

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

March 15, 2013

Grand Lodge of West Virginia Extends Fraternal Recognition to the Grand Lodge of Ohio

Included with this newsletter is the Edict from the Grand Master of West Virginia restoring fraternal relations with the G.L. of Ohio. Also included is the letter from MWW James F. Easterling, Jr. communicating his decisions and actions leading up to this reestablishment of fraternal relations.

With this action, it means Ohio Masons are once again welcome to visit West Virginia Lodges, West Virginia Masons are free to visit Ohio Lodges without reprisal from their Grand Lodge, and Masonic courtesies, such as the conducting of Masonic funeral services and candidate work, can now again be performed.

2013 Grand Master's Classes

Grand Master's Classes will be held in 11 locations and will conclude with the candidate's optional receiving of the 4th Degree of Scottish Rite. The classes will be held on one of two dates, April 20th or May 11th depending on your location.

Three classes will be held on April 20: Northeast Ohio, Dayton, and the Gallipolis areas. Eight classes will be held on May 11: Akron/Canton, Cambridge, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Portsmouth, Steubenville, and Toledo areas.

For more information and details, please contact your District Deputy Grand Master.

Clergyman Membership Program

A few years ago, the Supreme Council, AASR initiated a Clergyman Membership Program with the intent of spreading a better understanding of Freemasonry among members of the clergy.

Essentially, the Supreme Council AASR will pay the initiation fee for a clergyman of any religious faith to join a Masonic Lodge.

Lodges participating in the program should acquire a Clergyman Membership Program Certification Form from their DDGM, complete the form and send it to the Secretary of their nearest Scottish Rite Valley in their area. The local Valley will issue a check to the Lodge for the amount of initiation fees.

The clergyman will be responsible for the payment of annual dues in their Lodge, just as any member would be.

As a suggestion to the Lodge, wouldn't this be a great opportunity to hold *A Night With The Clergy* event and introduce these clergymen to our fraternity and explain this program?

Reminder! The Office of the Grand Lodge of Ohio has Moved?

Please make sure that your address for the Grand Lodge of Ohio reflects our new location:

**1 Masonic Drive
Springfield, OH 45503**

Our phone numbers remain unchanged.

State Association Meeting Successful

Richard A Benadum, Secretary of Lancaster Lodge, No. 57, was elected and installed as President of the State Secretaries Association of Ohio, at its annual meeting on March 8 & 9 in Columbus.

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

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

Subjects presented included Ohio Masonic Home update, Lodge "best practices", and ideas for preparing for the Pre-Inspection.

Called From Labor

The scythe of time has cut down a number of our Brethren over the past months where they will be gathered into that land where our fathers have gone before us.

- John A. Roberts, PDDGM 13th District; New Straitsville Lodge #484; passed 11/24/2012
- Stanley L. Fish, Treasurer; Lone Star Lodge # 175; passed 11/23/2012
- James C. Matilo; PDDGM 22nd District; Acacia Lodge #651; passed 11/27/2012
- Wallace D. Jeanes, Secretary; Fellowship Lodge # 106; passed 12/16/2012
- Jason B. Foreman, Secretary; Steubenville Lodge #45; passed 1/9/2013
- Cecil E. Harry, PDDGM 1st District; Cheviot Lodge #140; passed 1/27/2013

They lived respected and died regretted.

Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial Centennial & Battle of Lake Erie Bicentennial Celebrations

July 4, 2013 will be an important celebration for Ohio, the United States, Canada, and Great Britain. On this date, we will commemorate the bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie and the centennial of Oliver H. Perry's Victory and Peace Monument.

The National Park Service has invited the Grand Lodge of Ohio to reenact the Cornerstone Ceremony which was performed in 1913 for Perry's Memorial Monument on Put-In-Bay.

According to Grand Master Easterling, the day will be filled with many events before and after the Cornerstone Ceremony, concluding with a concert and fireworks.

For more information, check the Grand Lodge website. All Masons are invited to attend these festivities!

Mark Your Calendars

- Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 9, 2013, in Springfield. Has your Lodge considered a special outing of members and families to the Home that day? There will also be an Open House of the new Grand Lodge Office building.
- The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 28, 2013, at The Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade at the ceremonies.
- The Annual Grand Lodge Communication will be held October 18-19, 2013, in Akron. A packet of information about

Grand Lodge will be sent to each Lodge Secretary in May.

Change in Grand Lodge Office Staff

Please welcome Darlene Shirk to the staff of the Grand Lodge Office. Darlene is the wife of 9th District PDDGM, Dan Shirk. She is responsible for processing your service award requests, handling your supply orders, inventory control, and all inbound and outbound mail.

Darlene has taken on the job responsibilities formerly handled by Jeanne Boyd, who left our employment in January.

St. Andrews Lodge #619

St. Andrews Lodge #619 is celebrating their 100th anniversary this year with a ceremony of Reconsecration on Saturday, June 8th.

The Lodge began their anniversary year by electing and installing their 100th different Worshipful Master. According to the Lodge, they have never had a repeat Master.

I was asked if I happened to know what the record is for a Lodge in Ohio NOT to have a repeat Worshipful Master. Unfortunately, this is not a statistic the Grand Lodge maintains.

So, tell me, have you gone without ever having a repeat Worshipful Master? If you have, how many years does it make?

Let me know and we'll publish it in a later newsletter.

Civil War Reenactors Meeting

I know we have numerous Ohio Masons who are either interested in or involved in Civil War reenactment events. Yadkin Lodge #162, located in Yadkinville, North Carolina, will host War Between the States reenactors in conjunction with North Carolina Confederate Memorial Day. All Masons are invited to

attend in uniform for the Lodge's Stated Meeting on May 6, 2013.

After Lodge is closed, a program on Masonry and the Civil War will be presented. Masons and non-Masons are invited to attend the educational program.

A barbeque dinner will be served before the meeting. Yadkin Lodge Worshipful Master, John Baucom, has reminded us that as the real war is over, Federal troop (that would be us!) reenactors and their uniforms are welcome for the meeting.

RSVP to jbaucom4@triad.rr.com

Reminder: Fees for Affiliation & Annual Dues

The only way to submit changes for By-Laws approval is by first obtaining two copies of the Uniform Code of By-Laws from the Grand Lodge Office. Fill-in all the blanks and return both copies for approval. We will have both copies approved, retain one for our files, and return one for your files. It is not proper, nor acceptable, to add or modify the articles found in the Uniform Code of By-Laws.

You do not require Grand Lodge approval of your By-Laws if you are only changing the Stated Meeting time or amount of annual dues. However, if the Lodge does make these changes, please send us a copy for a current record of your By-Laws.

As a reminder, many By-Laws are returned for correction because the amount for affiliation is less than the amount of the Lodge's annual dues.

According to Section 29.04 of the Code, the fee for affiliation by dimit or by dual/plural membership cannot be less than the amount the Lodge charges for annual dues. The fee must be either equal to or greater than the amount of your annual dues.

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program

By now, almost everyone is familiar with the tragic event which took place in December in Newtown, CT. The young man who perpetrated this event had shown red flag signs of this behavior prior to his actions. We can only wonder if the outcome would have been different if the school had the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP) in place.

MMSAP is an intensive three-day training workshop for educators to learn how to identify, intervene with, and create appropriate referrals for students that may be at risk for substance abuse, depression, suicide or violence.

This workshop trains a core team of 5 to 8 educators from a school building in how to intervene early and effectively with students that display patterns of behaviors that threatens their success at school. Participants leave the training with a specific plan for behavioral interventions, and a system for implementing MMSAP in their schools.

MMSAP has proven to be an effective tool for educators as they seek increasingly to make the most out of every minute of teaching time. This program is offered to educators K-12. Costs for this training, including room and board during the three days are covered by the Masons of Ohio through contributions to the MMSAP fund.

The MMSAP Program Coordinator for Ohio is RWB Michael Cecil. He has divided the State into seven regions with each region having a MMSAP coordinator.

For more information about your regional coordinator or this program, contact RWB Cecil at 419.886.2181 or mccecil@aol.com.

Throw Away Old Supply Order Forms!

With practically each mass mailing to the Lodges, we include a Lodge Supply Order Form. Please discard all older, outdated forms and use the most current Order Form when ordering your Lodge supplies.

Grand Lodge Museum

Also making the move to the Springfield Masonic Community was the Grand Lodge Museum. All the Masonic artifacts were packed and delivered to the Springfield campus of our Masonic Home along with the administrative office items.

The museum display cases were removed and professionally refurbished. As this newsletter is being prepared, the display cases are being installed and the items are being prepared for display. The museum is scheduled to be open for the Springfield Masonic Community residents to view on April 2nd.

The Grand Lodge Museum, now located in the Hillman Building in the former Community/Social Room will be open for general viewing on April 9th.

There is a longer term vision for an "Ohio Masonic Museum" on the campus of the Springfield Masonic Home. Plans call for the creation of a 501(c)3 Foundation who will oversee the erection of a building which will host a library, Lodge Room, and a museum display area for all Ohio Masonic appendant orders.

File your Lodge's 990 Tax Return!

The Grand Secretary's Newsletter wouldn't be complete without some sort of reminder about filing your 990 tax return! This is a mandatory event for every Lodge. Failing to file a 990 will cause you to lose your Federal Tax exemption.

88 New Lodge Secretaries This Year

Please remember that the Lodge Secretary's Manual is an online document available for your reference and download printing from our www.freemason.com website.

From the bottom of the home page under "Resources", select "Document Library". You will see displayed almost all the forms needed for Lodge operation. Also found here is the new Pay-It-Forward form and the Lodge Secretary's Manual.

This manual will guide you through the administrative processes and will step you through the associated applicable MORI entries.

Review MORI Data for Accuracy

Please take some time to review your Lodge member's information on MORI. This will help ensure the Annual Return information is accurate. The Grand Lodge's information is only as accurate as the data you provide. Please review the birthdate information of your members.

The punhappy candidate

A candidate for initiation was to be picked up and driven to the lodge, but before this could happen, the car broke down. The candidate said, as it was no great distance, he would go on his bicycle.

Just when he reached the top of the hill, his chain broke. As the lodge was at the bottom of the other side, all he needed was a backpedal brake. So, he repaired the chain with a cord he had in his pocket and free-wheeled downhill to the lodge.

Later that evening, in reply to a toast in his honor, he said how proud he was to be a Freemason but could not understand, as he had told no one, how the master knew that he had come on his own free wheel and a cord!

Also Enclosed in this Mailing:

1. Grand Master's Letter regarding reestablishing fraternal relations with West Virginia
2. Grand Master of West Virginia's Edict
3. Updated Supply Order Form

Word of the Day:

Allegory—The expression by means of symbolic, fictional figures and actions of truth or generalization about human conduct or experience. The second section of the Master Mason Degree is an allegory.

Trivia Question:

We know that Jephthah was the Judge of Israel and ruled for 7 years. He had a big problem with the Ephraimites, who had long been a turbulent and rebellious people. A battle between the two occurred at the Jordan river. Jephthah won the battle, slaying the Ephraimites.

"And there fell at that time forty and two thousand."

QUESTION: How many Ephraimites were killed: (a) 2,040 or (b) 42,000 ?

ANSWER: (b) 42,000 from the Holy Bible, Judges 12:6.

Think Spring!