

Grand Secretary's Newsletter

June 6, 2012

Lodge Annual Returns—Notify Grand Lodge!

IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ!

When you have completed your final membership updates in MORI for the year, send an email to Gayle Kozak at the Grand Lodge Office (gkozak@freemason.com) letting her know your name and Lodge number.

When you have notified us that all your updates for the year are complete your Annual Return will be printed and sent to you along with the amount owed by the Lodge. When we receive the Lodge's check we will mail a report of your Lodge members eligible for a 25, 35, or 40 year award. Also, a 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, and 80 year award order form will be sent to the Lodge. Lastly, your 2013 dues cards will be mailed in this package.

The Lodge's check (not a personal check) must be received prior to August 31, 2012. If the check is not received by this date then the Worshipful Master or his Proxy **will not** receive mileage and per diem for attending Grand Lodge in October. This check must be separate from any other Lodge check coming into Grand Lodge, such as donations to the Charitable Foundation, Scholarship Foundation, or Endowed Membership, etc.

Also, in order to receive your Annual Return package, past due sales invoices must be paid in full.

Annual Grand Lodge Communication—2012

Information concerning events, meals, and lodging for the 203rd Grand Lodge Communication to be held in Akron, Ohio on October 19 & 20, 2012 is being sent to each Lodge with this mailing. Please share this information with your Lodge delegates as soon as possible. Don't wait until your September stated meeting to get this information to them. Make your reservations now to attend our Annual Communication!

Proxies and Call Items will be mailed in a few more months.

The Topic of Grand Lodge Relocation

If you attended the Annual Grand Lodge Communication the past several years, you would have heard a report from the Grand Master's Special Committee on relocation.

Relocation is not a new topic as it has been discussed for a number of years. Recent discussions began in 2009 when MWB Charles Murphy formed a special Grand Lodge Committee to look into the matter. The special committee was disbanded by MWB Todd this year in favor of creating a business plan to determine the need. The plan indicates that the Grand Lodge is in a similar situation to many of our subordinate Lodges. That is, we cannot afford to continue to own our own facilities.

Our 2012 Grand Lodge budget allowed in excess of \$100,000 for the headquarters portion. This includes the line items for maintenance, utilities, and taxes. There is no allowance in this line item for any major issues that may arise in the upkeep of the facilities. Major repair expenses are treated as unbudgeted items and are dealt with as they come up. As you may recall, last year we spent over \$50,000 to tuck point and reseal the exterior of the building to stop the walls from leaking when it rained. The office itself is in dire need of updating.

In the past several years we have had opportunities to look at alternatives to our current situation. One alternative came from the Dayton Masonic Center to relocate there and lease space. Other locations offered similar proposals. The possibility of leasing commercial office space in Columbus or purchasing an available office space were also investigated.

At the request of the new leadership at the Ohio Masonic Home an offer was made to the Grand Lodge of Ohio to host the Grand Lodge Headquarters at the Ohio Masonic Home campus in Springfield. The foundation of this offer is utilizing the vacant "CEO House" on the lawn at the front entrance to the Springfield campus. The CEO House would be converted from residential use to office use and the house would be leased by the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

This appears to be a very good solution to the high operational costs we face each year in the Grand Lodge budget. The Grand Master has charged the Headquarters Committee to create a workable lease arrangement determining ongoing maintenance and repair responsibilities, associated moving costs and disposition of the Museum.

This proposal is still very much in the planning stages. The Grand Lodge is charged with

being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by the Brethren of Ohio. Putting over \$100,000 annually into the present facilities, when there are other less expensive alternatives does not make for good business logic.

As progress is made on this subject, we will keep everyone informed.

Deputy Grand Master's Programs

A message from our Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother James F. Easterling, Jr.

The Deputy Grand Master's rollout programs are designed to attract the leaders of the Lodges in Ohio. All officers and members are encouraged to attend these sessions. While a planned program will be available, these sessions are to allow the Deputy Grand Master to hear of your concerns as well as the Lodges to hear of his planning and expectations for the next Masonic year.

Dress for the programs will be business casual. Please take a few hours to learn the programs that will help your Lodge become more proficient in the programs and promotion of Ohio Freemasonry. The rollouts will be an open forum gathering—a tiled meeting will not be opened.

The following are the locations and dates for the Deputy Grand Master's 2013 Rollout Programs:

- Saturday, June 16, 9:00 A.M.—Aurora Lodge #48, Portsmouth
- Saturday, June 23, 9:00 A.M.—Guernsey Lodge #66—Cambridge
- Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 P.M.—Canton Masonic Temple
- Thursday, July 19, 7:00 P.M.—Cortland Lodge #529, Cortland
- Monday, July 23, 7:00 P.M.—Quarry Lodge #382, Berea

Wednesday, July 25, 7:00 P.M.—Mansfield Masonic Temple
 Saturday, July 28, 6:00 P.M.—Jeffersonville Lodge #468, Jeffersonville
 Friday, August 10, 7:00 P.M.—Bellevue Lodge #273, Bellevue
 Saturday, August 11, 5:00 P.M.—Hiram Lodge #18, Delaware
 Saturday, August 18, 9:00 A.M.—Paramuthia Lodge #25, Athens
 Friday, August 31, 7:00 P.M.—Temperance Lodge #73, Sidney
 Friday, September 7, 7:00 P.M.—Browning Masonic Community, Waterville
 Saturday, September 8, 5:00 P.M.—Amelia Lodge #590, Amelia

Reminder: Special Olympics-June 22nd

The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 22, 2012, 6:00 P.M. at The Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade at the opening ceremonies.

Traditional dress has been black (dark) trousers with short sleeve white shirts. Remember to bring your apron!

New and Improved Secretary's Manual!

From www.freemason.com, select Grand Lodge Forms. The first selection choice is the updated Secretary's Manual. This updated manual was requested by the State Secretaries Association. I am pleased to say that it is now available for your reading enjoyment! It covers the process as well as appropriate MORI entries.

Deaths Reported Since our Last Issue

Michael T. Puskarich, Junior Grand Deacon, Harrison Lodge #219; passed 3/17/2012

Eric Smith, Senior Warden, Plainfield Lodge #224; passed 3/25/2012

Daniel F. Iceman, Past Grand Master, Ebenezer Lodge #33; passed 3/28/2012

Omer D. Barkalow, Past Grand Tyler, Western Hills-Cheviot Lodge #140; passed 4/19/2012

Robert E. Wyan, PDDGM 3rd District, Bradford Lodge #593; passed 4/27/2012

Orville Kelch, Sr., PDDGM 1st District, Gerard Lodge #428; passed 5/8/2012

Arthur Quade, Past Grand Tyler, Theodore Breck Lodge #714; passed 5/10/2012

Lodge Mergers Since Grand Lodge

Since Grand Lodge in 2011 there have been 4 Lodge mergers. They are:

- Sinking Spring Lodge #365 merged into Highland Lodge #38, the surviving Lodge on November 2, 2011
- Mentor Lodge #772 merged into Temple Lodge #28, the surviving Lodge, on November 11, 2011.
- Aberdeen Lodge #149 merged into Union Lodge #71, the surviving Lodge on February 10, 2012.
- Silver Trowel Lodge #776 merged into Old Erie Lodge #3, the surviving Lodge on March 26, 2012.

As of this date we have 503 Ohio Lodges.

Welcome RWB Jess N. Raines, Junior Grand Deacon!

April 21st Grand Master Todd appointed RWB Jess Raines, PDDGM 17th District, to the office of Junior Grand Deacon, filling the position vacated by the untimely death of RWB Michael Puskarich. RWB Raines resides in Malta, Ohio with his wife, Kelly and their two sons.

