

# Grand Secretary's Newsletter

March 16, 2012

## August is "Ohio Month" at GWNMM

The George Washington National Masonic Memorial (GWNMM) recognizes a Grand Jurisdiction each month. Ohio is being recognized during the month of August, 2012.

To celebrate this recognition, Most Worshipful Brother Todd has planned a trip to Alexandria, Virginia, August 3rd through the 5th. Buses are scheduled to depart from and return to the ten Scottish Rite locations in Ohio. Prices are based on double occupancy and will vary depending upon the specific departure location.

Busses will depart on Friday morning and arrive at the Sheraton Suites Hotel in Old Town Alexandria late afternoon/early evening. The Grand Lodge of Ohio will confer the Master Mason Degree at the GWNMM on Fellow Crafts from throughout Ohio beginning at 9:00 A.M. Saturday morning. Saturday afternoon, the Grand Lodge of Ohio will lay a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. Prior to returning home on Sunday, we will attend church services at the National Cathedral.

There will be a program for the ladies on Saturday at the Memorial while the MM Degree is being conferred.

An interesting note is that as this Master Mason Degree is being conferred on August 4, 2012, Brother George Washington received his MM Degree on the very same day 259 years ago on August 4, 1753!

The maximum number of Fellow Crafts allowed to attend and receive the Master Mason Degree is based upon the individual District according to the following table:

District	Candidates	Mentors
1	7	7
2	9	9
3	3	3
4	2	2
5	3	3
6	5	5
7	4	4
8	5	5
9	3	3
10	3	3
11	5	5
12	5	5
13	4	4
14	7	7
15	3	3
16	5	5
17	5	5
18	4	4
19	5	5
20	4	4
21	7	7
22	7	7
23	4	4
24	7	7
25	8	8
Total	124	124

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vations, specific itinerary and costs, please

refer to the enclosed brochure. **Registration deadline: 6/1/2012.**

**Note: Itinerary Dates on the enclosed brochure are INCORRECT. Friday is August 3rd; Saturday is August 4th; and, Sunday is August 5th. Youngstown prices are \$439/Single and \$319/Double.**

In order for a candidate to be eligible, he must have received his FC Degree AND passed his FC Examination. There must be one mentor for each candidate. A separate registration form must be completed for EACH person going on the trip. Registration forms and money are to be sent to the DDGM assigned to your Lodge. DDGMs will determine the mix of candidates from Lodges within their District. Registration is not firm until the completed registration form and payment IN FULL are received by the DDGM. No cash is to be sent. Checks are to be made to: The Grand Lodge F&AM of Ohio. Please write "TRIP" in the memo field.

Those who drive and want to participate in the events and/or stay at the hotel must pay the same fees as those who ride the bus.

We believe this will be an enjoyable and historic event for all who attend. The success and smoothness of the event will depend upon how efficiently the registration process is handled.

If you have questions, contact:  
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### **State Association Meeting Successful**

Richard C. George, Secretary of Mt. Carmel Lodge #303, was elected and installed as

President of the State Secretaries Association of Ohio, at its annual meeting on March 9-10 in Columbus.

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

The meeting was very successful, as planned by President Richard C. Fries. An enjoyable Friday night dinner with entertainment was held, with the ladies present.

Subjects presented included MORI sessions, Ohio Masonic Home update, Insurance, 990 Tax Form, and Secretary's responsibilities.

### **Lodges Should Consider Paying for Their Secretary to Attend the Annual Meeting of the State Secretaries Association**

(Note to Lodge Secretary: You might want to read the following in open Lodge!)

As most Lodges pay for their Officers to attend the annual Grand Lodge Communication, so too should the Lodge consider paying for the Secretary's annual dues of \$20.00 to the State Secretaries Association and for the Lodge Secretary to attend the annual meeting of the State Secretaries. One banquet and one night's lodging is a small price to pay for the benefit of the Secretary's education experience, networking, and information-sharing among peers.

### **Wanted: A Committee of Lodge Secretaries to Volunteer for a Project!**

Over the past three years I have noticed an informal statistic of new Lodge Secretaries being in the neighborhood of about 20. Last

year, we had 18 new Lodge Secretaries. This year we have 73! That's a huge number!

While at the State Secretaries Association Meeting, it was suggested that we update the "*Secretary's Manual*". I couldn't agree more.

The present manual is out of date. What is needed are instructions for processing membership-related activities referencing the proper forms available today. Ideally, the manual could include the step-by-step instructions involved with MORI where applicable.

This should be a living document. As our forms change or processes change, the manual should be updated.

I would see this "*Secretary's Manual*" being created in Microsoft Word and uploaded to our website as a .PDF for anyone to access.

Is there a volunteer out there that would like to spearhead this activity? With a number of seasoned Secretaries and the work load divided, this could possibly be knocked out rather quickly.

### **Deaths Since Our Last Issue**

- Earl W. Owens, PDDGM 17th District, Passed 12/23/2011
- Robert A. Davison, WM Western Reserve #507, Passed 11/14/2011
- Howard C. Bodine, PDDGM 24th District, Passed 1/4/2012
- Walter H. Kropp, Past AASR Deputy for Ohio, Passed 1/9/2012
- James R. Hensley, Chaplain, Bethel #61, Passed 1/31/2012
- Daniel B. Frazee, Trustee, Bethel #61, Passed 1/31/2012
- Richard L. Miller, PDDGM 18th District, Passed 3/5/2012
- James D. Britt, Past Secretary, Lima #205, Passed 3/8/2012

### **Mark Your Calendars**

- Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 10, 2012, at the Springfield Masonic Home complex.
- The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 22, 2012, on The Ohio State University campus in Columbus.
- The Annual Grand Lodge Communication will be held October 19-20, 2012, in Akron. A packet of information about Grand Lodge will be sent to each Lodge Secretary in May.

### **Wearing of Appendant Order's Aprons**

Most Worshipful Brother Kevin B. Todd has indicated that only Symbolic Lodge Aprons are to worn in tyled Lodge meetings with one exception. Advancing or elected line officers of appendant orders may wear the apron of their office at a Lodge meeting.

This would mean, for example, elected or advancing officers of Grand Chapter Royal Arch, Grand Council, or Grand Commandery would be permitted to wear the apron of their office, if they so chose in a tyled Lodge meeting.

### **Change of Address**

Email or call the G.L. Office if the Master or Secretary has a change of address. Our Shipping Dept. does not run off of MORI, so we have to update this computer with changes.

### **OMH Capital Campaign for Memory Care Centers**

The Ohio Masonic Home has launched a fundraising campaign to build a memory care center on the campus of the Browning Masonic Home in Waterville, and on the campus of the Western Reserve Masonic Home in Medina. These two facilities will be used for the safe and proper care of residents who have Alzheimer's Disease.

An anonymous donor will match the donation to this campaign for each location until April 15th for up to ONE MILLION DOLLARS for each site. Please announce this in your Lodge. This is too generous of an offer to pass up. This will match pledges as well.

A ground breaking and Cornerstone Ceremony by the Grand Lodge of Ohio is scheduled for Sunday, April 15th. Ceremonies at Browning will begin at 11:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at Western Reserve.

Please continue the tradition of Masons displaying care, concern and compassion for our Brethren and families.

### **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 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 District and to North Bend Lodge #346, located in Cleves, in the 1st District.

### **Ohio DeMolay to have Weekend "Road Show"**

The State Officers of Ohio DeMolay will be traveling to four different locations in the State to judge ritual competition. They are asking for a good showing of Masons at these events.

Friday, April 13th, Van Wert Masonic Temple—7:30 P.M.

Saturday, April 14th, Xenia Masonic Temple—9:00 A.M.

Saturday, April 14th, Columbus Northwest Masonic Temple—1:15 P.M.

Saturday, April 14th, Wadsworth Masonic Temple—6:00 P.M.

What a great opportunity to show support for DeMolay and witness impressive initiatory ritual work. Plan to attend!