

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

ANNUAL ADDRESS
of the
GRAND MASTER

Robert C. Rill, Jr.
GRAND MASTER



Report of the Grand Secretary
Report of the Grand Treasurer
Various Committee Report
and Proposed Legislation

207th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
SANDUSKY, OHIO OCTOBER 14 & 15, 2016

GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, Distinguished Brethren, Brethren all,

It seems that time passes in the blink of an eye and I cannot believe that a year has passed since you elected me to serve our Craft as its head. Like the sands in the hour glass once exhausted we are not given the opportunity to flip it over, to allow us to go back and change what might have been. We are given a chance to go through life with the opportunity to make choices every day and decisions made will have implications farther down the road that we currently cannot see.

It has always been hard for me to tell someone why for the Fraternity. How it has impacted me, molded and sculpted the once rough stone to a more cube like figure. But I hope through my actions I have left the impression of good and treated others with respect as I would like to be treated.

You see Brethren, everyone in this room is here for their own unique reason and why they have joined this Fraternity. Whether it is because of a family tradition or a way to network and be with men of the same character who share similar beliefs, we continue to improve ourselves through Freemasonry.

Today, I come before you to account for the last 12 months, the places I have been, to tell you of the individuals that I have met and the decisions that I have made as your Grand Master. So let me begin.

Grand Lodge Officers

As Grand Master I was given the opportunity to appoint Brethren to serve this Grand Lodge and to carry out the vision for not only this year but for the future too.

It was my pleasure and honor to appoint RWB Robert G. Sichelbaugh to the position of Grand Tyler and I would like to thank him for accepting and fulfilling the duty of his office. Bob and I served as DDGMs for 3 years. He and his wife Anne are a great fit to the family and I hope they have enjoyed this opportunity to serve you and meet all of you as we have traveled this great State.

RWB Gary McElfresh, your Grand Chaplain, has always been an inspiration to me. He and lovely wife Carol are Family. I brought him back to serve us again because of his wise counsel and his deep care for this Fraternity. Although he is battling health issues, Gary is always concerned with others first. Jennifer and I will always cherish his dedication and devotion as a friend and Brother.

It is not a given that once appointed to this Grand Line you will be continually reappointed. The responsibilities and commitments to the office are demanding and not to be taken lightly. The schedule of events, not only for the Brother, but of his wife and family are great. Brethren it was my honor and pleasure this year to reappoint RWB Keith W. Newton, Grand Orator, RWB Richard A. Dickerscheid, Grand Marshal, and RWB Timothy S. Wheeland, Grand Senior Deacon. Each of these Brethren served this Grand lodge with dignity and honor. The hardest and most rewarding station is the office of Grand Marshal, the Brother whose duty it is to see that all of the receptions, cornerstone ceremonies, dedication ceremonies, and reconsecration ceremonies come off without a hitch. Brothers I am here to say that RWB Dickerscheid has done a fantastic job this year and I am forever grateful for his service.

As Deputy Grand Master the appointment to the office of Junior Grand Deacon is significant. My choice was fairly easy. RWB Steven M. Grindle had served his lodge as Worshipful Master and the 11th Masonic District as DDGM. He is a true leader with vision for the future. He and his wife, Jane Ann, are a great fit to the Grand Lodge family and I know he will continue to serve you Brethren with integrity and honor.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge our Elected Officers whom I have traveled around our Great State for the last 8 years. RWB Ronald L. Connelly, Grand Treasurer, thank you for your service to these, our Brothers. Thank you for your friendship, your counsel and your continued dedication to our craft.

MWB C. Michael Watson, Grand Secretary, words alone cannot say what a pleasure it has been to have you as a friend and brother. Your dedication to the Brethren of this Grand Lodge and the Office you hold is the example that all Masons should strive for. We have traveled to many Grand jurisdictions together and I am always impressed by the number of people we meet and the friendships you have made while representing Ohio Freemasonry. You remind me that there is a serious side but yet a fun side of doing what we do, and for that I will always be grateful.

RWB Douglas N. Kaylor, Deputy Grand Master, I know through your leadership this Grand Lodge will move forward. We have both grown through this journey and I wish you a great and productive year.

RWB Eric R. Schau, Senior Grand Warden, and RWB Jess N. Raines, Junior Grand Warden, thank you for the memories and I look forward to assisting you as you continue on your path. You both demonstrate the qualities of leadership that will continue Freemasonry well into the future.

District Advisors

To appoint a person to the position of District Advisor they must have the ability to listen to the Brethren, the knowledge of experience to direct the actions of the District, and to act as a liaison for the Grand Master. Brethren you have done just that and I thank you for your service.

1. Michael A. Himes
2. Paul A. Weglage
3. C. Michael Watson
4. Bruce M. Shinabery
5. Matthew G. Gloor
6. T. Mark Liggett
7. Joe Shilling
8. Howard Laudermilk
9. Steven E. Cokonougher
10. Timothy L. Larimore
11. Steven M. Grindle
12. Robert W. Fellure
13. Ronald L. Winnett
14. Brian A. Bolyard
15. Fred Somerlot
16. Joseph Radocy
17. Charles W. Mc Clain
18. Richard C. Bates
19. Douglas O. Brenneman
20. Michael D. Cecil
21. James F. Easterling, Jr.
22. Robert D. Stands
23. Rodney L. Kovacs
24. Kevin B. Todd
25. Bradford A. Goebel

District Deputy Grand Masters

The appointment of DDGM is the prerogative of the Grand Master. These Brethren are the official representatives of the Grand Master in the lodges assigned to them. Their capacity is not only to inspect and direct the lodges they oversee, they must be able to convey the message of the Grand Master and provide constructive solutions to struggling lodges. Brethren you all have done an outstanding job this year and I thank you for your service.

1st District

Dexter A. Denney
Rodney G. Gibbons
David S. Howe

2nd District

Brian J. Arehart
Troy L. Davis
Arnold Fugate

3rd District

Daniel R. Belding
David R. Leytze

4th District

Todd D. Smith

5th District

Christian A. King
Robert R. Rettig

6th District

John D. Cooper
Rodney A. Kirker

7th District

Timothy B. Allen
C. Curtis Shanks

8th District

Timothy C. Driscoll
Andrew "Skip" Vanderhorst

9th District

Daniel D. Hrinko
Shawn A. Johnson

10th District

Keith J. Manbeck
John P. McEntee

11th District

Mark W. Bowlick
Dan E. Slavin
John J. Zettler

12th District

C. Craig Haney
Donald L. Stivers

13th District

Robert L. Kishler
Earl M. Saunders

14th District

Kenneth B. Cohen
William E. Estell
Frederick J. Pfarr
Ward L. Weber II

15th District

Willard D. Fissell
Arthur L. Reuber

16th District

Ralph E. Bentley
Jeffrey K. Kaple
Caid McKinley

17th District

Roger H. Calendine
Chad C. Kopenski
Terry L. Pringle

18th District

David E. Artman
Matthew L. Gray

19th District

Henry E. Grogro
John M. Patrick
Frederick L. Paul

20th District

Lew M. Fleege
Alvin L. Smith

21st District

David M. Hopkins
Richard A. Landals
Michael E. Lengler
William E. Murphy

22nd District

Mark J. Bollinger
William M. Carter III
Jonathan H. Krapf

23rd District

Gregory A. Fritter
Irwin R. Walters

24th District

Harold Cook
Russell W. Gillam, Jr.
Robert W. Ridzon

25th District

James C. Kowacich, Jr.
Adrian T. McAleer
Arthur Moore, Jr.
Orville E. West

District Education Officers

Knowledge of the craft and the symbolism hidden in our degrees makes Freemasonry unique. I had the pleasure this year to appoint 63 Brethren to serve as District Education Officers, under the direction of Right Worshipful Brother Ron Runion, Chairman of the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Education and Information. Brethren through your hard work and dedication the lamp of knowledge continues to burn in our lodges and I thank you for your service.

1st District

Charles R. Armstrong, Jr.
Ernest W. Brown
Danny A. Lutz

2nd District

Leo A. Budenz
Robert K. Crager, Jr.
Lowell G. "Jerry" Young

3rd District

Paul A. Bathgate
Jonathan I. Christman

4th District

Steven D. Henkle

5th District

Larry B. Lyne
William Pacak

6th District

David E. Cranfill
Robert C. Welch

7th District

Larry D. Cornwell
Mark A. White

8th District

Thomas F. Jenkins II
Terry N. Tobin

9th District

Douglas K. Kirk
David L. Waggoner

10th District

Ryan J. Carder
Christopher M. Moynihan

11th District

Eric L. Crow
Donald D. Decker
Steven A. Sorge

12th District

James B. Parsons
Steven E. Wallis

13th District

Marvin L. Bush
William K. Pool

14th District

Mark S. Gilmore
David D. Sweeley
Timothy A. Ward
Aaron J. Wyckoff

15th District

Charles A. Boudrow
R. Edward Brown

16th District

Donald A. Alberts, Jr.
Daniel J. Harr, Sr.
Steven K. Hessler

17th District

Merrill L. Gladden
William F. Reynolds
Bryan E. Winner

18th District

Gary L. Hoskinson
Patrick J. Rush

19th District

Tommy C. Bourne
Mark H. Caudill
R. Adam Wilson

20th District

Toma M. Bojovic
Ricky L. Hilty

21st District

Lawrence L. Landals
Daniel J. Schario
Kevin L. Tanner
Brennan Wallick

22nd District

Daniel A. Hall
James A. Hieb
Jonathan H. Krapf

23rd District

Charles Cook
David N. Milligan

24th District

George E. Brainard
James L. Cardelein
Edward M. Duhamel

25th District

Jeffery L. Lock, Jr.
G. Eric Mampel
Robert L. Thomas

Depository, Surety Bond and Audit

Bonds of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer required by Section 3.03 of the By Laws of the Grand Lodge have been issued and approved by this office. Pursuant to Section 2.05(a) of the By Laws, the firm of Cotterman Wilson, Certified Public Accountants, was selected to audit the books of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Their reports have been filed and will be submitted to this Grand Lodge during this Annual Communication. Additionally, the report from the Grand Lodge Investment Committee, chaired by Right Worshipful Brother Ronald Connelly, has been filed and will be presented during this Annual Communication.

Grand Lodge Committees

In accordance with Section 2 of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio I appointed all the necessary committees within the required time. The reports of these committees are either in the pre-session document or are to be presented at this Grand Lodge Communication. I had the pleasure to appoint Most Worshipful Brother James F. Easterling, Jr. as Fraternal Correspondent, Worshipful Brother Charles W. Eichenser as Grand Historian, and Right Worshipful Brother Wesley Webber as Trial Commissioner-in-Chief. I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all Brethren who have served this Grand Lodge on one of the many committees.

Memorial Lodges

Pursuant to Resolution No. 3 adopted by this Grand Lodge, I was privileged to appoint the officers of the Memorial Lodges of Cuyahoga County, Lucas County and Franklin County. I commend the officers of those lodges for the performance of their valuable and necessary services.

Receptions

The occasion for the Grand Master and the other Grand Lodge Officers, along with their ladies, to come into each of our 25 districts for a reception, I feel is one of the most important events we perform. This allows one on one with not only the current Grand Master but provides an opportunity for relationships to form with all of the Grand Lodge Officers. It is truly Brotherhood in action. It has been said you learn Masonry in the lodge but you practice Masonry around a table.

Jennifer and I would like to again thank the Districts for all of the gifts and your generous support of our Charity this year the Ohio Masonic Home Foundation.

Grand Master Community Service Awards

At each of the receptions I recognized a member of the Community for their service. This Award was started by MWB David Dresser and continues to recognize the tenets of Freemasonry and Community service. Listed below are the names of the recipients,

1 st Marian Coleman	13 th David Dee Mowry
2 nd Christopher D. Williams	14 th Warren Earl Motts
3 rd Ruth Safreed	15 th Jane Taylor
4 th Dale G Davies	16 th Gregory A. Martin
5 th Paul Barnaby	17 th Norman E. "Jack" Haessly, Jr.
6 th Sandy Edmisten	18 th Jody T. Murray
7 th Stephen M. Darby	19 th James Gill
8 th Kathy Szelagiewicz	20 th Jeff Lorson
9 th Carol Beachy-Yoder	21 st Tom Patton
10 th Don Moses	22 nd J. Holden Gibbons
11 th Theodore Glenn Jenkins	23 rd Thomas C Fisher
12 th Jimmy H. Wiseman	24 th Kathryn E. Kromer
	25 th William Costas

Ohio Masonic Home

The jewel of our Fraternity is our Ohio Masonic Home, The “living expression of our Masonic Obligation”. Brethren I hope all of you at one time or another has taken the time to visit one of our Campuses in Springfield, Medina, or Waterville. This year I was able to attend one of the quarterly meetings of the Board of trustees of the Home and I would like to thank all of them for the invitation to attend. I was so impressed by the professionalism, the dedication, and the devotion that each one of them exhibits in conducting the business of our Ohio Masonic Home. I had the pleasure to re-appointment to the Ohio Masonic Home Board of Trustees Right Worshipful Brother Gary Williams, and Right Worshipful Brother Gary Nicholson. Both have served their communities as Doctors and have demonstrated not only leadership qualities, but the care, compassion, and concern that we as Mason strive for every day.

Jennifer and I along with the Grand Lodge Offices visited the Home on many occasions this year. In November to share the celebration of Thanksgiving , Christmas in December, the Masonic Widows dinner in April, and in June the Annual Ohio Masonic Home Day. I would like to again recognize and thank all of the Management and staff for everything they do for our brothers and sisters.

Florida Visitation

Jennifer and I along with seven of the Grand Lodge couples visited our “snowbirds” and Brethren who now call Florida their home. We attended receptions in Ft Meyers, Sarasota, and The Villages, where we were greeted with a warm welcome. Service Awards were presented and a great afternoon was had by all. I would like to thank the Ohio Masonic Home for its assistance with this worthwhile event.

Visits to other Grand Jurisdictions

Jennifer and I had the pleasure to represent the Grand Lodge of Ohio at the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts (also with MWB Watson and Brenda); South Carolina (also with MWB Watson and Brenda); New York (also with MWB Watson and Brenda), Michigan (also with RWB Robert Sicklebaugh and Anne) and to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio . We were also represented by Grand Lodge Officers at other Jurisdictions. They included RWB Kaylor and Diana at the Grand Lodges of Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Indiana (also with MWB Watson and Brenda); RWB Schau and Linda at Grand Lodge National Frances, Maryland, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and West Virginia; and RWB Raines at the Grand Lodge of District of Columbia. In all we have made some wonderful friends, and their hospitality and friendship was most genuine and generous.

Other Out of State Travels

The conference of Grand Masters of North America was held in Madison, Wisconsin. Jennifer and I along with RWB Kaylor and Diana, RWB Schau and Linda, RWB Raines and Kelly, and MWB Watson and Brenda attended this event. The Conference allows us to meet with other Grand Lodge jurisdictions to share information and ideas of ways to improve the Fraternity.

The Northeast Conference of Grand Masters was held in Killington, Vermont. Jennifer and I along with RWB Kaylor and Diana, MWB Watson and Brenda, and MWB Ron Winnett and Linda attended this event. The Northeast conference of Grand Masters is the largest Regional Conference in the United States. This is a more casual setting allowing a more one on one discussion on issues that affect our Grand Lodges and solutions to improve membership and the overall lodge experience. This year’s conference coincided with the Annual meeting of the National Masonic Foundation for Children. Ohio’s own MWB Ron Winnett is the President of the Foundation.

Jennifer and I attended the Annual Imperial Shrine session in Tampa, Florida in July, as guests of Zenobia Shrine. It was a very enlightening session and showcased the vast scope of programs that Shriners International and Shiners Hospitals for Children are engaged in. They truly are performing miracles.

In State Organizations

In-State Fraternal relations with all the related Bodies of Ohio Masonry are extremely important. This year was no exception. The heads of the York Rite Bodies and I renewed the spirit of cooperation and support by visiting each of our respected bodies during their annual inspections. I would like to thank MEC Robert Blankenhorn, MIGM Richard Amlung, and REGC Gerald Pugh for not only the mutual support but for the friendships that will last a life time.

Jennifer and I attended the Annual Grand Communications of the York Rite bodies during York Rite Week, the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Ohio Council of Deliberation, and Eastern Star Annual Communication. It was my privilege to attend the Ohio Jobs Daughters State meeting in June, where Jennifer and I had a wonderful time. The Grand Lodge was represented by RWB Eric R Schau at the Rainbow for Girls Annual Assembly and RWB Jess Raines at the DeMolay Conclave, due to my being out-of-state. Our youth groups are important to us and a check was presented to each of them at their Sessions as a token of our support.

Dedications, Cornerstones, and Reconsecrations

The Grand Lodge Officers assisted me in conducting numerous ceremonies of dedication, reconsecration, and cornerstone laying across the state, along with the consecration of the newest lodge in Ohio, East Gate # 796, in Lyndhurst. In particular, we were able to dedicate a new Masonic Temple in Quaker City for Quaker City Lodge #500. The reports of all ceremonies will appear in the appendices to these proceedings.

Ohio Special Olympics

For many years the Grand Lodge of Ohio has faithfully supported this wonderful event. Through the efforts of supporting lodges together with individual contributions we were able to present a check in the amount of \$180,000.00 to the Special Olympics Foundation. The Masons of Ohio can be very proud of our involvement in this particular program. Thank you to the Grotto for the picnic prior to the ceremony, and all of you that came out and marched the opening ceremony parade. It was a delight just to be a part of this event. A special thanks to RWB Mike Cecil and all who helped to make this day an unforgettable experience.

Honors Received

During my tenure as a Grand Lodge Officer I have received many honorary memberships. Brethren, as I said when each of these was presented to me I truly thank you for the honor which you have given to me. I will long cherish these memberships.

Dispensations, Charters and Consolidations

I, as Grand Master, issued hundreds of dispensations that were requested by the many Lodges across the State of Ohio. I reviewed each one of these requests and found many of these requests to not only be for special election of Officers, but also for Lodges to take part in public and civic affairs that would certainly bring recognition to our Fraternity. This year we had a request to form a Lodge under a Charter of Dispensation. The birth of this new lodge was from the consolidation of two lodges. We have had many consolidations of Lodges and these have all been processed in accordance with the Code of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. These consolidations will be reported in the Grand Secretary's Report. All Dispensations and Consolidations are filed with the Grand Secretary and have been referred to the Committee on Charters and Dispensations for their review.

Grand Lodge Long Range Plan

Brethren back in 2009 The Grand lodge officers began to work on a long range Plan to recognize and set goals that we felt would be beneficial to Freemasonry in Ohio. The plan is now complete and available on the Grand Lodge web page. Beginning in 2014, portions of the plan were being implemented as part of the Grand Masters programs. Freemasonry University provides modules to aid Brothers in many different situations. Leadership training with Masons Lead Better and the Wardens and Deacon training workshops are just a few of the programs that are being offered. This year I wanted to focus on our visibility to the Public, encouraging Lodges to become active in their Communities. As an example by having a booth at a fair, participate in a parade, have an open house, or a recognition Dinner for an outstanding community leader or First responder in their Community, an event that would showcase the lodge and the good works we do; a way to tell our story by example. Brethren, I have traveled to many parts of the State this year to participate with you in as many of these events that time would allow. I would not ask you to do something without being willing to support your actions. Brethren, it has been well worth the miles. Jennifer and I have enjoyed the parades, the widows' appreciation nights, the outdoor degrees and many of the celebrations we have attended this year. Thank you for answering the call.

Grand Lodge Communicator

Brethren, communication is the key to any successful event. The ability to reach out to all of you, I feel, would be a very useful tool. A brother in the 11th district, Robbie Franks, approached me with an idea when I was Senior Grand Warden, to have a Grand Lodge of Ohio application for his smart phone. This application would allow him to communicate with the brothers of his lodge with the stroke of a few keys, a text message or an email

blast. With the assistance of Computrol and long hours of code writing and beta testing the Grand Lodge Communicator 1.0 is finally here. The program uses the information within our MORI database and allows email or texts to be sent out to specific individuals through this central setting where we can see all that is happening around the state. Brethren my hope is that you will take advantage of this tool that Grand lodge is providing for you.

Social Media and Marketing

As part of the long range plan Grand Lodge has established a Marketing and Social Media Committee. The mission of this committee is to investigate opportunities and methods to tell our story, our Why. Brethren we must take advantage of the technology that is available to us.

The platforms that are being used through Facebook and other groups that are Masonic in content are being monitored. Brethren we must remember that just because we can post something to a page, we must have the understanding and take the responsibility, that if it is offensive in nature to or in a Masonic group, that it casts a blemish against us all and could result in un-masonic conduct charges being filed.

Grand Masters Award

The Grand Master's Award is designed to provide goals and objectives for lodge growth and development. The requirements to obtain the award have been consistent over the last few years with slight modification depending on the prerogative of the Grand Master. The following 12 items comprise the Grand Master's Award Program for 2016. Acceptable participation in all the mandatory and a total of 9 of the 12 items, as determined by the District Deputy, will be necessary to receive the Grand Master's Award. The period for consideration shall be August 1, 2015 through July 31, 2016.

1. * Lodge must raise 1 more Brother than preceding year
2. * Ritual – Two new lectures in the Lodge.
3. * Lodge must hold a typewritten ritual meeting for its own lodge members and SW, JW, SD, and JD, must be present (may be multiple lodges at the meeting)
4. *SW, JW, SD, and JD must participate in Warden and Deacon Training sessions.
5. * Community service activities – Lodge must participate in a major community event.
6. Lodge must give a community builders award to a deserving person who has given of his time and/or talents to community service. Person cannot be paid for this service.

7. Youth Group Visitation – At least five members of a Lodge to visit a Masonic Youth Group or Boy/Girl Scout Function.
8. Masonic Leader Award to one of lodge's members.
9. Lodge must have a membership chairman and committee of at least one member for every 50 to 75 members of the Lodge and complete the GL Membership program.
10. Open house held before June 30, 2016.
11. Friendship night held before June 30, 2016
12. Social activities including Ladies and/or families – Maintain or increase number over previous year, minimum of 4.

I would like to congratulate the Lodges who have qualified to receive this Award. I thank you for your hard work and dedication to our Craft.

Clinton #47 – WB Steven Stertzbach
Hamer #167- WB Kyle Binkley
Flushing #298 –WB John Morgan
Middleport #363 –WB Roger Winebrenner
Portland #366 – WB Christopher O'Boyle
Leetonia #401 –WB Thomas Jacobs
Yellow Springs #421 –WB Todd Pettit
Shade River #453 –RWB Donald Stivers
Cortland #529 – WB James McNeilly
Theodore Breck #714 - WB Edward Jones
Arts and Science #792 – WB Clifford Nicol
Niles McKinley #794 – RWB Charles Chagnot
East Gate #796 –RWB Merlyn Meredith

Disciplinary Actions

The extent of the number of trials for unmasonic conduct seems to be at an all-time high. It is very concerning that we as a Fraternity are not guarding the gate with enough care. During my term I had cases presented that called for Masonic discipline. Verbal and written reprimands were issued as the result of Masonic Trials for unmasonic conduct.

On November 18, 2015 I suspended Dallas Baldwin from all Masonic activities and charged him with Unmasonic Conduct for action unbecoming a Mason. This suspension was effective immediately and remained in effect until un-Masonic Charges have been filed, a Masonic Trial completed, and a Trial Panel decision has been rendered, or I decide to lift this suspension.

I would like to personally thank RWB R. Wesley Weber, Trial Commissioner-in-Chief, and all of the Brethren who served on Trial panels to see that justice is served.

Code Violations

During the Annual Inspection Reviews of the Symbolic Lodges this past year, the District Deputy Grand Masters and Review Officers found several Lodges to be in violation of the Masonic Code, Section 27.01(b) failure to exemplify each of the three degrees twice each year, along with Lodges in violation of 7.01(a) failure to pay the lodge per capita prior to the August 31st deadline, and 5.03 Lodges not represented at Grand Lodge. Fortunately, none of these lodges had a violation in the previous year.

Recommendations

1. Background checks on potential members of the Fraternity are a tool which enables us to guard the gate of membership. Although this process will be a volunteer program next year, I feel that if it is successful, the Craft should adopt the requirement to the Code.
2. The formation of a Grand Lodge Committee of Arrangements to streamline the Annual Communication. The long term plan for this event would be helpful in keeping down the costs associated with this event
3. A continued relationship with our neighboring Grand Lodge jurisdictions which includes Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Province of Ontario, and Michigan. These opportunities allow members to see the differences in our Ritual, and share in the feeling of Universal Brotherhood

To The Craft

Words alone cannot express the gratitude and appreciation I have for all of you who have in one way or another made this journey an unforgettable experience. Your support as Jennifer and I have traveled around the great State of ours means so very much to both of us. We will cherish the friendships and memories the rest of our lives. You make a difference. You are Freemasonry in action. This year I had two goals that I wanted to accomplish. First was to express that the Office of Grand Master is approachable and welcoming. Second was to join and support you, my Brothers, in as many events and functions that I could be at, and by doing so inspire you to pick up the tools that Grand Lodge offers, to go out into your communities and live Freemasonry. I believe we have done just that.

Conclusion

This Chapter in this book of life is drawing to a close. The only regret I have is that I was unable to be in two places at once and share in all of the wonderful things that are happening in your lodges.

This year would not be possible if it were not for the support of so many. We truly are a family. I thank you all for your time, the respect to the Office I hold, but most of all your friendships.

I would like to acknowledge the members of my Lodge, Northern light #40, for all of the support you have provided to me throughout my Masonic journey. Brothers, again words just seem inadequate to express the love I have for you all.

To my lovely wife Jennifer, thank you for the patience, understanding, and support over these last eight years. I could not have done this without you. I love you. To the Great Architect of the Universe I am truly blessed by all that you provide and I give you all the glory.

May God bless all of you, May God Bless this Great Fraternity, and may God Bless America.

Brethren we truly are a Brotherhood of Values.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Rill, Jr.
Grand Master

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

To The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Brethren of Ohio for electing me to office and thereby giving me the opportunity to travel, break bread, and work with many of you to promote the prosperity and welfare of the Craft in Ohio. It is a privilege to serve, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my duties.

As Deputy Grand Master, I traveled extensively during the year. With the Grand Master and Grand Lodge officers, I attended the usual district receptions, reconsecration and dedication ceremonies, as well as the Florida receptions. I attended two meetings of the Ohio Masonic Home Board of Trustees and represented the Grand Master when the CEO, Brother Tom Stofac, retired. I represented Ohio at the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and Grand Lodge of Rhode Island, and I attended the Conference of Grand Masters in Wisconsin and the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters in Vermont. Altogether, I recorded thirty weekends with Grand Lodge travel, not counting the weeknights when I attended lodge and district events and meetings. It was a busy schedule and good preparation for the coming year.

Perhaps the most important duty of the Deputy Grand Master is to prepare a program for the next Grand Lodge year. In putting together a program, I used the Grand Lodge Long Range Plan as a guide. It lays out four strategic priorities:

1. To Govern the Craft
2. To promote the general good of Masonry by Telling the Story of Freemasonry
3. To ensure the prosperity of our lodges
4. To promote the happiness and welfare of the Craft

Based upon these priorities and extensive consultation with Brethren across the state, I prepared a program which was rolled out in July and August in thirteen locations: Chillicothe, Cambridge, Mansfield, Lima, Perrysburg, Amelia, Huber Heights, Cortland, Canton, Athens, Lyndhurst, and Elyria. In each location, I was welcomed with great hospitality, and the Brethren in attendance were enthusiastic and ready for a new year.

In 2017, the Grand Lodge of Ohio will celebrate the 300th Anniversary of modern Freemasonry, and I plan to use this anniversary to promote and advance the Craft in Ohio. The historical record tells a good story. On June 24, 1717, the Premier Grand Lodge in England was founded by four lodges that met together to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist

and to elect a Grand Master. From this modest beginning, speculative Freemasonry was born and quickly expanded around the world.

Ohio's celebration will include two key events: first, a Grand Master's Class in March and then a 300th Anniversary Celebration Banquet in June. The Grand Master's Class will be held on March 25th. One of the goals of the Class is to help lodges make new Master Masons by telling the story of Freemasonry and then selectively inviting good men to join us. Following the March 25th degree conferral, a traditional exam will not be required, but every member of the Class will be required to return and attend a meeting of his home lodge in order to become a proficient Master Mason.

Part two and the culmination of the celebration will be a 300th Anniversary Banquet to be held in each District on June 24, 2017 – the exact 300th Anniversary. I am asking each lodge in Ohio to participate in this historic occasion, and it is on this date, the exact anniversary, that each member of the Class who has attended his home lodge will be declared proficient. I hope that many lodges will encourage their new Master Masons to attend the Banquet and make this a defining moment in their new Masonic careers.

Extending the proficiency period to about ninety days between March 25th and June 24th effectively means that the new Master Masons from the Class are not allowed to petition appendant bodies or other organizations whose membership is predicated on being a Mason during this time. In the Spring, I met with representatives from the York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shrine, Eastern Star, and Widows Sons to discuss this limitation, and I am pleased to report that they have expressed their cooperation. I would therefore ask that you, in turn, allow these bodies to come to your lodges and make brief educational presentations on their organizations. Some like the Eastern Star Ambassadors are formal programs. Others will be more casual but informative none the less. Let me emphasize that this petition limitation applies only to members of the Grand Masters Class. Those men who receive the three degrees in the traditional manner are eligible to join these organizations as soon as they pass their Master Mason examination.

In addition to the Grand Master's class and Anniversary Banquet, I will be asking lodges to again use the Roadmap to Improvement as part of their self-evaluation process. This is first and foremost a tool to let lodge leaders build consensus on what they need to do to ensure that their lodges function effectively. In addition, I am asking lodges to conduct a review of their charitable activities. Masonic charity can involve the time, talent, or treasure of the lodge, and periodically, lodge leaders should review their charitable program and make sure it is still directed at the needs of the lodge and the community it serves. Finally, I will be asking lodges to conduct a survey or inventory of those objects and papers that are of artistic merit or historical significance. I would like a copy of this survey to be deposited in

the Grand Lodge Museum and Library in Springfield. We have been given a great gift by the men who founded Freemasonry, and we should make it part of our labors to pass on our history to future generations. The Grand Lodge Museum can help us preserve a record of our heritage.

Again, I thank the Brethren of Ohio for their support and encouragement. It has been a great year, and I am proud to claim the acquaintance of so many good and true men. I also thank Grand Master Rill for his help and friendship. We traveled together for six years, and I wish him health and happiness as he completes his year in office.

Sincerely and fraternally,
Douglas Kaylor
Deputy Grand Master

STATE OF THE CRAFT REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Freemasonry is alive in Ohio, but it faces continuing challenges, and the question must be asked: is its very existence or survival at risk? In many lodges, it thrives. However, in half of our lodges, there is no doubt that it struggles. The statistics paint a seemingly bleak picture. Total membership numbers in Ohio – like the nation as a whole – continue to show annual declines as they have for half a century. At the present time, our lodges lose two members to death for every one member gained. Suspension for nonpayment of dues remains an additional problem. The number of lodges in Ohio continues to shrink with an increasing number of mergers and consolidations anticipated in the near future. In the face of these numbers, can a rational and intelligent person answer truthfully that the fraternity will not only survive but prosper?

The answer is, yes, freemasonry in Ohio will survive, and, yes, it will prosper. It will, however, be a rebuilt or renovated fraternity based upon our unchanging landmarks as they are interpreted by a new generation of men. Its measures of success will be different measures than we have used during the 20th Century. Our symbolic lodges will offer a more personal experience while relying on high-tech, high-touch communication media to maintain our connections. It will reflect the change in demographics as new generations assume leadership positions. Measures of success will most likely become qualitative rather than quantitative.

Before we see these changes and improvements, however, we face another decade of statistical decline and disappointment. Understanding this fact and building an appropriate response offers a reasonable prospect for the successful transition to a new and stronger fraternity in Ohio.

The current membership challenges facing the Grand Lodge of Ohio and impacting the state of the rite are largely societal and demographic in nature. During a fifty year period in the 20th Century beginning with World War I and ending with the World War II - Cold War era, the number of men who joined freemasonry exploded. This in turn led to a rapid increase in the number of lodges and the building of a corresponding infrastructure to accommodate those numbers. Many of Ohio's urban Masonic Temples, for example, were built in the 1920s, which was an era of urbanization and great expectations based on the huge influx of new members following World War I. A second wave of building occurred in the post-World War II 1950s and '60s, when the middle class moved to the suburbs and Masonic leaders built new, smaller suburban temples and thought that membership growth would continue unabated to support this expanded infrastructure.

The membership problem became visible in the 1970s and 1980s when the membership bubble stopped inflating or expanding. Societal changes reflected in the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, the women's movement, the sexual revolution, the generation gap, and big government led to a new generation of men – the Boomers – who joined freemasonry at about half the rate of the previous three generations. Our lodge culture, leadership, and infrastructure, was based on a steady influx of new members. When that bubble began to shrink and the new-member stream decreased, we saw lodges begin to struggle to maintain buildings and fill the chairs. Today, fifty years later, this shrinking demographic bubble is still the dominate trend in the system. As a consequence, a majority of today's members have never experienced a growing lodge, only a shrinking one. For those in leadership positions, it often feels like they are fighting a losing battle, and that no matter what they try, they fail to turn things around. They become tired and eventually complacent from trying, without success, to reverse a trend that is bigger than the lodge.

But as this trend plays out, there are also positive signs to be found. Throughout the years of decline, there was still a significant body of men who joined the fraternity and stayed to form a solid membership foundation. When the men of “the greatest generation” are gone, these men will still belong to their lodges. They will have become the stewards who maintain what they were taught and will pass it on to a new generation.

Next, there is a new generation of men seeking the fraternity based upon the values and principles we have always espoused. They have read about it on the Internet, and they want it. They have grown up in an era of terrorism and war, recession, market failures, low-pay jobs, high college debt, unethical business practices, and religious leaders whose actions were all too human. They want to belong to something that is great and good and timeless. They value an organization that leaves them free to practice their faith or spirituality without imposing particular religious doctrines. They seek an organization that is indeed more tolerant and respectful of the idea that all men are equal. They want authentic masculine experiences with men who share similar values. They want to reconnect with family history, and have the same experiences as their grandfathers.

Ohio has many Masonic lodges prepared to provide these men with the experiences, the support, and the values they seek. We see this in the many active and functioning lodges that continue to attract new officers, engage in community activities, and offer social support for their members. We see this in the great interest in observant lodge practices and Internet and Social Media groups. The fact that a strong lodge can be located right down the road from a struggling lodge is not surprising. It is indicative of the transitional era in which we live and work.

Over time, the strong lodges will survive and the weak lodges will merge, and the number of lodges will reach a new equilibrium or balance with the number of current members. What that balance should be is subject to debate. Today, Ohio has approximately 475 symbolic lodges. It may well be that the proper number of lodges for Ohio will be in the 300 range. If such a reduction occurs, it should be viewed as a realignment and right-sizing of the organization – a positive action to assure the survival of the Institution.

While the challenges and issues of a fraternity in transition often occupy our attention – issues of filling the chairs, paying the bills, and keeping up with building maintenance while meeting member expectations – there is one more important organization to consider: the Grand Lodge itself. Today's challenge also applies to the Grand Lodge. Our Code is built to support that 20th Century expanding infrastructure and membership. As lodges develop new programs and services to meet the needs of current and future membership, the Grand Lodge must be prepared to update and modernize its Code to allow 21st Century Lodges to prosper. The current Grand Lodge officers have begun to work with a long range planning process to improve operations and continuity. It is expected that this planning effort will support an evolving fraternity.

Thus, the State of the Rite in 2017 is as it should be – in transition but with a hopeful future. As an organization that measures its history in centuries, the ebb and flow of popularity and institutional success and failure is measured over generations, decades, and even centuries. Recognizing this, today's leaders can make decisions based upon our unchanging landmarks and upon reason and evidence. The need not lose hope or act out of fear. It is worth remembering that the mosaic pavement of King Solomon's Temple, emblematic of good and evil, was surrounded by a beautiful tessellated border. It reminds us that even in an era of seeming decline, there are manifold blessings and comforts around us and our great Craft, which we can hope to enjoy by a firm reliance on Divine Providence.

Douglas Kaylor
Deputy Grand Master

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR SECTION 6.01
OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF OHIO**

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

In compliance with section 6.01 of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, a special committee met on October 23, 2015 and made the following recommendations:

1. That the Grand Lodge forward to the Ohio Masonic Home an amount equal to \$2.20 per member based on the July 31, 2016 membership of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.
2. That an amount equal to \$20.00 be added for every new member of the Grand Lodge during the 2015-2016 Masonic Year.

Respectfully Submitted:

Douglas N. Kaylor

Deputy Grand Master, Chairman

Members of the Ways, Means, and Accounts Committee

Members of the Jurisprudence Committee

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M., of Ohio:

It is my pleasure to submit to the 207th Annual Grand Communication the report of the Office of the Grand Secretary for the year ending August 31, 2016.

The Grand Lodge office, no different from most business operations today, continues to do more with less as we look for ways to improve the efficiency of office operations. I am proud of the quality and the level of service the office provides to our Lodges and to our membership. Many thanks go to the Grand Lodge Staff, Gayle, Darlene, Chad and Julia, for their dedicated service and hard work in maintaining a high level of accuracy and commitment to excellence to those whom we serve.

During the past year, and most recently, a new membership card was put into use. The card is plastic, more durable than paper stock and should be able to be used for multiple years. A web-based application has been made available for lodges to determine a visiting Brother's current membership standing. The use of this card is expected to save Lodge Secretary's time and money with their annual dues-handling in future years. It is also envisioned that with this card a more streamlined registration process will be implemented at our Annual Communication.

We continue to look for ways to make the Lodge Secretary's role easier and less time consuming. We will continue to implement technology throughout Ohio Freemasonry. Late this year a "Lodge Communicator" application was made available which provides an enhanced communications capability throughout the Grand Jurisdiction. More details on its functionality will be forthcoming.

The Grand Lodge website, www.freemason.com, is maintained and kept fresh with relevant content, as well as the DDGM and DEO Portal. Most Grand Lodge Forms can be downloaded from our website. An optional tool made available to our Lodges this year from the Grand Lodge website is the ability to perform background checks. This provides the ability to verify the accuracy of information provided on a candidate's petition and at no cost to the Lodge.

During the past several months, renovation in the Rickly Building at the Springfield Masonic Community has taken place to make accommodations for the Grand Lodge Library and the Grand Lodge Museum. I would encourage you, when visiting the campus of our Springfield Masonic Community, to make arrangements to visit these facilities.

Since our last Grand Lodge session, Most Worshipful Brother Robert C. Rill, Jr., Grand Master, has approved nine consolidations of Lodges. All but one was traditional mergers. One consolidation, involving Continental Lodge No. 570 and Ottawa Lodge No.325, produced a new Lodge, Israel Putnam Lodge. The Grand Master issued a Dispensation and Israel Putnam Lodge is anticipating receiving their Charter at this Communication. An accounting of these consolidations during the 2015-2016 Masonic year can be found in the report of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations. These activities bring the number of Lodges currently in existence in Ohio to 478.

During the year, I had the pleasure of attending several sister jurisdictional Annual Communications, including the Grand Lodges of Massachusetts, South Carolina, New York, Indiana and North Carolina. I attended the Conference of Grand Secretaries in North America and also accompanied our Grand Master and Deputy Grand Master to the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries.

Our office continues to receive and store in a secure vault the original Lodge charters that have been brought to the Grand Lodge for safekeeping. A total of 265 Charters are presently being stored. Worshipful Brother Charles Eichensehr, Grand Historian, has done an excellent job of documenting and preserving these Charters.

It has been a pleasure to work this year with Most Worshipful Brother Robert C. Rill, Jr., Grand Master. We enjoyed an excellent working relationship. Fiscal responsibility is a most important activity in our Grand Lodge. It continues to be a privilege to work with Right Worshipful Brother Ronald L. Connelly, Grand Treasurer. He and I have a great working relationship. He is adept at overseeing the finances of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and indeed a pleasure with whom to be associated.

We at the Grand Lodge Office are honored to be of service to the Craft and take pride in being part of the Masonic Family. We strive to meet the ongoing challenges of normal office duties while sharing in the enthusiasm of making the necessary changes to lower operating expenses while increasing the services to the Masonic Family.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Secretary.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,

C. Michael Watson, PGM
Grand Secretary

Report of the Grand Secretary

The following is a statistical breakdown of Membership and Lodges:

MEMBERSHIP			Change From
GAINS	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2015</u>
Raised	860	849	+11
Affiliated	206	249	-43
Merged-in	2,164	3,327	-1,163
Reinstated	979	886	+93
New Plural Members	<u>220</u>	<u>205</u>	+15
Total Gains	4,429	5,516	
LOSSES			
Deceased	3,086	3,372	-286
Dimits	465	551	-86
Merged-out	2,164	3,320	-1,156
N.P.D.	2,436	2,525	-89
U.M.C.	2	9	-7
Expelled	8	7	+1
M.M. Exam	11	19	-8
Total Losses	8,172	9,803	-1,631
Membership Variance	-32	-20	
NET GAIN (LOSS)	(3,775)	(4,207)	

JULY 31, 2016

Membership	82,958	86,733	-3,775	
Number of Chartered Lodges	478	488	-10	
Loss Per Lodge	17.10	20.09	-2.99	
Average Members per Lodge	174	178	-4	
Average Annual Dues	\$58.43	\$57.78	+.65	
Average Fees For Degrees	\$137.14	\$135.56	+1.58	
Average Member Age	65	65	no change	
Lodges Reporting Net Gain in Membership	59	27	+32	
Lodges Reporting No Change in Membership	26	26	no change	
Lodges Reporting Net Loss in Membership	393	435	-42	
Lodges with a Membership of 50 or Less:	18	15	+3	
Western Phoenix #42	42	Dunkirk #549	50	
Rushville #211	39	Corning #584	42	
Erie #239	50	Bremen #608	50	
Amesville #278	50	Meridian #610	43	
Sullivan #313	41	Sherwood #620	49	
Litchfield #381	45	Calburn #785	50	
Sycamore #520	43	Blue Steel #791	47	
Alturas #537	46	Arts & Sciences #792	45	
Ft. Recovery #539	50	Alembic	15	

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

I would be remiss in my report if I did not recognize the outstanding manner in which the Grand Secretary and the Grand Lodge office staff have performed the financial duties of the Treasurer's office in a professional and efficient manner. I sincerely appreciate the assistance that the Grand Secretary and the Grand Lodge office staff provide in the activities and responsibilities of the Grand Treasurer.

I am pleased to report that the respective audits of the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation, and the books and records of the Grand Lodge of Ohio have been completed by our auditors, Maloney + Novotny LLC and are included in the Grand Lodge pre-printed proceedings. I submit these audited financial reports for inclusion in the formal Proceedings of this Grand Communication.

The funds associated with the Grand Lodge Charitable Program, the Grand Lodge Scholarship Program and the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program are maintained and segregated for investment and management purposes. The Grand Lodge Scholarship, Charitable and Masonic Model Student Assistance Programs are excellent ways in which we as Masons show our compassion and support for our brethren, their families and our communities. Assisting in the financial needs of our Masonic brethren and their families are even more important than it has been in the past. There is no better feeling than to give a helping hand to a person in need or to support a student in their education. This is our future. The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program is another way that Masons can provide the tools for educators to aid and assist at risk young adults. I encourage each of us as Masons to support these outstanding charitable opportunities that significantly impact our brethren and communities.

The financial markets have experienced mixed performance during this past year. The Grand Lodge Investment Committee has been diligent in its efforts to maximize the return on the Grand Lodge investments while minimizing the risks inherent in the current market climate. I am pleased to report that the return on the Grand Lodge investment accounts has met the pre-determined benchmarks established by the Investment Policy of the Grand Lodge. I wish to recognize the members of the Grand Lodge Investment Committee and our Investment Advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management of Findlay, Ohio for their hard work and subsequent financial success in the current economic market.

The Grand Lodge Investment Committee has approved a distribution of \$21.00 for the \$600 membership level and \$28.00 for the \$800 membership level. As of August 31st, there were 11,816 endowed memberships in the Grand Lodge program. Of this total, 3,818 represents memberships for deceased Brethren who have provided an investment gift for the future of their respective lodges.

The future financial success of the Grand Lodge is a fiduciary responsibility of the Grand Treasurer's office. Currently, the financial condition is sound. However, our future is dependant upon many factors. Among the most important are: investment market conditions, Grand Lodge annual spending and Masonic membership. To a certain extent, investment market conditions are uncontrollable. However, the control over Grand Lodge expenditures and our Masonic membership are up to us as Ohio Masons. Since 2008 the Grand Lodge Membership has declined 24.8% to a total current membership level of 82,958 Master Masons. While the Grand Lodge Ways, Means and Accounts Committee has made a concerted effort in controlling Grand Lodge expenses, it has become increasingly difficult to compensate for the loss in per capita revenues represented by the membership loss. I encourage each of you and your Lodges to make a commitment to membership retention and membership development. This is the future of our fraternity.

My Brethren, it has been my privilege to serve your Grand Lodge of Ohio as Grand Treasurer this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald L. Connelly
Grand Treasurer

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITORY, SECURITY BONDS AND AUDIT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

The Depositories for the Grand Lodge funds and investments are PNC Bank for cash and cash equivalents and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management for investments. Security Bonds for the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer as required by Section 3.03 of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio have been approved and issued. Pursuant to Section 2.05(A) of the By-Laws, the accounting firm of Maloney + Novotny LLC was selected to audit the accounting records of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Their audit reports have been filed and will be submitted to the Grand Lodge during the Annual Communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald L. Connelly
Grand Treasurer

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Ohio Masonic By-Laws requires that the Investment Committee is to consist of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Ways, Means and Accounts Committee, as well as three at-large committee members. The at-large committee members are appointed by the Grand Master to serve a three year term. The Grand Master appointed an additional member to the Committee due to his financial investment expertise and experience in Grand Lodge affairs. The Investment

Committee consists of:

Ronald L. Connelly, Grand Treasurer

C. Michael Watson, P.G.M., Grand Secretary

Steven E. Cokonougher, P.G.M., Chairman of Ways, Means and Accounts

At-Large Members:

William A. Harrell

Ronald J. Scharer

Edward L. Fouch

Additional Appointee:

Douglas O. Brennehan, P.G.M

The Grand Lodge Investment Committee met quarterly during the 2015/2016 Masonic year. The Committee members are to be recognized for their dedication and diligence in serving this Grand Lodge with distinction as fiduciaries in this extremely important financial function of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. In 2016 Worshipful Brother Edward L. Fouch retired from the Investment Committee. The Committee wishes to thank Brother Fouch for his valuable service to the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Merrill Lynch Wealth Management continues to work closely with the Investment Committee in an effort to secure the best possible investment returns with minimal market risk. The financial markets have experienced mixed performance and during the past Masonic year. The Investment Committee continues to manage the investment assets according to the parameters established by the Investment Policy Statement and in a consistently conservative manner. The members of the Investment Committee have used their fiduciary talents and expertise to invest the assets of the Grand Lodge in a prudent manner.

Annual Lodge distributions for the Endowed Membership Program are determined by the Investment Committee based upon the Endowed Membership Fund earnings and market performance. As originally established in the Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Ohio Masonic By-Laws annual membership distributions are to be determined by the annual Endowed Membership Fund income. The Investment Committee utilizes an average annualized Fund income amount calculated over a thirteen quarter period for measurement purposes. In addition the total annual endowed membership distribution is not to exceed 5% of the Fund balance. The Investment Committee approved a 3.5% distribution to Endowed Membership recipients. The 2016 distribution will be \$21.00 for each \$600.00 endowed membership and \$28.00 for each endowed membership at the \$800.00 level. During the Masonic Year the \$60,475 loan to the Endowed Membership Fund approved at the 2015 Grand Lodge Communication was repaid to the Grand Lodge General Fund. The Endowed Membership program continues to grow each year. Since the program's inception in 1998, a total of 11,816 brethren have enrolled in the program. To date a total of \$4,104.813 has been returned to participating lodges. I urge every member to seriously consider this perpetual gift to their respective lodges.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Investment Committee, it is a pleasure to serve the Grand Lodge of Ohio in this important financial function.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald L. Connelly, Chairman

C. Michael Watson

Steven E. Cokonougher

Douglas O. Brenneman

William A. Harrell

Ronald J. Scharer

Edward L. Fouch

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF OHIO
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Year Ended August 31, 2016

Support and Revenue

Grand Lodge Dues	\$	1,318,612.00
Endowed Memberships		184,000
Sales of literature and accessories		63,986
Total Revenues		1,566,598

Expenses

Per Capita payment - Ohio Masonic Home		182,508
Endowment payments - Ohio Masonic Home		25,980
Per capita payments - Geo. Washington Memorial		25,040
Payments of Endowed Member Dues		379,150
Charitable Programs		64,885
Fraternal		271,002
Grand Lodge session		213,088
Operating Expense		551,656
Total Expenses		1,713,309

Excess revenue/ (expense) from operation		(146,711)
Investment Income/(Loss) - net		889,723
Increase in Net Assets	\$	743,012

Member's Equity

Beginning of Year		16,426,532
End of the Year	\$	17,169,544

Assets, Liabilities & Members Equity

Current Assets	\$	9,051,714
Endowed Members Assets		8,247,817
Leasehold and F/A net of accumulated depreciation		120,269
Total Assets		\$ 17,419,800

Liabilities and Members Equity

Current Liabilities		16,729
Payable: Ohio Masonic Home & Geo. Washington Memorial		233,527
Total Current Liabilities		250,256

Total Member's Equity		17,169,544
Total Liabilities and Member's Equity		\$ 17,419,800

Note: The figures that appear in the financial summary shown are derived from the 2016 financial statements that have been audited and have received an unmodified opinion. The complete, audited financial statement for The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio is available upon request.

REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

It has been an honor to serve as the President of the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation this past year. As an Ohio Freemason, you too should be proud of the good work we are doing to help those in need throughout our state. Each day we work towards achieving our mission, “The Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, Free & Accepted Masons, seeks to improve the quality of life in our State. The Charitable Foundation, through its grants to individuals and organizations, is committed to upgrading the welfare and prosperity of Ohio’s communities and strives to make them more productive and enriched. Assistance is provided without regard to race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, or membership in the Masonic Fraternity.”

During the course of the 2015-2016 Masonic Year, the Charitable Foundation assisted over thirty-eight individuals and families with grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,400. The requests came from 17 of our 25 Masonic Districts in our great state. These requests originate from the local Lodge, are verified by the DDGM and sent to the President of the Charitable Foundation where the Charitable Foundation Committee votes on them. We generally process requests in less than two days of receipt and a check mailed to the Lodge for presentation to the individual or family within a week. I extend appreciation to those who have assisted in completing the requests we received this year.

At the writing of this report, the Charitable Foundation has received requests of over \$55,000 and granted in excess of \$53,000. In addition to granting relief, our Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation contains special funds for the Ohio Special Olympics, Grand Lodge Scholarship Program, and the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program. The chairpersons of the respective committee will report on the grants made by these funds.

Requests for relief were granted for a variety of needs, including:

- Building a wheelchair ramp for a brother suffering from polio
- Funeral expenses
- Assistance to the children of a police officer who was killed in the line of duty
- Catching up on rent and utilities due to illness, injury and job loss
- Helping families to purchase clothing and essential needs following the loss of their home to a fire
- Assistance to purchase a service dog trained to detect seizures in a child

- Assistance to purchase a lift to allow a terminally ill man stay in his home
- Assistance to replace a van following a fire to transport a handicapped son to medical appointments
- Assistance to a disabled veteran who had 59 surgeries and was unable to work
- Assistance to a flood victim who lost household goods including their appliances

Because the funds are limited and the Charitable Foundation cannot fulfill every individual need, it is expected that charity begin with the individual Mason and the local Lodge. When a need is identified, the local Lodge and its members should take action to provide relief, hold fundraisers, pass the hat, etc., to assist before reaching out to the Charitable Foundation.

We established an additional fund within the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation this year for our Library and Museum. We conducted our first raffle this year for a Henry Golden Boy Freemasons Tribute Edition in .22 LR rimfire, which successfully raised \$10,000. The winner was drawn at Ohio Masonic Home Day. Due to the overwhelming success and continuing interest, we launched a second raffle for a Henry Golden Boy Freemasons Tribute Edition, which will conclude at the Annual Communication this year. Again, the proceeds from this raffle will benefit our library and museum.

Since the founding of the Charitable Foundation in 1994 by Most Worshipful Brother Thomas D. Zahler, there have been over 475 individual grants of relief, totaling more than \$660,000. My brothers, our funds are limited and only through your support can we continue. On behalf of all Freemasons wherever dispersed, I ask you to consider a contribution to the Charitable Foundation. Only with your financial support may we continue to relieve the distressed and practice the great tenants of our profession: Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Respectfully submitted,

Jess N. Raines, Junior Grand Warden, President
 Richard A. Dickerscheid, Grand Marshal
 Keith W. Newton, Grand Orator, Vice President
 Timothy S. Wheeland, Senior Grand Deacon
 Robert C. Rill, Jr., Grand Master
 Steven M. Grindle, Junior Grand Deacon
 Douglas N. Kaylor, Deputy Grand Master
 Ronald L. Connelly, Grand Treasurer
 Rick Schau, Senior Grand Warden
 C. Michael Watson, Grand Secretary

REPORT OF WAYS, MEANS AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

This year, as in previous years, the Ways, Means, and Accounts Committee has worked with the Grand Lodge Officers and the Grand Lodge Office Staff to present before you for your consideration a balanced budget for the 2016 to 2017 Grand Lodge year. There has been a concerted effort by all involved to control expenses where appropriate.

In 2008 Most Worshipful Brother Douglas O. Brenneman presented to the Brethren assembled at Grand Lodge a balanced budget for almost \$1,500,000 for the 2009 Grand Lodge Year. There is place before you today a balanced budget of \$1,111,000. Brethren, the cost containment efforts by the Grand Secretary, Grand Lodge Staff, and your Grand Master, with guidance from others, have reduced expenses by almost \$390,000 per year over the last eight years. It is an honor to work with these dedicated Brothers to protect our funds.

The struggle continues to be decreased revenue due to our falling membership. Grand Lodge membership now stands at about 82,000 members. We are losing almost 4,000 members per year and with it the per capita income from the members we have lost. Grand Lodge has continued to offer programs such as Masons Lead Better, the Grand Lodge Communicator, paperless communications, and customer service to our Lodges and Lodge Secretaries. It will shortly be necessary to increase funding to continue to support these and other initiatives designed to assist Lodges and their leadership teams. I urge you to carefully consider the per capita change to be put before this Grand Lodge.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven E. Cokonougher, PGM, Committee Chairman

Brethren, though this is a balanced budget, it has been attained with concessions. As you all know, costs are rising. The Grand Lodge Officers are working to present programs to the Lodges and Brethren of Ohio to assist them in improving Masonry through education and membership programs. This cannot be done without proper funding.

We have heard many Brothers talk about the \$15 per capita paid to Grand Lodge. Well, that is not exactly correct. Grand Lodge gets \$12.80 and the Ohio Masonic Home gets \$2.20, totaling \$15. At \$12.80, the Grand Lodge of Ohio has the lowest per capita in the United States. Later today, there will be legislation presented to move per capita to the full \$15. The \$2.20 for the Ohio Masonic Home will still be collected by Grand Lodge and

will be in addition to the \$15 per capita. The total Lodges will pay would be \$17.20.

Another issue is the per diem that is paid to voting members to attend Grand Lodge. That amount this year will be about \$150,000, and the fewest paid travel miles are recorded when Grand Lodge meets in Columbus. It is a practice in most Grand Lodges for all who attend to pay a registration fee, some as high as \$300. As you know, we do not charge a registration fee, but it is a huge expense to pay the per diem to the delegates to Grand Lodge. It would be a great business decision to eliminate that expense.

Brethren, if our membership continues to decline, Grand Lodge cannot function without increased funding. Being frugal can only take us so far. I urge you to positively consider the per capita and per diem legislations that are presented.

MASONIC MODEL STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Masonic Model Student Assistance Program has completed another year of training sessions. We were able to hold two Core training sessions for educators and other school employees from around the state.

They are as follows:

1. November 17-19, Steubenville Schools held a 3 day Core team training with 26 educators representing 2 school districts in attendance. Worshipful Brother Bill McGowan was the coordinator.
2. May 31-June 2, St. Mary's City Schools held a 3 day Core team training with 40 educators representing 3 school districts in attendance. Right Worshipful Tim Larimore was the coordinator.

I would like to express my thanks to Worshipful Brother Chad Simpson, Most Worshipful Brother Ron Winnett, Worshipful Brother Bill McGowan and Right Worshipful Brother Mike Cecil for their efforts in promoting this program. We want to continue to promote MMSAP statewide. Our goal is to get this program into every school in Ohio. To do so will require the assistance of Brethren who will volunteer to be local coordinators. The local coordinators are the ones who have to make the initial contact with schools in their communities. We need more local coordinators. Anyone interested in volunteering for this important position can contact me at: larimoretim@gmail.com.

This was my first year as state coordinator for MMSAP. It has been a learning experience. I would like to thank Right Worshipful Brother Mike Cecil and Worshipful Brother Chad Simpson for their guidance as I have grown into this position. With one year under my belt I look forward to an even better year next year.

In closing, I would ask that the Masons of this great Grand Lodge continue to support the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy L. Larimore, PDDGM, State Coordinator

REPORT FOR OHIO MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The past year we have continued to work on filling positions of MSA representatives at the several VA Hospitals in Ohio. We have made steady progress and the programs at Georgetown Veterans Home in the 6th District and Chillicothe VA Hospital in the 7th District are very successful. I commend the efforts of our representatives, Eddie Bailey and Ralph Metzger of the 6th District and Bill Bennett in Chillicothe. We still need a representative at the Columbus VA and at the present time are working to have someone in the 8th District fill that position. Our representatives in Sandusky, WB Ray Niehm and WB Kermit Price, of the 16th District have retired after many years of service at the Soldiers and Sailors Home and we are pleased to say thank you to both Tom Mapus and Jules Bahnsen for stepping and filling these positions. We are working to get involved with the VAVS program the Dayton VA with Rick Shields of the 2nd District leading that effort.

I am very happy to report that we have two new representatives at the Cleveland VA and thank Anthony Constantine and James Dixon for stepping into these positions. I have filled the vacancy for the Cincinnati position after the retirement of Jerry Owens.

For the fourth year we had an informational booth at the Ohio Masonic Home Day in Springfield and passed out information on the Visitation Program. We find that many Masons make visits to the veteran's hospitals and homes and we appreciate that. I will continue to impress upon the lodges how important these visits are to our veterans. Along with these visitations, I try to promote some type of program that the districts can be involved in. The 6th District continues with an outstanding program called "Sweats for Vets". They collect donations from lodges and brethren and purchase jogging suits and pajama type attire for the veterans in the Georgetown Home. The 1st District will once again make up ditty bags of personal care items and the 7th District will continue with their annual Labor Day veteran's picnic and some monthly activities of Bingo at the Chillicothe VA. Our hope is that we can get all of the lodges throughout the state to get involved with some type of give back program for our veterans. We know that all lodges are not located near a VA facility, but a visitation to a veteran at your local hospital will do wonders for the morale of all involved. Please consider a visitation program for your lodge.

We decided to do something special for the veterans at the Ohio Masonic Home this year, so working with the staff at the home, we will present each veterans with a hat, a special laser cut military ornament and a certificate of thanks for their service, these being funded by the brethren of the 1st district. I will present the POW / MIA ceremony, MWB Himes will present the Flag Ceremony and our Grand Master will “address the troops”

Once again, I wanted to set up some tours at the local hospital, however with the recent events and restrictions concerning the hospitals and mostly the patients, it is very difficult. Even the activities we used to be involved in have changed to a great degree. We know this is what is best for our veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary C. Cox – State Coordinator / Cincinnati

William Bennett - Chillicothe

Richard Shields – Dayton

Tom Mapus / Jules Bahnsen – Sandusky

Edward Bailey / Ralph Metzger – Georgetown

Anthony Constantine / James Dixon – Cleveland / Akron

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio, F&AM:

The Grand Lodge Committee on Public Relations had two goals this year: produce a simple roadmap for Masons, particularly in the younger demographics, to use for improving interpersonal-communication skills when discussing the fraternity with prospective members; and to roll out a statewide campaign on Facebook to gain the attention of young, prospective members and encourage them to contact the Grand Lodge for information about the fraternity and membership.

The interpersonal-communication roadmap was met favorably by leaders of the Under 40 organizations in Ohio, as it presented a comprehensive approach to marketing the fraternity to members of Generation X and Generation Y (Millennials) without soliciting.

The Facebook campaign, which is ongoing, involves a series of ads that are targeted to particular demographics within the state of Ohio. Three ads sets have been deployed to date, each with a specific theme: camaraderie, ceremony, and charity. Each ad set contains multiple display-ad iterations.

The camaraderie ad set addresses the social facet of the fraternity. The ceremony ad set presents an overview of the purpose of the private aspects of Freemasonry. The charity ad set describes Freemasonry's emphasis on community service and acts of kindness. Clicking on an ad in any of the three ad sets takes the user to a dedicated landing page that offers more information about the respective theme and contains a form he can complete, should he wish to obtain more information about Freemasonry in Ohio.

The form is in-depth, but not so cumbersome as to present a roadblock for someone who truly is serious about learning more about Masonry, and whether he is a fit for a Lodge in Ohio. This lead-generation strategy has been successful, with numerous completed forms submitted. Wor. Bro. Chad Simpson, Director of Program Development for the Grand Lodge of Ohio, tends to each form response and contacts the respondent personally to engage him in a meaningful discussion about Freemasonry.

The Grand Lodge Committee on Public Relations looks forward to more opportunities to engage young Masons by sharing marketing techniques technologies that garner results, and to leverage same in broadening Freemasonry's exposure to society at large.

Fraternally submitted,
Ben P. Rosenfield, P.M.
Chairman

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

This year's report is formatted to fit within the four main areas of the Grand Lodge's long range plan, which includes 1. govern the Craft, 2. tell the story of Freemasonry, 3. ensure the prosperity of our Lodges, and 4. promote the happiness and welfare of the Craft.

Govern the Craft

- Continuing to assist the Grand Secretary and office staff with phone calls, emails, and tasks as assigned.
- Aflac Request, which was approved at the August Advisory meeting
 - Aflac benefits have been available for several years as a Member Benefit on freemason.com. We would now like to make available to all Ohio Freemasons the same discounted rates that are currently available only to Grand Lodge staff.
- Grand Lodge Facebook request, which was approved at the August Advisory meeting
 - The Grand Lodge Facebook page does not currently have any information regarding conduct. It is requested that the following be authorized for use on the Grand Lodge Facebook page as information regarding **Masonic Conduct in the Digital World:**

“Masonic conduct and conversely unMasonic conduct are the same whether a Freemason is acting in the real world or in the digital one. Social media has not changed this fact other than to increase the need to remind the Brethren of it. In all aspects of his life, a Freemason is charged to be a good man and true, strictly to obey the moral law, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men. When partaking of Masonic fellowship, wherever that may be, Masons and Masonry are best served by avoiding partisan political and sectarian religious comments and discussions, focusing instead on those things that all good men have in common. (This is not meant to prevent a man, in his private life, from being active politically or religiously or from expressing his opinions outside of the Masonic fellowship.) Additionally, Masonic emblems and symbols are not to be used for sectarian, partisan, or private business purposes.”

Tell the Story of Freemasonry

- Beacon Magazine
 - Wrote articles for and edited the Grand Lodge portions of the Fall (Nov. 2015), Winter (Feb. 2016), Spring (May 2016), and Summer (August 2016) issues.
 - Planning the Fall 2016 issue to unveil 2017 Grand Lodge initiatives
- Public Relations, Chairman Ben Rosenfield
 - Designed Grand Lodge ad to be featured in the OSU Football home game programs
 - Oversaw matching funds for 16 lodges
 - Worked with Chairman Ben Rosenfield to secure necessary resources for the planned Facebook awareness campaign
- Facebook
 - Post regularly on three main topics – Masonic history & philosophy, Grand Lodge initiatives/events, and Masonic questions for the Craft
 - Designed memes as needed
 - Moderated page in an effort to eliminate inappropriate posts
 - Explained moderation policy as needed
- Freemason.com/GLOhio.com
 - Worked with Webmaster Chuck Dyer to see that the webpage was updated with all the 2016 materials for DDGMs and DEOs as well as the new Education materials and forms
 - Proposed a split of our website presence into two websites, i.e. www.freemason.com will become our Masonic information webpage for potential new Masons to learn about the fraternity and for member education; www.glohio.com will become our Masonic administration webpage for DDGMs, DEOs, Lodge officers, etc. The split will make both pages much easier for the users to navigate. There will be access from on page to the other.
 - Established a relationship with the Ohio Masonic Home marketing department, which will provide design and

management of www.freemason.com, Chuck Dyer will design and manage www.gloho.com

- Managing the transition for both webpages, including the recent recommendations of the Grand Lodge Education & Information, Membership, and PR committees as part of the redesigns

- Museum

- Created project budget, which was approved
- Established project schedule for relocation of the Grand Lodge museum into the former SMC administration wing of the Rickly Building
- Redesigned the administration wing into gallery spaces and a lodge room for the museum
- Worked with Mike Fridley of the Ohio Masonic Home to manage the remodeling
- Facilitating the current move of the museum display cases and collections into the new space
- Working with OMH Marketing department to showcase the 125th Anniversary
- Coordinating all efforts with Grand Historian Charles Eichensehr
- Consolidated Grand Lodge archives into three storage rooms
- The opening and ribbon cutting ceremony will be Masonic Home day, June 2017

- Grand Library

- Selected affordable, library grade shelving
- Organized relocation of all books for Grand Lodge Library and Chapter of Research Library
- Worked with Dick & Margy Snow, who represented the Chapter of Research
- Requested that Chapter of Research contribute to the project by paying for the book relocation, which was approved by them
- Approved Taylor Kleineick as a volunteer to organize the Grand Lodge collection

- Grand Lodge History Update
 - Identified Norman Lincoln as an author to complete the update of the Grand Lodge History
 - Reviewing chapters written by Norman Lincoln
 - He has completed years 1980-1990.
 - He is in the process of writing years 1991-2016, which will be completed by November 1, 2016
- Membership Directory
 - Continued to work with Harris Connect regarding complaints from members
 - Identified 295 members who were scheduled to be sent to collections, which the Grand Lodge protected from this fate
 - Found copies of the Membership Directory are available on Ebay
- George Washington National Masonic Memorial
 - Worked with Shawn Eyer to update the Grand Lodge proceedings in the Digital Archives
 - Identified artifacts and educational materials to be sent to Alexandria, VA for Ohio Month at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial, which will be November 2016
- Grand Lodge Rifle Raffle I
 - Worked with members and staff to promote the sale of 500 tickets, which earned a net profit of \$10,000 for Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation,
- Rifle Raffle 2
 - Promoting the sale of tickets, which will be drawn during the annual communication of Grand Lodge – 612 of 1000 have been sold or are being sold, monies will benefit the Library & Museum

Ensure the Prosperity of our Lodges

- Lodge Finances
 - Worked with Fred Francis, CPA, and Mark Ginty, bank manager to determine how lodges could receive certificates of good standing from the Ohio Secretary of State to comply with new financial regulations

- Worked with the Grand Secretary to encourage lodges to register with the Ohio Secretary of State as Unincorporated Not for Profit Associations
- Continue to assist lodges to reestablish their 501(c)10 not for profit fraternal organization status with the IRS
- Continue to assist lodges that seek the Property Tax Exemption
- Education Committee, Chairman Ron Runion
 - Worked as the committee liaison
 - Ensured that updates were made and communicated
 - Attend committee meetings
 - Worked with subcommittees to accomplish their assigned tasks

Promote the Happiness and Welfare of the Craft

- Working with Deputy Grand Master in preparation for 2017
- Masonic Model Student Assistance, Chairman Tim Larimore
 - November, 2015 - Stuebenville with 23 participants from 2 school districts; Stuebenville Schools and Edison Schools
 - May 31-June 2, 2016 -St. Marys with 40 participants from three school districts; St. Marys Schools, Wapakoneta City Schools and Waynesfield Schools.
 - August 1-3, 2016 - Mt. Vernon with 12 participants from 2 school districts; Danville Schools and Cardington Schools.
 - August 22, 2016 Steubenville, 1 day in-service for 150
 - Sept. 14-16, 2016 – Hammonsville
- Special Olympics, Chairman Mike Cecil
 - Assisted Committee chair as needed with communications
- Presentations at Lodge – Table Lodges and More Light events
 - Nova Ceasarea Lodge No. 2 – Understanding Tradition & Innovation
 - University Lodge No. – The EA Exam – Masonic “Secret Knowledge “Shorthand & Why Men Join & Leave Freemasonry
 - Lodge of Amity No. 5 – Understanding Tradition & Innovation

- Mt. Zion Lodge No. 9 - The EA Exam – Masonic “Secret Knowledge “Shorthand
- Golden Gate Lodge No. - The EA Exam – Masonic “Secret Knowledge “Shorthand
- Damascus Collingwood Lodge No. – Traditional Observance Masonry
- Kilwinning Lodge No. – Scottish Masonic Traditions in Ohio Masonry
- University Heights Lodge No. – Traditional Observance Masonry
- Indian Lake Lodge No. - The EA Exam – Masonic “Secret Knowledge “Shorthand & Why Real Masons sing
- Thornville Lodge No. – Our Charters set us to Work and give us Instruction
- Old Erie Lodge No. 3 – Why Men Join & Leave Freemasonry
- Wellington Lodge – Making Meetings Worthwhile
- Wood County Lodge No. 112 – Traditional Observance Masonry
- Forest City Lodge No. – Traditional Observance Masonry
- Scioto Lodge No. 6 – King Solomon’s Temple and the Layout of the Lodge
- Mt. Olivet Lodge No. – Making Meetings Worthwhile

It is a rewarding privilege to serve the Grand Lodge of Ohio as its Director of Program Development, and I thank the Grand Master and Grand Secretary in particular as well as the many Brethren and Lodges that I have had the opportunity to work with this year.

Fraternally,
 Chad E. Simpson, PM

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio

The Charters and Dispensations Committee is pleased to report the following activity for the Grand Lodge year just ending:

On September 8, 2015, Columbia Lodge No. 44 consolidated with Harmony Lodge No. 2, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On October 6, 2015, Versailles Lodge No. 290 consolidated with Gettysburg Lodge No. 477, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On October 20, 2015, Queen City Lodge No. 559 consolidated with Delhi Hills Lodge No. 775, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On October 20, 2015, Rufus Putnam Lodge No. 364 consolidated with Wayne Lodge No. 569, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On February 11, 2016, Montpelier Lodge No. 547 Consolidated with Edon Lodge No. 474, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On February 12, 2016, West Union Lodge No. 43 consolidated with Peebles Lodge No. 581, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On March 1, 2016, Eureka Lodge No. 592 consolidated with Shanes Lodge No. 377, with the latter the surviving lodge.

On May 12, 2016, Continental Lodge No. 570 and Ottawa Lodge No. 325 ceased to exist and by dispensation became Israel Putnam Lodge UD (797).

On July 5, 2016, Fort Black Lodge No 413 consolidated with Greenville Lodge No. 143, with the latter the surviving lodge.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack L. Allen, PGM

Rich A. Dickersheid, Grand Marshal

Steven M. Grindle, Junior Grand Deacon

Vernon E. Musser, PGM

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge Committee on Education and Information met several times in the past year with Subcommittees meeting additional times as needed. The Committee continues to emphasize the use of The Apprenticeship Program and placing an Assigned Master Craftsman with each candidate which we feel will not only result in better masons but also strengthen our lodges. This Committee continues to work with the District Education Officers and ask that they in turn encourage their assigned Lodge Education Officers, on the importance of the Master Craftsman program and to put this discussion as a topic during their mandatory LEO workshop.

There were no major overhauls of any of the resource manuals however these manuals continue to be reviewed and updated as appropriate. The committee employed the assistance of RWB John H. Whitehouse, Past District Deputy Grand Master from the 22nd Masonic District, to review and develop software that would bring the Masonic Code Courses up to a higher standard. The newly formatted courses were rolled out State wide and by March we were fully operational. This new digital format includes software that will furnish statistical data pertaining to who is taking the courses; who has completed and insuring that they receive their completion certificates. Notification of a successful completion is sent to the brother taking the course and also to the Education Committee contact person. The completion notice is then forwarded to the District Education Officers for distribution of the certificate.

The overhaul of the Grand Lodge of Ohio's online Masonic Code Courses was made through a course generator program written for Western Reserve Psychometric Services by John Whitehouse and remains their property. The Grand Lodge of Ohio will be given source code and a license to use that software in perpetuity, but they are not free to further license the software for use by others.

The Education Committee was successful in having the Grand Masters' Education plans in place and available at the District Education Officers immediately following Grand Lodge. The Education requirements detailed by Most Worshipful Brother Rill were very well received and the Lodge's quickly began working on achieving the Grand Masters' Education award which featured the Hosting of a "More Light Night" event. There are 71 qualifying lodges and their certificates will be presented during Grand Lodge 2016.

On February 13, 2016 the Deputy Grand Master, RWB Douglas N. Kaylor addressed the Education Committee and shared his plans and goals for the District Education Officers and their assigned lodges. The education

committee immediately went to work developing the documents to support his requests. RWB Kaylor stated that he would continue to present the Grand Master's Education Award and charged the Education Committee to create the Grand Master's Education Award program. We were instructed to change the criteria to make it unique for 2017. This will be completed and the criterion for the award will be disseminated to the lodges through the District Education Officers. Every Lodge Education Officer is asked to introduce Freemason University to their members insuring that they will be able to navigate the web site should they want to enroll.

The Education Committee continues to review and revise the necessary reports that support the interests of lodge activities and that are either tracked or monitored by the District Education Officers and Grand Lodge. The Education and Information Committee strives to develop Education Programs that enhances the Masonic experience for not only new candidates but for all members.

Respectfully submitted,

Committee members by Masonic District:

Robert Hons, 1st

Jason Eddy, 2nd

Eric Combs, 3rd

David Crawfis, 4th

Paul Kelly, 5th

Thomas G. Grau, 6th

Shane J. Smith, 7th

Jackie Butler, 8th

Helmut M. Schuster, 9th

Ryan Carder, 10th

Hayward T. Evans, 11th

Steven E. Wallis, 12th

Craig T. Collins, 13th

P. Pat Davis, 14th

Chad Simpson, 14th

Michael I. Dodds, 15th

Steven Cooley, 16th

Chad Kopenski, 17th

Rick Bates, 18th

Gail T. Crago, 19th

Toma M. Bojovic, 20th

James D. Booth, 21st

John Montgomery, 22nd

John P. Schoendorff, 23rd

Frank A. Rose, Jr., 24th

James Kowacich, Jr., 25th

Grand Lodge Officers on committee:

Steven M. Grindle, JGD

Timothy S. Wheeland, SGD

Ronald L. Runion, Chairman

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee this year was charged by the Grand Master with the task of selecting two or more applicants from each of the Masonic Districts of Ohio to receive \$1200.00 Scholarships.

It was a pleasure to receive the many applications from across the state and the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee had to narrow the selection process down to two or three finalists from each district, depending on the size of the District. We were happy to note that in some Districts, there were as many as 10 to 12 or more applicants.

I want to thank all the District Scholarship Committee Members for their hard work and dedication and Special Thanks to the members of the Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee for their many hours of valuable service.

Through a careful and thorough selection process, the Committee is proud to announce the Grand Lodge Scholarship Recipients for 2016. The list of young people who have been chosen to each receive a \$1200.00 Grand Lodge of Ohio Scholarship are listed following this report.

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Committee remains open and receptive to suggestions that will help us improve our operational and selection process.

I want to once again thank the members of each of the District Scholarship Committees and the Members of the Grand Lodge Committee for their dedication and hard work that makes this a very successful Program.

Respectfully Submitted:

RWB Chester G. Burton, Chairman

RWB Edward H. Howard, RWB John Lasonczyk and RWB William Turner

Grand Lodge Scholarship Recipients 2015-2016

1st District:

Peyton Bellman
Julie M. Lasonczyk
Jenna G. Wallin

2nd District:

Eric J. Glaze
Bailey C. Plummer
Grace M. Baker

3rd District:

Timothy J. Andrews
Maria D. Evers

4th District:

Joseph J. Linser
Kayla A. Troyer

5th District:

Alexandria V. Biederstedt
Sarah N. Niese

6th District:

Charles R. Love
Gabrielle L. Crooks

7th District:

Colton T. Meade
Christopher T. Meade

8th District:

Riley P. Evans
Mai EP Cooper

9th District:

Taylor M. Yontz
Kalie S. Entler

10th District:

Ian H. Klaus
Megan A. Simon

11th District:

Matthew T. Pisarski
Lorna J. Fletcher

12th District:

Travis D. Gates
Tygerlily Labello

13th District:

Trevor Piccone
Hannah L. Hartzler

14th District:

Brice K. Steiner
Emily E. Hilt
Carley E. Hanlon

15th District:

Renae L. Deardurff
Kaitlyn N. McCurry

16th District:

Amanda M. Springer
Nicholas W. Swope

17th District:

Derek R. Bohl
Taylor M. Smith

18th District:

Arielle A. Combs
Abigail L. Swallow

19th District:

Molly E. Burns
Ryne A. Byers
Emma E. Lee
Trent W. White

20th District:

Kaitlin J. Henderson
Aaron S. Kaufman

21st District:

Jonnamon M. Cameron
Nicole A. Lehman
Sarah J. Pastrnak

22nd District:

Park W. Herbert
Alyse N. Taddeo

23rd District:

Kaleb M. Kibble
Caitlyn L. Toohey

24th District:

Allysha M. Campbell
Jacob T. Guy

25th District:

Elias W. Briceland
Leah N. Kingston

TEMPLE COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The following is the report of the Grand Lodge Temple Committee for the year 2015-2016.

During the preceding year the Grand Lodge recommended approval of the following requests.

Lodge	Request	Amount	Approval
Lawrence #198	Sell Lodge Building	n/a	yes
Paragon #788	Replace roof	\$37,900	yes
Hoover Temple Comm.	Install lift	\$40,000	yes
Germantown #257	Purchase new Building	\$221,500	yes
Tubal #551	Sell Lodge Building	n/a	yes
Warren #24	Repair lodge building	\$46,800 Insurance Pd.	yes
Ft.Black #413	Sell Lodge Building	n/a	yes
Phoenix #123	projects/ building/ driveway	\$102,000	yes

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald L Winnett, PGM
Chairman Grand Lodge Temple Committee

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

At the annual session of the Grand Lodge of Iowa the Grand Secretary reported a loss of 793 members, leaving their total membership at 19,338 in 268 lodges. Average fees are \$71.77, and average dues are \$66.36. The largest lodge in the state had 384 members, and the smallest had seven. Grand Lodge per capita is \$28.95 per charged member.

The Masonic Home Education Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana grants a number of scholarships to students throughout the state every year. In the 2013-2014 school year there were 101 scholarships given, totaling \$46,850.00.

A Past Grand Master who served as Chairman of the Masonic Library/Museum Foundation of Louisiana was removed from office by the Grand Master, and subsequently filed a grievance against the Grand Master, stating that he was not subject to the authority of the Grand Lodge and Grand Master. The Committee on Appeals and Grievance upheld the decision of the Grand Master, stating that "as all committees and boards are created by the Grand Lodge they are subject to the authority of the Grand Master."

As of December 31, 2014, there were 18,955 members in Louisiana. The proceedings list the statistics for every lodge in the state, and also include the lodge location, meeting dates, officers, past masters, and the names of those who were initiated, passed, raised, and died during the previous year.

During the 2013-2014 year the Grand Lodge of Kentucky expelled 18, suspended one, and reprimanded three. There are 387 lodges in the state with a membership of 40,435, and there are 80 lodges with 50 members or fewer. Average fees are \$107.36, and average dues are \$44.54.

The 2015 session of the Grand Lodge of Utah was held on January 30 & 31, 2015. The Grand Master, Drew C. Sanders, addressed the problem of brethren getting into arguments on social media. He spoke about a handout he had received at the Rocky Mountain conference that said "Dirty laundry goes here (in a hamper) and not here (on Facebook)." In an official decision he stated that a Mason charged with a felony or other crime of moral turpitude may not enter a building where a lodge meets until the charges are dismissed, he is acquitted, or a Masonic trial is convened. Membership in Utah is 1709 in 29 lodges, and there were 134 in attendance at Grand Lodge.

At the Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Alabama, held on November 11 & 12, 2014, John R. Strickling was elected Grand Master. John R. Strickling was born on May 6, 1947 in Woodsfield, Monroe County, Ohio to Guy W. and D. Jane Strickling. John graduated from Woodsfield High

School in May, 1965, enlisted in the United States Navy and served from November 1, 1965 until August 27, 1969.

John petitioned Monroe Lodge #189 in Woodsfield, Ohio in the spring of 1972 and was raised a Master Mason on September 26, 1972. John's grandfather, Samuel M. Strickling, served as Worshipful Master of Monroe #189 in 1929 and his father Guy served as Worshipful Master of the same Lodge in 1949, 1953 and 1954. He is a dual member of Rising Sun Lodge #29 in Alabama.

Sam Roberts, who served as Grand Master of the State of Washington in 2014-2015, was raised in Miami Valley Lodge #660 in Dayton, Ohio in 1982. Miami Valley Lodge #660 was one of the four lodges that combined to form Millennium Lodge #779. He served that lodge as Worshipful Master in 1987 and as Secretary from 1989 through 1995. He maintains his chapter membership in Victory Chapter #210 and his council membership in Reese Council #9. He is also a member of the Valley of Dayton Scottish Rite.

The Committee on Jurisprudence for the Grand Lodge of Washington made the following statement, one that is echoed in several other proceedings: "The continuing number of those suspended this Masonic year was disturbing, raising concerns on this recent development, and the issue of quantity versus quality in recent years in our membership endeavors." The membership in Washington was reported at 14,174, of whom 1092 have 50 or more years of service, in 177 lodges. There were 667 eligible voters in attendance at their Grand Lodge session.

The annual session of the Grand Lodge of Nevada, held in November, 2015, opened with tributes to the flags of the United States of America, Canada, and Nevada. The Grand Master issued an edict banning the use of instructional CD's for candidates, as they were being supplied as the primary means of instruction and many candidates were not receiving the knowledge and insight that comes from personal contact with a mentor or coach. He also reminded the membership that only one approved ritual book may be used by a designated brother for instructional purposes when conferring degrees – any other action is a Masonic offense. Membership in November, 2015 was 3875 in 40 lodges.

The Grand Lodge of South Carolina reported membership at their 2015 session of 35,623 in 292 lodges. Thirteen lodges in the state raised ten or more candidates, with one lodge having 28 new Master Masons. The largest lodge in the state has 585 members, and the smallest has 11.

From General Order #1, Grand Lodge of Vermont (2014) comes the following:

1. Regular Meetings: All present are expected to wear a collared, dress shirt and dress slacks. A tie and jacket are encouraged as well, particularly if distinguished visitors are expected. Grand Lodge Officers will include a jacket and tie. The Worshipful Master may, after the meeting is open, authorize attendees to remove jackets if temperature warrants it.

2. Masonic Funerals and Memorial Services: Every Brother attending a Masonic funeral or Memorial Service is expected to wear a jacket, tie and Masonic apron. Those participating in the service are expected to wear dark suits, white gloves and full regalia.

At the 2014 session there were 247 electors representing 79 lodges present. A charter was granted to a new traditional observance lodge, Fibonacci Lodge #112. Vermont has 85 lodges and 5,709 members. The per capita is \$20.00.

Wyman P. Hallstrom III served as Grand Master of Rhode Island for the 2014-2015 year. He is the son of Wyman P. Hallstrom, Jr., who served as Grand Master of Rhode Island in 2005 and is currently the Grand Secretary. He stated that instead of chasing new ideas we should heed the words of Albert Pike – “We have all the light we need, we just need to put it into practice.”

The Grand Master of Oregon made the following statement in his address at the Grand Lodge session in June, 2015: “There are a number of Lodges exemplifying the Masonic principles and tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth and showing positive growth. However, several of our Lodges are hampered by the indifference of apathy where there should be interest, by lethargy where there should be passion, and by disregard where there should be warmth and engagement.” He also said that quality should be most important in all that is done, and if there is quality everything else will fall into place. Oregon has 109 lodges with 8,341 members.

It might be interesting to add some comments concerning recognition of Prince Hall Grand Lodges. We now recognize the following Prince Hall Affiliated Grand Lodges.

For visitation only:

1. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut, PHA
2. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PHA
3. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio, PHA

Full recognition:

4. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska, PHA
5. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware, PHA
6. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas, PHA
7. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland, PHA
8. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, PHA
9. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, PHA
10. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, PHA
11. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, PHA
12. MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, PHA

We received several communications throughout the year regarding recognition matters. On Sept. 16, 2015, a letter was received from the Grand Lodge of New York indicating that they were suspending fraternal relations with the Gran Logia Valle de Mexico. On Sept. 20, 2015, communication was received from the Grand Lodge of Ukraine regarding “Masonic Laws’ Violation by the Grand Lodge of Russia in Georgia.” This was due to the fact that the Grand Lodge of Russia had established lodges in Georgia without contacting the Grand Lodges of Ukraine, Albania, and Turkey, which had worked together in establishing lodges in that area.

Because of recent rulings on sexual orientation by the Grand Lodges of Tennessee and Georgia, the Grand Lodge of California in March suspended recognition of those states, and their Grand Master makes the following statement: “In each case, I construe these actions as a sectarian stand which is inconsistent with and does not support the General Regulations of Freemasonry.” The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia also issued a similar letter terminating their recognition of the Grand Lodges of Tennessee and Georgia.

In a letter dated April 19, 2016, the Grand Lodge of Belgium has also suspended recognition of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, stating that it “respects strictly the sovereignty of each Grand Lodge” but also that “each Grand Lodge has the prerogative to recognize - or not - other Grand Lodges.”

On June 20, 2016, an e-mail was received from the Grand Lodge of Portugal with the following: “It came to our knowledge that a certain number of ex-members of our Grand Lodge, that were recently expelled for disciplinary reasons, have founded a so called “Grand Lodge”, apparently admitting men and women, with the following name: **Grande Loja Unida de Portugal - (United Grand Lodge of Portugal).**” They further state that such Grand Lodge, by definition, is irregular, and we are urged not to establish any communication with them.

In July a letter was received from the Grand Lodge of Albania regarding withdrawal of recognition by the Regular Grand Lodge of Serbia. The Grand Lodge of Albania asserts that this is not out of Masonic disharmony but is a result of years of conflict in the area, and that the Grand Lodge of Albania is committed to moving forward in that area by utilizing our Masonic precepts and tenets.

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Estonia has requested recognition from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. They are recognized by the Grand Lodge of the State of New York, United Grand Lodge of England, Grand Lodge of Scotland, Grand Lodge of Ireland, United Grand Lodge of Germany, and all together by 71 Grand Lodges from Europe, United States, Commonwealth, South America and Asia.

Communication was received on May 1, 2016 and July 8, 2016 from the Grand Lodge of State Baja California, requesting recognition from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The 2013 Commission on Recognition report of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America states that the Grand Lodge of State Baja California meets the standards of recognition set by the commission.

I would recommend that recognition by the Grand Lodge of Ohio be extended to the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Estonia and to the Grand Lodge of State Baja California.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Himes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A. Himes, P.G.M.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

This year marked the 44th anniversary of Special Olympics Ohio and its partnership with The Ohio State University; it also marked the 33rd year of our support for Special Olympics. The ceremonies were held in the Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the Grounds of The Ohio State University. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Robert Rill, led a parade of over 300 Masons into the stadium and presented a check for \$180,000.00 to support the over 2,700 athletes and their families.

The new Director of Special Olympics Ohio thanked the Masons of Ohio for continued support and stated that without our financial assistance of the Athletes, many would not be able to attend.

Before the parade the Masons and their families were treated to hamburgers and Bratwurst prepared by the Prophets of the Ohio Grotto Association. Special thanks go to the Ohio Grotto Association and Past Grand Monarch Bernie Mitchell for their continued support of the Grand Lodge and Special Olympics.

In closing we thank the 380 lodges for your support of Special Olympics. If you have not attended the State Games please try to do so in the future. You will go away with a better understanding of why we should continue our support of these Special Athletes and their families. Through our efforts we touch the lives of thousands families, who could not be a part of the games without our financial assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael D. Cecil, PDDGM, Chairman

Committee:
Brian Bolyard, Jeff Rannebarger, Phil Clouse, Larry Cornett, Art Crim, Bob Parsons, Steve Scarpelli,

GOLD MEDAL

Eastern Star	#	55	\$30,000.00
York	#	563	\$5,000.00
Damascus Collingwood	#	643	\$3,830.15
Lebanon	#	26	\$3,810.32
Scioto	#	6	\$3,257.34
Franklin	#	14	\$3,176.96
Highland	#	38	\$3,150.00
Western Star	#	21	\$3,026.71
West Gate	#	623	\$2,800.00
Grove City	#	689	\$2,538.00
Mt. Zion	#	9	\$2,301.00
Huber Heights	#	777	\$2,261.00
Pickaway	#	23	\$2,228.76
National	#	568	\$2,100.00
Tuscarawas	#	59	\$2,000.00
Yellow Springs	#	421	\$2,000.00
Jeffersonville	#	468	\$2,000.00
Alpha	#	729	\$2,000.00

SILVER MEDAL

Groveport	#	240	\$1,900.00
WK Ricksecker	#	606	\$1,729.00
University	#	631	\$1,700.00
Toledo-Fort Industry	#	144	\$1,550.00
Neoacacia	#	595	\$1,541.00
Rubicon	#	237	\$1,540.00
Magnolia	#	20	\$1,500.00
Lima	#	205	\$1,500.00
Sylvania Pyramid	#	287	\$1,500.00
Cedar	#	430	\$1,500.00
St. Andrew's	#	619	\$1,500.00

BRONZE MEDAL

Fairborn	#	764	\$1,140.00
Mercer	#	121	\$1,133.80
Gage & Gavel	#	448	\$1,100.00
Galion	#	414	\$1,072.00
Clinton	#	47	\$1,025.00
Grand Rapids	#	289	\$1,020.00
Ebenezer	#	33	\$1,000.28
Canton	#	60	\$1,000.00
Guernsey	#	66	\$1,000.00
Seville	#	74	\$1,000.00
Dayton	#	147	\$1,000.00
Waynesville	#	163	\$1,000.00
Lithopolis	#	169	\$1,000.00

BRONZE MEDAL (continued)

Irville	# 184	\$1,000.00
Webb	# 252	\$1,000.00
Blendon	# 339	\$1,000.00
Solon	# 757	\$1,000.00
Thrall	# 170	\$1,000.00
Sunrise	# 783	\$1,000.00
Bellville	# 376	\$1,000.00
Amrou Grotto	# 45	\$1,000.00

CERTIFICATES

Rocky River	# 703	\$785.00
Mt Carmel	# 303	\$751.00
Newark	# 97	\$750.00
Vandalia	# 742	\$750.00
Victory	# 649	\$690.00
Hebron	# 116	\$675.00
Delta	# 207	\$670.74
Cincinnati-Lafayette	# 483	\$632.00
Barton Smith	# 613	\$628.00
Sparrow	# 400	\$625.00
Matamoras	# 374	\$622.00
Garrettsville	# 246	\$600.00
Reynoldsburg	# 340	\$600.00
Pataskala	# 404	\$600.00
Medina	# 58	\$589.00
Collinwood	# 582	\$582.00
Orient	# 321	\$572.00
Oxford	# 67	\$570.00
Bloomington	# 449	\$550.00
Gettysburg	# 477	\$550.00
Whitehall	# 761	\$516.25
Golden Gate	# 245	\$510.00
Paragon	# 788	\$510.00
Temple	# 28	\$500.00
Xenia	# 49	\$500.00
Somerset	# 76	\$500.00
Jefferson	# 90	\$500.00
Tippecanoe	# 174	\$500.00
Madison	# 221	\$500.00
Mt. Olivet	# 226	\$500.00
East Liberty	# 247	\$500.00
Pemberville	# 516	\$500.00
Linden	# 637	\$500.00
Mason	# 678	\$500.00
Parkside	# 736	\$500.00
East Gate	# 796	\$500.00

REPORT OF THE TRIAL COMMISSIONER-IN-CHIEF

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Members of Grand Lodge and Brethren All:

As Trial Commissioner-In-Chief, I submit the following report:

Activity of a total of THIRTY-NINE (39) cases came before the Trial Commissioner-In-Chief this past year up to this date.

A total of TWENTY-THREE (23) new cases have been received by the Trial Commissioner-In-Chief since our last communication.

A trial panel and chairman have been appointed by the Regional Trial Commissioner for each of these cases. SIXTEEN (16) of these cases involved felony convictions or pleas of guilty to a felony.

There were TWENTY-ONE (21) findings of GUILTY OF UNMASONIC CONDUCT and FIVE (5) findings of NOT GUILTY OF UNMASONIC CONDUCT. TWENTY-SIX (26) of these cases have been completed and THIRTEEN (13) are still pending. Many of these pending cases have been received in the last few months.

EIGHTEEN (18) of these cases resulted in the penalty of EXPULSION, TWO (2) in the penalty of SUSPENSION, AND ONE (1) in the penalty of REPRIMAND.

Since my appointment I have, at the request of our Grand Master, fully implemented Code Section #43 and there have been appointed seven (7) Regional Trial Commissioners and Judge Advocates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the good brethren who have served on our Trial Panels this year, either as Chairman or a member of a Trial Panel. At best, serving on a Trial Panel is a very unpleasant task. Surely, these dedicated brethren have done just a bit more for Freemasonry in Ohio this year.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Most Worshipful Brother Watson and his fine staff for their counsel and excellent cooperation this year. It is indeed much appreciated.

Most Worshipful, I want to thank you for all your efforts this year to see that justice has been done and see that the principles of Masonry have been protected. I move for the acceptance of this report and the details of the individual cases attached hereto.

Respectively Submitted,

R. Wesley Webber, Trial Commissioner-In Chief
Regional Chairmen:

John W. Worchester, J. Rodger Caplinger, John R. Teller, Ronald H. Leonard, Robert C. Cygan, Gust Goutras, Timothy W. Jagers

REPORT OF THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Due to the adoption of legislation at last year's Grand Lodge, your Ritual Committee was very busy from the first day of this Grand Lodge year. We met in person and electronically to develop a protocol for initiating, passing and raising multiple candidates as a group of up to 3 candidates at one time. The Ritual Committee wishes to thank MWB Steven E. Cokonougher and the many brethren who provided the foundation for this monumental adjustment in our ritual. This protocol was approved by Most Worshipful Brother Rill in March of this year and has been used a number of times by various lodges with favorable comments each time.

Your Ritual Committee also received suggestions for changes in our ritual and after much deliberation those suggestions were deemed unfavorable. Changing a word because the brethren don't pronounce it correctly is not a valid reason for change. The brethren should understand not only the correct pronunciation but also the meaning of the word as used in our ritual. These occasions should be used as teaching opportunities to broaden the knowledge of our candidates and our members.

At the District Deputy Grand Masters Workshop on Friday and Saturday, October 30 and 31, 2015, the typewritten ritual copies of each district were inspected and found to be in very good condition. Thank you to the District Deputy Grand Masters and District Advisors who keep these important documents safe and available for use in your respective districts.

On Friday, July 15, the pen and ink handwritten ritual and the typewritten ritual were inspected at the Grand Lodge building in Springfield, Ohio in compliance with Resolution No. 5 of the Grand Lodge Code of Ohio. Both were found to be in very good condition and safely contained in protective cases in the Grand Lodge Building.

The Typewritten Ritual copies have reportedly been used 217 times throughout the jurisdiction of the State of Ohio during the 2015-2016 Masonic year. 4828 brethren took advantage of these opportunities to improve themselves by verifying the correct words and phrases used in delivering our ritual.

A request was received to add a Charge to the Grand Master during the installation of the Grand Lodge officers. This request is under consideration at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. White AGC, Chairman; Eric R. Schau, Senior Grand Warden;
Timothy S. Wheeland, Senior Grand Deacon; Charles R. Murphy, PGM; R.
Joseph Shilling, PDDGM

REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

My Dear Brethren, we have come to that most solemn time in our deliberations when we pause to give deserved respect to memory of those of our number who have been called by the Grand Architect of the Universe to that Celestial Lodge above there to enjoy Light Glory and Bliss Ineffable and Eternal.

Our Brethren who labored with us in the quarries of this great fraternity have gone on to fulfill the destiny of our race. Their time with us here on earth will always be a source of joy for us as we remember our time spent working with them and sharing in their daily lives. And even though they have laid down their working tools of life, we must honor them by continuing to use our working tools and continue the work in which they were so very much engaged.

Over this past year the scythe of time has cut the brittle thread of life for 3,086 of our brothers. Hear then a partial list of those who have departed from us for a while.

Timothy L. Jolliff	Past Grand Tyler, District Advisor & PDDGM 10 th
George J. Christopher	Past Grand Tyler, PDDGM 11 th District
Walter E. Ellenberger	Associate Grand Chaplain, 11 th District
Delbert L. Latta	U.S. Congressman (Retired), 11 th District
Gordon W. Kahle	PDDGM 1 st District
Bernard R. Schmitt	PDDGM 1 st District
Ivan N. Potter	PDDGM 12 th District
John S. Harrison	PDDGM 12 th District
Ira M. Willett	PDDGM 16 th District
James T. Hamby	PDDGM 19 th District
Jack E. Gang	PDDGM 21 st District
Richard J. Davis	PDDGM 22 nd District
Richard A. Fromson	PDDGM 22 nd District
R. Gene Dosson	PDDGM 23 rd District
William Tompkins	PDDGM 25 th District
R. Eugene Hilligas	PDEO 23 rd District
Bryan M. Ball, Sr.	Worshipful Master Acadia #306
Tad C. Fithian	Secretary Western Star #21
Eric Forney	Secretary Perry #185
George W. Roe	Secretary Ralph R. Rickly #670
Terry B. Meyers	Secretary North Bend #346
James W. Himmelright	Secretary Wadsworth #385

Let us pray, Great Architect of the Universe, we pause to give you thanks for allowing us to share in the fraternity and fellowship of our brethren who are no longer with us. We ask that you be with their family and friends and comfort them in their loss. And may their passing be a reminder to us that at some point in time, the wisest know not when, our lives will come to a close. We ask Heavenly Father that when that time comes that our lives will bear such reflection that we will hear the welcome words “Well done good and faithful servant - enter thou into the joy of thy Lord”. Amen

Respectfully Submitted,
Gray L. McElfresh
Grand Chaplain
Chairman of the Necrology Committee

DANIEL CARTER BEARD MASONIC SCOUTER AWARD COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F & A M of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge of Ohio Committee for the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is pleased to report that only one application for a Brother was received and approved to receive the Award for the 2015-2016 year. This Brother is to be commended for his exemplary service to Scouting and the exemplification of our Masonic tenets within the community. The Committee is "looking for a few good Scouters" to be nominated for this Award. We are asking all members to find that member of your Lodge or someone you know within the Masonic Fraternity that meets the qualifications for the nomination. Please remember, the member nominated must not know of his nomination.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America and promoted by the Grand Lodges of Masons in the United States. It may be presented to any Master Mason who has made significant contributions to youth through Scouting. This is a selective award, by nomination of a fellow Brother without the recipient's knowledge. The purpose of the award is to recognize the recipient's outstanding service to youth through the Boy Scouts of America. Requirements for the Award are listed on the Grand Lodge of Ohio's webpage: www.freemason.com. Click on "Programs", then on "Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award" and follow ALL of the instructions. Incomplete forms will be returned for completion. Since its inception in 2002, approximately 100 Ohio Masons have received this Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Leonard, PDDGM, Chair
Edward Howard, PM
Thomas McAllister
Jeffrey Meyers
Tom Spettle

RUFUS PUTNAM COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Rufus Putnam Committee had some excellent choices this year, and it is our pleasure to announce we have chosen Mr. Dave Laslow for the 2016 Rufus Putnam Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Laslow has served the Marysville & Union County area for over 27 years through his untiring efforts of creating, managing, and supporting the Union County Care Train. He has established himself as a leader in the community and has championed the cause for helping those in need.

Mr. Laslow is the founder of the Union County Care Train, an annual Christmas event that helps families in need. Through his efforts there has been to date \$1.59 million collected for toys and food vouchers for which Mr. Laslow expects no recognition. In his own words, he describes it not as “his” effort, but “their” effort, referring to the 18 person team involved in this worthy cause in helping many families. It is not the Dave Laslow Care Train; it’s the Union County Care Train.

Mr. Laslow owns four Burger King Restaurants and two Danatos Restaurants, yet he continues to dedicate time to keep the Union County Care Train moving in the right direction.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodney L. Kovacs, Chairman
Danny L. Welch
Robert J. Hons, Jr.
Neil A. Elam
Trent T. Dominique

REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE YOUTH COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio,

The members of the Grand Lodge Youth Committee wish to submit the following report on the Activities of the three Masonic Youth Organizations in Ohio:

Ohio Rainbow – After many years of dedicated service, Mrs. Janice Morris has retired as the Supreme Deputy for Ohio Rainbow. This Committee offers our thanks to Mom Morris for her outstanding leadership, and our Best Wishes to Mrs. Whitney Poma, the new Supreme Deputy. This year, Ohio Rainbow’s theme is “Show Your Rainbow Glow.” Across the State of Ohio, there are 34 Assemblies, arranged into 17 Rainbow Districts. Rainbow Assemblies can be found in Masonic Districts 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

Ohio Jobs Daughters – This year, Ohio Jobs Daughters reminds us to “Make A Joyful Noise.” Across Ohio, there are 16 Bethels, arranged into five Districts. Jobs Daughter Bethels can be found in Masonic Districts 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, 21, 22, 24 and 25.

Ohio DeMolay – Following a year where we were challenged to “Give It All” by State Master Councilor Greg Fyffe, Ohio DeMolay is now being reminded that every day we should “Make It Count” by our new State Master Councilor, Eric Lovingshimer. Across Ohio, there are 25 Chapters, arranged into five DeMolay Districts. Active DeMolay Chapters can be found in Masonic Districts 2, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 25.

All three Masonic Youth Organizations continue to grow and prosper in the State of Ohio. However, the major issue for each of our Youth Groups continues to be the need for dedicated adults to serve as Advisors. There is a major need for the Masons of Ohio to support our Youth not only with their finances and use of their facilities, but with their time and talents as well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martin R. Woodworth, Chairman

HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Ohio Village located on the Ohio History Campus in Columbus is a teaching tool designed to help visitors understand what life was like in the late 1800s. In the past it was a reconstruction of a typical Ohio County seat as it would have appeared on the eve of the Civil War. Today the buildings in the Village form the commercial, social, and political core of a village of about 500 people, and the buildings range in architectural periods from the beginning to the end of the 19th century. The furnishings in the various shops and stores and the tools and equipment used by the Village volunteers are either original pieces or carefully researched reproductions. The Grand Lodge of Ohio has sponsored Ohio Village Lodge No. 10 since October, 1977.

The Lodge room is an example of a working lodge of the period and houses a collection of original pieces which belong to the Ohio Historical Center, the Grand Lodge of Ohio collection, and individual lodges. The Ohio Village Lodge No. 10 is available for meetings during the day. To schedule a meeting please call Worshipful Brother Charles Eichensehr at 614-262-7426 or 614-395-5908.

Blue Lodge meetings held at the Ohio Historical Society's Ohio Village Lodge No. 10 during this period include:

- University Lodge No. 631, Columbus, Ohio, District 14. Meeting date: Oct. 3rd 2015, 1 Fellow Craft Degree
- New Holland Lodge No. 392, New Holland, Ohio. Meeting date: April 23, 2016, 1 Fellow Craft Degree
- Arts & Sciences Lodge No. 792, Hilliard, Ohio, District 14. Meeting date: May 21, 2016. Open in the Master Mason Degree, 1 Exam, Educational Program.
- Chester Lodge No. 238, Chesterville, Ohio, District 15. Meeting date: June 11, 2016, 1 Fellow Craft Degree

In addition to Blue Lodge meetings the Ohio Village Lodge hosted Central Ohio Manor Order of Squires, a DeMolay Youth Group. Meeting date: July 24, 2016, Educational Program.

This year the Ohio History Center and the Ohio Village had over 20,000 visitors, up from last year. I have had the opportunity to speak to hundreds of visitors, many of whom showed a great deal of interest in what Freemasonry represents.

Starting this year the Village has moved the focus to 1890s to 1900. The Civil War reenactments were modified to include all wars of this period. In August Ohio's military history was represented by a "March Through Time". The day included learning how uniforms, weapons, and gear evolved throughout time, seeing what it would be like at camp, and talking with re-actors representing a range of military conflicts.

The period the Village has moved into was an exciting time for fraternities like Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge Communication held in Springfield, Ohio, October 24, 1900 reported the total number of Masonic Lodges at 583 with 2 lodges under dispensation. Groups such as the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Ancient Order of United Workmen, and many, many others realized a great deal of popularity and growth, totaling 4,764,098 members. These figures are according to the World Almanac (1896).

There are many historical events that take place throughout the season at the Ohio Village. A recent event that drew visitors from around the state of Ohio and beyond was the Ohio Cup. The two day vintage baseball competition attracted many players, families, and spectators to the Ohio Village. Many of these folks stopped at the Ohio Village Lodge No. 10 and were able to learn about the fraternity and the part it played in our state's history.

To the nation, Ohio began to be seen as a state to look to for leadership. It was the home of six United States presidents up to 1900: William H. Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and William McKinley, Jr. As of today, out of 44 United States Presidents, 14, or one quarter, were Masons.

Ohio Village Lodge No. 10 lost a dedicated volunteer this year. Brother James Leonard was a member of Blendon Lodge No. 339 F. & A. M. Part of his degree work was done at the Village Lodge in February, 1991. Jim began volunteering in 1995 and his knowledge and helpfulness will be sorely missed.

Grand Lodge Museum & Library

Since the move of the Grand Secretary's offices to the Springfield Campus of the Ohio Masonic Home in November of 2012, the Grand Lodge museum had been located on the first floor of the Hillman building (recently renamed the York Rite building). In August of 2016, plans were made, the result of the generosity of the Ohio Masonic Home, to relocate the museum to the former administrative wing of the Rickly building. This plan would more than double the display space available to the museum and allow room for a curation workspace.

Worshipful Brother Charles Eichensehr and Worshipful Brother Chad Simpson undertook the project with a drive fitting the broader potential

for the museum. The various display cases and artifacts have been relocated to the newly renovated space in the Rickly building. A historic lodge space has been created thanks to donations made by Somerset Lodge No. 76, Pickaway Lodge No. 23, and Israel Putnam Lodge No. 797. New England Lodge No. 4, the Ohio Masonic Home, and Brother Ted Chapman, a resident of the Springfield Campus, have all made generous donations of display cases to help maximize the use of the new museum space. All these efforts have resulted in the new Masonic Heritage Museum being ready for individuals and lodges to visit. To make an appointment to visit, please call the Grand Secretary's office at 614-885-5318. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held as part of the 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Ohio Masonic Home on Home Day in 2017.

The Grand Lodge library and the library of the Ohio Chapter of Research have also found a new home in the Rickly building. Worshipful Brother Simpson worked with Worshipful Brother Richard Snow and his wife Marjory to accomplish the move. The library is also now available by appointment for use by calling the Grand Secretary's office.

History Committee

Worshipful Brother Charles W. Eichensehr, Chairman
Curator, Ohio Village Lodge No. 10
Ohio Historical Center
Grand Lodge Historian and Museum Curator

Worshipful Brother Chad E. Simpson
Director of Program Development
The Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Ohio

Brother Michael Harsh, Licking Lodge No.2 61
Administration Chief - Collections
The Ohio Historical Society - Retired.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F&A.M. of Ohio:

It is my pleasure to submit this report of the Grand Lodge Membership Retention and Development Committee.

This is the fourth year for the ad-hoc committee to examine the issues facing membership in Ohio Freemasonry. One of the greatest parts of being on this committee is talking to our brethren across this great jurisdiction about the challenges and successes in membership. We hope you have learned as much from all of us that we all have from working with all of you.

In an effort to support Lodges in their efforts to recruit, retain, and restore members and strengthen the individual Lodge Experience. Membership has been a concern for Grand Lodges for decades and many different efforts have been tried to help stem the loss of membership, to varying degrees of success. In talking to younger members, we find that they join because they are looking for a strong Lodge Experience based around Substance, Standards, and Solidarity. We find that they join because they want to be useful and of service in their communities. We find that they want to connect to tradition, to history, to their communities and to be a part of something larger than themselves. We find the same is true of our older members, as well; but that there is a disconnect between the older and younger members. Both groups will say that we need to get Masons back to being Masons and Lodges back to being sacred and exceptional places; they just have different idea on how to accomplish this.

After talking with different lodges and districts throughout the state, we have started to build resources for lodges to help with the recruitment, retention and restoration of our brethren. We have been working with the Grand Lodge Officers and Office to create an online resource center for the membership to obtain links to documents, PowerPoints or created videos on various topics, such as:

- Hosting a Great Open House
- Membership Manual
- Pre-packaged Community Outreach Modules
- Membership Implementation Manual
- Recruiting, Retention, Restoration
- Social Media and many more

As we move forward in 2017, we are working with several new initiatives to assist lodges in our membership endeavors.

It has been an honor to work with all of you and we look forward to the continued great successes of our lodge's membership endeavors in the future.

Fraternally Submitted,

Chair: WB Daniel K. Rannebarger

RWB Jeremy Sharinghouse, PDDGM; RWB William Carter, DDGM; RWB Jeff L. Rannebarger, PDDGM; RWB Chad Kopenski, DDGM; WB Thomas Savage

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of Ohio:

The following is a brief summary of the results of the Masons Lead Better program for the 2016 Masonic year.

We are conducting two types of workshops this year: “Becoming Masonry,” which focuses on personal development and using the lessons of Masonry in your life and “The Masonic Leader’s Trestle Board,” which introduces the concepts of leading change and developing a culture of masonic and leadership excellence in the local lodge.

The Brothers’ evaluations of the workshops indicate that they are very pleased with the content and consider the time well spent. If anyone would like to see these evaluations I can provide them in a PDF format.

Some statistics:

1. 8 workshops completed, 4 more scheduled – we intended there to be a total of 16 workshops. However, we had to cancel several because only a few registered.
2. Total Brothers enrolled – 232; cancelled before event – 16; did not show up – 49; attended but didn’t register – 12.
3. Average workshop attendance – 17 – Largest – 24, smallest 9
4. We are still conducting monthly Master Builder conference calls which are recorded and can be downloaded from the Masons Lead Better website.

The following are some of the significant program accomplishments:

1. The Brothers continue to enjoy engaging in dialogue about their values, feelings, experiences and offering their candid opinions about the current state, as well as, the future of Masonry in Ohio.
2. As a part of the Masonic Leader’s Trestle Board workshop, each group formed their vision for what constitutes a “perfect lodge” and a “perfect lodge meeting.” A few of the attributes mentioned include: enriched education programs, meaningful ritual, fellowship & brotherly love, culture of learning and personal development, making Masonry relevant to generations X’ers and Millenials.
3. I continue to believe that the Masons Lead Better program is one that if nurtured, supported and rewarded, can be a force for positive change for Masonry in Ohio.

Respectively submitted,
Michael Clevenger, Chairman

TIME AND PLACE COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Second Masonic District of the Great State of Ohio last hosted The Annual Communication of The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio in 2010. The four counties comprising the Second Masonic District: Butler, Montgomery, Preble and Warren, "Where You Are Second To None", extends a most cordial invitation for all Masons to visit the magnificent Dayton Masonic Temple on October 20 and 21, 2017 for the 208th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio!

Respectfully Submitted:
RWB Bryan D. Worley, Chairman



Proposed Legislation
for the
207th Annual Communication
of the
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge
of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

October 14 and 15, 2016
Sandusky, Ohio

My Brethren:

The following is information regarding Proposed Legislation for the next Annual Communication. As you review this information in your Lodges, I would ask that you remember the following:

1. The Lodge should not “direct” you to vote any certain way. You should go to Grand Lodge as an independent delegate. You should hear the arguments presented and make up your own mind.
2. The presentation of proposed legislation is covered in the Code and By Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.
3. In the following documents, legislation numbered 2016-1 through 2016-10 are ready for consideration; those pieces of legislation requesting immediate consideration are marked as such 2016-A through 2016-D. According to Code 35.01(d), if more than 25 delegates object to immediate consideration, it will be laid over until the 2017 Communication.
4. The Jurisprudence Committee will review the Legislation and attempt to determine if it is in proper form. This Committee will not pass on whether it is desirable legislation.
5. The Jurisprudence Committee will present the Proposed Legislation and move its adoption. The Motion for Adoption of the Legislation is only to place it properly before the delegates. It does not imply that the Jurisprudence Committee endorses the legislation. An affirmative vote supports adoption; a negative vote will reject the vote.
6. The Advisory Committee of the Grand Lodge (the Elected Officers of the Grand Lodge; the Immediate Past Grand Master; and the Chairman of Ways, Means and Accounts; Chairman of Masonic Jurisprudence and the Fraternal Correspondent) has reviewed the legislation. Their recommendation will be given to the delegates after the Legislation is submitted for decision.

Terry W. Posey, PGM
The Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence

Ralph E. Crossan
David L. Dresser, PGM
Bradford A. Goebel, PGM
Steve Grindle
Clifford P. Koss
Charles R. Murphy, PGM
Carlos R. Pratt
Keith W. Newton
Thomas R. Schuck
Timothy B. Strawn

Proposed Legislation 2016-1

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34, SEC. 34.02 *Lodge Prohibitions*, (a) and (b) to read:

(a) ~~No spirituous malt, vinous or fermented liquor or beverage having alcoholic content of more than one half of one percent by weight shall be used for beverage purposes in any Masonic Lodge room, anteroom, banqueting room or other room in any Masonic Temple within this Jurisdiction. This applies to gatherings in Masonic Temples of organizations whose membership is predicated upon Masonry, and to all other organizations.~~ **A Lodge or Temple Company may rent, lease or sub-lease the public areas of its building, excluding the Fraternal, dedicated areas in which the Lodge Room(s) is located, to any person or persons or to any business entity for rental events at which alcoholic beverages are served. Licensed caterers only approved by the Trustees or Temple Company of the Lodge, shall have full responsibility for obtaining all liquor licenses and necessary insurance coverage for serving and dispensing all alcoholic beverages. Prior to undertaking the provisions to which this regulation applies, the approval of the Grand Master or his designee must be obtained.**

(b) ~~No Lodge or Masonic Temple Company may rent or lease any portion of its building where the same is to be used for selling or dealing in intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes.~~ (to be deleted in its entirety.)

/s/ Roger L. Gotthardt	David R. Leytze
Phillip Stickel	Keith Hocker
Daniel R. Belding	Bruce M. Ailes

Proposed Legislation 2016-2

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34 MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC. 34.01 *Unmasonic Conduct*, (c) to read:

(c) The use of the name of Masonry, or of Masonic emblems or devices for any purpose not legitimately Masonic, is hereby declared to be contrary to the fundamental principles of Freemasonry and is forbidden. **Masonic emblems or devices may be used in a Masonic publication to distinguish businesses owned or connected with a Master Mason.**

/s/ Timothy S. Wheeland

Ward Weber II

Craig A. Lobdell

William L. Wolfe

David E. Wolfe

Proposed Legislation 2016-3

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 5 REPRESENTATION IN GRAND LODGE, SEC. 5.01 *Voting in Grand Lodge*, (a) to read:

(a) On all questions arising in The Grand Lodge. The Grand Officers, together with such Past Grand Masters and Past Deputy Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge who are members thereof and present thereat, District Deputy Grand Masters, Past District Deputy Grand Masters, Associate Grand Chaplains, Past Grand Tylers, and District Education Officers during their term of service, who are present shall be entitled to one vote; and the Master and Wardens of each chartered Lodge, or their regularly constituted proxies, shall each be entitled to one vote; ~~but in~~ **In** no case shall a member, by virtue or any proxy or proxies, cast more than ~~three votes~~ **one vote**.

/s/Ronald H. Leonard

Fred S. Kile

Timothy B. Strawn

Elbridge N. Brewer

Donald E. Lund

Proposed Legislation 2016-4

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34 MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC. 34.02 *Lodge Prohibitions*, (f) to read:

(f) It is a violation of the laws of The Grand Lodge for a Symbolic Lodge to send out notices, ~~printed or otherwise~~, through the mail **or by other means** to its members giving information relative to candidates ~~for degrees or affiliation, or as to suspensions or expulsions~~, in other than sealed envelopes, or if not in an envelope, folded and stapled **or sealed with the exception of publishing the names of candidates for degrees by electronic mail or digital media restricted to members of the craft, or closed Masonic social media group.**

/s/Keith W. Newton

Cheyenne Duggins

Thomas F. Jenkins

Thaddeus C. Hollon

James L. Oughterson

Howard E. Lauder milk

Andrew Vanderhorst

Proposed Legislation 2016-5

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34 MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC 34.01 *Unmasonic Conduct*, (d) :

(d) ~~No officer of a Lodge or of The Grand Lodge~~ **No Ohio Mason** shall endorse officially, circulate letters or other ~~sales~~ promotional material which is to be used for **personal gain or profit from any trip or Masonic event. Any proceeds (profits) derived from a trip approved by the Grand Master must be designated for a specific charity or the profits split among all of those participating in the trip. No individual or individuals shall receive a free trip or profit in any way from a trip advertised as a "Masonic Event/Trip".** ~~other than legitimate Masonic purposes, or for purposes which violate the Code or the fundamental principles of Freemasonry contrary to the best interests of the order, nor shall a Lodge Officer permit the use of names of the members of his Lodge for business or commercial purposes, provided, however, the Grand Master may endorse and permit solicitation under his and the Grand Secretary's administration and supervision, in connection with group tours or excursions limited to Masons and their families.~~

~~In the sponsorship, promotion, or organization of any group tours whether by air, ship or rail or bus transportation, for Symbolic Lodge members or families, the code of The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio shall be strictly observed without deviation.~~

~~All Symbolic Lodge members invited to join or participate in any such group tour or trip shall be advised in writing at the time of such invitation of any "free" ride to be accorded to a Master Mason or a member of his family or of any bonus, rebate, discount, commission, compensation, consideration or emolument to be granted or paid by or on behalf of the tour agent to, or for the benefit of, any Master Mason participating or not participating in the tour or to or for the benefit of any person participating in such tour.~~

~~The dollar amount of any and all such bonuses, rebates, discounts, commissions, compensations, considerations or emoluments and the value of any~~

~~“free ride” to be granted or paid for on behalf of the tour agent shall be prorated among all participants on the tour, thus reducing the cost of each individual participant.~~

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio shall expressly disclaim in writing any and all responsibility for the conduct or operation of the tour or for the failure of the tour agent or travel agency to comply with the terms of the contract governing such tour. Said written disclaimer shall be issued to each participant.

/s/ Richard A. Dickerscheid

Dexter A. Denney

Larry A. Gillinger

Joe R. Troxell

Raymond T. Clark

Edward C. McIntyre

Proposed Legislation 2016-6

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34 MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC 34.01 *Unmasonic Conduct*, (f) :

(f) ~~It shall be unMasonic Conduct for a member to disseminate, or be in possession of any ritual not authorized by The Grand Lodge. If such a member be an officer of a Lodge or The Grand Lodge, he shall be removed from office by the Grand Master. Remove in its entirety.~~

/s/ Richard A. Dickerscheid

Dexter A. Denney

Larry A. Gillinger

Joe R. Troxell

Raymond T. Clark

Edward C. McIntyre

Proposed Legislation 2016-7

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Sections 5.02 and 7.01 of the By-Laws and Resolutions No. 4 and 8:

~~SEC. 5.02 Attendance and Expense Allowances. (a) Effective for the 2001 Annual Communication and thereafter, each Chartered Lodge is required to be represented at the Annual Communications of the Grand Lodge. ; and there shall be paid on account thereof, out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, to the ranking representative present from each Lodge, mileage and per diem, as follows: thirty five cents for each mile in coming from and thirty five cents for each mile in returning to the place where such Lodge is located, to be reckoned by the most direct traveled route, and seventy five dollars for each day's attendance; provided, that no Brother shall receive mileage and per diem as the representative or proxy from more than one Lodge; and provided further, that if any Brother, who would otherwise be entitled to mileage and per diem as representative of his lodge, received mileage and per diem in any other manner or capacity, neither he nor any other member of his Lodge shall be entitled to mileage and per diem as representative of hi lodge; and provided, also, that no representative who is not in actual attendance at, or who leaves the Communication of the Grand Lodge before its close, shall receive any expense allowance for his travel or attendance, unless he be excused by the Grand Lodge.~~

~~(b) Like mileage and per diem shall also be paid to the Grand Officers, the Past Grand Masters and the Past Deputy Grand Masters of this Grand Lodge, who are members thereof and present thereat, and to such other Brethren as may be required by the Grand Lodge of Grand Master to attend an Annual Communication, in special service of the Grand Lodge.~~

SEC. 7.01 *Time of Filing.* (a) The membership of each Symbolic Lodge shall be determined as of the thirty-first day of July of each year; and each Lodge shall cause to be made out and filed with the Grand Secretary, on or before the thirty-

first day of August following, upon blanks to be furnished by him ~~therefor~~ **therefore**, its returns complete, properly signed and attested with the seal of the Lodge, together with its Grand Dues for the year then closed. ~~If any Lodge shall fail to comply with this rule, no representative therefrom shall be entitled to, or receive, mileage and per diem.~~ **If a Lodge fails to file their return by the thirty-first day of August following, it will be placed on probation and subject to disciplinary action as such.**

Resolution No. 4 – DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

Resolved, That the State of Ohio is hereby divided into districts, The Grand Master shall appoint a District Deputy Grand Master in each of said districts, and may appoint such other District Deputy Grand Masters as, in his judgment, may be necessary, all of whom, after their appointment, shall be ex-officio members of the Grand lodge, and entitled to all of its privileges by virtue of such appointment, during the pleasure of the Grand Master; and the Grand Secretary shall ~~appear~~ **append** to the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge, the names and locations of the District Deputy Grand Masters, with the boundaries of each district. The Grand Master is hereby invested with the power to assign a Lodge or Lodges, for economy and efficiency, form one district, temporarily, to another district for inspection purposes.

It shall be the duty of the District Deputy Grand Master to visit and inspect each and every Lodge assigned to him at least once during the Masonic year, in person, and to make report of such visit to the Grand Master at least within ten days after such visit. ~~He shall submit after each visitation a statement of his actual necessary expenses, and the same shall be paid out of the funds of the Grand Lodge upon the approval of the Grand Master, and at such times he may direct.~~ **District Deputies will be given a stipend from Grand Lodge funds as approved by the Ways, Means, and Accounts committee.**

His term of office shall begin officially on the date of his appointment by the Grand Master.

Unless otherwise directed by the Grand Master, a District Deputy Grand Master serving his first term as such, shall be installed by the Grand Master or his proxy at the earliest convenient time after the close of Grand Lodge in accordance with the ceremony for Installation of District Deputy Grand Master officially adopted

by the Grand Lodge. Resolved, further, That the Jewel of a District Deputy Grand Master shall contain a square, compasses, trowel, letter G, and quadrant, all within a wreath of oak and olive leaves, suspended from a bar, on which shall be inscribed the words, "District Deputy Grand Master," and the number of the district, the whole to be worn suspended from the neck by a purple collar. This Jewel shall be the property of the N.W. Grand Lodge, and to be transmitted by each District Deputy Grand master to his successor in office.

A District Deputy Grand Master shall not be eligible to serve in such capacity for more than three years in succession.

A Past District Deputy Grand Master shall retain the title of Right Worshipful. Each Past District Deputy Grand Master, including all who have heretofore retired, shall retain and be entitled to wear the District Deputy Grand Master's Apron worn by him during his term of service as District Deputy Grand Master and shall also be presented with a Past District Deputy Grand Master's Jewel.

A Past District Deputy Grand Master shall be a member of the Grand Lodge. ~~but shall not be entitled to per diem or mileage allowances unless serving as a member of a Grand Lodge Committee or acting for the Grand Master in special service for the Grand Lodge.~~

Resolution No. 8 – DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICERS

Resolved, That the Grand Master shall, by certificate, appoint such District Education Officers as he shall deem necessary, all of whom after their appointment shall be ex-officio members of The Grand Lodge, during their term of service. ~~but shall not be entitled to per diem or mileage allowance.~~ Their duty shall be to activate and advance all programs of Masonic Education. They shall act as advisors to Lodge Education Officers in the assigned area and serve as liaison between the Lodge and the Committee on Education and Information. The activities of the District Education Officers shall not extend beyond matters educational nor in any way conflict with those of the District Deputy Grand Master. Each duly appointed District Education Officers shall be presented with an apron and jewel as approved by the Grand Master.

The Apron shall be retained and may be worn by each District Education Officer after the expiration of his term of service. The Jewel shall consist of a lamp of

knowledge ~~enameled~~ **enameled** in blue, suspended from a bar, on which shall be inscribed the letters "D.E.O.," the whole to be suspended from the neck by a blue cord. This Jewel shall be the property of The Grand Lodge and shall be transmitted by each District Education Officer to his successor in office.

~~Each District Education Officer shall be reimbursed out of the funds of the Grand Lodge, upon the approval of the Grand Master, for his actual necessary expenses incident to his attendance, in the discharge of his duties, once each year to each Lodge assigned to him.~~ **District Education Officers will be given a stipend from Grand Lodge funds as approved by the Ways, Means and Accounts committee.**

/s/ Timothy A. Ward

Matthew Haines

Timothy S. Wheeland

Brian A. Bolyard

Jeff Rannebarger

Proposed Legislation 2016-8

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 35 AMENDMENT TO CODE, SEC 35.01 *How to Amend*, (d) :

Sec. 35.01 *How to Amend*. This code may be altered or amended only in the following manner: The proposed alteration or amendment must be:

- (a) Sponsored by not less than five members of The Grand Lodge;
- (b) Reduced to writing and filed with the Grand Secretary;
- (c) Entered upon the minutes of The Grand Lodge, and
- (d) Laid over until the succeeding Annual Communication of The Grand Lodge when, if approved by ~~two-thirds~~ **a majority** of the members present and voting, it shall be adopted. ~~provided, However, that~~ any proposition may be acted upon immediately if no more than twenty-five of the members of The Grand Lodge object **and it shall be adopted if approved by two thirds of the members present and voting.**

/s/ Jess N. Raines

Roger H. Calendine

Charles W. McClain

Chad C. Kopenski

James B. McInturf

Proposed Legislation 2016-9

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 6 GRAND LODGE DUES, FEES AND APPROPRIATIONS, SEC 6.01 *Dues, Fees and Appropriations* (a) :

Sec. 6.01. *Dues, Fees and Appropriations.* (a) Every Subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, previous to its annual communication the following Annual Grand Dues, namely: the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each candidate initiated (made an Entered Apprentice), during the fiscal year, and the sum of ~~ten~~ dollars (~~\$10.00~~) in 2008-2009 and ~~eleven~~ dollars and twenty five cents (~~\$11.25~~) in 2009-2010; ~~twelve~~ dollars and fifty cents (~~\$12.50~~) in 2010-2011; ~~thirteen~~ dollars and seventy five cents (~~\$13.75~~) in 2011-2012; fifteen dollars (\$15.00) in ~~2012-2013~~ **2016-2017** and each year thereafter, for each member (Master Mason) in good standing. ~~Two dollars and twenty cents (\$2.20) per member shall be held for and on behalf of the Lodges remitting same until and only until it shall be withdrawn either in full or in part upon appropriation by this Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication upon the recommendation by a two thirds majority of a special Committee composed as hereafter set forth, whose Chairman shall be designated by the Grand Master within sixty days following his installation. The said committee shall be composed of the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, the Senior Grand Warden, the Grand Treasurer, the Grand Secretary, together with members of the Committees on Ways, Means and Accounts and Jurisprudence.~~

(b) Every subordinate Lodge shall pay to the Grand Lodge, previous to its annual communication the sum of two dollars and twenty cents (\$2.20) for each member (Master Mason) in good standing to be paid by the Grand Lodge to the Ohio Masonic Home General Fund in support of the Ohio Masonic Home's residents and clients.

~~(b)~~ (c) Every petitioner for initiation,, and every applicant for affiliation from another Grand Jurisdiction who has not heretofore paid such fee, and also every expelled Brother upon application for restoration, shall pay, in addition to the fee of

the Lodge petitioned, the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00), which shall be collected by said Lodge and paid annually by it to the Grand Lodge in addition to the Grand Dues above mentioned. Twenty dollars (\$20.00) of said sum shall be paid to the Endowment Fund of The Ohio Masonic Home. ~~, and shall be withdrawn only after appropriation made by this Grand Lodge at an Annual Communication upon the recommendation of the special Committee as provided in paragraph (a) above.~~

~~(c) Application for appropriation from either of the above funds shall be filed with the Grand Master forty five (45) days prior to the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge for forwarding to the Chairman of the above special Committee, and said application shall be accompanied by supporting data.~~

~~(d) The above special Committee is charged with the responsibility of making, and its Chairman is authorized to make such investigation and accumulate such data as will enable said Committee to fully and comprehensively consider the application and make a proper recommendation.~~

/s/Ronald L. Connelly

C. Michael Watson

Eric R. Schau

Douglas N. Kaylor

Richard A. Dickerscheid

Keith W. Newton

Proposed Legislation 2016-10

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 27 CONFERRING OF DEGREES, SEC 27.01 *Degrees Authorized* :

Sec. 27.01 *Degrees Authorized.* (a) No other degree of Masonry shall be conferred by a Lodge other than those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason.

(b) Each Lodge shall exemplify each of these degrees at least twice each year, whether or not a candidate is available.

(c) The Entered Apprentice Degree or the Fellow Craft Degree should not be re-conferred, but a Lodge having official knowledge of the fact that such a degree or degrees have been conferred, the petitioner can be received as such, and may petition for the remaining degree or degrees.

(d) Whenever there is more than one candidate present upon whom the Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred and the lodge is aware that one or more of said candidate(s) is the son of a Master Mason, the Lodge shall inform such candidate(s) of the ancient rights of a “Lewis” to be made a Mason before any other man. The Lewis candidate shall then elect whether or not he desires to be initiated first.

/s/Steven B. VanSlyck

Daniel D. Hrinko

Ward Weber II

Taylor Kleineick

Kenneth B. Cohen

Alexander E. Jackson

Proposed Legislation 2016-A

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 11, adding Section 11.05 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.05 *Gambling and Penalties.* (a) All lotteries, games of chance and raffles of every kind and character, by or under the management or supervision of Lodges within the Jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, are hereby prohibited.

(b) The Grand Master shall suspend from all the rights and privileges of masonry until the next Annual Grand Communication of The Grand Lodge, the presiding officer, or others who may be parties thereto, of organizations whose membership is based upon Masonic affiliation, whom he believes, upon investigation, to have been or are engaged in promoting lotteries, games of chance and raffles of every kind and character.

(c) Such suspensions shall continue indefinitely unless and until such Brother elects to be tried by the Trial Commission under the provisions or under the provisions of Chapter 40 to 45 or Chapter 47 of the Code, which election must be made not less than ninety days prior to any stated Annual Grand Communication.

(d) Officers and members of organizations referred to in paragraph (b) of this Section, when participating in behalf of their organizations in such prohibited activities, are amenable to any Lodge having jurisdiction over them, for any violation of this By-law.

~~Sec. 11.05~~ **11.06 *Notice of UnMasonic Conduct.*** The Master of each Lodge shall cause the Secretary to give immediate notice to the Grand Secretary of every suspension or expulsion for unMasonic conduct that is ordered in his Lodge. It is hereby declared that suspension, whether for nonpayment of dues or otherwise, works an absolute forfeiture, for the time being, of all Masonic privileges.

Sec. ~~11.06~~ **11.07** *Levies and Assessments.* All motions and amendments which in any form place upon the Subordinate Lodge a levy or assessment shall be decided by a written or secret ballot only.

Sec. ~~11.07~~ **11.08** *Property Surrendered with Charter.* When the Charter of a Lodge is arrested or surrendered, the Charter, records, and all other personal property of such Lodge strictly Masonic in character, excepting money and securities other than unpaid Grand Lodge Dues, shall be vested in The Grand Lodge, and be at its disposal.

Sec. ~~11.08~~ **11.09** *Appeals.* When an appeal from the decision of any Subordinate Lodge or any matter of discipline shall be perfected and entered in The Grand Lodge, it shall be referred to some appropriate Standing Committee, or be decided without such reference if deemed more expedient. In either case, the Subordinate Lodge, or the appellant Brother, shall have the benefit of any additional testimony provided the same has been taken agreeably to the notice prescribed by the Code of The Grand Lodge.

Sec. ~~11.09~~ **11.10** *Amendments to Code.* (a) Recommendations of the Grand Master in his report, or of any Committee in its report involving additions to, alterations of, or changes in or interpretations of the Code, although accepted by The Grand Lodge, shall not be of effect or force as law merely by reasons of such acceptance; but to render them legal enactments, they must be presented to and adopted by The Grand Lodge as provided by the Code.

(b) The Grand Master in his report, or a Committee in its report, may present a draft of a proposed change in the law, but the action of The Grand Lodge in its enactment, must be independent of its acceptance of the report and be in the manner prescribed in the Code.

Sec. ~~11.10~~ **11.11** *Amendments to By-Laws.* No By-Law shall be altered, amended or repealed until the proposed addition, alteration, amendment or nullification be:

- (a) Sponsored by not less than five members of The Grand Lodge.
- (b) Reduced to writing and filed with the Grand Secretary.
- (c) Entered upon the minutes of The Grand Lodge.

- (d) Laid over until next succeeding Annual Communication, when, if approved by two-thirds of the members present and voting, it shall be adopted; provided, however, that any proposition may be acted upon immediately if no more than 25 members of The Grand Lodge object.

Sec. ~~11.11~~ **11.12** *Rules of Order for The Grand Lodge.* (a) The Grand Master shall take the Chair every day precisely at the hour to which The Grand Lodge shall have adjourned on the preceding day.

(b) During the hours of business, the members are required to keep their seats, observe strict order and decorum. No member shall absent himself from the service of The Grand Lodge, unless he has permission, or be sick and unable to attend.

(c) When the Grand Master, or presiding officer rises, all debate shall cease, and there shall be strict silence.

(d) Every member shall stand when he speaks, and shall address himself with respect and decorum to the presiding officer. He shall not be permitted to say anything which will have a tendency wantonly to inflame, or irritate, as the sole objects of debate are to enlighten and expand the mind on the subject under discussion, to elicit truth, and to conscientiously endeavor to have everything done decently and in order.

(e) The Grand Master, or the presiding officer, shall be judge of order and debate. When his decision is fairly questionable, an appeal may be made to The Grand Lodge; but such appeal must be neither captious, contemptuous, or contumacious. Truth, justice, and candor must prevail in such appeal.

(f) No member shall be permitted to speak more than twice upon any subject, without permission from The Grand Lodge, unless merely to explain. If any member is called to order twice at any one meeting for transgressing these rules, and is guilty of a third offense of the same nature, the presiding officer shall peremptorily order him to leave The Grand Lodge; and he may further be amenable to reprimand, suspension or expulsion, as The Grand Lodge shall deem proper.

(g) When a question is put, it shall be the duty of every member present to vote, unless for good cause the Grand Lodge may excuse him; but no member shall vote upon any question in which he is personally interested.

(h) No motion shall be entertained until it is seconded, and there shall be no debate thereon until it is stated by the Chair.

(i) Every motion shall be reduced to writing, with the name of the mover indorsed thereon, if the presiding officer or Grand Secretary desire it.

(j) When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lay on the table, to commit, to amend, or to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are here arranged; and the motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and be decided without debate.

(k) Any member may call for the division of a question, which shall be divided, if it comprehends questions so distinct that, one being taken away, the rest may stand entire for the decision of the Grand Lodge, a motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed indivisible.

(l) When a motion has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move for the reconsideration thereof.

(m) All questions shall be propounded in the order in which they were moved.

(n) No report shall be received from any of the Committees of the Grand Lodge, unless the same be reduced to writing and signed by at least a majority of the members thereof.

(o) No Committee shall sit during the sitting of the Grand Lodge without special leave.

(p) These Rules of Order may be altered, added to, abrogated, or suspended at any meeting of the Grand Lodge, two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

(q) "No resolution shall be altered, amended, or repealed, or any new one adopted until the proposed addition, alteration, amendment or nullification be reduced to writing and seconded by five members of the Grand Lodge. It shall be entered upon the minutes, referred to proper Committee and/or Committees, and lie over until

the next succeeding Annual Communication, when if approved by two thirds of the members voting, the same shall be adopted; provided that if the Resolution does not alter, change or nullify any section of the Constitution, By-Laws or Code, such Resolution may be acted upon immediately if no more than twenty five members of the Grand Lodge object.”

/s/Ralph E. Crossan

Dennis R. Kessler

Earl M. Saunders

Robert L. Kishler

Westley A. Keller

Attachment to Chapter 11 request

The following concerns are why we are requesting the addition to Chapter 11 of the Code:

1. There is nothing in the Code to regulate or control Gambling. When the legislation was passed to remove Chapter 11, Section 11.05, the members attending Grand Lodge only heard they could now gamble and they were not aware of the Grand Master's Edict that was issued on October 20, 2014 with control measures. There is no control on gambling in the Code and it would indicate that all future Grand Masters would have to issue the same edict.
2. Currently there are lodges that have been having 50/50 raffles at some of their events.
3. We are not against change, but we are against any changes to the Code that will destroy the integrity of our Masonic Fraternity. We have been operating as a Masonic Fraternity for over 200 years without gambling and alcohol, why do we need this type of change?
4. One problem we have as a Fraternity is we are obtaining members, but we are not making Masons of these members. Many think the Masonic Fraternity is a social organization, we are a fraternity. If members want to gamble and have social alcohol, there are other organizations that permit this type of activity.
5. Gambling and alcohol are not the solutions to our Fraternity's success. Other organizations that permit gambling and alcohol are having the same problems of finances and membership.
6. Some lodges want to rent out their facilities to other organizations to supplement their income. We as Masons need to utilize our Masonic buildings for Masonic functions. Masonic lodges need to become active in their communities so people are aware we exist.
7. If gambling and alcohol is so important to survival, why are ALL religious groups and the Ohio High School Education Systems not permitting those types of activities at their functions?

Proposed Legislation 2016-B

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34, MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC. 34.01 to read as follows:

(i) It shall be UnMasonic conduct for any member to practice, participate or encourage bisexual, pre and post op transgender, polygamy, pedophile, incestuous, cross species or cross living domains sexual behavior, and shall subject a Brother so offending to charges of UnMasonic conduct punishable by expulsion.

/s/Dale Lindsey

Earl M. Saunders

Dennis Kessler

Westley A. Keller

Ralph Crossan

Robert Kishler

*Found by the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the
Advisory Committee to be out of order*

Proposed Legislation 2016-C

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 34, MASONIC OFFENSES, SEC. 34.01 to read as follows:

(j) It shall be UnMasonic conduct for any member to practice, participate or encourage homosexual behavior, and shall subject a Brother so offending to charges of UnMasonic conduct punishable by expulsion.

/s/Dale E. Lindsey

Robert Kishler

Dennis Kessler

Earl M. Saunders

Westley A. Keller

Ralph E. Crossan

*Found by the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and the
Advisory Committee to be out of order*

Proposed Legislation 2016-D

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

We, the undersigned members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio, propose the following amendment to Chapter 43, TRIAL COMMISSION, SEC. 43.03 (o) to read as follows:

(o) A brother may at any time within one year thereafter appeal the decision of the Trial Panel in his case. When an appeal is taken under this section of the Code, the Grand Secretary shall transmit the original or a true copy of the report of the Trial Panel to the Chairman of the Committee on Grievances of The Grand Lodge , **and notice of appeal to the Trial Commissioner-In-Chief, who will then forward notice of appeal to the Trial Commissioner of that region.** The Committee on Grievances shall in such event, review the record at a time and place fixed by the Chairman, of which time and place the accused shall be notified not less than ten days before the meeting of the Committee, and he shall be permitted to appear before it either in person or by counsel, or both, and present his objections to the findings of the Trial Panel. After due consideration of the record and the objection of the accused, if he has appeared, the Committee shall report its recommendation to the Grand Lodge, which recommendation may either approve, reverse or modify the action of the Trial Panel, and this recommendation shall likewise be subject to correction or review by The Grand Lodge.

/s/Robert C. Cygan

Henry G. Mankowski

Robert C. Hager

Edgar W. Phelps

Charles N. Berry