

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

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GRAND SECRETARY



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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

December 6, 2012

We Have Moved!

Right on schedule, the moving vans arrived Monday morning, November 5th and began with the relocation of the Grand Lodge headquarters to the Springfield campus of the Ohio Masonic Home. Aside from the larger items, there were well over 500 boxes of items moved. We are operational, but it will be some time before all the contents of those boxes find a new home!

Please update your records, our address is: **1 Masonic Drive, Springfield, OH 45504**. Our telephone numbers remain the same.

Enclosed Documents

Also included in this mailing are:

1. Memo 2012 of Code Changes—3 copies
2. Order form for obtaining items from the Grand Lodge
3. Pay-It-Forward form
4. Memorial for MWB John W. McKahan

Memo Describes Code Changes

Legislation approved by delegates at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in October has resulted in a change to the Grand Lodge Code.

So Codes can be updated, three copies of the "Memo 2012" are enclosed with this mailing for the Lodge Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Lodge Office.

Revised Grand Lodge Order Form

Enclosed is a revised order form for your use when ordering supplies from Grand Lodge. Please discard all previous versions of this order form.

Submit Your Lodge Election Results!

A number of Lodges have not entered their 2013 Lodge Officers in MORI. Please make the update entries for your Lodge election results in MORI. Note: When you enter the year, it is **2013** and not 2012.

We publish and distribute the annual Grand Lodge of Ohio Masonic Directory from this information you enter into MORI. The sooner you enter this information, the sooner we can get the 2013 Directory created and mailed to you.

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 im-

portant 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.)

We Mourn the Passing of Most Worshipful Brother John W. McKahan, Past Grand Master

Most Worshipful Brother John W. McKahan served the Grand Lodge of Ohio as its Grand Master in 1989—1990. He passed December 1, 2012

His memorial is enclosed. Please read it at your next Stated Meeting and cause the Altar to be draped for a period of 60 days.

Endowed Membership Fund Distribution

Endowed Membership distribution was calculated in July by the Grand Lodge Investment Committee. The distribution amounts were then communicated as soon as possible. This is so your Lodge will have more lead time in preparing budgets for the ensuing year and knowing in advance what kind of revenues to expect.

This earlier notification of Endowed Membership distribution has been adopted as policy going forward. So, in future years, you will have this information much earlier than in past years.

Lodge Forms on the Grand Lodge Website

Since the Grand Lodge website has been updated, the path to access our Forms has changed.

At the bottom of the home page on www.freemason.com in the black colored area you will see *RESOURCES* and *DOCUMENT LIBRARY*. Select DOCUMENT LIBRARY as this is where all the Grand Lodge Forms are now located. Note that the first selection is the updated Lodge Secretary's Manual. You might find this a most helpful reference manual for processing Lodge membership related tasks and the companion step-by-step processes for performing those appropriate tasks in MORI.

2013 Inspection Forms can also be found here.

Service Award Policy

When MORI prints your Service Award Eligibility form, it lists all members of your Lodge who are eligible for their award regardless if he is a Plural or Primary member.

An individual should only receive his Service Award one time, and that should be from his Primary, home Lodge. He should not receive a Service Award from his Plural Lodges where he holds membership.

When receiving your order form, the Grand Lodge Office has no way of knowing if the named recipient is a Primary or Plural member of your Lodge. Only, you, the Lodge Secretary knows your Plural Members.

When submitting your Service Award Order Form, mark-out or do not order a certificate and pin for your Plural members, only your Primary members.

Oxford Lodge #67 & North Bend Lodge #346—Recipients 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 Oxford Lodge #67 located in Oxford in the 2nd Masonic District and to North Bend Lodge #346, located in Cleves in the 1st Masonic District for receiving this highly prestigious award.

Grand Master's Receptions in Florida

Grand Master Easterling has planned four visitations in Florida during the month of January. The visitation schedule is:

- Sunday, January, 20, 2013—West Palm Beach, luncheon at 1:00 P.M. at Amara Shrine . \$7.00 each.
- Monday, January, 21, 2013—Sarasota, luncheon at noon at Peridia Golf & Country Club. \$6.00 each
- Tuesday, January 22, 2013— Ft. Myers, luncheon at noon at Araba Shrine Center. \$6.00 each
- Wednesday, January 23, 2013—Tavares, luncheon at 11:30 A.M. at Lake County Shrine Club. \$6.00 each.

Reservations for each location will be handled through the Ohio Masonic Home. Call Becky Cason toll free 1.888.248.2664. "write-ins" or "walk-ins" will not be accepted; a phone call to Becky is the only way to make your reservation, please.

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.

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

Note to NEW Lodge Secretaries:

- Don't forget to create a MORI account in MORI!
- Reference the Lodge Secretary's Manual from our website
- Add your Assistant Secretaries (if needed)

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP)

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 date for the next 3-day seminar is:

- February 19, 20, & 21, 2013— Springfield Masonic Community Auditorium

For more information about the MMSA contact RWB Michael Cecil at 419.571.1640 or Chad Simpson, Director of Program Development, at the Grand Lodge Office, 800.292.6092.

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.

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

- George W. Wagner II, DDGM 11th District; Paragon Lodge #788; passed 9/24/12
- Gary D. Keller, PDDGM 16th District; Seneca Lodge #790; passed 10/9/12
- David B. Richard, Secretary Yeatman-Mt. Washington #162; passed 10/12/12

(Deaths cont'd.)

- Roger R. Johnston, PDDGM 3rd District; Stokes Lodge #305; passed 10/31/12
- Israel "Bud" Putnam, Assoc. Grand Chaplain; 5th District; Fulton Lodge #248; passed 11/16/12
- John W. McKahan, PGM, 22nd District, Elyria Lodge #787; passed 12/1/12

Words of the Day

Sit Lux et Lux Fuit— This is the inscription appearing on the table drape in the Grand East where the Grand Master sits during our Annual Communication. Latin for "Let there be light and there was light".

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 2013 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will close on December 24—25 and December 31—January 1 for the holiday observance.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!*