

# The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

C. MICHAEL WATSON, PGM  
GRAND SECRETARY



1 MASONIC DR.  
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45504  
PHONE (614) 885-5318  
TOLL FREE (800) 292-6092  
EMAIL: [mwatson@freemason.com](mailto:mwatson@freemason.com)

## Grand Secretary's Newsletter

December 2, 2016

### 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 2016" have been mailed to the Lodge for the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens. Additional copies may be purchased from the Grand Lodge Office.

### 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 2017!

#### IMPORTANT!

**In the event the Lodge elects a new Secretary for 2017, the current, i.e. 2016 Lodge Secretary, must make this entry to MORI.**

We publish 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 2017 Directory created and emailed 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 Kaylor has requested this information be entered not less than 48 hours following your Annual Meeting.

### Note to NEW Lodge Secretaries:

- Don't forget to create a MORI account in MORI! (Note: you cannot create a MORI account until your predecessor has entered the Lodge's Certificate Of Election.)
- Reference the Lodge Secretary's Manual from our website
- Add your Assistant Secretaries (if needed)

### Grand Lodge Website Modified

The Grand Lodge webpage has been split in two. The webpage for members, including Lodge Secretaries, Treasurers, LEOs, Masters, DDGMs, and DEOs is now:

[www.glohio.com](http://www.glohio.com). The DDGM & DEO Portal, document library, and petition verification are under the "Tools" tab.

The webpage for non-Masons seeking information about Ohio Freemasonry is now [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com).

### "Lodge Communicator" Application Now Available

A shortcoming within our fraternity is the lack of communication among our members. The Grand Lodge of Ohio has provided, and now makes available, the Lodge Communicator application. The app is hosted at [www.ohglportal.com](http://www.ohglportal.com). This is a free means of sending email or text messages of information to your members. Go the website. Near the bottom, click Register For An Account. From your Grand Lodge membership

**("Lodge Communicator" cont.)**

card, enter your membership number and last name. Then, enter your desired user name, desired password, confirm your password and click "Next" followed by "Create". Browse around looking at Your Guided Tour for information on how to use the application to communicate. Note that the Lodge Communicator is dependent upon accurate member information in MORI for its notification capability.

**Father & Son Both Installed as Masters of Their Lodges**

Brother Tom Cresanto was installed as Master of Negley Lodge #565. The following evening, his son, Brother Ryan Cresanto, was installed as Master of East Palestine Lodge #417. Both Lodges are inquiring if this is the first time a father and son have presided as Worshipful Master of their respective Lodges during the same year? Grand Lodge does not keep records of this nature. So, have any of you heard of this before?

**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

**Must Have Correct Current Contact Information**

Whenever you (Lodge Secretary) or the Master has a change of address, email or phone, notify the G.L. Office by either email or telephone.

**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, know 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.**

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.

Please allow 2 weeks for processing Service Award orders. It is too difficult to try and guarantee delivery for shorter time frames.

**Service Awards: 25, 35, and 40 Year Pins**

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

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

### **Grand Master's Receptions in Florida**

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

- Sunday, January, 15, 2017; 11:00 a.m.  
—The Villages: Eisenhower Recreation Center 3560 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages, FL 32163. \$10.00 each
- Monday, January, 16, 2017; 11:00 a.m.  
—Sarasota/Bradenton: Peridia Golf and Country Club, 4950 Peridia Blvd. E., Bradenton, FL. 34203. \$10.00 each
- Tuesday, January 17, 2017; 11:00 a.m.  
— Ft. Myers: The Edison, 3583 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901. \$10.00 each

Reservations for each location will be handled through the Ohio Masonic Home. For reservations call **Maria Shutte** at the Ohio Masonic Home Resource Center toll free 1.877-881-1623. Please make your reservation prior to Monday, January 2, 2017.

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.

### **Grand Lodge Office Accepting Credit Card Form of Payment**

The G.L. Office 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.

### **Subordinate Lodge Insurance**

Approximately eight years ago The Grand Lodge Advisory Committee performed an assessment of its insurance coverage and decided upon a change. Prior to that decision, Grand Lodge provided a limited coverage to each Symbolic Lodge. This coverage included liability for litigation purposes only and a \$50k maximum claim for essential Masonic paraphernalia only. The change was made due to a large duplication in coverage.

Since that time, each Lodge is to provide its own coverage according to its own needs. The Grand Lodge of Ohio is now the secondary, self-insurer limited to assistance in the replacement of essential Masonic paraphernalia.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has only one concern in mind when it comes to Lodge insurance. Grand Lodge cares that each Ohio Lodge is adequately covered. This is why your DDGM during the inspection process will want to know to what extent the building is insured, coverage on Lodge furniture and fixtures, personal liability, and officer's fidelity.

Grand Lodge does not care which company provides the coverage or from whom the Lodge purchased the insurance. These are Lodge business decisions that are left up to the Lodge to determine.

### **Rejected Petitioner Reminder**

As a reminder, should the Lodge reject a petitioner, notify the Grand Lodge Office via email. Include his full name and contact information for our records.

### **Annual Return Reminder**

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

Please file this reminder away for 2017: 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 in accordance with our Code.

### **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.

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

- Harold Shafer, PDDGM 12th District; Waterloo Lodge #532; passed 9/10/2016
- George E. Flack, PDDGM 5th District; Wauseon Lodge #349; passed 9/9/2016
- William R. Brown, PDDGM 16th District; Ely Lodge #424; passed 10/25/2016
- Ronald E. McGonigal, PDDGM 9th District; Clark Lodge #101; passed 11/12/2016
- Richard R. Worthing, PDDGM 1st District; E. T. Carson Lodge #598; passed 11/15/2016

### **Lodge Forms on the Grand Lodge Website**

From the "TOOLS" drop-down tab of the home page on [www.gloho.com](http://www.gloho.com) you will see *DOCUMENT LIBRARY*. Select *DOCUMENT LIBRARY* as this is where most of the Grand Lodge Forms are located. Note the *Lodge Secretary's Manual* under *SECRETARY ITEMS*. 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.

2017 Inspection Forms can also be found under *DOCUMENT LIBRARY*.

### **Requesting a Dues Card in MORI**

When you raise or reinstate a member, this generates a message to our office for us to automatically create and send you the member's dues card. Do not go in to MORI and make an entry requesting a dues card for him or a second card will be sent as this assumes you are requesting a replacement. There is a fee for replacement cards.

### **Member Status Checker**

A person's current membership status can be checked by accessing the MORI login page, <https://oh.moriapp.com/mori/>. This logic is not part of the MORI system which means you don't have to be a registered MORI user to check a status. Any person who can access the internet can access this URL.

At the bottom of the page, under Member Status Checker, enter the member's "M number" from his membership card, and press the Check button. His real-time Lodge membership status will be returned to you.

### Masonic Home Donations

When making a donation to the Ohio Masonic Home, please issue a separate check made out to The Ohio Masonic Home. We will be happy to see that The Home receives your donation, but please don't include your contribution as part of any money paid to the Grand Lodge of Ohio. I won't describe the financial transactions we have to go through when donations to The Home are part of your check to the us! Also, The Grand Lodge Office does not keep track of the Lodge's donation history. The Masonic Home keeps this record.

### Lodge Room Altar

Symbolically the Altar is a cube in shape, though in practice it is made oblong. It should stand in the center of the lodge room, at the point of intersection of two lines drawn from the northeast to the southwest corners, and with the representatives of the Lesser Lights properly placed, with one at its northeast corner, a second at the northwest corner and a third at the center of the Altar's south side.

It should not be moved during a meeting, nor should the lights be moved. The ballot box should never be placed upon the Bible. The space between the Altar and the East is deemed "sacred ground," not to be trodden under foot; hence passing between the Altar and the Master is forbidden except as called for by the ritual of the particular Ceremony being performed.

References to the Bible refer not only to the Bible but also to any particular Holy book which may be in use. The appropriate Volume of Sacred Law (VSL) of a candidate's faith is to be used, and references in the Ritual adjusted accordingly.

Multiple VSL's may be placed upon the Altar, but not stacked vertically. (Source: The Grand Lodge Officer's Manual)

### 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 2017 be a great year for Ohio Freemasonry.

### Grand Lodge Offices Closed

The Grand Lodge Office will close on December 23 & 26 and December 30 for the holiday observance.

*Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!*