

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

December 5, 2014

Memo Describes Code Changes

Legislation approved by delegates at the Grand Lodge Annual Communication in October has resulted in changes to the Grand Lodge Code.

So Codes can be updated, three copies of the "Memo 2014" have been mailed to the Lodge for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Lodge Office.

Periodically Check for the Latest Order Form From the Grand Lodge Website

The current revision of the Secretary's Supply Order Form is found on the Grand Lodge website at:

<http://www.freemason.com/secretary-items>

Please make certain you are using the most recent version (currently: 11/15/2014) of the order form when placing your supplies order.

Note to NEW Lodge Secretaries:

- Don't forget to create a MORI account in MORI!
- Reference the Lodge Secretary's Manual from our website
- Add your Assistant Secretaries (if needed)

Submit Your Lodge Election Results!

Please make the update entries for your Lodge election results in MORI by performing the creation of a "Certificate Of Election". Note: When you enter the Lodge Officers, it will be for the year 2015!

In the event the Lodge elects a new Secretary for 2015, the current, i.e. 2014 Lodge Secretary, must make this entry to MORI.

We publish and distribute the annual Grand Lodge of Ohio Masonic Directory from this information you enter into MORI. The sooner you enter this information, the sooner we can get the 2015 Directory created and mailed to you. Please ensure the contact information is correct, including the email address.

For information and instructions on how to make this entry, please refer to page 7 in the Secretary's Manual.

Grand Master Cokonougher has requested this information be entered not less than 48 hours following your Annual Meeting.

Grand Lodge Mileage & Per Diem Checks

Mileage and per diem checks were recently mailed to the address of the Lodge Secretary. If you did not receive a check it could have been for two different reasons. If the Grand Lodge Office did not receive your annual per capita payment before the deadline of August 31st (Grand Lodge Code, Chapter 7 - Annual Return) then no check was mailed.

Or, while attending the annual Grand Lodge Communication, if the Lodge's repre-

sentative did not drop his Friday or his Saturday pay slip into one of the collection boxes, the Lodge will not receive payment. Announcements are made during the Communication reminding the delegates how important it is for them to deposit these slips, one on Friday and one on Saturday, into one of the red boxes located at the main entrances to the Lodge room. These pay slips are the only physical evidence we have that the Lodge was truly represented in the session.

Every year we receive calls from Lodges who were present but didn't deposit their pay slips. We can't issue a check without this slip. This is so important to the Lodge in receiving your expense check.

Please save this information and remind your Lodge representative attending next year's Communication to please deposit his pay slips in the collection box. (Note: he receives his slips at the time he registers.)

Service Award Policy

When MORI prints your Service Award Eligibility form it lists all members of your Lodge who are eligible for their award regardless if he is a Plural or Primary member.

An individual should only receive his Service Award one time, and that should be from his Primary, home Lodge. He should not receive a Service Award from his Plural Lodges where he holds membership.

When receiving your order form, the Grand Lodge Office has no way of knowing if the named recipient is a Primary or Plural member of your Lodge. Only you, the Lodge Secretary, knows your Plural Members.

When submitting your Service Award Order Form mark-out or do not order a certificate and pin for your Plural members. Only order for your Primary members.

Lodge Forms on the Grand Lodge Website

At the bottom of the home page on www.freemason.com you will see *RESOURCES* and *DOCUMENT LIBRARY*. Select *DOCUMENT LIBRARY* as this is where all the Grand Lodge Forms are located. Note the *Lodge Secretary's Manual*. You might find this a most helpful reference manual for processing Lodge membership related tasks and the companion step-by-step processes for performing those appropriate tasks in MORI.

2015 Inspection Forms can also be found here.

Grand Master's Receptions in Florida

Grand Master Cokonougher has planned four visitations in Florida during the month of January. The visitation schedule is:

- Monday, January, 19, 2015—Sarasota, luncheon at noon at Peridia Golf & Country Club. \$6.00 each
- Tuesday, January, 20, 2015—Ft. Myers, luncheon at noon at Araba Shrine Center. \$6.00 each
- Wednesday, January 21, 2015—Tavares, luncheon at noon at Lake County Shrine Club. \$6.00 each
- Thursday, January 22, 2015—West Palm Beach, luncheon at noon at Amara Shrine. \$6.00 each.

Reservations for each location will be handled through the Ohio Masonic Home. Call **Maria Schutte** toll free 1.888.248.2664 or email at mschutte@ohiomasonichome.org. "Write-ins" or "walk-ins" will not be accepted; contacting Maria is the only way to make your reservation, please.

Please notify the Grand Secretary's Office if you would like to have the Grand Master present a Service Award to one of your deserving members attending one of these receptions.

Lodge Looking for Officer's Chairs

Worshipful Brother Ken Filbert, Master of Wadsworth Lodge #385, Wadsworth, Ohio, is looking for some chairs for the Senior and Junior Deacons. The Lodge is presently using unsightly metal chairs.

He is interested in finding some dark wood chairs and would refurbish them as needed. If any Lodge has some unused chairs you would be willing to part with, Wadsworth Lodge would give them a nice home.

WB Filbert can be contacted at kenfilbert@hotmail.com or 330.416.6153.

Now Available: Grand Lodge Office Accepting Credit Card Form of Payment

The G.L. Office now has the capability to accept American Express, MasterCard or Visa as a form of payment for your administrative orders.

Office Staff have been instructed how to accept your credit card payment. You will have to simply provide your card-related information at the time of your order.

G.L. of Ohio Extends Fraternal Recognition

At the recent Annual Communication, the Grand Lodge of Ohio reestablished fraternal recognition to the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF). Conditions in the GLNF which suspended recognition have been resolved and recognition was again extended.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio also voted unanimously to extend fraternal recognition to the Grand Lodge of Montenegro.

Renewal of Property Tax Exemption

Lodges that have received a property tax exemption from the Department of Taxation should have also received a renewal application from their County Treasurer. If such a renewal application, entitled *DTE23V*, was not received, please contact the County Treasurer and inquire if one needs to be completed. If there are any questions regarding the renewal process, please contact Chad Simpson at the Grand Secretary's Office

Reminder Regarding Ordering Service Awards

When submitting your order for the Lodge's Service Awards using the Service Award Order sheet, please make certain to enter a presentation date. This is so we will know the timeframe needed to process your order and get the requested awards back to you in ample time prior to the scheduled presentation date.

Service Awards: 25, 35, and 40 Year Pins

Like the traditional 25-year pin, the 35 and 40-year pins, made available for the first time five years ago, are in stock. These 35 and 40-year service awards are available for your purchase at a price of \$5.00 each.

Also, now available, for that Mason who also was an Eagle Scout, is an attractive Mason/Eagle Scout lapel pin. This emblem is also available at the low cost of \$5.00.

Deaths Reported Since the Last Issue

Please remember to notify the Grand Secretary's Office when a PDDGM, a long-time Lodge Secretary, current sitting Worshipful Master, DEO, etc. passes away. This information will not only be reported to you in an upcoming Newsletter, but it will become part of the Grand Lodge Necrology Report for the year.

Four deaths were reported to our office since the last issue of the Newsletter.

- Jack A. Morgan, PDDGM 21st District; Wm McKinley Lodge #431; passed 8/21/2014
- Charles S. Ward, PGM, 25th District; Temple Lodge #28; passed 10/1/2014
- Morton S. Negin, PDDGM, 22nd District; Forest City Lodge #388; passed 10/9/2014
- Darrell R. Porter, PDDGM, 20th District; Shelby Lodge #350; passed 10/20/2014

Annual Return Reminder

Twenty-two Lodges were delinquent in paying annual per capita this year. This means twenty-two Lodges did not receive mileage and per diem for attending the Annual Communication in October.

Please file this reminder away for 2015: when you have made your final membership entry, usually in June, make a simple call or email to the G.L. Office requesting your Lodge's Annual Return. The return will be processed and mailed to the Lodge indicating amount of per capita owed.

The Grand Lodge Office MUST receive your per capita payment no later than August 31st or the Lodge is considered delinquent. This is according to our Code.

"Columns & Pilasters" - What's the Difference?

A column or pillar in architecture and structural engineering is a structural element that transmits, through compression, the weight of the structure above to the other structural elements below. In other words, a column is a compression member. The term column applies especially to a large round support with a capital and base and made of stone, or appearing to be so.

A pilaster is a slightly projecting column built into or applied to the face of a wall. Most commonly flattened or rectangular in form, pilasters can take a half-round form or the shape of any type of column.

Do You Have A Masonic "Elevator" Speech Ready?

An elevator speech is one that you can deliver to one or more persons while taking a brief elevator ride. It may be 30 seconds, or 1 minute long. It must summarize and provide an important message in a minimum of words.

For example, you step onto the elevator with a business associate, who says, "What is that lapel pin you have on?" By the time you reach his or her destination on the 3rd floor, you should be able to say it is a Masonic pin, and state a few positive things about your membership or about the organization.

How many times has an opportunity similar to that happened to you, but you quickly answered and hoped the other person would change the subject? How often, when you thought about the opportunity later, did you wish you would have been ready to produce a short, intelligent response?

(Elevator Speech, cont.)

To quote the Grand Master's theme, "The Time Is Now!" to prepare your "elevator speech" and explain Freemasonry and what it means to you before that next chance arises.

That opportunity may come on the street corner, as you are departing from worship, or maybe while at a fast food restaurant. Every one of us needs to be prepared to speak up and proudly provide a short narrative of what our Masonic membership means to us.

How about something along these lines: "Freemasonry is the world's oldest and largest fraternal organization for men of good character over the age of 19. We are dedicated to serving our members and their families through building relationships, social networking, and activities with our members and in the community.

Freemasonry is not a religion, but it is an organization where every member must profess a belief in God.

Freemasonry is not a charity, but it is an organization that supports numerous charities, such as Special Olympics, At-risk Student Assistance Program, or Burned and Orthopedic Children's Hospitals.

It is an organization comprised of like-minded men who voluntarily bind themselves together to make themselves, and their communities, a better place. Personally, my closest friends outside my family are members of the Masonic Fraternity."

Season's Greetings!

From the Grand Secretary and everyone on staff at the Grand Lodge Office, we wish you a happy holiday season. Our wish for a wonderful holiday season goes out to each of you and your families.

Please pause and give thanks for those manifold blessings and comforts which we all enjoy. Especially keep in your thoughts and prayers those men and women who serve in our communities who protect and serve to keep us safe and those gallant warriors who serve to protect our way of life and bring peace to those who live in troubled environments.

Happy New Year to all and may 2015 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will close on December 24—25 and December 31—January 1 for the holiday observance.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!*