

BEACON

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

Western Reserve Masonic Community to host Home Day on June 6

Masonic Home Day will be held Sunday, June 6 at Western Reserve Masonic Community (WRMC), in Medina, Ohio. Home Day festivities will be held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

All Ohio Masons, their families, friends and the public are invited to join the Grand Master of the Grand



CLASSIC LOOKS – Could this 1957 Chevrolet be one of the vintage automobiles on display at Home Day? There's only one-way to find out. See you there.

Lodge of F.&A.M. of Ohio, Most Worshipful Brother Steven J. Krekus, and other Grand Lodge officers to enjoy the day's fellowship and festivities.

Worship services will be conducted by the Grand Chaplain, Right Worshipful Brother Curtis A. Miller, at 10 a.m. in the campus chapel.

Ohio Masons and Masonic affiliated organizations will open their refreshment and craft booths under the tents at 11 a.m. Also, a variety of professional entertainers will start performing in the entertainment tent while others will be strolling or located at key points on campus to entertain Home Day guests and WRMC residents.



AMPLE ACRES – Abundant campus parking at Western Reserve Masonic Community will be available for all visitors with bus transportation provided from the parking areas to the entertainment area.

WRMC tours will be given throughout the day, except during the Shrine Parade from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Guides in the building and on the bus will provide insightful information about the WRMC community and its residents

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Grand Master's One-Day Class planned for April 2005

A Grand Master's One-Day Class will be held on April 9, 2005 at 11 locations in Ohio, according to Jim S. Deyo, Deputy Grand Master.

If elected Grand Master in October, Right Worshipful Brother Deyo said the one-day class will be held in the cities of the 10 Scottish Rite Valleys in Ohio – Akron, Cambridge, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Steubenville, Toledo, and Youngstown – as well as in Rio Grande in southeastern Ohio.

Planning is getting underway to make the event successful, utilizing the cooperation of the

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER



by *Steven J. Krekus, Grand Master*

The contributions to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation since my letter to each Master Mason in Ohio have been great.

You have responded generously, just as I knew you would. This fine program helps many in need and your donations will allow us to help others. Please continue to send your checks to the Grand Lodge Headquarters.

"Freemasons Care"

The Bear program is a success. Thousands of teddy bears have been purchased by lodges around the state to donate to safety forces in their areas. These bears are given by the safety forces to young children that are involved in a fire at their home or an auto accident.

Each bear has a yellow tee shirt that proclaims, "Freemasons Care" and includes the outline of the state of Ohio and the Square and Compasses.

Historic Event

Saturday afternoon, June 5th, is the date of a historic event in Ohio. The Officers of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio will jointly open a meeting at which the Master Mason Degree will be exemplified with brothers from both Grand Lodges taking part. The opening will be at 2 p.m. in the Cleveland Masonic and Performance Center. This marks the first time such a meeting has occurred in Ohio. All Master Masons are encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, June 6th, Ohio Masonic Home Day will be held in Medina at the Western Reserve Community, the newest campus of The Home. I felt that more brethren from northern Ohio should get to enjoy the activities, fun, food and

fellowship that are a part of this annual event. I hope those of you who would not have traveled to Springfield for this celebration, would take the short drive to I-71 and State Route 18 and join us.

Special Olympics

The Special Olympics opening is scheduled for Friday evening, June 25th, in Columbus. For over 30 years, the Grand Lodge has presented a check at the opening and I hope this year's amount is near the \$150,000 needed to pay the registration fee of the participants in the games. Come and join in the parade.

As Carol and I travel to other Grand Lodge sessions around the country, the brethren there are always anxious to hear what good things are happening in Ohio. We proudly share with them the accomplishments of our brethren and how proud and honored I am to be your Grand Master.

CEO'S CORNER



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

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of The Ohio Masonic Home's Board of Trustees rededication to its future. Elimination

of the asset surrender program, the acceptance of Medicare and Medicaid funding, and opening our doors to Masonic families and others in need were bold steps that have led to tremendous growth in the quantity and quality of services here in Springfield and statewide.

Endowment Foundation

Today, we provide housing and services to nearly 1,000 residents and through the prudent investment and fundraising of The Home's Benevolent Endowment Foundation have more than doubled our restricted and unrestricted assets. During

this period the Springfield campus infrastructure has been rebuilt along with the addition of 64 patio homes, 101 apartments, and a state of the art healthcare facility, The Pathways Center for Alzheimer's Care. The residents, present and future, are our purpose for being, and we have greatly expanded the scope of their service package.

Facilities and services expanded

During the last five-years, growth has occurred to provide Masons improved statewide access by adding facilities in southwest, northwest, and northeast Ohio. We now have plans to extend services through the Masonic Senior Services Program. It will provide our fraternity access to consultation and, in years to come, services in their own communities, often in their own homes.

As Masons, we owe a great debt to the Trustees that serve us through The Home and its six subsidiary Boards. Illustrious Companions Dick Maier,

Earl Gifford, and Bill Berry have provided inspiring leadership and support to these efforts as Board Chairman during these exciting times.

Wishing all of you the best

I have been privileged to be your Chief Executive Officer for the last decade. The good friends I have met along the way will be forever treasured. As I begin a new journey in Columbus, Ohio, I would close with my favorite quote from a truly remarkable man.

Jackie Robinson said at his Baseball Hall of Fame Induction ceremony, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on the lives of others." My hope is that my tenure in this wonderful organization has had positive impact on the residents and the associates I have had the pleasure of serving with. I wish all of you the best in what I know will be a very bright future for us all as Ohio Freemasons.

Community service recognized by Grand Master

During 25 receptions for Grand Master Steven J. Krekus this year – one in each Masonic District in Ohio – he recognizes an individual for his or her community service.

This is to emphasize the value that Ohio Freemasonry places on individuals who give something extra in service to their communities. The individual does not have to be a Mason.

Pictured here is the presentation in the Twelfth Masonic District in Rio

Grande to Don Mootz, director of the Lawrence County 9-1-1 and the Emergency Services Agency.

Mr. Mootz has also served as clerk for Lawrence Township since 1972, president of the Lawrence County Trustees and Clerks Association for six years, 4-H advisor for 28 years, and township fire chief for 24 years, in addition to teaching firefighters for 18 years.

Grand Master Steven Krekus, right, presents recognition to Don Mootz.



Krekus attends National Meeting with Grand Masters in Washington, D.C.

Grand Master Steven J. Krekus, together with a delegation of Ohio Grand Lodge officers, attended the annual Conference of Grand Masters of North America in Washington, D.C. in February.

The Grand Master and his wife, Carol, right, are pictured with the Grand Master of Wisconsin, Michael A. DeWolf, and his wife.

Also, at the conference, all Grand Masters were photographed in a setting on the steps of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. The picture below was intended to be a replica

of a famous picture taken many years ago of all Grand Masters and subsequently published on the cover of Life Magazine.



Property tax relief sought for Masonic buildings

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has renewed its effort to achieve an exemption from property taxes for Ohio Masonic buildings. The state legislature will consider a bill soon on this issue.

Larry Householder, speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, and Jim Hughes, of Columbus, a member of the Ohio House, both Masons, have met with Grand Secretary George O. Braatz in an effort to achieve some financial relief for Ohio lodges and the legislators assured the Grand Lodge that legislation would be introduced soon.

The rationale for the legislation is that ongoing commitments by Ohio Freemasonry to support worthy community programs and donate to philanthropic causes is being hampered by increased costs of operating Masonic buildings. The tax exemption should assure continued and perhaps increased community support by lodges.



FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



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

By the time you read this, April 15th will have come and gone. That, of course, has become a benchmark date for us, as it's the deadline for

filing our personal tax returns. This time of year, particularly in the last several weeks prior to that date, the term "IRS" doesn't usually evoke favorable comments or smiles. However, we need to keep in mind (with a smile!) that the IRS has done something good for all of us by facilitating and actually encouraging charitable giving via a number of tax-favored gift plans. These plans, which require an IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) organization (which both the Home and Foundation are) to be included as the ultimate beneficiary, provide attractive tax benefits and also provide an income stream to the donor

and another he/she may designate.

In previous *Foundations for the Future* articles, we've discussed several of these planned giving vehicles.

The most common and simplest way to make such a gift is, of course, via a bequest or provision in a will. This gift vehicle pre-dates the IRS but is always included in a list of the plans of giving.

Another popular vehicle is the Charitable Gift Annuity, a simple, irrevocable gift which provides an income tax deduction in the year of the gift – which can be carried over for up to five additional years – and a fixed, predictable lifetime stream of income to the donor and another person he/she may designate which is, for a number of years, partially tax-free.

If the gift is made with appreciated securities, it also provides a partial bypass of the capital gains tax, which would otherwise be due at sale of the securities. And, what some might say is the best aspect of this vehicle, the payment rate to

the donor increases with the donor's age, with those in their 70's and beyond seeing rates of seven to eight percent and greater for these gifts. Because of their regularity and fixed amounts, these payments can be very attractive to donors even with modest gift amounts.

Other such vehicles are the Charitable Remainder Trusts, which facilitate more extensive estate planning and asset/gift distribution. One type, the Annuity Trust, provides a fixed payout; another, the Unitrust, provides a variable payout, based on the growth/performance of the assets in the trust.

Another vehicle, not often discussed, has a more limited appeal but can be very attractive. That is the Charitable Lead Trust, in which the gift to the IRS-qualified charity comes at the beginning of the trust period and benefits the charity for a stated number of years before being "returned" to the donor or others he/she may designate. This vehicle is frequently used for the ultimate benefit of children or grandchildren who are young at the time the gift is established.

It is also possible to make tax-advantaged gifts of real estate, life insurance and even retirement plans. Properly structured and charity-approved real estate gifts can even allow for the donor to retain the right of lifetime occupancy of the property. Many folks have life insurance policies they may no longer need and can obtain charitable gift benefits by gifting them to an IRS-qualified charity. Retirement plans are among the best potential gifts to such a charity as they can be given tax-free whereas if left to heirs they can be heavily taxed.

It is also possible to incorporate provisions in many of these vehicles to assure that loved ones receive substantially the same gifts as they otherwise would if the charitable gift involved was not being made.

While April 15, 2004, is past, there's still plenty of time left in this year to take advantage of one of these charitable gift plans so that you might be able to approach April 15, 2005, with a smile! For more information on the charitable plans of giving, simply complete the coupon adjacent to this article and return it to us or call the Foundation office toll-free at 888/248-2664.

Learn More About Charitable Giving Plans

To receive information about the Charitable Giving Plans, please complete this form and return to:

Benevolent Endowment Foundation
Five Masonic Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45504-3658

- Please send me information about the Charitable Giving Plans.
- Please call me about a personal visit.
- Please call me about naming and recognition opportunities.
- I've named The Ohio Masonic Home in my will, trust or other planned gift. Please send me information about the Rickly Society.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Lodge _____

You may also call the Endowment Foundation toll-free at 888/248-2664

OMH Chairman announces CEO stepping down

The Ohio Masonic Home's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, William M. Berry, recently announced the Board has accepted the resignation of The Home's Chief Executive Officer, Jerry Kuyoth, effective July 1, 2004.

"We reluctantly accepted Jerry's decision to pursue other employment when his current term as CEO expires in July," said Berry. "Jerry has provided substantial leadership to The Home as it expanded its reach throughout Ohio. His efforts resulted in the acquisition of campuses in Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toledo. The Board is thankful for his leadership and confident he will continue to provide significant leadership to his new employer and the long-term care community," added Berry.

"An OMH search committee was formed to conduct a national search for a new CEO," added Berry.

Kuyoth will remain The Home's CEO until July 1 when he assumes his new position at National Church Residences as the Chief Operations Officer of the Continuing Care Division. NCR operates 220 properties in 28 states and is based in Columbus, Ohio.

Kuyoth served as The Home's assistant administrator in 1994 and became the CEO in 1995. A 1980 graduate of Miami University, Ohio, he is a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, and is certified as a Nursing Home Administrator, Assisted Living Administrator, and a Sub Acute Administrator. He is also a Fellow

of the American College of Health Care Administrators.

During his 10 years with The Home, Kuyoth has served as a board member for The Association of Ohio Philanthropic Homes, Housing and Services for the Aging (AOPHA), The Nehemiah Foundation, and Clark State Community College. He is also an active member of the Springfield Kiwanis Club, the Worshipful Master of Anthony Lodge #455 in Springfield, the former President of the Masonic Homes Executives' Association of North America, and is active in numerous other Miami Valley Masonic organizations.

He and his wife, the former Lorie Hinton, have two sons, Joe and Andy.

OMH Alumni slated to journey home

The Ohio Masonic Home Alumni will return to the Springfield campus July 2 and 3 to attend their 26th Triennial Homecoming.

An alumni dinner will be held in the Community Center on July 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Official registration will begin July 3 at 9 a.m. in the Community Center. Campus tours will be given from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. while the alumni reminisce.

The group will also enjoy a picnic lunch in the campus Shelter House followed by a 3 p.m. business meeting in Rickly Auditorium.

In 2001, 52 alumni from 11 states attended the 25th Triennial Homecoming accompanied by more than 100 family members. A total of 740 children, 437 boys and 303 girls, lived on the Springfield campus during a 59-year period (1897-1956).

Anyone interested in more information about the OMH Alumni Homecoming should contact Jack Lindsay at 937/322-2953 or check The Home's web site www.ohiomasonichome.org for more information.

CALLING ALL DUFFERS!!

It's not too late to make a reservation for yourself – or a threesome* – for the Endowment Foundation's 2nd Jim Perry Legends Golf Classic, September 17-18 in Springfield!

Golf on one or both days of the weekend with one of thirty professional sports legends of yesteryear such as Jim Perry, Jim "Mudcat" Grant, Jim O'Toole, Vern Law, Rich Rollins, Hal Naragon, Fred Patek, Darrall Imhoff, Ryne Duren, Vern Fuller, Tom Sneva, Alan Van Campen, Carl Warwick and Jon Warden (now a regular reporter on ESPN2's "Cold Pizza" sports program).

A round of golf, putting and long drive contests, good food, great stories, and many laughs – all while supporting The Home's Endowment Foundation and the great work done at all four campuses of The Home. That's an unbeatable combination and a great way to spend a September day or weekend for a very worthwhile cause!

For more information and to make your reservation, call Brother Ken Hershberger, the Foundation's Director of Planned Giving and Golf Classic Coordinator, toll free at 888/248-2664, extension 5. You won't be disappointed ...unless you wait too long to call!

** Bring a threesome...and we'll add one of the Legends as your fourth player. Or come alone and we'll add you to another group that includes a Legend.*



BACK TO THE FUTURE – Some of these young children, reared at The Home, will return to the Springfield campus in early July to attend the 26th Triennial Homecoming event. Do you recognize them?

Ohio Mason's 'Care Bears' comfort children

The Grand Master's "Care Bear" project is rapidly growing in popularity as lodges purchase the bears, donate them to local police and emergency units, and even generate some favorable local publicity.

More than 2,500 of the bears already have been distributed.

The bears, which wear a yellow shirt saying, "Freemasons Care," are placed in police and emergency vehicles, and when any situation involves a child, the authorities simply give the bear to the

youth, to help calm the youngster and turn attention away from the emergency.

To order a quantity of "Care Bears" for local distribution, a check for \$6 per bear should be made out to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and mailed to James A. Langmead, Cleveland Masonic Center, 3615 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-2570.

More information and forms to assist in ordering are available under "Programs" on the Grand Lodge web site: www.freemason.com.



William Metz, left, Secretary of Hicksville Lodge #478 in northwest Ohio, hands a "Care Bear" to Captain Doug Willis, of the Hicksville Police Department. Brother and Mayor Larry Haver and Mike Harris, Hicksville EMS coordinator, also take part in the presentation ceremony, which occurred at the Hicksville Village Council meeting.

'Operation Phone Home' program supports U.S. troops abroad

Acting on behalf of the Masonic fraternity, the Masonic Service Association of North America has entered into an agreement with the USO to become part of the USO "Operation Phone Home" Program.

This program will provide 100-minute phone calling cards to troops stationed overseas in areas

like the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Using the Square and Compasses logo, the card will say, "Compliments of America's Freemasons."

Anyone wishing to participate in this program may send a donation marked

"Operation Phone Home" to the Masonic Service Association, 8210 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Richard E. Fletcher, executive director of MSA, said the organization has made the initial investment in the program and plans to make it an ongoing effort, if continued funding is available.

Thomas H. Galyen, Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and member of the MSA Board of Directors, said, "I encourage Ohio Masons to demonstrate their patriotism and support for U.S. troops abroad by contributing to this program."



Lodges celebrate members' 100th birthdays

Adoniram Joppa Lodge #517 in Akron and John W. Barkley Lodge #621 in North Olmsted, were able to celebrate 100th birthdays with members.

John Frasche, a 73-year member of Adoniram Joppa, is pictured with several Past Masters, from left, A. R. Sams, Denver Walker, Jim Bartoo, Jr., and Jim Bartoo, Sr.



also pass the half-century mark of his Masonic membership.

A group of members from John W. Barkley Lodge attended the birthday party in Columbus for Brother John Placko on reaching the century mark. In July, he will

Center Star Lodge hosts "Washington Day Repast"

Center Star Lodge #11 in Granville, hosted the annual "Washington Day Repast" to honor President and Brother George Washington and raise funds to support Ohio Special Olympics. The Licking Eastern Star Chapter also participated in the dinner program.

Michael Caravana, lacrosse coach at Denison University, was the featured speaker and described Denison's approach to student athletes.

In the picture, Coach Caravan, left, and Center Star's Master, James Light, examine a picture of the first President of the United States.



Schoedinger honored by Scottish Rite as Most Senior 33rd Mason in Nation

Robert S. Schoedinger, of Columbus, was recognized in January at a dinner in his honor for being a 33rd Degree Member of the Scottish Rite for 50 years – the senior 33rd Degree member in the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction (NMJ) of the Scottish Rite.

Walter Webber, of Maine, Sovereign Grand Commander of the NMJ, and Jim S. Deyo, an active member of the Supreme Council in Ohio and Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, participated in the celebration, which was hosted by the Valley of Columbus, Scottish Rite.

Brother Schoedinger has been in the funeral home business in central Ohio for 70 years. He is Past Master of Goodale Lodge #372, Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, of Ohio, and was a Trustee of the Ohio Masonic Home for 26 years. Also very active in community activities, Brother Schoedinger received the 33rd Degree on Sept. 23, 1953.

He has been an Ohio Mason for more than 68 years.



Sovereign Grand Commander Walter W. Webber, left, visited Ohio to assist Jim S. Deyo, Deputy Grand Master, in recognizing the longevity of service of Robert S. Schoedinger, seated.

Lodges in the news...

Napoleon Lodge helps erect logo display

Napoleon Lodge #256 and the Napoleon Lions Club cooperated to place eight logos of community groups on a sign at the entrance to the city of Napoleon, including the familiar Square and Compasses. Pictured are Brothers John Myers and David Gunn in front of the new sign. Brothers Brent Fruth and Doug Eis were also vitally involved in the project.



Spaghetti dinner raises \$10,000+ to help brother Mason in need

Members of Carroll Masonic Lodge #124 and Minerva Royal Arch Chapter #123, both of Carrollton, Ohio, hosted a spaghetti dinner that raised \$10,100 in about five hours. The money was raised to help pay a portion of the medical expenses of Brother Leonard Ketchum, who is suffering from cancer.

Brother Ketchum is a long-time barber in Carrollton and has been a Mason for almost 40 years.

“He never went through the line, but he’s always involved somehow in the lodge,” said Right Worshipful Brother Joe Phillis, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 24th Masonic District.

The lodge was prepared to serve 500 meals but actually served 750.

“Luckily the local grocery store is located close by,” said Phillis. “We used something like 175 pounds of spaghetti.”

The wives of the Brothers and Companions contributed more than 60 different desserts. The local Lutheran Church also donated \$1,500 to the effort.

Charity first, seeking a petition comes second

From across Ohio come stories of men who were first made Masons “in their heart.” James Davies of Shiloh Lodge #544 in Shiloh is a great example.

As a son of a Mason, he was already familiar with the tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. Brother Davies is the owner of the Outback Steakhouse in Mansfield. When the lodge approached him for donations for a golf tournament, he was happy to respond with gift certificates – then, a petition for membership.

“My father was the real reason I wanted to get involved with the Masons,” 31-year old Davies said. “I remember when I was growing up, my dad was always trying to be the best person he could. I know now that that is what Masonry is all about. That really



James Davies responded to Lodge request for donation, then sought a petition.

made an impression on me.”

Due to time constraints, James recently returned his Entered Apprentice exam with minimal requirements. The lessons of the Fellowcraft Degree impressed him so greatly, however, that he insisted on learning the full examination.

“The members of Shiloh Lodge have really embraced me and made me feel welcome. Masonry is one of the best things I’ve learned.”

His father, who resides in Pennsylvania, was present when James received his Fellowcraft Degree. During the lecture, James saw his father on the sidelines. Tears of joy were welling in his father’s eyes. His father will be able to experience this again – a second son just petitioned a lodge in Pennsylvania.

John W. Barkley Lodge contributes to North Olmsted police program

John J. Barkley Lodge #621 has donated \$500 to the North Olmstead Police Department’s “R U OK?” program.

Residents sign up and the police will provide a lock box that will go on a home’s door. If there is a question or problem, the police will be able to enter the home safely, using the key in the lock box. The program has already saved three lives.



Widow’s Son Lodge helps community before completing merger

Widow’s Son Lodge #571 in Paulding, has donated \$22,000 to help five organizations, the Paulding County Senior Center, the John Paulding Historical Society, the Paulding Kiwanis Club, the PC Workshop Activity Fund, and the Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children.

The Lodge has consolidated with Flat Rock Lodge #580 in Payne and agreed to use a portion of its assets locally before the merger.

Founder’s Day dinners planned for Bicentennial celebrations in 2008

The planning process is continuing for the 200th Anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 2008.

The Bicentennial Planning Committee has agreed to have Founder’s Day dinners in each Masonic District in January 2008, to help observe the actual month of the founding of the Grand Lodge.

The committee is encouraging local lodges and Masonic districts to begin making their own plans for this significant milestone in Ohio Freemasonry.

Also, lodges are being urged to begin updating their own lodge histories. Most lodges have produced histories, but many have not been updated in recent years. A guide to help in preparing these historical documents is being planned.

Myers named top optometrist for 2003 by state association

Dr. Jeffrey A. Myers, a member of Groveport Lodge #240, was honored with the Warren G. and Ruth P. Morris Optometrist of the Year Award for 2003 by the Ohio Optometric Association.

The award is presented for outstanding service to the profession and the community at the local, state, and national level.

He serves on the Grand Lodge Daniel F. Beard Scouter Committee.

Gift recognized by Waynesville school

Waynesville Elementary School recently presented a plaque to Waynesville Lodge #163 for its donation of microscopes to the newly established elementary science laboratory. The donation was made in honor of Brother Owen and Mary Hartsock.

Grand Lodge credit card brings extra benefits to Ohio lodges

Do you use a credit card to purchase gasoline? Household appliances? Clothing?

If those purchases were made with the Grand Lodge of Ohio's Master Card, a percentage of your purchase price would go to your Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge credit card is nearing its 10th year, and since this program began, the Grand Lodge has received nearly \$250,000.

This money helps develop programs, such as the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program

and Capstone Lifeskills Camp.

Not a cardholder? Want more information on how you can help this number grow? Visit www.freemason.com and go to the "Programs" page or call toll-free 1-866/GET-MBNA. Please mention priority code "RDRA" when you apply.

Using the Grand Lodge Master Card will allow Ohio Masonry to continue to reach out into the community to find other ways to give back. Why not use the card that helps to do that?

Plumb Line offers free shipping

For a limited time, the Plumb Line, the line of merchandise supplied by the Grand Lodge, is offering free shipping on all orders over \$25!

The Plumb Line has several great items for the summer months. Choose from polo shirts, tee shirts, shorts, and other items, all embroidered with the "Ohio Freemasonry – Est. 1808" logo.

Order them now to enjoy them this summer. There is no minimum number of items to order to take advantage of free shipping. Allow four to six weeks for delivery of your order. 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 "Marketplace."

Salineville Masons provide toys for kids

Members of Salineville Lodge #348 helped provide holiday cheer in the pediatric unit of Salem Community Hospital through a generous donation of toys, books, and games. The lodge's efforts were recognized by a picture in the local newspaper.

Garfield Lodge welcomes vets with large American flag

Masons attending Veteran's Night at Garfield Lodge #528 in Shreve were welcomed by a huge American flag on the wall of the lodge room.

The flag, borrowed from the Grand Lodge, made a strong patriotic tribute to the veterans honored that night.

Lodge flag visits South Pole

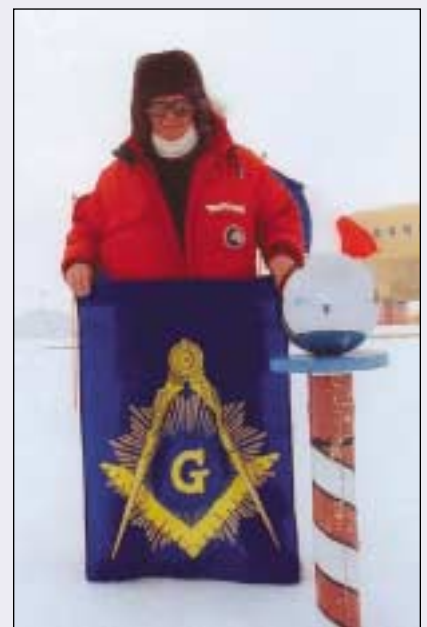
A Masonic flag – originally a gift from the Grand Master in 1999, Ronald R. Rogers, now deceased – took a brief vacation from its position in Harrison Lodge #219 in Cadiz to visit the South Pole.

Randy McEndree, son of Lodge Secretary Riley Cassell, took the flag to his workplace in Antarctica.

McEndree works for Raytheon Polar Services as a manager of facilities, engineering, maintenance and construction. The company contracts with the National Science Foundation to support scientific projects in Antarctica. He has worked there for three years.

Harrison Lodge made history when McEndree placed the Masonic flag on the South Pole on New Year's Day.

The flag again is displayed in the Lodge, with membership certificates for the South Pole Society of Old Antarctic Explorers and the McMurdo Society of Old Antarctic Explorers.



Randy McEndree displays the Harrison Lodge Flag at the South Pole.

More Light About Masonry

Lodge of Amity's Jewels are 198 years old



These beautifully wrought Officers Jewels can be traced back to Lodge of Amity's beginning as No. 105 on the Rolls of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

On June 24th, 1805, the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania granted a warrant to the Lodge of Amity #105 (now #5 on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Ohio) to be held at Zanesville, Ohio.

On December 26th, 1806, the lodge received a set of officers' jewels, which were purchased and presented by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

The Jewels, though no longer used, are still in possession of the lodge. The Past Master's Jewel consists of the compasses extended seventy degrees on an arc, and within the space thus formed is a brazen sun. The jewel is similar in design to the one now worn by brethren of this rank and is a handsome piece of workmanship.

The Square, Level and Plumb are cut

from a thin sheet of silver and have no ornamentation except a very simple line traced around the edges. The Deacons' Jewels are similar in character, being simply equilateral triangles.

The Treasurer and Secretary's badges are handsomely designed and engraved, resembling that of the Past Master's. The Treasurer's badge consists of two very nicely executed keys, crossed. The Secretary's badge includes two well-cut pens, crossed, and fastened on an open book.

Each jewel is solid silver, engraved "No. 105," and bears the manufacturer's stamp, W.Gethen.

This information is taken from, *History of the Lodge of Amity, #5, F.&A.M., 1879*. Has your lodge's history been written or updated?

Ohio is 23rd in seniority globally among Grand Lodges

As the Grand Lodge of Ohio looks forward to its Bicentennial in 2008, it is interesting to take stock of its relative position in the Masonic world.

According to a list created by the Grand Secretary's office of the United Grand Lodge of England, Ohio was the 23rd Grand Lodge to be recognized by England, the Mother Grand Lodge of the World.

Sixteen U.S. Grand Lodges precede the Grand Lodge of Ohio. This group includes the Grand Lodges of the original 13 colonies, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (1791), the Grand Lodge of Vermont (1894), and the Grand Lodge of Kentucky (1800).

The six oldest Grand Lodges are: The United Grand Lodge of England (1717), the Grand Lodge of Ireland (1725), the Grand Lodge of Scotland (1736), the Grand Orient of the Netherlands (1756), and the Grand Lodge of Sweden (1760).

Book honors 224 Freemasons, who are U.S. war heroes

A Masonic classic, *The Medal of Honor—The Letter G in Valor*, is now available from Macoy Publishing. First published in 1994, this book was researched and compiled by Worshipful Brother S. Kenneth Baril. It details the 224 Freemasons who received the U.S. military's highest award for bravery, the Medal of Honor.

"Inherent in this honored medal are the wonder of America, the assurance of her proper destiny and the promise of her magnanimity to the weak or the conquered. In it is cast the loyalty which impels her Military Masons of all ranks and occupations, like our Symbolic Lodges, to scale the heights of courage and strength for ship, shipmate or country, '...at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.'"

Worshipful Brother Baril is a Past Master of Temple Lodge #16, Cheshire, CT. He has been a resident of Cincinnati since 1999 and is a plural member of Gerard Lodge #428 and Oakley Lodge #668.

He has lectured on this topic many times for the fraternity and the public, including a keynote address at a luncheon hosted by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for Medal of Honor recipients who were in Philadelphia in 1994 for their semi-annual reunion.

OMH race car zips in Mini-Grand Prix

The Home will zip into history May 22 when it sponsors a mini-Indy style race car in the first Annual Springfield Rotary Club Mini-Grand Prix. Race day is Saturday, May 22, in downtown Springfield. Races will be held from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the downtown core block, bounded by Fountain, High, Limestone, and Main streets.

Funds raised from this charitable event will benefit the Rotary Club's disabled children programs and scholarship funds.

Fifty area companies have each purchased a racecar. They will each select ten employees and/or employee relatives to either race their car or be pit crewmembers.

OMH volunteer drivers will be Crew Chief Greg Bobo, Chris Black, Belinda Elkins, Dr. William Garringer, Ted Southard, William Standard, Rachael Hickman, and Brian Wilson. Pit crewmembers will be Rick

Hawbecker, Chris Ziegler, and Andy Kuyoth.

All event drivers will attend a two-hour training course given by the Western Ohio Region Sports Car Club of America (SCCA), the event's sanctioning body.

"Although the maximum speed of these cars is 20-25 miles per hour, we feel each driver will be thrilled to race in that they will be seated just inches off the pavement," said The Home Team's project coordinator and the director of planned giving for The Home's Benevolent Endowment Foundation, Ken Hershberger. Hershberger is a Springfield Rotarian and also the event treasurer.

"For this to be a first-time event in Springfield, and to have more than 80 area businesses and organizations offer their financial support, the Rotary Club Race Committee is truly overwhelmed," said Hershberger.



AH...THE CHECKERED FLAG – Practicing how to give a "winner's pose" while driving with his knees is Ken Hershberger. The Home's racecar was recently unpacked so the pit crew and drivers could start creating their race day checklists and begin practice driving sessions.

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 and March 31, 2004.

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PRINCE HALL MASONS VISIT MESC – Prince Hall Masonic Brothers led by Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Honorable Sidney D. Broadnax, Jr. (fourth from the left) recently visited the Masonic Eastern Star Community in Cincinnati for a tour and luncheon. Senior leaders from District #1 included (left to right) LaDonald Prophett, Willie Brown, Lonnie Jones II, Sidney D. Broadnax, PGM, Kenneth McCullars, Edward Rawls, John Copeland, and Isaac Robinson. The President of MESC, Bonnie Hazelwood, presented each brother with a MESC Bear. Masonic Senior Services Director, Rodney Skinner, is also coordinating similar area Prince Hall visits to The Home's other three Ohio campuses.

Communications survey launched

The Ohio Masonic Home will soon launch the final phase of its corporate communications survey. Randomly selected fraternity members may receive a written survey about The Home's communications program or a readership survey about the Beacon, the quarterly joint publication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and The Ohio Masonic Home.

Each survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete. Respondents should then return the survey in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

"We ask each survey recipient



to share their opinions and suggestions about The Home's communications program and the Beacon," said The Home's Director of Public Relations, Jerry Guess.

This is an official survey being conducted for The Ohio Masonic Home by Hollister Trubow & Associates, a public relations and marketing services firm. For more information about the survey, call The Home's Public Relations Department at 937/525-3074.

One-Day Class

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all the lodges in Ohio, as well as the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Shrine, Eastern Star, and other Masonic organizations.

Ohio had two successful one-day class events in 2002 and 2003, and received much attention nationally for the quality of its organization and communication. Many other states have been using Ohio's pattern as an example for similar events in their jurisdictions.

A committee is being organized and more information will be provided as the planning proceeds.



WRMC Home Day *continued from page 1*

during the apartment, patio home and campus tours.

A major event will be the Shrine Parade. Led by the Grand Master, the Shrine Parade will start traveling down the 1-mile route at 1 p.m. and end by the entertainment tent at 2 p.m. Units from Al Koran Shrine, Cleveland and other Ohio Shrine parade units will combine to give every guest a smile and a lifetime memory. This is also one of the few events where visitors will be able to enjoy an all Shrine parade up close and personal, so bring your camera and lots of film.

At 2 p.m. The Home's official welcome to all residents and guests will be made in the entertainment tent. The Grand Lodge officers will be introduced and the Grand Master will provide remarks.

Then at 3 p.m. in the entertainment tent the Al Koran Concert Band will perform for the enjoyment of everyone.

Children will enjoy the "Kids Corner" games and prizes, clowns, face

painting, crafts, free popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones. Or their parents may want a free family or individual caricature cartoon done by an area artist.

A vintage car show will be located near the front of the main building for the automobile buffs to enjoy along with Jeff Cavello performing on the Steel Drums.

Other entertainers scheduled to perform throughout the day include The Harmonica Hotshots; The Bell-Airs Quartet, who will play 40's and 50's music, including Latin songs, Polkas, Line Dances, Blues and Dixie; Michael the Magician; Al Zimmerman on the Accordion; the Strolling Tunes Trio; vocalist Sherrill Rundle; and the WRMC Chime Choir.

In addition, H. Jenrette will display model ships; and WRMC residents will give craftsmen demonstrations.

For more information about The Ohio Masonic Home Day, please call the Public Relations Department at 937/525-3074 or visit The Home's Web site at www.ohiomasonichome.org.

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.

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