding out words, and with basic reading skills.

Brother Eastridge mused, "it's really very easy to help the children with reading, and they're always happy to return the favor by answering computer questions."

To volunteer as an OhioReads tutor, call 888/OhioReads. Simply explain that you are a Mason or member of the Eastern Star and identify the school district where you would like to volunteer. They will be able to provide you with the phone number of the OhioReads Coordinator in your district. Please remember to report to your Lodge or OES Chapter Secretary that you are participating in this worthy program.

Russell Oliver named 2002 outstanding secretary

Russell M. Oliver, Secretary of Alpha Lodge #729 in Kettering, was named Outstanding Lodge Secretary for 2002.

A plaque was presented to him by Grand Secretary George O. Braatz, P.G.M., and his name listed on a plaque in the Grand Lodge Offices as the first member of the Lodge Secretary Hall of Fame.

The award, given for timeliness, accuracy, cooperation, and excellence in the performance of Lodge secretarial duties, is decided by the members of the Grand Secretary's staff, excluding the Grand Secretary.



Pictured are, from left, Past Grand Master Neil M. Smalley, a member of Alpha Lodge; and Brothers Oliver and Braatz.

Wheeler receives 75-year award

Earl D. Wheeler was presented his 75-year award in his home by Past Grand Master C. Michael Watson.

Most Worshipful Brother Watson, when he was Grand Master five years ago, had presented Brother Wheeler his 70-year pin. Both promised to be back in five years for this latest presentation.

Brother Wheeler maintains a scrapbook, containing 75 years of dues cards.

Those present for the award ceremony included, Brother Wheeler (seated), and standing, from left, Tenth District Deputy Grand Masters Timothy L. Jolliff and Adrian G.



Werst, Jr.; Terry W. Posey, Junior Grand Deacon; James M. Williamson, Junior Grand Warden; and Past Grand Master Watson.

Fiebiger awarded 75-year pin

Dr. Judson E. Fiebiger, a member of Tuendawie Lodge #195 in Defiance, received his 75-year pin and certificate in his home in Holley Hill, Florida. The award was presented during a visit from William A. Coffman, Past District Deputy Grand Master in the Fifth Masonic District and Secretary of Tuendawie Lodge.

Dr. Fiebiger joined the Lodge while a senior at Defiance College. He subsequently served 66 years in the ministry before retiring in Florida.



More Light About Masonry



Ohio has famous Masonic Bibles, too

Many Masons have heard of the now-famous St. John's Bible, which was used by George Washington for his inauguration as President of the United States, and which came from St. John's Lodge #1 New York, where today it remains a sacred possession. Recently this Bible was the topic of several episodes of the presidential television drama *The West Wing*.

However, how many Masons are familiar with the famous Ohio Masonic Bibles?

There are at least three such Bibles. The first is in the possession of Scioto Lodge #6 and was the Bible used during the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1808 and many of the early Grand Lodge Communications.

The second Bible is that upon which Brother William H. Taft took his obligations when he was made a Master Mason at sight by Grand Master Charles. S. Hoskinson on February 18, 1909. At the time, Brother Taft was President-elect of the United States of America. This Bible was signed by Brother Taft and is on permanent display at the Grand Lodge Museum in Worthington.

The third famous Ohio Masonic Bible is in the possession of Marion Lodge #70. This Bible was used by another U.S. President-elect, Brother Warren G. Harding, when he took the Fellow Craft and Master Mason degrees in 1920.



The Bible used and signed by Brother William H. Taft is on display at the Grand Lodge Museum.

However, the most important and cherished of all the Ohio Masonic Bibles or Holy Books is the one each Candidate receives from his own Lodge upon the occasion of his being raised to the degree of Master Mason.

W. B. John Heart — Ohio's first Worshipful Master to fall on war battlefield

Extracts from the 1958 Grand Lodge Proceedings: American Union Lodge, as a traveling military Lodge attached to the Continental Army of Connecticut, had a distinguished history.

The names of no less than 450 men appear in the records as members, candidates, visitors, or guests. They include our first president, governors, senators, congressmen, cabinet members, diplomats, judges, and generals by the dozen. Forty-six became

Masters of Lodges, 11 became Grand Masters, 12 died in the service of their country on the battlefield.

One of the early members to distinguish himself in Ohio was Major Jonathan Heart, who served as Worshipful Master from 1779 until 1790. It was to Worshipful Brother Heart that Rufus Putnam and others of the new settlement in Marietta appealed to reactivate American Union Lodge under the Lodge's old warrant which was in

Heart's possession.

Worshipful Brother Heart has the distinction of being the first Worshipful Master of a Lodge in Ohio to give his life in battle. He died in a desperate counterattack at St. Clair's defeat on the Wabash, November 4, 1791. The next spring, when the bodies or remnants were found, they were buried in a mass grave at Fort Recovery, the cannon dragged from the river booming out the funeral grand honors in a salvo of 3x3.

Natural gas prices rise while long distance rates remain low

Grand Lodge Utilities Program

MetroMedia Energy has resumed taking applications for the Grand Lodge Utilities Program. Because of the excessively high market prices of natural gas, MetroMedia Energy had temporary stopped taking applications during the months of February and March.

By switching to MetroMedia in May or June, customers may lock in a fixed rate at a time that will be most financially beneficial to them. For more information or to enroll in the Natural Gas Program call Market Solutions at 800/490-4427, ext. 0 or email them at msicolumbus@msiutilities.com. Please let them know you are calling

concerning the Grand Lodge of Ohio Natural Gas Program.

Long distance telephone rates included in program

The long distance telephone rates for the Grand Lodge Utilities Program remains a good economic choice for Ohio Masons and their families and

continued on back cover



What's happening with 2002 One-Day Class Members?

With the second Grand Master's One-Day Class now history, many are asking, "What happened to the members of that first One-Day Class a year ago?"

On April 27, 2002, approximately 7,750 men became Master Masons in Ohio at 10 different locations. Are they active today? Have they become integral parts of their Lodges? Have they fallen away?

Lodge Survey Conducted

A survey of Lodges by Grand Secretary George O. Braatz has found that eight percent of 2002 One-Day Class members are currently serving in officer stations in their Lodges.

About 322, or 58 percent, of the 556 Lodges in the Grand Lodge of Ohio have responded to the survey. In those Lodges responding, a total of 384 new officers have been produced from membership in the One-Day Class.

And these new officers are doing more than just occupying a chair. There have been numerous examples of One-Day Class candidates from last year presenting "outstanding" degree lectures at Lodge inspections this year.

A more impressive statistic from the survey is that 67 percent of Lodges in Ohio today have officers who joined in the One-Day Class in

2002. The effort has obviously been helpful to them.

Good Lodge Attendance

The survey also has shown that 19 percent of the candidates in the One-Day Class are attending Lodge regularly. This means that, because of the One-Day Class alone, attendance has increased by nearly 1,000 brethren across Ohio.

Several veteran Masonic observers commented that these survey statistics are improvements over historic trends, based on traditional initiations. No statistics are available from previous years regarding attendance or moving quickly into officer duties.

Survey Results

A survey was taken last year of the 2002 one-day candidates on the day they experienced the degree work. Here are some of the results:

- 55 percent of the 2002 class were under 45 years of age; 30 percent were under 35, and eight percent were under 25.
- 69 percent had attended college; 36 percent had college degrees; 12 percent had graduate school degrees.
- 33 percent of petitions were signed by relatives; 63 percent by a friend; four percent by both.

- Five percent are senior DeMolays.
- 56 percent of the candidates came from Masonic families.
- 49 percent of the class were joining Freemasonry with a friend; 34 percent were joining with a relative.

Also, the 2002 one-day Master Masons were asked two questions related to their motivation for becoming part of the One-Day Class.

How important is the shortened time (one day) for receiving the degrees?

Ninety-one percent said it was important (59 percent very important; 32 percent somewhat important). Eight percent said it was not important.

How important is the removal of the memory work?

Sixty-nine percent said it was important (29 percent very important; 40 percent somewhat important). Twenty-eight percent said it was not important.

The discouraging statistic is that less than one percent of the members of the class were suspended for nonpayment of dues this year. Some of this may be the result of poor communications or lack of training on the responsibility for paying dues.

One-Day Class update *(continued from page 1)*

The classes continued to draw outstanding individuals. For example, in Chillicothe, Marty V. Donini, Sheriff of Scioto County; Ronald D. Ward, Sheriff of Highland County; and Roger A. Moore, Chillicothe Police Captain, all were members of the class. Harvey S. Minton, the mayor of Worthington, was in the Columbus class.

The event in Chillicothe was held in the Majestic Theatre, the very building where a handful of Lodges met in 1808 to form the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Robert A. Hinshaw, senior Past Grand Master in our Grand Lodge and Grand Secretary Emeritus, returned to

Ohio from his home in North Carolina to be the mentor for his grandson, Christopher Ennis, who was part of the One-Day Class in Zanesville.

Hiram Lodge #18 in Delaware, welcomed a diverse group of new members in the One-Day Class, including brethren born in Lithuania, Greece, Germany, France, and India.

Ohio Valley Lodge #536 with about 95 total members, had 20 new candidates in this year's One-Day Class, which represents a membership increase of more than 20 percent. Then, at the Lodge's next stated meeting, 38 brethren were in attendance.

Additional details on Bob Evans

Brother Bob Evans, namesake of the familiar restaurant chain, was featured in the Winter 2003 issue of the BEACON. In the story, a couple of facts were left out.

In addition to being a 60-year member of Morning Dawn Lodge #7 in Gallipolis, he is a 33rd Degree Mason and member of the Valley of Cincinnati.

Associates help residents adjust to new community

Cleaning, packing, loading a truck, unpacking, making new friends... a move to a retirement community can be both exciting and stressful. Amid the boxes and clutter are precious mementos and memories. Deciding what to move to your new home or apartment, and what to do with everything else isn't always easy. And what about after the move? Often relocation means choosing another physician, another bank, another grocery store and dry cleaner.

The marketing staff at Western Reserve Masonic Community understands these concerns. Our caring staff stand by each new resident from the time they pick out their new home or apartment to well after the move-in day.

Assuring the move-in needs are met is different for each new resident. From locating the nearest golf course to finding a dog walking service, the WRMC

marketing staff has the answers or will find them.

Fulfilling residents' needs and creating a high comfort level with the move is what the marketing staff at WRMC specializes in. Resident Corky Farwell summed it all up when she moved into the community and sent the following note to the marketing staff:

*Dear Beth and Sue,
Thank you for all your help in getting me settled here. I really appreciate all your care and concerns for me. I love it here already and my husband is getting excellent care too. I feel so fortunate to be here in such a nice facility.*

I'm sure Western Reserve Masonic Community will be filling up to capacity very soon and you will be very busy!

*Sincerely
Corky Farwell*

Thank You For Your Generosity

We offer our grateful appreciation to the estates, individuals, groups, or other Masonic bodies who have supported The Ohio Masonic Home with donations given between January 1, 2003 and March 31, 2003.

\$10,000+

Gertrude Bell
C.E. Brister
Walter Frank
George R. Geddes, Jr.
Pauline Hansen
Myron & Dorothy Seifert

\$2,000+

Albert L. Ballinger
Dallas & Helen Bowyer
Thomas R. Brick
Orlando Davis
Meridian Sun Lodge #69
George K. Moss
Betty H. Oberle
Mary Olethia Petersen
Howard M. Sheeler
Kenneth R. Sterrett
Paul M. Williams

\$1,000+

AASR - Valley of Dayton
Alpha Lodge #729
G.D. & B.J. Arters
Grace L. Cone
Ely Lodge #424
Groveport Lodge #240
Bessie V. Hosler
John Jacksy
Medina Lodge #58
Millennium Lodge #779
Neale W. Parker
Ralph R. Rickly Lodge #670
Robinson Locke Lodge #659

WRMC action events calendar

Members of the Medina Corvette Club will zoom on campus Saturday, July 5 for a Corvette Club Car Show from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Other area corvette club members and their vehicles and the public will join them.

Richard Hoover, a patio home resident, will display his 1998 Corvette for campus and guest car enthusiasts to enjoy.



WRMC resident Richard Hoover will display his 1998 Corvette at the Corvette Club Car Show, Saturday, July 5, on the WRMC campus.

WRMC will also host the Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes, Housing and Services for the Aging (AOPHA), regional Art Show and Writing Contest, July 22 through 24. Residents of regional not-for-profit retirement communities, assisted living, and health care centers will participate and attend the event.

Every year WRMC residents have won honors for their entries in various categories. Everyone is invited to attend the event and view the beautiful artwork, handiwork, and writing of the very talented area residents.

Western Reserve Masonic Community is honored to host these regional activities and events, and welcomes you to attend. For more information about current and planned WRMC events, please call Beth Wilkison at 866/433-1514.

Utilities *(continued from page 9)*

friends. Ohio residents continue to enjoy a rate of 5.9 cents per minute in state and 4.9 cents per minute on out-of-state long distance rates.

These rates are good 24 hours a day and seven days a week. There are also low international rates available. There are no monthly fees associated with this program nor are there any fees for switching from your current long distance provider.

If for whatever reason you need to change your local number while you

are enrolled in this program, be sure to inform PowerNet Global of this change. This will ensure that you will continue to receive these great rates. For more information or to enroll in the long distance program please call 866/833-4530 and mention the "Masons of Ohio Program."

The Grand Lodge Utilities Program has been established in an attempt to capture cheaper rates from participating utility or resale companies for natural gas and long

distance telephone to benefit the members and families of Ohio Masons. There is an additional benefit in that the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation receives a percentage of all monies billed for services.

CEO Message *(continued from page 2)*

can know and appreciate every aspect of every issue. Instead, concerned and dedicated legislators look to the people in their communities who have hands-on knowledge and experience to provide critical information and perspectives – people like you. Rather than being an undesirable and negative influence, "special interests" are often a necessary, positive element of representative democracy, the seeds of the grassroots from which healthy public policy grows. "Special interests" are you, your neighbor, the postman, and the businesswoman across town – each of them, and all of us, have a special investment, a "special interest," and a special role to play in the people's government.

(Excerpt from the AOPHA 2003 Public Policy Guide)

Every Ohio Mason has individual interests that stretch well beyond

housing and healthcare issues. But, given our average age statewide of 64, I think those issues would have some interest. The Ohio Masonic Home does not support any single type of care or service. We support efficiency in use of tax dollars and in providing choice to consumers. Please speak to your local and national legislators in our effort to preserve current funding for services while investing in new and better ways to meet the needs of the coming tidal wave of seniors.

Speaker and writer Dan Millman said, "Energy follows thought; we move toward, but not beyond, what we can imagine." Let's work to imagine what can be done for all of us.

Of course, "It's our job to pay!" Let's make sure we design the best vehicle. If we don't, none of us can afford the price.

The Beacon is Published Quarterly

Please report all changes of address to your Lodge Secretary, who, in turn, will notify the Grand Secretary, who maintains the database that produces The BEACON mailing labels.

The Ohio Masonic Home includes Masonic Health Care, Inc.; Masonic Retirement Village, Inc.; and the Benevolent Endowment Foundation, Inc., at the Springfield campus; the Browning Masonic Community, Inc., in Waterville; the Masonic Eastern Star Community, Inc., in Cincinnati; and the Western Reserve Masonic Community, Inc., in Medina.

Jerry Guess, APR
The Ohio Masonic Home,
Director of Public Relations
2655 W. National Road
Springfield, OH 45504-3698
937/525-3074
jguess@ohiomasonichome.org

George Braatz, P.G.M.,
Grand Secretary at
The Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Ohio
P.O. Box 629
Worthington, OH 43085
614/885-5318
gbraatz@freemason.com

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2609
Columbus, OH

The Ohio Masonic Home
2655 W. National Road
Springfield, Ohio 45504-3698
Web site: www.ohiomasonichome.org
Web site: www.freemason.com