

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

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Grand Secretary's Newsletter

June 3, 2016

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) letting her know your name and Lodge number and that you are ready for your Annual Return to be processed. With many lodges dark in July and August, you can make your final updates following your final meeting in June.

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 2017 membership cards will be mailed in this package.

The Lodge's check (not a personal check) must be received prior to August 31, 2016.

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—2016

Information concerning events, meals, and lodging for the 207th Grand Lodge Communication to be held at the Kalahari Resort in Sandusky, Ohio on October 14 & 15, 2016 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.

Plastic Membership Cards to Replace Paper

As this newsletter is being prepared, plans are being finalized to produce a more permanent, plastic membership card to replace the use of the paper cards.

The card will be identical in size and shape to a credit card. The face will be colorful and contain your name and lodge-related information. The back side will look like the current card's back side.

Moving to this type of card should result in a significant cost saving. Over the years you should realize a savings in time, effort, and postage.

In years previous the membership cards were sent after the per capita payment was received along with the service awards report. The initial run of all 85,000 cards will be done by IdentiSys, the company we are using for the cards, and mailed to all lodges when received, if you have paid your per capita. So don't panic when you don't re-

ceive your membership cards as quickly as you have in the past. We do not have a specific date yet, but you will receive them in time for your membership dues collection process. Throughout the year, replacement cards and cards for new Master Masons will be generated in our office as in the past. Due to the upgrade and being used multiple years, the cost of the membership cards on your annual return will be .25 instead of .20. Replacements for lost cards throughout the year will be \$2.00. The replacements will be billed with your annual return in the summer.

A web-based application will soon be made available whereby any Ohio Mason's current membership status will be able to be displayed when visiting another Lodge. This will aid in determining if the member carrying the card is current in his dues or not when visiting another Lodge.

Deputy Grand Master's Program

The Deputy Grand Master, RWB Douglas N. Kaylor, will hold several meetings this summer to roll out plans for the 2016-2017 Masonic year.

All Ohio Masons are invited to attend, especially those anticipating to become the Worshipful Master or Warden. DDGMs, DEOs, District Advisors, Grand Lodge Officers, and Past Grand Masters are encouraged to attend a session.

These meetings are scheduled for July and August, so the Brethren should feel free to attend comfortably dressed, for example Polo Shirt and Dockers, etc.

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.

Please notify your Lodge Officers and all interested members. The rollouts will be an open forum gathering—a tiled meeting will not be opened.

Rollout programs will be held in 13 locations around the State, 7:00 pm—9:00pm

- July 19—Chillicothe Temple
- July 20—Cambridge Temple
- July 21—Mansfield Temple
- July 23—**SATURDAY Columbus Northwest Temple start time: 10:00 a.m.**
- July 26—Lima Temple
- July 27—Perrysburg Temple
- July 28—Amelia Temple
- August 2—Huber Heights Temple
- August 3—Cortland Temple
- August 10—Canton Temple
- August 23—Athens Temple
- August 29—Lyndhurst Temple
- August 30—Elyria Temple

Reminder: Special Olympics-June 24th

The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 24, 2016, 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

William Tompkins, PDDGM 25th District; Temple Lodge #28; passed 1/11/2016

George W. Roe, Secretary; Ralph R Rickly Lodge #670; passed 1/14/2016

Terry B. Meyers, Secretary; North Bend Lodge #346; passed 3/31/2016

James W. Himmelright, Secretary;
Wadsworth Lodge #385; passed 4/10/216
Delbert L. Latta, U.S. Congressman (ret.);
Wood County Lodge #112; passed 5/12/2016
Bernard R. Schmitt, PDDGM 1st District;
Madisonville-Madeira-Mariemont Lodge
#419; passed 5/27/2016

Lodge Mergers Since Grand Lodge

Since our Grand Lodge fiscal year in 2015 there have been 8 Lodge mergers:

- Columbia Lodge #44 merged into NC Harmony Lodge #2, the surviving Lodge, on September 8, 2015.
- Versailles Lodge #290 merged into Gettysburg Lodge #477, the surviving Lodge, on October 5, 2015.
- Rufus Putnam Lodge #364 merged into Wayne Lodge #569, the surviving Lodge, on October 16, 2015.
- Queen City Lodge #559 merged into Delhi Hills Lodge #775, the surviving Lodge, on October 17, 2015.
- Montpelier Lodge #547 merged into Eden Lodge #474, the surviving Lodge, on February 11, 2016.
- Peebles Lodge #581 merged into West Union Lodge #43, the surviving Lodge, on February 12, 2016.
- Eureka Lodge #592 merged into Shanes Lodge #377, the surviving Lodge, on March 1, 2016.
- Ottawa Lodge #325 merged with Continental Lodge #570 on 5/12/16 forming a new Lodge, Israel Putnam UD

As of this date we have 479 Ohio Lodges.

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.

Henry Masonic Tribute Rifle—2nd Raffle

The first Henry Golden Boy model Masonic tribute rifle raffle exceeded everyone's expectations. All 500 tickets were sold almost immediately. As a reminder, the drawing for this beautiful Masonic rifle will take place at Ohio Masonic Home Day, Sunday, June 12th.

Due to the popularity of the raffle and the Masonic rifle, the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be offering a second rifle as an opportunity for someone to win. The raffle will open immediately following the drawing for the first rifle. Tickets will be \$10.00 apiece with 100% of the proceeds going to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation.

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.

SERVICE AWARDS OTHER JURISDICTIONS

On the occasion your lodge is asked, based upon location, to present a Service Award from another Grand Jurisdiction please be sure to do so in a timely manner. Be certain to return any enclosed paperwork to our office so we can close the file. If there are not any specific forms enclosed, simply send an email to gkozak@glOhio.com to notify us of the presentation. Right now we sometimes wait months (and even longer) to get these presented. These service award presentations should have a goal of being done within a month or so.

MORI OR KEY LOGIN ISSUES

If you experience any login issues with MORI you should try to re-enter your MORI key before logging in again. This key was sent in letter form to you when you created your account with the note to save it for future use. The key for MORI is entered under ACCOUNT and INSERT KEY. It is stored as a "cookie" in your browser. If you have any updates to your browser, which has happened recently, or have a new system, you will have to enter the key again. If for some reason you do not have the key and have login issues, email Gayle and she will send you a copy of your letter.

MORI User Assistance

The "Secretary's Manual" is available for your viewing or printing from the Grand Lodge website (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 2017 dues cards will be mailed! This must be a separate check from your Lodge per capita check.

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!

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