

Grand Secretary's Newsletter

December 2, 2011

Enclosed Documents

Also included in this mailing are:

1. Memo 2011 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 2011" 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.

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 two years ago are in stock. These 35 and 40-year service awards are available for your purchase at a price of \$5.00 each.

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 2012 Secretary and Treasurer Inspection Forms are also located here.

Note to NEW Lodge Secretaries:

Don't forget to create a MORI account in MORI!

MWB George O. Braatz, P.G.M. Accepts New Position

Most Worshipful Brother George O. Braatz, Grand Master 1987-1988, was selected recently as the new Executive Secretary of the Masonic Service Association of North America by MSA's Executive Commission. He succeeds MWB Richard E. Fletcher, a Past Grand Master from Vermont, who is retiring after 24 years of service as the chief operating officer of MSA.

The MSA was formed in 1919 and is headquartered in Silver Spring, MD. It provides educational material, statistical reports, disaster relief, and administers a hospital visitation program across North America.

MWB Braatz emerged as the Board's designee over approximately 20 other candidates. This is a great responsibility for the former Grand Secretary of the G.L. of Ohio. Ohio Masons are proud of his being selected to this important role and we all wish him the greatest success.

Submit Your Lodge Election Results!

We are still waiting on Lodge Election results. We need the goldenrod colored election card completed and returned to the G.L. Office. Also, don't forget to make the update entries in MORI! A number of Lodges have not entered your 2012 Lodge Officers in MORI. Note: When you enter the year, it is **2012** and not 2011. This will be the last year for completing and returning the cards. The information will be picked up from MORI.

Deaths Reported Since the Last Issue

Please remember to notify the Grand Secretary's Office when a PDDGM, a long-time Lodge Secretary, current sitting Worshipful Master, DEO, etc. passes away. This information will not only be reported to you in an upcoming Newsletter, but it will become part of the Grand Lodge Necrology Report for the year.

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

- Robert E. Myers, Worshipful Master, Colerain #7591, 1st District; passed 9/14/2011
- James E. Dutch, PDEO 21st District; passed 10/26/2011

Grand Lodge Mileage & Per Diem Checks

Mileage and per diem checks were recently mailed to the address of the Lodge Secretary. If you did not receive a check it could have been for two different reasons. If the Grand Lodge Office did not receive your annual per capita payment before the deadline of August 31st (Grand Lodge Code, Chapter 7 - Annual Return) then no check was mailed.

Or, while attending the annual Grand Lodge Communication, if the Lodge's representative did not drop his Friday or his Saturday pay slip into one of the collection boxes, the Lodge will not receive payment. Announcements are made during the Communication reminding the delegates how important it is for them to deposit these slips, one on Friday and one on Saturday, into one of the red boxes located at the main entrances to the Lodge room. These pay slips are the only physical evidence we have that the Lodge was truly represented in the session.

Every year we receive calls from Lodges who were present but didn't deposit their pay slips. We can't issue a check without this slip. This is so important to the Lodge in receiving your expense check.

Please save this information and remind your Lodge representative attending next year's Communication to please deposit his pay slips in the collection box. (Note: he receives his slips at the time he registers.)

Lodge Consolidations

Effective November 7, 2011, Sinking Spring Lodge #365 merged with Highland Lodge #38, with Highland Lodge being the surviving Lodge.

Effective November 18, 2011, Mentor Lodge #772 merged with Temple Lodge #28, with Temple Lodge being the surviving Lodge.

We presently have 505 Lodges in Ohio.

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 2012 edition is not available until April.

A flyer informing you of Pantagraph Printing, producers of this booklet, was recently mailed to you. This was sent merely as information should the Lodge be interested in purchasing the book.

Replace Worn and Used Rituals

"My wife washed it." "The dog ate it." "I was sitting in the hot tub studying it and fell asleep."

These are actual reasons we receive as to why Grand Lodge Rituals are returned to us for replacement! If your officers have a worn out Ritual, you can replace it at no charge if it is worn due to normal usage wear and tear. Otherwise the cost is \$50.00 each to replace.

Tippecanoe Lodge #174—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 Tippecanoe Lodge #174 located in Tipp City in the 3rd Masonic District for being Ohio's second Lodge ever to receive this award.

Endowed Membership Fund Distribution

At the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge, included in the Grand Lodge Investment Committee's Report was the amount of distribution for endowed members. (\$16.00 & \$21.00)

The Grand Secretary's Office has received numerous calls regarding the distribution amount received. Why is the amount so low?

The simple answer is reflected in the state of today's general economy. How are you personally doing on your investments? How much is the Lodge earning on the return from its investments? Pretty bleak. The yield from the Endowed Membership Fund is no different and we have professionals managing the investments!

A Word From The Grand Treasurer About the Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Program

The Grand Lodge Endowed Membership Program is established by the Grand Lodge of Ohio Code, Sec. 29.06 (d) Membership and Memorial Endowment Fund. The Code states that "The income from such fund shall be distributed annually to the endowed Lodges..." As of August 31, 2011 the number of endowed memberships totaled 10,400 with an endowed principle balance of \$6,922,600. Since these funds are invested in a variety of investment vehicles including cash and cash equivalents (money market investments), the income from the investments is subject to the same market conditions that affect both personal and institutional investments.

Payout is limited to 5% of a 13-quarter average of the endowed fund's balance. During the Grand Lodge Masonic Year the income received from the Endowed Membership principle funds represented 2.6% of the fund balance.

During the recent 202nd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, legislation was adopted to amend the rules concerning the Endowed Membership Program to permit the Investment Committee to distribute in addition to the investment income, investment gains in excess of the Endowed Membership principle balance.

(Grand Treasurer Continued)

In addition, consideration is being given to determining the distribution amounts to endowed Lodges prior to the annual Grand Lodge Communication and forwarding this information to the individual Lodges for budgeting purposes. My Brethren, do not lose sight of the importance of the Endowed Membership Program to the Masonic fraternity and more importantly, to your Lodge.

Ronald L. Connelly
Grand Treasurer

Grand Master's Receptions in Florida

Grand Master, Kevin B. Todd, has planned three visitations in Florida during the month of January. The visitation schedule is:

- Saturday, January 14, 2012—Tavares, luncheon at noon at Lake County Shrine Club
- Monday, January 16, 2012—Sarasota, luncheon at noon at Peridia Golf & Country Club
- Tuesday, January 17, 2012—Ft. Myers, luncheon at 11:00 A.M. at Araba Shrine Center

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

Please notify the Grand Secretary's Office if you would like to have the Grand Master present a Service Award to one of your deserving members attending one of these receptions.

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) - RWB Michael Cecil New State Coordinator

RWB Michael Cecil, Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 20th District, has accepted the role as the Grand Lodge of Ohio's State Coordinator for the MMSAP. The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program 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 date for the next 3-day seminar is:

- February 28, 29, March 1, 2012—Grand Lodge Building, Worthington

For more information about the MMSA contact RWB Cecil at 419.571.1640 or Chad Simpson, Director of Program Development, at the Grand Lodge Office.

Word of the Day

Profane - The word has no reference to "profanity" in the modern sense of taking the name of God in vain. Masonically, it means "not a Mason" - it comes from the Latin *pro* meaning before and *fanum*, a temple: Masonically, a profane is one "outside of the temple," uninitiated.

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 2012 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will close on December 26 and January 2 for the holiday observance.

