

# Grand Secretary's Newsletter

*September 7, 2012*

## **Enclosed Documents**

Several items are enclosed in the same envelope with this newsletter. They will be discussed in a little more detail later, but they include:

1. Review of proposed legislation to be considered at Grand Lodge.
2. Proxies for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens.
3. Program for Grand Lodge.
4. Copy of the Inspection Reports for next year's Lodge Secretary and Treasurer.

## **Program For Grand Lodge**

A copy of the Program for Grand Lodge is enclosed with this mailing too. It should go to the Worshipful Master or his proxy. The specific schedule, list of officers, special events, and various procedures and rules are all detailed in the program. A few highlights which should be emphasized to delegates:

- Bring your apron. No aprons will be available at the Grand Lodge session.
- Bring your dues card. To enter the Annual Communication, a current dues card must be shown.

## **Proxies For Delegates**

If the Worshipful Master, Senior or Junior Warden of any Lodge is unable to attend Grand Lodge, he should sign the proxy for his station. These proxies are enclosed with this mailing. Give the proxy to another elected officer or Past Master of the Lodge to serve as his substitute, with voting rights.

With the possibility of Plural Members, the use of proxies changed a few years ago. By Code, no member can exercise more than three proxies from his "primary" Lodge. If an Ohio Mason holds an elected office as a Plural Member in one or more other Lodges, he may carry an additional proxy — but only one proxy from each "plural" Lodge. If a Plural Member is serving as WM, SW, or JW of a "plural" Lodge, he can be a delegate for that position, and carry just one additional proxy for the "plural" Lodge.

It is possible, for example, that a Mason, who is an elected officer in his "primary" Lodge and is one of the top three officers in two additional "plural" Lodges, could vote seven proxies at Grand Lodge. (The Code prohibits anyone serving as Worshipful Master in more than one Lodge at the same time.)

If you have any questions, please check with the Credentials Committee when you register at Grand Lodge.

### **Inspection Reports**

Copies of the 2013 Lodge Secretary and Treasurer Inspection Reports are now in your possession to prepare for your Lodge's inspection in 2013. Make copies as necessary. One copy of each can serve as a work copy, and others can be used for your District Deputy Grand Master and another copy for your file.

Be sure to use these new copies — and NOT copies from previous years. Only forms with "2013" at the top will be accepted. The reports are also available on the Grand Lodge webpage, **[www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com)**.

### **Proposed Legislation**

In compliance with the Grand Lodge Code, the enclosed booklet contains the text of proposed legislation, which has been received by the Grand Lodge for consideration at the Annual Communication in October.

There are 12 pieces of legislation printed in the booklet. Items designated with numerals (2012-1 through 2012-7) have laid over the required one year and will be voted on at this annual session.

The items designated with letters (2012-A through 2012-E) were received after last year's Grand Lodge and with the exception of 2012-E, are seeking "immediate consideration" from Grand Lodge.

The goal of this booklet is to allow Lodges to discuss these various items in advance. Delegates should take this book to Grand Lodge to assist them during the deliberations.

Remember, delegates should retain the right to vote by their own conscience, after listening to debate. They are not to be bound by directions from the Lodge or other brethren, given to them before Grand Lodge.

### **Endowed Membership Disbursement for the Year—\$27.00 and \$36.00**

According to our Grand Lodge Code, Sec. 29.06, the Grand Lodge Investment Committee determines the annual distribution to the

Lodges having endowed memberships. The distribution cannot exceed 5% of the fund balance

The Investment Committee recently held their quarterly meeting and decided the annual distribution needs to be determined and communicated to the Lodges well before the annual payout of early November. This is so the Lodges will know what this revenue will be in planning their annual budget.

Based upon a 4.5% return on the fund's investment, this year's distribution will be \$27.00 for each \$600.00 endowed member, and \$36.00 for each endowed member at the \$800.00 level.

### **Letter to Your Endowed Members**

Brother Jim Feist, Secretary of Allen Lodge #276, recommends sending your Endowed Members a note along with their annual membership cards. His letter informs them of the financial status of the Lodge. While being most appreciative of the gift to the Lodge of a perpetual endowment, if the Endowed Member was so inclined an annual contribution or donation to the Lodge's operating fund would also be gratefully appreciated.

Brother Feist reports an exceptionally good response to this letter. The take-away from this is not to just blindly send your Endowed Members their annual membership card, but also send them a letter informing them of the financial situation the Lodge is facing. Ask them to respectfully consider making an annual contribution in addition to their endowed gift.

Brother Feist would be willing to share with you his sample letter if you contact him.

### **All Lodges MUST file an IRS 990 Return**

All Lodges and Temple Companies MUST file an annual IRS 990 form to retain their non-profit status.

Beginning in 2007, all non-profit organizations must file a tax return, regardless of

how small they are. The smallest, in terms of revenue, does not need to file the full form 990, but does have to file at least the form 990-N, e-postcard.

If a Masonic organization did not file a 990, then the IRS took away their non-profit, income tax exempt status. If your Lodge has lost their status, ACT NOW! For a short time, the IRS is allowing organizations such as ours to regain their exempt status. This includes a discounted fee of \$100, an expedited and simplified application process (form 1024), and retroactive reinstatement. The deadline for this temporary relief is December 31, 2012. Yes—this year only. Any organization that has not taken advantage of this relief will have to pay four times more, complete a more difficult application, and will not get retroactive reinstatement. This means you will be paying federal income tax on all income, including dues.

IRS Circular 230—Please be advised that, based on current IRS rules and standards, the advice contained herein is not intended to be used, nor can it be used for the avoidance of any tax penalty that the IRS could assess related to these matters. Non-profit taxation is a complex and specialized subject. A qualified professional should be consulted if necessary.

### **Senior Membership Awards**

Please work with the Worshipful Master to ensure there is a Lodge Awards Night planned for the year. Only those Brethren listed on the current year's Award List, which you received with your dues cards, are eligible to receive veteran membership awards.

All veteran membership awards that are due during the 2013 Masonic year may be presented any time AFTER the Lodge's Annual Meeting in November. No 2013 awards are to be presented prior to the Annual Meeting.

### **203rd Grand Lodge Session Planned**

The 203rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be held in Akron on October 19 & 20, 2012.

Full information on hotel, meal, and special event reservations was sent to each Lodge in May.

Full details are on the Grand Lodge Web page, [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com).

### **Deaths Since our Last Issue**

- Kurt E. Weeks, Versailles #290; Worshipful Master; passed 6/17/12
- E. Paul Howard, Reynoldsburg #340; PDDGM 14th District; passed 7/5/12
- Cecil W. Rasey, Bryan #215; PDDGM 5th District; passed 7/9/12
- James E. Markwalder, Star #187; Secretary; Passed 7/13/12
- Bertram A. Baloun, McMillan #141; PDEO; passed 7/30/12
- Franklin Rice, Harrisville #137; PDDGM 20th District; passed 8/9/12
- James C. Stilger, Nevada #343; PDDGM 16th District; passed 8/29/12

### **Did You Know...**

Most of the Grand Lodge Forms can be found on the Grand Lodge of Ohio's website, [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com) under the "Grand Lodge Forms" selection. Among the available forms can be found the 2013 Inspection Forms. You might consider accessing those forms now in preparation for not only the Annual Inspection, but the Lodge Audit and preparing an annual budget.

The first item available under "Grand Lodge Forms" is an updated Secretary's Manual. This "how to" document not only will walk you through the procedures dealing with Lodge membership, such as dimits, dual, and plural membership, but also provides step-by-step procedures for performing that process within MORI. This document can be

viewed online or downloaded to your computer for printing.

Did you know that back issues of this Grand Secretary's Newsletter are being archived under the selection, "Grand Secretary News"? I'm certain that your personal mailed copy of this newsletter is read so much it probably gets worn and dog eared. Now, you can read, download and print as many copies of this publication as you would like. They might make good gifts for your friends too!

### **Grand Lodge of Ohio Suspends Recognition of the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF)**

If you have been following the actions of the GLNF over the past years, you will know of the mess the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) is in. Over the past three years a conflict has emerged within the leadership of the GLNF. This disagreement between the conflicting factions has reached beyond the jurisdiction of the GLNF and is being played out on the worldwide stage. Allegations of misuse of funds, \$3mil spent to purchase a Paris condo, suspension of Grand Lodge elections are just a few of the problems. Administration of the GLNF is presently in the hands of the French courts. There does not appear to be an immediate resolution to the conflict.

Following the recent meeting of the Grand Lodge Advisory Committee and the advice provided to our Grand Master, fraternal recognition of the GLNF was officially suspended until an amiable resolution is established. Until such time, no Ohio Mason is permitted to visit, affiliate or have Masonic communication with members of the GLNF. Nor are GLNF members permitted to visit or affiliate with an Ohio Lodge.

### **Certificate of Election Card - No Longer Need to Send to Grand Lodge**

Starting with your Lodge election of officers in November of this year, you will no longer be required to send the written Election of Officers card to Grand Lodge.

All of your Lodge Officers information **must** be entered into MORI as soon as you can following your Annual Meeting. It is more important than ever that this information be entered correctly and maintained as current by the Lodge Secretary. This represents the source of information used by the Grand Lodge Office throughout the year. If a Lodge Officer changes his information sometime during the year, PLEASE update MORI as soon as possible. This information includes address, phone number and email address.

Refer to page #7 of the *Secretary's Manual* for instructions on how to enter this information into MORI. Only the role of Secretary can perform this, not the "Assistant Secretary" role.

Don't forget; if you elect a new Lodge Secretary, he must set up an account in MORI.

### **Lodge Membership Roster**

Your membership roster was not mailed to you as part of the Annual Return. Each Lodge has the ability to simply and easily print their own roster thereby helping to reduce Grand Lodge costs.

In MORI, select "Membership", then select "Roster". This will produce an up-to-the-minute listing of your Lodge membership, including those who have gone inactive during the year.

### **State Secretary's Association**

The officers of the State Secretary's Association recently met and set the agenda for the Annual Meeting. The next Annual Meeting of the Association will be March 8—9, 2013 at the Doubletree Hotel in Worthington. This meeting presents an excellent opportunity for you to network among your peers and pick up some tips, tricks and techniques as a Lodge Secretary.

If you are not presently a member of this excellent association, you should seriously give it some consideration.

For more information, contact RWB Robert Coster, Association Secretary and Secretary of Kilwinning Lodge #356. His email address is: [bcoster@nolteprecise.com](mailto:bcoster@nolteprecise.com).

### **Grand Lodge Relocation to the Springfield Campus of the Ohio Masonic Home**

All the pertinent information regarding the decision to relocate the Grand Lodge Office to the Springfield Masonic Community has already been printed in editions of the Beacon. However, this topic has been seriously discussed for a number of years. The Ohio Masonic Home presented an offer that had to be seriously considered. The Grand Lodge is in the same situation as most of our Lodges, and that is facing the ever-rising costs of maintaining your building while revenues decline. The difference being, the Grand Lodge was presented an opportunity to do something about this situation. Moving to our Masonic Home will save Ohio Masons significant money.

Remodeling of the "CEO House" from a residence to a suitable office environment is on schedule to be completed the end of September. The actual move of the office is scheduled for the week of November 5—9.

### **Digitized Grand Lodge Proceedings Now Available Online**

The proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ohio from 1808-2011 have been digitized and are available for research by visiting [www.gwmemorial.org](http://www.gwmemorial.org). Once you're at the George Washington Masonic Memorial's webpage click-on the icon for Digital Archives. The link for the Ohio proceedings is available there. The entire collection as well as individual volumes are word searchable.

### **Trivia Question**

What year did the Grand Lodge of Ohio change from having District Lecturers to District Deputy Grand Masters?

(answer below)

### **Word(s) of the Day:**

Free & Accepted—A term that arose during the transition from operative to speculative Masonry. It refers to the free (operative) and accepted (speculative) Masons who were both members of the Craft at that time.

### **Quote of the Day:**

"So what do we do? Anything. Something. So long as we don't sit there. If we screw it up, start over. Try something else. If we wait until we have satisfied all the uncertainties, it may be too late." Lee Iacocca

***See you in Akron!***  
***C. Michael Watson, PGM***  
***Grand Secretary***

### **Trivia Question Answer**

1937