

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

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Insurance! Insurance! Insurance!

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has only one concern in mind when it comes to Lodge insurance. Grand Lodge cares that each Ohio Lodge is adequately covered. This is why your DDGM during the inspection process will want to know to what extent the building is insured, coverage on Lodge furniture and fixtures, and personal liability.

Grand Lodge does not care which company provides the coverage or from whom the Lodge purchased the insurance. These are Lodge business decisions that are left up to the Lodge to determine.

More About Insurance

The Grand Lodge Advisory Committee performed an assessment of its insurance coverage and decided upon a cost-saving change.

For the past many years, Grand Lodge has provided a limited coverage to each Symbolic Lodge. This coverage included liability for litigation purposes only and a \$50k maximum claim for essential Masonic paraphernalia only. I stress the word "only" because there has been great misunderstanding about Grand Lodge coverage.

Effective immediately, each Lodge is to provide its own coverage for everything. The Grand Lodge of Ohio is now the secondary, self-insurer on just essential Masonic paraphernalia. (See attached sample list of items.) In short, this means that in the event of a loss, if Grand Lodge, as the secondary insurer, needed to replace essential Masonic

paraphernalia, the Lodge would receive items from available inventory such as from a defunct or merged Lodge. Robes, pillars, Wardens pedestals, altar, officers jewels, aprons, etc. would be furnished to get the Lodge up and running.

To many of us, insurance is often a second thought until we have a loss or the premium comes due. A periodical review can sometimes point our gaps that need to be filled or coverage that you are paying for which you may not need.

Does your Lodge have a commercial policy which covers your building (if your Lodge owns the building) along with contents and liability coverage?

Listed are preferred and optional coverages for your Lodge. Contact your insurance professional for review.

Preferred:

1. Special Form Policy (covers direct physical loss except what is limited or excluded)
2. Business Interruption (extra expense coverage)
3. Loss of Rent (if you should rent a portion of your building)
4. Inland marine (to cover fine arts and Lodge paraphernalia and signs)
5. Commercial Auto Liability (if your Lodge owns a vehicle or trailer)
6. Umbrella Liability
7. Bonding (for those who are responsible for funds of the Lodge)

Optional:

1. Glass Coverage
2. Earthquake Coverage
3. Crime Coverage
4. Data and Processing Equipment
5. Forgery and Alterations
6. Money and Securities
7. Non-owned Auto (operating a vehicle in Lodge's interest)

These are many of the coverages that may affect your Lodge. Contact your insurance professional and review your Lodge's insurance program.

(Note: Our thanks to RWB Nathan Pelfrey, Associate Grand Chaplain, for providing this information on Lodge insurance.)

Essential Lodge Items

The following list is comprised of what are considered to be essential Lodge items.

Item			
Bible			
Aprons Officers			
Aprons White			
Officer's Jewels			
Gavels			
Altar Jewels			
Altar Cover			
Stewards & Deacons Staffs			
Candidate's Equipment			
Working Tools			
Ballot Box Balls and Cubes			
Setting Maul			
Projector and Slides			
F.C. suits and Aprons			
White Gloves			
Letter "G"			
Acacia			
Flag (Stand)			
Master's Hat			
Three Lesser Lights			
Secretary's Minute Book			
Treasurer's Ledger Book			
Pillars			
Tyler's Sword			
Candidate's Apron			
Candidate's Bible			
Altar			
Station Pedestals			

Enclosed Documents

Also included in this mailing are:

1. Memo 2010 of Code Changes—3 copies
2. Order form for obtaining items from the Grand Lodge

Memo Describes Code Changes

Legislation approved by delegates at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in October has resulted in several changes in the Code.

So Codes can be updated, three copies of the "Memo 2010" are enclosed with this mailing for the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Secretary's Office.

Forms Available on Grand Lodge Website

As a reminder, almost all of the Grand Lodge forms that Lodge Secretaries use are available on the Grand Lodge Website: www.freemason.com.

Copies of the 2011 Secretary and Treasurer Inspection Forms are also located here.

Watch Out for Scams and Con Artists

Faith, Hope and Charity, and the greatest of these is Charity.

As Masons we should always remember this, but we also need to be vigilant of unsavory individuals who would take advantage of our charitable disposition.

Be aware of suspicious phone calls from a man traveling through Ohio claiming to be a Mason in one of our sister jurisdictions. He asks for an amount of about \$300.00 for gasoline money to get him back home.

Of course, this could be a legitimate plea for assistance. Since this fraudulent request has already occurred in Ohio, just beware and thoroughly check the claim out.

Forest City Lodge #388—Recipient of Mark Twain Award

Based on the Masonic Information Center's (MIC) commitment to improving Masonic public awareness, MIC sponsors the Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Award to recognize lodges that have demonstrated exemplary work in constructing a positive Masonic identity within the lodge and for the local community.

Regular lodges throughout North America are invited to participate in a competition that evaluates initiatives and activities that create a positive Masonic identity in the community.

The Mark Twain Masonic Awareness Awards are presented annually to the lodges that demonstrate exceptional commitment to Freemasonry's philosophy of self-improvement and enlightenment.

Awards are made to the participating lodges that, in the evaluation of the MIC Task Force, have successfully addressed the challenges of improving Masonic Awareness within the lodge and the community and that the brothers have done so with exemplary skill, creativity, and resourcefulness. The MIC announces the winners of the Mark Twain Award annually at the Conference of Grand Masters in February.

For more information regarding this award visit: <http://www.msana.com/twainaward>

Congratulations to Forest City Lodge #388 located in Lyndhurst for being Ohio's first and so far, only, award recipient.

Lodge Consolidations

Effective November 8, 2010, Mariemont #707 merged with Madisonville-Madeira #419 with Madisonville-Madeira being the surviving Lodge.

We presently have 511 Lodges in Ohio.

New Lodge Constituted

As of October 30, 2010, Ohio has a newly chartered and regularly constituted Lodge, Arts & Sciences #792. This new Lodge meets in Hilliard. It has 25 members of whom about half are older than 50 and half are younger. Their membership is a good mix of blue and white collar occupations, and their length of Masonic service varies from one year to fifty years plus.

The unifying factor for all of them is a desire for each and every meeting to be an event no one would want to miss. Every meeting begins with dinner and fellowship at 6 pm. The lodge meets at 7:30 pm on the 3rd and 5th Thursdays year round. The administrative business is kept to a minimum, and the majority of time is dedicated to discussing various aspects of Freemasonry.

Visitors are always welcome. For more information visit www.as792.org.

The List of Lodges—Masonic

Approximately every four years Grand Lodge would purchase "The List of Lodges—Masonic" book for each Lodge. The information in this book rarely changes that significantly and the price has increased to \$15.30 per book.

Grand Lodge will not be providing every Ohio Lodge with a copy of this book. However, we will keep a nominal number of copies in stock and offer the book at a subsidized cost until the supply runs out. Note: the 2011 edition is not available until April.

Deaths Reported Since The Last Issue

Three deaths were reported to our office since the last issue.

- Ivan C. Smith, PDDGM, 17th District
- William P. Campbell, Sr., PDEO, 13th District
- Harry L. Himes, PDDGM, 1st District

Grand Master's Receptions in Florida

Grand Master, Bradford A. Goebel, has planned three visitations in Florida during the month of January. The visitation schedule is:

- Monday, January, 17, 2011—Sarasota, luncheon at noon at Peridia Golf & Country Club
- Tuesday, January 18, 2011—Ft. Myers, luncheon at noon at Araba Shrine Center.
- Wednesday, January 19, 2011—Tavares, luncheon at 11:00 A.M. at Lake County Shrine Club

All meals will be \$6.00 and reservations for each location will be handled through the Ohio Masonic Home. Call toll free 1.888.248.2664

MMSAP Training Dates Announced

The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) has been in place in Ohio for over ten years. This program, sponsored by the Masons of Ohio teaches educators and staff how to identify children at risk. Then, they formulate a plan which will help the child on the road to a successful life.

There is no cost to the schools for participating in the MMSAP training workshops, except to provide substitute coverage where necessary. Training dates for the 3-day seminar are:

- February 22-24, 2011—Dayton
- April 13—15, 2011—Medina

For more information contact MWB Ronald L. Winnett, Chairman, MMSAP, or Chad Simpson, Director of Program Development.

Grand Master to Use the 3-part Dues Notices This Year

A 3-part tear-off form will be used as a first reminder, second reminder, and lastly a notice to the Grand Secretary. You can

order these forms from the Grand Lodge Office.

Service Awards: 25, 35, and 40 Year Pins

Like the traditional 25-year pin, the 35 and 40-year pins made available for the first time last year are in stock. These service awards are available for your purchase at a price of \$5.00 each.

Your State Secretaries Association

Your State Secretaries Association Officers had a meeting in August at Grand Lodge to discuss and plan our Friday and Saturday meeting for March 11 & 12, 2011. We are having another MORI session on Friday afternoon from 4 to 6 pm at the Doubletree Hotel. Please bring your ideas and questions to this meeting so we can help you the best we can. If you can't make the Friday afternoon session and if we have at least 30 Brethren we may be able to have a Saturday afternoon session. We need to hear back from you by the end of December so arrangements can be made. Email or call me today. Don't wait for the notice of our meeting to come out in January.

We hope many more Secretaries and Treasurers will attend this session so we can share with each other what works and what doesn't work for you. Bring some new ideas so that all may benefit from what you have done.

Brethren, we are here to answer your questions and please give us ideas on how we can better serve you.

Please contact me at 216.521.5557 or robert.jr2176@sbcglobal.net with your ideas and suggestions.

Fraternally,

Bob Hubert, Jr.

John W. Barkley Lodge #621

President, State Secretaries Association

MORI Membership System

There are presently 511 Lodges in Ohio. 19 Lodges of the 511 still have not signed up for a MORI account in order to use the MORI membership management system.

If you are one of the 19 remaining Lodges, or if you are a newly installed Lodge Secretary and want to begin using the Lodge Membership management system, the steps to create a Lodge User account are straightforward and relatively easy to perform.

A number of Lodge Secretaries around the state have been trained to serve as mentors for other Secretaries in becoming familiar with the MORI application. Call the Grand Secretary's Office for the name of a mentor near you.

"Green Sheets NO LONGER SUPPORTED"

Effective July 31, 2011, the paper-based, "Green Sheets" will be discontinued and no longer supported.

Submit Your Lodge Election Results!

We are still waiting on Lodge Election results from 79 Lodges! We need the white election card completed and returned to the G.L. Office. Also, don't forget to make the update entries in MORI! Over 200 Lodges have not entered your **2011** Lodge Officers in MORI. Note: When you enter the year, it is 2011 and not 2010.

Welcome Tina Birchak to the Grand Lodge Staff!

Tina Birchak has joined the Grand Lodge staff December 6th with financial accounting responsibilities. In time, she will be picking up additional fraternity-related responsibilities. Tina replaces Vicki Roy who has left to pursue other interests.

Please welcome Tina to the Grand Lodge Office!

Words To Think About

Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in.

So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories!

Word of the Day

Inundation— to cover with a flood. So, inundations and conflagrations are floods and fires.

Quote of the Day:

"It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change." - Charles Darwin

Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Secretary's Office will close on December 24 and December 31 for the holidays.

Season's Greetings!

From the Grand Secretary and everyone on staff at the Grand Lodge Office we wish you a happy holiday season. Our wish for a wonderful holiday season goes out to each of you and your families.

Please pause and give thanks for those manifold blessings and comforts which we all enjoy. Especially keep in your thoughts and prayers those men and women who serve in our communities to keep us safe and those gallant warriors who serve to protect our way of life and bring peace to those who live in troubled environments.

Happy New Year to all and may 2011 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!