

# 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

June 5, 2015

### Lodge Annual Returns—Notify Grand Lodge!

#### IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ!

When you have completed your final membership updates in MORI for the Grand Lodge year, send an email to Gayle Kozak at the Grand Lodge Office ([gkozak@freemason.com](mailto:gkozak@freemason.com)) letting her know your name and Lodge number and that you are ready for your Annual Return to be processed.

#### NOTIFY THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 1st.

When you have notified us that your updates for the Grand Lodge year are complete, your Annual Return will be printed and sent to you along with the amount owed by your Lodge. When we receive the Lodge's check, we will mail a report of your Lodge members eligible for a 25, 35, or 40 year award. Also, a 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, and 80 year award order form will be sent to the Lodge. Lastly, your 2016 dues cards will be mailed in this package.

#### The Lodge's check (not a personal check) must be received prior to August 31, 2015.

If the check is not received by this date, then the Worshipful Master or his Proxy **will not** receive mileage and per diem for attending Grand Lodge in October. This check must be separate from any other Lodge check coming into Grand Lodge, such as donations to the Charitable Foundation, Scholarship Foundation, or Endowed Membership, etc.

### Annual Grand Lodge Communication—2015

Information concerning events, meals, and lodging for the 206th Grand Lodge Communication to be held in Columbus, Ohio on October 23 & 24, 2015 was sent to each Lodge in May. Please share this information with your Lodge delegates as soon as possible. Don't wait until your September stated meeting to get this information to them. Make your reservations now to attend our Annual Communication!

Proxies and Call Items will be mailed in a few more months.

You can also register online at:  
[www.gl2015res.com](http://www.gl2015res.com)

### Dues Cards Price Increase

With the increase in paper stock costs, we can no longer afford to provide you with your annual dues cards at \$.10 apiece. Ten cents just doesn't approach cost coverage. Beginning this year at Annual Return time, your Lodge's 2016 dues cards will be priced to you at \$.20 (twenty cents) apiece.

Cards requested throughout the year will be priced at \$1.00 per card. Please keep in mind, over half this cost is for postage alone. So, please remember to take care of your shipment of dues cards when you receive them! Any needed replacements will be at the \$1.00 per cost. (You might consider passing this cost along to your members when they request a replacement card.) As an "FYI", we are looking into the use of a permanent, i.e. plastic, bar coded dues card which could be used for multiple years.

### **Deputy Grand Master's Program**

The Deputy Grand Master's summer rollout programs are designed to inform Lodge leaders and interested Brethren of the program for the ensuing year. The meetings are open to any Mason who wants to attend.

While a planned agenda will be followed, these sessions are to allow the Deputy Grand Master to hear your concerns as well as the Lodges to hear of his planning and expectations for the next Masonic year.

Dress for the events will be business casual. Please take a few hours to learn the program that will help your Lodge become more proficient in the programs and promotion of Ohio Freemasonry. The rollouts will be an open forum gathering—a tiled meeting will not be opened.

Rollout programs will be held in eight locations around the State, 7:00 pm—9:00pm

- July 28—Findlay Temple
- July 31—Middletown Temple
- August 4—Columbus Northland Temple
- August 12—Mansfield Temple
- August 14—Akron AASR Temple
- August 18—Cambridge Temple
- August 20—Athens Temple
- August 25—Chillicothe Temple

### **Reminder: Special Olympics-June 26th**

The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 26, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at The Jesse Owens Sports Complex on the campus of The Ohio State University in Columbus. Masons in aprons will lead off the parade at the opening ceremonies.

Traditional dress has been black (dark) trousers with short sleeve white shirts. Remember to bring your apron!

Hats and pins will be offered to registered Masons. Many thanks to Ohio Grotto for providing refreshments.

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

Don E. Lytle, PDDGM 15th District; East Liberty Lodge #247; passed 2/22/2015

Wilbur M. Barnes, PDDGM 13th District; New Lexington Lodge #250; passed 3/14/2015

Charles D. Collingsworth, Secretary; Nauvoo Lodge #769; passed 3/16/2015

Thomas N. Tarleton, Master; Olive Lodge #210; passed 3/27/2015

Delbert Martin, Jr., PDDGM 6th District; Edenton Lodge #332; passed 4/2/2015

Frederick J. Henderson II, Master; Ralph R Rickly Lodge #670; passed 5/17/2015

Richard J. Harless, PDDGM 9th District; Harmony Lodge #8; passed 5/23/2015

James L. Evans, PDDGM 16th District; Warpole Lodge #176; passed 5/23/2015

George P. Finch, PDDGM 13th District; Thornville Lodge #521; passed 5/25/2015

### **Lodge Mergers Since Grand Lodge**

Since our Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 2014 there have been 10 Lodge mergers:

- Tuscan Lodge #342 merged into Relief Lodge #284, the surviving Lodge, on September 2, 2014.
- Juilliard Lodge #460 merged into Wm H. Hoover Lodge #770, the surviving Lodge, on September 9, 2014.
- Hyde Park Lodge #589 merged into Norwood Winton Carthage Lodge #576, the surviving Lodge, on December 23, 2014.
- Wyoming Lodge #180 merged into Oakley Lodge #668, the surviving Lodge, on January 15, 2015.
- Sulgrave Lodge #696 merged into Western Star Lodge #21, the surviving Lodge, on March 17, 2015.
- Belmont Lodge #16 merged into Weyer Lodge #541, the surviving Lodge, on March 24, 2015.

- Garrett Wykoff Lodge #585 merged into Lima Lodge #205, the surviving Lodge, on March 26, 2015.
- Gerard Lodge #428 merged into Yeatman -Mt. Washington Lodge #162, the surviving Lodge, on April 9, 2015.
- Superior Lodge #179 merged into Bryan Lodge #215, the surviving Lodge on April 9, 2015.
- Scio Lodge #587 merged into Harrison Lodge #219, the surviving Lodge, on April 15, 2015.

As of this date we have 488 Ohio Lodges.

### **Current Email Address for Lodge Secretaries Imperative**

In order to reduce printing and postage costs, we will be more and more utilizing email in which to communicate with Lodge Secretaries. We have a goal to get as near a "paperless" environment as possible. With this emphasis on technology, it becomes imperative that we have the current, correct email address of our Lodge Secretary and Worshipful Master.

Please check MORI to ensure these email addresses and contact information are current and correct.

There are times when I will send a broadcast message to all Lodge Secretaries informing you of something that has come up. This is a quick, efficient and easy way to get timely information to the Lodge Secretaries.

### **Prepayment of Lodge Supply Orders**

It is appreciated when a lodge check accompanies a supply order. However, please remember that shipping costs are calculated by weight and there may be a small balance due when you receive your order.

Also, please know that the Grand Lodge Office works on a "Net 30" billing cycle as other businesses do. All orders over \$200 will ship once the payment is received.

Don't forget, the Grand Lodge Office is now capable of accepting MasterCard and Visa for your Lodge purchases.

### **Suggestions for Searching for Deceased Members**

Here are a few suggestions when trying to determine if a member is deceased:

- [www.tributes.com](http://www.tributes.com) This is an online obituary search. Simply enter the first and last names and the city.
- Perform a browser search, such as Google, for: name/city/obit For example, Mike Watson/Troy, Ohio/Obituary
- [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) is an online obituary search whose information comes mostly from newspapers across the U.S. Enter the first and last name, city and state.

### **Freemason University**

Further light in our fraternity abounds from our website by selecting "Education" from our website, [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com). You can link to Freemason University from here or access the URL directly: <http://freemasonuniversity.com>. Here you will find acclaimed modules covering Leadership, Management, and Ritual.

Encourage your Wardens to especially explore the Management module. When assuming the East, they will have a well thought out term plan and calendar. They will know how to conduct meetings that people will want to attend with agendas that are effective, efficient, planned and purposeful.

No matter how great the planned event is, it will be doomed to failure if the word doesn't get out. Wardens will learn about developing effective communication strategies. Becoming an effective Lodge Leader can begin here!

### **MORI User Assistance**

The "Secretary's Manual" is available for your viewing or printing from the Grand Lodge website ([www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com)) under "Secretary Items" in the Document Library. This document was created by our office to help you with the most commonly used administrative tasks accompanied by the companion MORI application entries.

Also available to you from MORI after you have performed your logon are the MORI User's Guide and MORI Training Videos. The User's Guide is available for you to view online or to print. By clicking-on the Training Videos, you will be presented with an assortment of training videos in which to view to guide you with making a variety of MORI application entries.

Please take advantage of these helpful training tools.

### **Unpaid Invoice Reminder!**

Don't forget, open, unpaid invoices to Grand Lodge must be paid before your 2016 dues cards will be mailed! This must be a separate check from your Lodge per capita check.

### **Ohio Masons Now Are Published Authors!**

Right Worshipful Brother Daniel D. Hrinko, DDGM 9th District, has authored *The Craft Driven Lodge*. This 166-page softbound book is based upon RWB Hrinko's experiences during the formation of Arts & Sciences Lodge #792, one of the newest Lodges in Ohio and referred by many as a "Traditional Observance Lodge". The book is published by Macoy Publishing & Masonic Supply.

Worshipful Brother David Ferris and Most Worshipful Brother James Easterling teamed

to coauthor *The Successful Lodge: Best Practices in Freemasonry, by 70 Well Traveled Brethren*". This 158-page softbound book is a collection of advice on making a positive difference in your Lodge. The book is published by 6623 Press Motivational. All proceeds go towards the 21st Masonic District's Easterling Scholarship Fund.

### **Lost Not-For-Profit Status**

Lodges that have lost their not-for-profit status due to a failure to file their 990 tax returns will need to complete an IRS Form #1024 to get reinstated with the IRS. Contact Chad Simpson in the G.L. Office for a sample Form 1024 and any assistance you may require.

### **Notify G.L. Office When Changing Mailing Address**

Brother Secretary, please notify the Grand Lodge Office when you personally have a change of mailing address. Simply updating MORI won't solve our issue. Our postage mailing system does not talk with MORI. This means we have to maintain a separate mailing file for the postage system when doing U.S. Postal mailings to you as Lodge Secretary. A simple email or phone call telling us you have a new mailing address in MORI will do the trick!

### **Masonic Day At Cedar Point**

According to WB Danny McNabb, PM Col- linwood #582, August 8, 2015 is Masonic Day at Cedar Point. Tickets available at the gate are \$36 instead of \$62. Just show your dues card when entering.

*Have a great, safe, and enjoyable  
Summer!*