

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

C. MICHAEL WATSON, PGM
GRAND SECRETARY



P.O. BOX 629
WORTHINGTON, OHIO 43085
PHONE (614) 885-5318
WATS 1-800-292-6092
FAX (614) 885-5319

Grand Secretary's Newsletter

March 30, 2011

Grand Lodge Responds to Relief Appeal

Many parts of the world are experiencing horrendous weather patterns. None have suffered more than the countries of New Zealand and Japan. The Masonic Service Association is prepared to receive funds to aide and assist our devastated Brethren and their families in these stricken countries.

Please forward to the MSA such funds as the Lodge feels appropriate. Make the check payable to MSA Disaster Relief Fund and mark clearly on your check how you wish the funds designated. Mail to MSA, 8120 Fenton Street, Ste. 201, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

Most Worshipful Brother Goebel issued \$5,000 from the Grand Master's Emergency Relief Fund to help these devastated countries.

Does Your Lodge Have a Fire Extinguisher?

It is a wise suggestion that every Lodge have several fire extinguishers capable of dowsing a fire in the kitchen area, social room, and the Lodge meeting room. The extinguishers should be inspected annually. Not only is this a sound preventive measure but it could help in a reduced insurance premium.

While we're at it, it is also a good idea to consider having some of your Brethren trained in Red Cross first aid, CPR, and AED. Hopefully, this training will never be needed, but we never know.

The "Have" and "Have Not" Committee

The Have & Have Not Committee is a repository for gently-used surplus Lodge paraphernalia. As Lodges merge, the surviving Lodge is often left with duplicate sets of robes, officer's jewels and aprons, ballot boxes, etc. Rather than allowing these items to gather dust, please consider donating surplus inventory to the Have & Have Not Committee. This committee will make it available to Lodges that desire to replace their worn out items.

Lodges receiving items from the committee are asked to make a donation to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. For more information regarding donations or to request items, please contact WB Robert Crabbs, 419.529.4582 or pghp98@cs.com.

ALL Lodges MUST file a 990 Form!

As a reminder, all Ohio Lodges must annually file an IRS Form 990 in order to maintain our federal tax exemption status.

Lodges with annual gross receipts of \$25,000 or less file the Form 990-N (e-postcard). Lodges with annual gross receipts less than \$500,000 and total assets less than \$1.25 mil can file either Form 990-EZ or Form 990. Lodges with gross receipts > than \$500k or total assets > \$1.25 mil must file Form 990.

Please note, use the physical address of the Lodge building and NOT the Secretary's address.

For help and information on filing, go to www.irs.gov/eo or www.stayexempt.irs.gov

State Association Meeting Successful

Richard G. Fries, Secretary of Rubicon Lodge #237, was elected and installed as President of the State Secretaries Association of Ohio, at its annual meeting on March 11-12 in Columbus.

Other new officers include Richard C. George, 1st Vice President; Richard A. Benadum, 2nd Vice President; Fred L. Hocking, 3rd Vice President; David L. Holmes, 4th Vice President; Joseph H. Rothbrust, 5th Vice President; Robert H. Coster, Secretary; Norman R. Neely, Assistant Secretary; Kenneth D. Chamberlain, Chaplain; and James D. Rex, Historian.

The meeting was very successful, as planned by President Robert W. Hubert, Jr. An enjoyable Friday night dinner with entertainment was held, with the ladies present.

Subjects presented included MORI sessions, Ohio Masonic Home update, Review of Inspection Forms, and ideas for creating Lodge Standing Resolutions.

Lodge Secretary Serves Under 4th Grand Secretary

WB Paul Strobe, 83 years young and Secretary of Ionic Lodge #438, reports that during his two different terms as being Lodge Secretary, he has served under Grand Secretaries Hinshaw, Dresser, Braatz, and Watson. He missed the term of MWB Vernon E. Musser.

He asked if any Lodge Secretary had served under all five of the living past five Grand Secretaries. Well, is there? Let me know!

All Lodges to be on MORI by July 31st !!

If you are one of the handful of Lodges still NOT using the MORI membership management system, you have until July 31, 2011 to

start using it. As of August 1, 2011 the manual, paper-based, "green sheets" will be discontinued.

If you need help setting up and accessing your MORI account, please contact Gayle Kozak at the Grand Lodge Office.

If you ARE currently using MORI to manage your Lodge membership, then please do not send any "green sheets" to the Grand Lodge Office!

Suggestion Regarding Endowed Members

It is probably pretty typical each year at dues time that you simply send the Endowed Member his dues card with maybe the latest Lodge newsletter.

It should be of no surprise to anyone how market investments have performed over the past several years. The Grand Lodge Endowed investment fund is no exception. We all would like to see better performance and a return to the those days of high market yields. Then, our payouts for Endowed Members would be much higher.

While the intention for Endowed Memberships was to cover Grand Lodge per capita into perpetuity, the payout is probably not equal to most Lodge's annual dues.

As a suggestion, as you send your Endowed Members their annual dues card, have you thought about sending them a personal letter? The letter could summarize the financial situation your Lodge is in, i.e. rising costs and reduced revenue. Acknowledge the Endowed Member has given the Lodge a perpetual gift, but encourage him to consider a donation to assist the Lodge in meeting financial needs.

Use of Rejected Petitioner Cards

The Lodge rejected a petitioner by ballot, now, as Secretary, what do you do?

Note that a rejected petitioner may repetition the same Lodge without regard to any

waiting period or timeframe. However, no other Lodge can receive a petition from him for at least one year from the date of rejection.

Upon rejecting a petitioner, the Lodge Secretary shall immediately report to the Grand Lodge the name, birthdate, address, date of rejection, along with the Lodge name, number and address.

You can get this rejected petitioner card (Form #29) free of charge from the Grand Lodge office. A thorough candidate investigation shouldn't be complete without a quick call to check the Grand Lodge's rejected petitioner file.

Plural & Dual Members and 50-Year Awards

A foreign jurisdiction awards their members who have served 50 years or more of continuous service in good standing a gold membership card and remits their dues for the rest of their life. If this member joins an Ohio Lodge as a dual member is he entitled to have his Ohio dues remitted automatically?

If an Ohio Lodge XYZ has a standing resolution to remit the dues of their 50 year and above members and such a member joins Ohio Lodge ABC as a plural member, should he expect his dues to be automatically remitted by his plural Lodge, Lodge ABC?

Similarly, if a 50-year member of Ohio Lodge XYZ last year joined four other Ohio Lodges as a plural member, should he expect to receive a 50-year pin and certificate in these other four Lodges?

These are all situations that have come into the Grand Lodge Office. In each case the answer is, "No".

For years of service, your membership is tied to the date you became a member of the Lodge, either your primary home Lodge or as a dual or plural Lodge member.

REMEMBER: MORI Key is stored in a "Cookie"

This has been mentioned before, but for the benefit of new MORI users and as a reminder to you veterans, I am publishing this again.

In order to access the MORI Membership Management System, each user is assigned a key. Gayle generates this key and mails it to you. Keep this key stored in a safe and secure place because you will undoubtedly have to reenter it periodically.

The user's key is stored on your system as a "Cookie". Every now and then, when you perform a system clean-up, you will delete the Cookies. This purges your MORI key and will have to be reentered by you before being able to access the application.

Deaths Since Our Last Issue

Leonard "Jack" Wyatt, Treasurer, John W. Durst Lodge #716. He passed December 15, 2010.

Robert Wayne Allen, PDDGM, 12th District. Passed January 13, 2011.

Ronald M. Bentley, was currently serving 2nd year as DDGM of the 24th District. Passed March 3, 2011

Robert Joseph Rayle, PDDGM, 4th District. Passed March 16, 2011.

Approved Annual Return Binder

One of the questions your inspecting DDGM will ask is, "Do you have an approved Annual Return Binder?" As a follow up question he should ask, "Do you have your Annual Returns securely stored within the binder?"

The Grand Lodge Office seems to have had a rash of calls requesting copies of the Lodge's Annual Return because, for whatever reason, they don't have them. Even with new Secretaries, the former Secretary should have turned over the binder containing the

Lodge's Annual Returns. This binder should be stored in some secure place in the Lodge building and not off site at someone's home.

Honoring Our Veteran Lodge Members

It should be on every incoming Worshipful Master's calendar of events to hold a Lodge Awards Night during his term. Ideally, this event should be held as early in the Lodge's new year as possible.

I recently received a note from a senior member asking me to verify his eligibility for a veteran service award this year. I checked and replied that he was indeed eligible. I checked the records and saw that his Lodge had not yet ordered their service awards. I was then curious as to how many other Lodges hadn't yet ordered their awards. As of this date, we have approximately 130 Lodges that have not ordered their service awards which range from 25-year emblems to 75-year awards. Some Lodges have not ordered awards for over three years.

The Lodge's Awards Night should be one of the highlights of the year for the Lodge. It should be a great evening, well-planned and filled with fellowship. Our senior members look forward to achieving this milestone in their Masonic journey. It disappoints me, to say the least, when these veteran members are not recognized for their years of service, dedication and commitment to the Craft.

I hope your Lodge is not on this list.

Mark Your Calendars

- Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 12, 2011, at the Springfield Masonic Home complex.
- The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 24, 2011, on The Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade

at the ceremonies. Since the Jesse Owens track stadium will be under construction, the exact location for the opening ceremonies is not yet determined.

- 2nd Annual Ohio-Pennsylvania Fellowship Night will be held in the Lodge Room of the Youngstown Masonic Building, Wednesday, September 21st. Meal at 6:00; meeting at 7:30. This is an evening of brotherhood and fellowship with the Grand Masters and Brethren of Ohio and Pennsylvania meeting together.
- The Annual Grand Lodge Communication will be held October 14-15, 2011, in Cleveland. A packet of information about Grand Lodge will be sent to each Lodge Secretary in May.

Details on all of the events will be provided in upcoming months.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in Your Lodge or District?

RWB Michael Coey, DDGM of the 23rd Masonic District reports that the use of an AED helped save the life of one of our members. While at an open Lodge Installation, a member experienced a heart attack. Fortunately, there were two RNs present that stabilized him until local EMTs arrived and administered care using an AED.

As a result of this incident, RWB Coey launched a fundraiser to purchase an AED for use within the District. The device will be taken to each District event.

The 23rd District Association is encouraging every 23rd District Lodge to purchase a unit to keep in their Lodge.

The device will direct the operator, step by step via voice commands. It has a fail safe within that will not allow you to administer a charge to the victim if it senses a heartbeat.

This sounds like a great idea to promote throughout Ohio. As RWB Coey asks, “What is life and what does it mean to you?”

For more information contact RWB Michael Coey in Shadyside, Ohio, or RWB Brian Bolon, Secretary of Bridgeport Lodge #181.

Ohio's Newest Lodge

As of October 30th 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 traditional white and blue collar professions. And, the length of Masonic service varies from 1 year to 50+ years.

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 6:00 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.

Mt. Vernon Lodge has a Car Pool Committee

Mt. Vernon Lodge #64 located in Norwalk, Ohio, now has a Car Pool Committee. Its purpose is to see that all their members have transportation to Lodge and Masonic events. Any of their members who need a ride are to call one of the committee members who will arrange for pick-up and drop-off.

This sounds like an excellent committee for all Lodges to consider as we are taught to go on foot and out of our way to help a worthy Brother.

Brother Howie Damron—Ohio's Musical Ambassador of Masonry

Brother Howie Damron, Waterloo #532, has been writing and singing songs of Masonic themes and performing for Masonic audiences for nine years. He has traveled the United States on his “Masonic Pride Tour” encouraging Masonic awareness through his music. You can learn more about Brother Howie at his new website, www.MasonicPrideProductions.com.

Office To Be Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will be open during Holy Week, but closed for religious observance on Good Friday, April 22nd.

Word of the Day:

Monitorial — or, monitory, which is giving admonition or gentle, friendly advice. (Or, appearing in English in our old Standard Monitor.) This is as opposed to monetary, which relates to money. How used: For example, if emblems are divided into classes, some of them might be monitorial in nature.

Quote of the Day:

“Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.” - Lou Holtz