

# The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

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GRAND SECRETARY



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## Grand Secretary's Newsletter

March 10, 2015

### 2015 Annual Communication

The Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be October 23rd & 24th in Columbus, Ohio. This is just a reminder as more detailed information will be distributed in the coming months.

Due to a scheduling problem with the venue, our Annual Communication is a week later than the traditional date in October. Please mark your calendars accordingly and make sure your Lodge is officially represented.

### Inspections on a Stated Meeting Night

Each year, DDGMs are strongly encouraged by the Grand Master to schedule the Inspection of their assigned Lodges on a Special meeting night and not a Stated meeting night.

If the Worshipful Master calls a Special Meeting for the purpose of the Lodge's Annual Inspection, he can essentially call the meeting for any date and time he and the Deputy chooses, such as Saturday morning, or most any evening during the week with whatever reasonable opening time.

If the Inspection is on a Stated Meeting, then the Lodge will open and conduct business according to the Lodge's By-Laws. A dispensation requesting a deviation from the Lodge's By-Laws will not be approved by the Grand Master.

### Rejected Petitioner Reminder

This is simply to remind you that in the event a petitioner is rejected by the Lodge from membership, the Lodge Secretary is required to immediately notify the Grand Lodge Office. The information will include the name, birthdate, address, and date of rejection, along with the Lodge's name, number and address. The Grand Lodge keeps a file of this information. A thorough candidate investigation should not be considered complete without a quick call or email to the Grand Lodge Office to check the rejected petitioner's file.

### State Association Meeting Successful

Kenneth D. Chamberlain, Secretary of Findlay Lodge, No. 227, was elected and installed as President of the State Secretaries Association of Ohio, at its annual meeting on March 14th in Columbus.

Other new officers include Joseph H. Rothbrust, 1st Vice President; Edward W. Badger, 2nd Vice President; James C. Feist, 3rd Vice President; Charles A. Wentz, 4th Vice President; Jeffrey J. Root, 5th Vice President; Robert H. Coster, Secretary; Norman R. Neely, Assistant Secretary; and, Ronald Schmidt, Chaplain.

The meeting was very successful, as planned by President David L. Holmes.

**(State Secretaries Association cont.)**

Subjects presented included Ohio Masonic Home update, MORI training, property tax exemption update and Lodge insurance.

Every Lodge Secretary should participate in your State Secretaries Association.

**Deadline for Entering Suspensions for Non Payment of Dues (SNPD)**

You have until March 31, 2015 in which to enter a member as SNPD. This is a MORI system restriction. The computer system will lock you out from entering SNPD any time **after March 31st**. This means the person who is delinquent will be kept on your membership roster in good standing and the Lodge will pay per capita.

In the event you forget, nothing can be done this year except to carry them.

The suspension date will always be December 31st. According to Code, a member who fails to pay his dues by the last day of December shall have Non-payment of Dues entered against his record as of that date. Secretaries have, for many years, been given until March 31 in which to either collect the dues or suspend the person.

**MORI "MME" Entry**

Should you find it necessary to suspend a member for failing to return his Master Mason Examination (MME), please send the Grand Lodge Office a communication, email or a note via USPS, to this effect. Please state the member's name, membership number and date of suspension. The Grand Lodge Office will make the "MME" entry to MORI for you. This MORI event entry was removed from the MORI application.

**Notify G. L. Office When Changing Your Address**

Brother Secretary, please notify our office if your mailing address changes!

**MORI's 3-piece Dues Notice Now Available**

"Printworks Professional Specialty Paper" is now available as an online order item only from Staples.com. Item #PRB04120 is hole punched, perforated 3 2/3" and 7 1/3" from the bottom. Paper size is 8 1/2 x 11.

This paper accommodates MORI's 3 perforated dues notices per page. The cost is \$12.79 per ream of 500.

**Mark Your Calendars**

- Ohio Masonic Home Day is Sunday, June 7, 2015, in Springfield. Has your Lodge considered a special outing of members and families to the OMH that day?
- The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 26, 2015, at The Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade at the ceremonies.

**Ohio Masonic Home to Conduct "Information Night" Visits**

Brother Tom Stofac, OMH CEO, and his executive team have planned eight regional "Information Night" visits around the State. Each evening will include appetizers, dinner and an informative program sharing updates on our Ohio Masonic Home mission and vision.

This will not be an evening to "sell" you anything, but rather provide an update on current events and strategic direction of our OMH. The event is free of charge, but a call must be made to reserve a seat for our Masonic Brother and his spouse.

See the latest edition of the Beacon for a location near you. Reserve a seat by calling toll-free 888.248.2664.

### **Called From Labor**

The scythe of time has cut down a number of our Brethren over the past months where they will be gathered into that land where our fathers have gone before us.

- Frank Feeley, PDDGM 24th Dist.; Wick #481; passed 11/24/2014
- Rolland I. Huss, PDDGM 11th Dist.; Paragon #788; passed 12/5/2014
- Ray E. Smith, Jr., PDDGM 1st Dist.; Sharonville-Calvary #204; passed 12/19/2014
- Jack D. Hopkins, Sr., PDEO 25th Dist.; Unity #12; passed 12/24/2014
- H. Clayton Powers, Assoc. Grand Chaplain 1st Dist.; Montgomery #94; passed 1/13/2015
- James E. Olmstead, Past Grand Master; 11th Dist.; Phoenix #123; passed 1/21/2015
- Herbert L. Kern, Jr., PDDGM 1st Dist.; College Hill-H.S. Johnson #641; passed 1/25/2015
- David W. McClenahan, PDDGM 22nd Dist.; Midcentury #725; passed 2/9/2015

They lived respected and died regretted.

### **Breach of Security IRS Form 990**

I received the following notice regarding a security breach of the filed Form 990.

To Users of 990 and ePostcard (990-N):

The Urban Institute's National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) recently discovered that an unauthorized party or parties have accessed the Form 990 Online and e-Postcard filing systems for nonprofit organizations. This unauthorized access affected nonprofit users of IRS Forms 990, 990-EZ, and 990-N (e-Postcard). In addition, it affected users of Form 8868 extensions and filings for charitable organizations in Hawaii, Michigan, and New York.

We regret to inform you that the username, first and last name, email address, IP address, phone number, and password associated with your nonprofit organization were compromised in this incident.

Once we discovered the attack, we contacted the IRS and made every effort to secure the systems and user accounts. We are working with law enforcement agencies as they conduct an investigation. In addition, we have retained a leading cybersecurity firm to help us analyze the situation and strengthen security.

Currently we believe no information from the filings themselves was compromised. These forms do not contain Social Security numbers, credit card data, or individual tax filer information, so such sensitive information was not available to the hackers. Copies of the 990 returns, including the e-Postcard, are public documents that are released by the IRS.

If you use the same password for your organization's Form 990 Online and e-Postcard that you do for other websites or applications, we strongly encourage you to change it immediately in each of those instances, as well as on these systems.

To enhance security, all users accessing the Form 990 Online and e-Postcard systems are required to change their passwords upon logging in, or were when they logged in most recently. We encourage you to be alert for unusual or suspicious emails and use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments from unknown senders.

We sincerely apologize for this disruption and any inconvenience this incident may cause you. We have a strong commitment to privacy and data security, and we are continuing to do everything we can to protect against future attacks.

### **(Breach of Security—IRS Form 990 cont.)**

Our investigation is ongoing, and we will let you know if it reveals new information that is relevant to your account.

If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ](#) where you can obtain further information. You can email us at [security@form990.org](mailto:security@form990.org) or call [1-800-564-9110](tel:1-800-564-9110) if you have more questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth T. Boris

Director, Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute

### **Secretary's Manual Available from G.L. Website**

Please remember that the Lodge Secretary's Manual is an online document available for your reference and download printing from our [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com) website.

From the bottom of the home page under "Resources", select "Document Library". You will see displayed almost all the forms needed for Lodge operation. The *Lodge Secretary's Manual* is located here.

This manual will guide you through the administrative processes and will step you through the associated applicable MORI entries.

### **2015 Grand Lodge Directory Available**

The *2015 Grand Lodge Directory* is available either for sale from the Grand Lodge Office or free for your downloading & printing from the G.L. website under "Document Library".

This directory lists each Ohio Lodge, the Master and Secretary, plus a host of additional information. This directory formerly was sent at a large cost to each Lodge every year. We were informed that a number of Secretaries didn't want, or couldn't use this publication.

### **Throw Away Old Supply Order Forms!**

With most mailings to the Lodges, we include a Lodge Supply Order Form. Please discard all older, outdated forms and use the most current Order Form when ordering your Lodge supplies. Additional forms are available on the G.L. website.

The Grand Lodge Office is now set up to accept your credit card for administrative purchases.

### **Electing a Foreign Affiliate to Membership**

Any "non-Ohio" Mason is considered a Foreign Affiliate when joining an Ohio Lodge. Our Ohio Lodges **can not** take any action on a Foreign Affiliate becoming a member of our Lodge unless he presents a current dimit from his Grand Jurisdiction or you have a certificate of Good Standing from his Grand Jurisdiction.

### **Ohio Masonic Album from Harris Connect**

By now every Ohio Mason has received a notice from a Virginia company, Harris Connect, regarding the publication of a Masonic Album. The solicitation is legitimate. Had we known of the company's timeline for producing this album we would have sent out a "head's up" informative notification. Unfortunately, their mailing came as a surprise to all of us.

The Charitable Foundation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio will receive a commission from Harris Connect on every album sold.

### **Increased Use of Technology**

We will continue to make use of technology especially in light of today's ever increasing costs. This means more use of email. Please make sure MORI has your current email address. Also, please "unblock" the Grand Secretary's email address from your SPAM filter!

### **Regarding Gambling Activities**

At the 205th Annual Communication delegates voted in favor of permitting gambling by Lodges and dependent orders.

The Ohio Revised Code has many restrictions pertaining to gambling and IRS designated fraternal organizations. All Ohio Lodges are designated as 501(c)10 organizations. We are tax exempt fraternal organizations and not charitable foundations, i.e. 501(c)3.

Since we are all new at this, and wanting to protect all Lodges and the Grand Lodge from any wrong doing, the Grand Master issued an edict. All Lodges or groups holding allegiance to the Grand Lodge of Ohio must obtain a written opinion from an attorney relative to the proposed gambling activity. The event must also be supported by the members of the Lodge. A copy of the meeting minutes indicating the support of the Lodge accompanied by the attorney's opinion must be sent to the Grand Lodge Office for retention prior to the event being held.

### **Caldwell #330 Invites all to Attend 2016 Muskrat Dinner**

Ray McClelland, Worshipful Master of Caldwell Lodge #330, located in Bolivar, Ohio, is inviting all Master Masons to attend their annual Muskrat Dinner and Lodge meeting on Saturday, January 9, 2016.

This fun Lodge meeting and fellowship has taken place for many years and is traditionally attended by the Grand Master and other GLO's.

Following a brief 7:00 pm meeting, you are treated to a "delicious" all-you-can-eat muskrat dinner! Mark your calendars for next year's fun event in the 21st District.

### **Unpaid Invoices**

We presently have 29 Lodges who have open invoices from the Grand Lodge Office. These invoices range from 30 days past due to over 110 days past due.

If you are one of these Lodges, please check your open invoice and remit your payment as soon as possible.

### **Traditional Observance (TO) Lodges**

A Lodge is free to assume the culture or be most anything it wants to be while observing the dictates of our Masonic Code. Traditional Observance (TO) Lodges are gaining in publicity and generating interest in Ohio.

It seems that TO Lodges are marked by high standards of admission, solemn and dignified meetings and ritual work, ample time between degrees for candidates to study and absorb their meaning, and a quest for deeper understanding of Freemasonry. They are often associated with formal dress, fine dining before or after stated meetings, and higher than average dues.

A visitor to a TO Lodge will probably notice a more formal overall mood, perhaps accompanied with chamber music, use of candles instead of lights, and singing. There will generally be a discussion topic centered on a lesson from the degree which they are in.

The overall goal in a TO Lodge is to create or improve upon the quality of the Lodge experience, perhaps more reverent and somewhat focused on the five senses. A deeper understanding is desired of the allegory and symbolism that is continuously referenced in our ritual, but is not explained.

Information about Traditional Observance Lodges would make for an interesting Lodge Educational topic. Maybe becoming a TO Lodge would be of interest to your Lodge.