

# The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

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## Grand Secretary's Newsletter

June 7, 2013

### Lodge Annual Returns—Notify Grand Lodge!

#### **IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ!**

When you have completed your final membership updates in MORI for the 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 all your updates for the year are complete your Annual Return will be printed and sent to you along with the amount owed by the 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 2014 dues cards will be mailed in this package.

**The Lodge's check (not a personal check) must be received prior to August 31, 2013.**

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—2013

Information concerning events, meals, and lodging for the 204th Grand Lodge Communication to be held in Akron, Ohio on October 18 & 19, 2013 is being sent to each Lodge with this mailing. 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.

### **The Importance of Accurate Data You Input to MORI**

During the week, the Grand Lodge Office averages about one call per day inquiring about the status of an Ohio Mason. These inquiries are usually for family information, genealogy, or to verify a candidate for an appendant organization whose membership is predicated upon Masonic affiliation is qualified to petition.

We check the membership records in our archives for Ohio Masons dating back over 100 years or more. The information recorded for these deceased Masons is vitally important to those making the inquiry. The information on the record reflects the person's Masonic life as an Ohio Mason.

We have had incidents where a member has been entered as deceased, call and ask when he would receive his Service Award. If a member does not request a dimit from the Lodge, do not enter him as “dimitted/withdrawn”. Similarly, if you have forgotten the MORI deadline of entering SNPDs by March 31st (the system won’t allow this entry after 3/31), do not enter “suspended due to MM Exam” on their records.

These types of actions are falsely recording information on the member’s Masonic life. Years from now, if an inquiry is made regarding their Masonic history, the information needs to be as accurate as possible.

### **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.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi](http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/ssdi) This will take you to a formatted screen of the Social Security Death Index. Enter the Last Name, First Name, and birthdate of the member.

### **Deputy Grand Master’s Programs**

The Deputy Grand Master’s rollout programs are designed to attract the leaders of the Lodges in Ohio. All officers and members are encouraged to attend these sessions. While a planned program will be available, these sessions are to allow the Deputy Grand Master to hear of your concerns as well as

the Lodges to hear of his planning and expectations for the next Masonic year.

Dress for the programs will be business casual. Please take a few hours to learn the programs 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.

The following are the locations and dates for the Deputy Grand Master’s 2014 Rollout Programs:

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 A.M.—Montgomery Lodge #94, Montgomery

Friday, June 21, 7:30 P.M.—Scioto Lodge #6, Chillicothe

Saturday, June 22, 10:00 A.M.—Morning Dawn Lodge #7, Gallipolis

Saturday, June 29, 10:00 A.M.—Hiram Lodge #18, Delaware

Friday, July 12, 7:30 P.M.—OMH Auditorium, Springfield

Saturday, July 13, 10:00 A.M.—Findlay Lodge #227, Findlay

Saturday, July 27, 10:00 A.M.—Mansfield Lodge #35, Mansfield

Saturday, August 17, 10:00 A.M.—Quarry Lodge #382, Berea

Saturday, August 24, 10:00 A.M.—Guernsey Lodge #66, Cambridge

Saturday, August 24, 3:00 P.M.—American Union Lodge #1, Marietta

### **Reminder: Special Olympics-June 28th**

The opening ceremonies for the Summer Games of the Ohio Special Olympics will be Friday, June 28, 2013, 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. Refreshments will be provided by Grotto following the presentation.

### **MORI help available**

Enable Labs, MORI software provider, has posted their new toll free helpdesk number: 866.895.8189.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio is charged a significant amount by Enable Labs for their support and maintenance of the MORI application. I encourage you to call their toll free helpdesk support number with MORI-related problems.

Also available to assist in learning about MORI are User's Guides and Training Videos from our MORI application home screen.

Don't forget the availability of our own Secretary's Manual from the Grand Lodge website, [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com). At the bottom of the home page, under "Resources", select "Document Library". From here, you will find the Secretary's Manual as well as most all the Grand Lodge Forms. Note the addition of the "Uniform By-Laws". If your printer has the capability to print double-sided, select "flip on short side". This will print your completed Uniform By-Laws ready for you to send to the Grand Lodge Office for approval.

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

Herbert L. Clonch, PDDGM 9th District; Anthony Lodge #455; passed 3/29/2013

Gordon A. Yount, PDDGM 3rd District; Versailles Lodged #290; passed 4/13/2013

Gerald C. Hasley, PDDGM 24th District; Smithfield Lodge #182; passed 4/17/2013

Harold M. Houck, Jr. Wardin, H.S. Kissell Lodge #674; passed 4/18/2013

Edward A. Estep, PDDGM 16th District, PREGC Grand Commandery, Marks Lodge #359; passed 4/20/2013

Timothy F. Moore, PDDGM 20th District, Seville Lodge #74; passed 4/23/2013

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

Since our Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 2012 there have been 4 Lodge mergers. They are:

- Tuendawie Lodge #195 merged into Omega Lodge #564, the surviving Lodge, on March 7, 2013.
- Lincoln Lodge #693 merged into Jefferson Lodge #90, the surviving Lodge, on March 7, 2013.
- Jackson Center Lodge #458 merged into Stokes Lodge #305, the surviving Lodge, on March 26, 2013.
- New Burlington Lodge #574 merged into Cedarville Lodge #622, the surviving Lodge, on May 14, 2013.

As of this date we have 499 Ohio Lodges.

### **Is Your Email Address Current?**

Please check the blue colored 2012—2013 Masonic Directory which lists the Worshipful Master and Secretary of every Ohio Lodge to see that we have your current correct email address.

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, cheap and easy way to get timely information to the Lodge Secretaries.

### **Reminder Regarding the Solicitation of Funds in the Name of Masonry**

“Faith, Hope and Charity, and the greatest of these is Charity.”

There have been some tragic stories recently concerning our Brother Masons who are in dire straights and need aid and assistance. Chapter 32 of our Grand Lodge Code reminds us that “A Lodge should, to the extent of its ability, and in the spirit of brotherly love and charity, volunteer needed assistance to worthy distressed Master Masons, their widows or dependent children.” A Lodge may solicit contributions from its members for a charity fund in the name of Masonry, and make provisions for making payments as the Lodge shall determine.

However, we are further admonished that “No other solicitations of funds in the name of Masonry shall be made by a Lodge or member without the approval of the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.”

This means prior to going outside the Lodge’s membership in soliciting funds in the name of Masonry, the Lodge must first obtain permission from the Grand Master, regardless of how noble or just the cause.

### **Are Your Lodge By-Laws Current?**

Changes to Lodge Standing Resolutions and to Lodge By-Laws must have the approval of the Grand Master. The exception being if the Lodge votes to change either the time of the Stated Meeting or the amount of annual dues. These do not require Grand Master approval to the By-Laws.

However, if you do change either the Stated Meeting time or your annual dues, please send the Grand Lodge Office a copy of your new By-Laws anyway.

We need to maintain a current copy of your By-Laws in our files.

The Uniform By-Laws template form is now available for you to download from our Grand Lodge website. Just fill in the blanks. There are instructions for printing double-sided if your printer has this capability.

Lastly, a common error that is frequently made when changing By-Laws deals with the amount the Lodge charges for affiliation (Article IV) either by dimit or plural/dual membership. The amounts for either affiliation type cannot be less than the amount the Lodge charges for Annual Dues (Article VII). So, check to see that your affiliation fees are equal to or greater than your Annual Dues amount.

### **From MSA: Disaster Relief Appeal for Oklahoma**

The Masonic Service Association (MSA) has established a Disaster Relief Fund for Oklahoma, with all donations to be transferred directly to the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma for distribution to those in need.

A series of tornadoes ripped through Moore, Oklahoma, on May 20 leaving a path of death and destruction for this community, a suburb of Oklahoma City. The toll of the damage to life and property is still growing.

At least eight Masonic Brothers lost all or portions of their homes. When remitting funds to the MSA in response to this appeal, please mark clearly on your check that you wish the funds to go to the Oklahoma Appeal. Make checks payable to MSA Disaster Relief Fund and send to: Masonic Service Association of North America, 8120 Fenton Street—Suite #203, Silver Spring, MD 20910-4785.

### **July 4th Reenactment of the Perry's Victory Monument Cornerstone Ceremony at Put-In-Bay**

If you have attended any of the District Receptions for our Grand Master, you have heard him speak of this special event. July 4th is the 100th anniversary of the laying of the Cornerstone of Perry's Memorial at Put-In-Pay on Lake Erie. The Grand Lodge of Ohio will reenact this ceremony with the assistance of nine other Grand Lodges, many of whom participated 100 years ago.

Some of the day's events include: Naturalization Ceremony and Delayed Enlistment; a 4th of July Parade; 3:00 P.M. Cornerstone Reenactment, complete with a fly-over, U.S. Army Ceremonial Band, and a commemorative coin presentation to all veterans; Free Concert; and, at dusk, a Fireworks Extravaganza.

Make plans now to take the family to Lake Erie for this memorable July 4th event. For additional information, see the Grand Lodge website: [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com).

### **Make Certain any Sales Invoices from the Grand Lodge are Paid!**

Sometimes, even with gentle reminders from our office, Secretaries forget to submit their supplies invoices to their Lodge for payment approval.

All delinquent sales invoices must be paid in full before 2014 dues cards are sent to the Lodge.

### **House Bill 59**

HB59, with an amendment removing our Lodge buildings from the property tax rolls passed the Ohio House and is now in the Ohio Senate.

### **House Bill 59 (continued)**

It is estimated that the bill will be voted upon in late June, prior to the July budget. Please take a few minutes to write a letter to your State Senator encouraging his passage of this important legislation.

The address for all Ohio State Senators is: Senator XXXXXX, Senate Building, 1 Capital Square—Ground Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

### **Word of the Day**

Artificer (ar-TIF-uh-sir) - A skilled craftsman, especially one who has the ingenuity to devise new methods and techniques.

### **Quote of the Day**

"Perfection is the aim of operative Masonry. Happiness is the aim of speculative Masonry." - William Preston

**ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST;  
IF THE OTHERS WON'T DO IT,  
THE SECRETARY MUST!**

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