

The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

ANNUAL ADDRESS of the GRAND MASTER

Shawn A. Johnson
GRAND MASTER



Report of the Grand Secretary
Report of the Grand Treasurer
& Various Committee Reports

217th ANNUAL COMMUNICATION
Dayton, Ohio October 16, 2026

GRAND MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Brethren, when this journey began, "Committed to the Craft" was selected as a theme. But after traveling this great state, sitting in your Lodges, witnessing your degree work, sharing meals at your tables, recognizing our veterans and first responders, spending time with our youth, and most importantly, getting to know you, those words have come to mean much more.

Being committed to the Craft isn't measured by the title we hold, the jewel we wear, or even the number of meetings we attend. It is measured by what we are willing to give.

It is the Brother who practices a piece of ritual one more time because a candidate deserves his very best. It is the mentor who refuses to allow a new Mason to walk this journey alone. It is the Secretary doing the work few people ever see. It is the Past Master who steps aside so another Brother can learn to lead. It is the veteran and first responder who continues a lifetime of service. It is the youth advisor investing in a generation he may never live to see lead this fraternity. And it is the wife and family at home who sacrifice their time so that we may give ours to the Craft.

Committed to the Craft means preserving what was entrusted to us while having the courage to make it stronger. It means remembering our obligations when we are inside the Lodge and, perhaps more importantly, when we are outside of it. It means understanding that our responsibility is not simply to make more Masons, but to help make good men better, and then give those men a reason to remain part of this great fraternity.

And ultimately, Brethren, being committed to the Craft means recognizing that none of this belongs to us. We are simply its caretakers for a little while. Those who came before us placed it into our hands. Our responsibility is to strengthen it, protect it, and someday place it into the hands of those who follow.

That is what it means to me to be Committed to the Craft.

And when our time comes to hand the working tools to another generation, we do what Masons have always done. We stay Committed to the Craft.

State of the Craft

As I traveled across Ohio this year, I found myself asking a simple question: What are our successful Lodges doing differently?

I discovered that success isn't determined by the size of the Lodge room, the balance in the bank account, or even the number of names on the membership roll. The successful Lodges are the ones where Brothers want to be.

They prepare for their candidates. They take pride in their ritual. They educate their members. They mentor their young Masons. They give new Brothers responsibility and allow them to grow. They communicate. They serve their communities. They involve their families. And perhaps most importantly, they notice when a Brother is missing, and they care enough to find out why.

These Lodges understand that bringing a man through our doors is only the beginning. Our responsibility is to make certain that when he enters, he discovers something worth staying for. He must find purpose. He must find opportunities to grow. And he must find Brothers who genuinely care whether he returns.

Grand Lodge can provide programs. Grand Lodge can provide education, resources, technology, leadership and support. We can create initiatives designed to strengthen our Lodges. We can provide every tool available to help them succeed.

But Grand Lodge cannot manufacture Brotherhood. Brotherhood isn't created by an edict, a program, a committee, or a resolution adopted at Annual Communication. Brotherhood is created inside our Lodges. It happens when a Brother puts his arm around a new Mason and says, "Come sit with me." It happens when someone notices that a Brother hasn't been to Lodge and picks up the phone. It happens when a Past Master takes the time to mentor a young officer rather than simply telling him how things have always been done.

It happens when we celebrate one another's successes, stand beside one another during our struggles, care for our widows, support our families, and remember that the Brother sitting across the Lodge room made the same promises we did.

Grand Lodge cannot manufacture Brotherhood. We can encourage it. We can support it. We can provide the tools to strengthen it. But ultimately, Brotherhood is created one Lodge, one candidate, one mentor, one handshake, and one Brother at a time.

And Brethren, if we want to understand why some Lodges are thriving while others are struggling, I believe we should begin there. Because when a man finds genuine Brotherhood, he doesn't simply become a member of a Lodge, he becomes part of something he doesn't want to leave. That is the difference between having members and building Masons. And that is what it means to be Committed to the Craft.

Candidate Experience and Ritual Excellence

Brethren, throughout this year I have spoken often about the **candidate experience** and the importance of ritual excellence. There is a reason I have placed so much emphasis on both.

For the past eight years, as I have traveled across this great state and visited hundreds of our Lodges, I have had the opportunity to see something most Masons probably never think much about after receiving their degrees, the preparation room.

And, Brethren, far too often, what I found was not really a preparation room at all. I found rooms filled with folding chairs, old costumes, boxes, cleaning supplies, broken furniture, outdated Lodge equipment, and things that simply had nowhere else to go. In too many places, the room where we prepare a man to begin one of the most meaningful experiences of his Masonic life had slowly become little more than a storage closet.

I began asking myself a very simple question: Is this really how we want a man's Masonic journey to begin? Think about that candidate for a moment. He has petitioned our fraternity. He has been investigated. He has been elected. He has set aside an evening, left his family at home, and walked through the doors of a Masonic Lodge perhaps not knowing exactly what awaits him. There is anticipation. There may be nervousness. There is certainly curiosity. And then we take him into a cluttered storage room and tell him that this is where his journey into Freemasonry begins.

Brethren, the candidate deserves more. That is why I asked our Lodges to look at their preparation rooms this year. It wasn't because I wanted Lodges spending thousands of dollars remodeling rooms. It wasn't about expensive furniture, elaborate decorations, or creating another Grand Lodge requirement. It was about intentionality. I wanted us to stop looking at that room through the eyes of men who have been Masons for twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years and begin looking at it again through the eyes of the candidate entering it for the very first time.

The preparation room should tell that man, before a single word of our ritual is spoken: We were expecting you. We prepared for you. What is about to happen matters to us, and you matter to us.

A preparation room can be simple. It can be modest. But it should be clean. It should be orderly. It should be private. It should be dignified. And most importantly, it should be a place appropriate for a man preparing to take an important step in his life. Because the candidate experience does not begin when the Lodge is opened. It begins the moment that candidate walks through our door.

And our responsibility doesn't end at the preparation room. The Brother preparing him matters. The way we speak to him matters. The condition of the equipment matters. The proficiency of our ritual matters. The atmosphere in the Lodge room matters. What happens immediately following the degree matters. And whether someone calls him tomorrow matters. We sometimes forget something because we have seen these degrees so many times. **The candidate has not.** We may have witnessed an Entered Apprentice Degree a hundred times. He gets one first Entered Apprentice Degree. We may have heard those words hundreds of times. He is hearing them for the first time. There are no do-overs for his first impression of Freemasonry.

That is why ritual excellence and candidate experience cannot be separated. When we practice our ritual, when we prepare our Lodge room, when we clean our preparation room, when we make sure every officer

understands his part, we are telling that candidate something without ever saying the words:

You were worth preparing for.

And I believe that matters.

Over these eight years of traveling Ohio, I have seen some extraordinary Masonry. I have witnessed beautiful ritual performed by Brothers who clearly understood the responsibility they had been given. I have seen Lodges where a candidate was welcomed from the moment he arrived and where you could immediately tell that his experience mattered.

Those Lodges taught me something. Excellence doesn't happen by accident. Someone cared enough to prepare. And that is ultimately why I asked our Lodges to address their preparation rooms. It was never really about the room. It was about the candidate.

If we say we are Committed to the Craft, then we must be committed to the man we are inviting into it. We cannot ask him to respect our traditions if the environment in which we introduce those traditions suggests that we don't respect them ourselves. We cannot ask him to believe this night is important while preparing him among boxes and cleaning supplies. And we cannot expect him to become committed to this fraternity until we first demonstrate that this fraternity is committed to him.

Brethren, Grand Lodge can encourage better candidate experiences. We can provide education, resources, standards, and support. But just as Grand Lodge cannot manufacture Brotherhood, Grand Lodge cannot create that candidate's experience. That happens in your Lodge. It happens in your preparation room. It happens through your ritual. It happens through the Brother who takes him by the hand. And it happens through every Mason who makes that candidate understand:

We knew you were coming. We prepared for you. And you are important to us.

That is ritual excellence. That is the candidate experience. And that is what it means to be Committed to the Craft.

Masonic Education

Brethren, if we are truly Committed to the Craft, then we must also be committed to understanding the Craft. Throughout this year, Masonic Education has been under the direction and leadership of Right Worshipful Brother Joe Radocy, and I want to personally recognize and thank Joe for his commitment to Masonic education and for the work he has done with our District Education Officers and Lodges throughout Ohio.

One of the things we emphasized this year was that Masonic education cannot simply be about learning more facts about Freemasonry. It must help us become better Masons.

Our ritual teaches us *what* we do. Education should help us better understand why we do it and how we should do it. Nowhere was that more

important to me this year than in our discussion about how we handle a candidate during the Second Section of the Master Mason Degree.

Brethren, sometimes familiarity can cause us to forget what the candidate is experiencing. Many of us have participated in or witnessed the Second Section dozens, perhaps hundreds of times. We know what is coming. We understand the symbolism. We know the movements, the words, and the lessons being communicated. The candidate does not. For him, this is happening for the first time. That means the way we handle that candidate matters.

There is a tremendous difference between creating a powerful, meaningful Masonic experience and simply creating an experience that is unnecessarily rough, intimidating, or uncomfortable. Our candidate is not a prop in our ritual. He is our Brother. He has placed an extraordinary amount of trust in us.

When that candidate enters our Lodge, particularly during the Second Section, he is trusting the men around him to take care of him. He may not know where he is going or what is about to happen, but he knows that he is surrounded by men who have already taken the same journey. We have an obligation to honor that trust.

That was one of the messages I wanted emphasized through our Masonic education this year. The Second Section can be powerful without being rough. It can leave a lasting impression without leaving the candidate with the wrong impression of Freemasonry. The purpose is not to see how much we can put a candidate through. The purpose is to teach a lesson. And when we allow unnecessary horseplay, excessive physical handling, or attempts to make the experience more extreme simply because *“that’s how we’ve always done it,”* we risk allowing our own entertainment to become more important than the candidate’s experience. That is not what our ritual is intended to accomplish. We need to remember who that degree is for. It is for him. Every officer participating in that degree should understand that he has been entrusted with a small part of that candidate’s Masonic journey.

Handle him with dignity.

Handle him with respect.

Protect his safety.

Protect his trust.

And perform our ritual in a manner worthy of the lessons we are trying to teach. This connects directly to what I have said about our preparation rooms and the entire candidate experience. From the moment a candidate walks through our doors, everything he encounters tells him something about our fraternity. The preparation room tells him whether we were expecting him. Our ritual tells him whether we prepared for him. The way we physically handle him tells him whether he can **trust us**. And what happens after the degree tells him whether we genuinely consider him a Brother.

Brethren, these things matter. We cannot ask a candidate to respect our ritual if we don’t respect it ourselves. We cannot teach Brotherly Love

while treating the man receiving the lesson without Brotherly care. And we cannot ask a new Mason to become **Committed to the Craft** until we first demonstrate that the Craft is committed to him.

Under the leadership of RWB Joe Radocy, Masonic education has helped us continue these conversations, not simply about memorizing our ritual, but about understanding its purpose and delivering its lessons properly. And that is what Masonic education should accomplish. It should cause us to think. It should occasionally cause us to question how we are doing things. It should make us better ritualists, better mentors, better leaders, and ultimately **better Masons**.

Brethren, we entered this fraternity seeking more light. We should never stop seeking it. And when the education we receive changes the way we treat a candidate, changes the way we perform our ritual, and changes the way we treat one another, then that education has accomplished something far greater than simply teaching us another fact about Freemasonry. It has strengthened the Craft. And that is what it means to be Committed to the Craft.

Grand Lodge Officers

Brethren, one of the greatest responsibilities entrusted to a Grand Master is selecting the Brothers who will serve alongside him as Grand Lodge Officers. These appointments matter because these men are not simply filling positions, they are representing this Grand Lodge and the more than sixty thousand Masons who make up this great fraternity in Ohio.

As I considered those appointments, I tried to follow one simple principle: I wasn't looking for a Brother who needed an office. I was looking for the right Brother for the job. I believe that is something we need to continue thinking about as we look toward the future of our Grand Lodge.

For many years, geography and District representation have played a role in how we look at Grand Lodge appointments. There is value in having representation from across this great state. But I believe we need to move away from the idea that an appointment belongs to a particular District. A Grand Lodge Office doesn't belong to a District. It belongs to the Craft. Our responsibility should always be to find the Brother who possesses the character, ability, experience, leadership, and commitment necessary to do the job, regardless of the Lodge he belongs to, the District he comes from.

The question should never simply be: "What District does he come from?" The more important question is: "Is he the right Brother for the job?" That philosophy was important to me when I selected RWB Brian Arehart to serve as Junior Grand Deacon. I believed Brian was the right Brother for that responsibility when I appointed him, and after having the opportunity to serve alongside him this year, I believe it even more today.

Brian, thank you for accepting the responsibility, for representing this Grand Lodge with dignity, and for the commitment you have shown to me, to your Brothers, and to the Craft.

I also want to recognize two Brothers who have served in very important roles during this year. RWB Pat Comer, our Grand Tyler, thank you for your service, your friendship, and your willingness to be there whenever called upon. And to RWB David Waggoner, our Grand Chaplain, thank you for the guidance, friendship, and perspective you have brought to this Grand Lodge and to me personally throughout this journey.

Brian, Pat, and David represent something I believe strongly about leadership: The title isn't what makes the Brother important. It is what the Brother brings to the title that makes the office meaningful.

And while I am thanking our Grand Lodge Officers, there is another group that deserves our recognition. The ladies who walk beside us. Brethren, anyone who has served as a Grand Lodge Officer understands that we do not make this journey alone.

There are countless Lodge meetings, inspections, receptions, installations, degrees, dinners, phone calls, and thousands of miles on the road. There are evenings when we leave before dinner and return long after everyone else has gone to bed. There are weekends that could have been spent with our families that instead are spent serving this fraternity. Someone shares that sacrifice with us. Our wives do. They encourage us. They travel with us. They welcome Brothers into their lives and often develop friendships of their own throughout this journey. And there are many times when they stay home and take care of everything there so that we can be somewhere else fulfilling the responsibilities of our office. The Brother may be the one wearing the purple apron, **but very** often there is a lady standing beside him who has sacrificed just as much for him to wear it.

I know that better than anyone. Colleen has walked this entire journey beside me. Through eight years of traveling Ohio, through countless Lodge meetings and Masonic events, and ultimately through the responsibilities of serving as Grand Master, she has supported me and shared this experience with me. And I will forever be grateful.

So, when we thank our Grand Lodge Officers for their service, I ask that we also remember to thank their wives and families, because their contribution to this Grand Lodge is greater than we sometimes recognize.

To Brian, Pat, David, and all of the men who have served beside me this year, and to the ladies who have made that service possible, thank you. I chose these men because I believed they were the right Brothers for the job, not because of where they came from, but because of who they are and what I believed they could contribute to Ohio Freemasonry.

And Brethren, as we select the leaders who will guide this fraternity in the years ahead, I hope we will continue to search throughout this entire Grand Jurisdiction for good men, capable leaders, and dedicated Masons, and then have the courage to put the right Brother in the right job. Because when we put what is best for the fraternity ahead of geography, tradition, recognition, or personal ambition, we demonstrate something much more important. Commitment to the Craft.

District Leadership

Brethren, I want to recognize and thank our District Advisors, District Deputy Grand Masters, and District Education Officers for their dedication and service throughout this year. These Brothers are truly the connection between the Grand Lodge and our local Lodges, providing leadership, education, guidance, and support wherever it is needed.

Your willingness to travel, answer the phone, solve problems, mentor officers, and simply be there for our Lodges often goes unnoticed, but it does not go unappreciated.

Thank you for your leadership, your service, and for being Committed to the Craft.

District	Office	Year	First	Middle	Last
1	DA	1	Louis	John	Lasonczyk
2	DA	2	Robert	Joshua	Brower III
3	DA	3	Bradley	Allen	Horsley
4	DA	1	Steven	Douglas	Henkle II
5	DA	7	Robert	Ray	Rettig
6	DA	2	Tim		Redick
7	DA	12	Robert	Joseph	Shilling
8	DA	5	Gregory	Alan	Smith
9	DA	6	David	LeRoy	Waggoner
10	DA	8	Keith	Joseph	Manbeck
11	DA	3	Mark	Paul	Allred, Jr.
12	DA	6	Steven	Eugene	Wallis
13	DA	3	Dennis	Raymond	Kessler
14	DA	2	Adam	B.	Michael
15	DA	2	Charles	A.	Hall
16	DA	3	Jeffrey	Karl	Kaple
17	DA	3	Thomas	Steven	Williams
18	DA	1	John	Kevin	Guiler
19	DA	4	Larry	Stephen	Cullison
20	DA	3	Michael	Alton	Roepke
21	DA	2	David	Melton	Hopkins

22	DA	2	Daniel	Patrick	Mossop
23	DA	6	Jeffrey	Lee	Miller
24	DA	5	James	Louis	Cardelein
25	DA	1	Jeffery	L.	Lock, Jr.

District	Office	Year	First	Middle	Last
1	DDGM	3	Anton	John	Dsuban IV
1	DDGM	1	Cameron	Allen	Shandersky
1	DDGM	2	Robert	Roy	Stickrod
2	DDGM	1	Shannon	Ray	Ballard
2	DDGM	2	Charles	Gregory	Bush
2	DDGM	3	Alfred	Charles	Butler
3	DDGM	3	Robert	Milton	Zimmerman
4	DDGM	1	Richard	L.	Busch
5	DDGM	3	James	Evan	Parsons
5	DDGM	1	Dennis	Lynn	Richardson
6	DDGM	3	Gary	Allen	Luce
6	DDGM	2	Ronald	Allan	Mulkey
7	DDGM	1	Samuel	Keith	Johnson Jr.
7	DDGM	1	Edward	Paul	Moore
8	DDGM	2	Paul	Wesley	Clark
8	DDGM	3	Dale	Lawrence	Sullenberger
9	DDGM	1	Jesse	Baker	Crawford
9	DDGM	3	Joel	Gordon	Swords
10	DDGM	1	Jason	Lee	Pontious
10	DDGM	2	Jeffery	Lee	Starr
11	DDGM	2	Jerel	Ryan	Fish
11	DDGM	2	John	Wesley	Tate, Jr.
11	DDGM	3	Todd	Michael	Williams
12	DDGM	1	John	William	Epple
12	DDGM	3	Tyler	Martin	Perry
13	DDGM	3	Edward	Jay	Ferguson

13	DDGM	1	Kolton	Paul	Halla
14	DDGM	3	Leonard	Keith	Fields
14	DDGM	2	Christopher	Shawn	Greise
14	DDGM	1	Eric	Matthew	Longstreth
15	DDGM	2	Ralph	Edward	Brown
15	DDGM	3	Scott	Paul	Zwieszinski
16	DDGM	3	Craig	Thomas	Franklin
16	DDGM	1	Cody	Derrick	Noon
16	DDGM	1	Nathan	Paul	Samsa
17	DDGM	3	Kevin	Hoyt	Boston
17	DDGM	1	Michael	Lynn	Denbow
17	DDGM	2	Dennis	Wayne	Robertson
18	DDGM	3	Jeffrey	Ryan	Bosson
18	DDGM	1	Randy	Alan	Handschumacher
19	DDGM	3	Brian	George	King
19	DDGM	1	Michael	David	Morris
19	DDGM	2	Charles	Clint	Veach
20	DDGM	1	Mickey	Everett	Becerra
20	DDGM	3	Ronald	Gene	Horne
21	DDGM	3	Jason	Lamar	Kidd
21	DDGM	3	Russell	Geary	Myers, Jr.
21	DDGM	1	Brock	Adam	Ryan
22	DDGM	1	Shawn	Scott	Franks
22	DDGM	2	Brian	Frederick	Iselin
22	DDGM	3	Jason	John	Maiher
23	DDGM	1	Gary	Dean	Edwards
23	DDGM	3	Mitchell	Lee	Slotwinski
24	DDGM	1	Brian	Patrick	Fitzgerald
24	DDGM	3	James	Robert	Hall
24	DDGM	2	Shawn	Anthony	Smith
25	DDGM	1	Richard	A.	Antill

25	DDGM	2	Frank	Robert	Daugherty
25	DDGM	2	Jerry	Lee	Palfy

District	Office	Year	First	Middle	Last
1	DEO	2	Alexander	Rock	Steidle
1	DEO	2	Joshua	Scott	Dayton
1	DEO	1	Lawrence		Payne III
2	DEO	3	Brandon	Howard	Estep
2	DEO	2	Taylor	Lee	Kleineick
2	DEO	1	Michael	Allen	Miller
3	DEO	2	John	Randall	Stiltner
4	DEO	1	Kevin	Lee	Lammon
5	DEO	1	Ryan	Kenneth	Bleck
5	DEO	3	Craig	Alan	Szczublewski
6	DEO	2	Jeffrey	Lynn	Neal
6	DEO	3	James	Scott	White
7	DEO	1	Kenneth	John	Horsley
7	DEO	1	Eric	Lee	Williams
8	DEO	2	Darrell	Bruce	Porter
8	DEO	2	David	Charles	Stamper
9	DEO	1	Jonathan	Eric	Holmes
9	DEO	1	Larry	Daniel	Perks
10	DEO	3	Jason	Robert	Klint
10	DEO	2	Stephen	Eric	Roth
11	DEO	1	Dustin	Robert	Dewey
11	DEO	2	Rodney	Vernon	Fowler
11	DEO	2	Rodney	Lee	Miller
12	DEO	1	Troy	Thomas	Thacker II
12	DEO	3	Danny	Lee	Will
13	DEO	1	Craig	Thomas	Collins
13	DEO	2	Olan	Dale	Graves
14	DEO	1	Jeffrey	Allen	Hall

14	DEO	2	Michael	Dale	Heath
14	DEO	3	Bradley	Dale	Love
15	DEO	1	Dustin	Warren	Davis
15	DEO	2	Joseph	Alphonse	Carpenter
16	DEO	2	Jeffrey	Alan	Ingersoll
16	DEO	1	Douglas	Wayne	McGee
16	DEO	1	Jeremy	Lee	Tavener
17	DEO	1	Terry	Lee	Baker
17	DEO	2	Eric	Scott	Lee
17	DEO	3	Austin	James	Meredith
18	DEO	1	Scott	Michael	Piatt
18	DEO	3	Steven	C.	Miller
19	DEO	3	Stephen	Trent	Brown
19	DEO	2	James	Tyler	Vanvelzor
19	DEO	1	Darren	Christopher	Weber
20	DEO	1	Keith	Richard	Small
20	DEO	2	Thomas	Lesley	Stortz
21	DEO	1	Larry	Lee	Mackey
21	DEO	1	Jason	Evans	Miller
21	DEO	3	Steven	D.	Prentiss
22	DEO	1	Michael	Thomas	Monaco
22	DEO	1	David	Christopher	Powers
22	DEO	2	Brad	Jason	Smith
23	DEO	1	Robert	Todd	Crow
23	DEO	3	Anello	Rosario	Liberati
24	DEO	1	Jeffrey	Wayne	Avnet
24	DEO	1	Bill	Joe	Glachick
24	DEO	2	Richard	Andrew	Purks
25	DEO	1	Daniel	Harry	Beal
25	DEO	1	Randy	May	Porter
25	DEO	3	William	Wade	Saylor

Grand Maters Receptions by Date

Brethren, the Grand Master's Receptions throughout this year have been some of the most enjoyable and memorable moments of our journey. These gatherings were never just about recognizing the Grand Master. They were about fellowship, friendship, and bringing our Masonic family together. Colleen and I are deeply grateful to every District, Lodge, Brother, lady, family member, and friend who welcomed us so warmly. The memories and friendships made at these receptions will remain with us long after this year has ended.

Thank you for making us feel at home wherever our travels took us.

Date	District	Day	Time
January 30, 2026	13	Friday	7:00 PM
January 31, 2026	17	Saturday	6:30 PM
February 6, 2026	7	Friday	7:00 PM
February 7, 2026	12	Saturday	6:30 PM
February 27, 2026	15	Friday	7:00 PM
March 7, 2026	8	Saturday	6:30 PM
March 14, 2026	14	Saturday	6:30 PM
March 20, 2026	3	Friday	7:00PM
March 21, 2026	2	Saturday	6:30PM
March 27, 2026	18	Friday	7:00PM
March 28, 2026	19	Saturday	6:30PM
April 17, 2026	5	Friday	7:00 PM
April 18, 2026	11	Saturday	6:30PM
April 24, 2026	23	Friday	7:00PM
April 25, 2026	24	Saturday	6:30PM
May 1, 2026	20	Friday	7:00PM
May 2, 2026	21	Saturday	6:30PM
May 9, 2026	1 & 6	Saturday	6:30 PM
May 15, 2026	16	Friday	7:00PM

May 16, 2026	22	Saturday	6:30 PM
May 30, 2026	25	Saturday	6:30 PM
June 12, 2026	4 & 10	Friday	7:00 PM
June 13, 2026	9	Saturday	6:30 PM

Local Hero Award Recipient

Brethren, the Local Hero Award has given us the opportunity to recognize some truly remarkable individuals who quietly serve and make a difference in their communities. These are the veterans, first responders, community volunteers, and everyday citizens who step forward when others need help, not for recognition, but simply because it is the right thing to do.

It has been my privilege to recognize these individuals on behalf of the Freemasons of Ohio and simply say, **we see** what you do, we appreciate your service, and we thank you for making our communities better.

District	Reception Date	Recipient
1	5/9/2026	Jill Wolfe
2	3/21/2026	James F. Smith
3	3/20/2026	Lester A. Trittschuh
4	6/12/2026	Timothy G Copsey
5	4/17/2026	Robert P Meyer
6	5/9/2026	Rick Stowell
7	2/6/2026	Jonathan Sheeley
8	3/7/2026	Philip M. Mitchell
9	6/13/2026	Christopher Clark
10	6/12/2026	Bryce Metz
11	4/18/2026	Matthew Geer
12	2/7/2026	Court Street Ministries
13	1/30/2026	Laura Mead
14	3/14/2026	Andrea Rowson
15	2/27/2026	Luke 3:11 Ministries
16	5/15/2026	Rance Snyder
17	1/31/2026	Steve Booth
18	3/27/2026	Mark Doerfler

19	3/28/2026	Chad Diel
20	5/1/2026	Shane Willoughby
21	5/2/2026	Shane Jenkins
22	5/16/2026	Russell Rhoda
23	4/24/2026	Dirk Harkins
24	4/25/2026	Daniel Decker
25	5/30/2026	Jeffrey Ford

Excellence In Youth 2026

Brethren, one of the great privileges of this year, has been recognizing our Excellence in Youth Award recipients. These outstanding young people represent the very best of leadership, service, character, and commitment to their communities. Recognizing them is more than presenting an award, it is an opportunity for Freemasonry to encourage the next generation and let them know that their hard work and good character are noticed and appreciated.

To each of our Excellence in Youth Award recipients, congratulations. Continue to lead, continue to serve, and never underestimate the difference you can make.

District #	Reception Date	Recipient	Masonic Youth Organization
1	5/9/2026	Cole Borton	N/A
1	5/9/2026	Leah Capo	Rainbow Girls
2	3/21/2026	Caitlin Rhinehart	Job's Daughters
2	3/21/2026	Gavin Shawhan	DeMolay
2	3/21/2026	Vashti Barga	Rainbow Girls
3	3/20/2026	Tapanga Henderson	Rainbow Girls
3	3/20/2026	Taylor Foutz	N/A
4	6/12/2026	Sheyenne Shepherd	N/A
4	6/12/2026	Trenton Manz	N/A
5	4/17/2026	Gauge O. Nester	N/A
5	4/17/2026	Marisa R. Raimonde	N/A
6	5/9/2026	Conner J. Redden	N/A
6	5/9/2026	Nora Young	N/A
7	2/6/2026	Kelden Adair Copas	Eagle Scout
7	2/6/2026	Marnie Tolle	N/A
8	3/7/2026	Benjamin Simpson	N/A
8	3/7/2026	Ella Cummins	Rainbow Girls

8	3/7/2026	Mason Moore	DeMolay
9	6/13/2026	Malia Quesenberry	N/A
9	6/13/2026	William Krauss	DeMolay
10	6/12/2026	Elizabeth Honse	N/A
10	6/12/2026	Luke Rammel	N/A
11	4/18/2026	Mason Fish	DeMolay
11	4/18/2026	Sophia Williams	Rainbow Girls
12	2/7/2026	Charles "Gage" Denney	N/A
12	2/7/2026	Moriah Myers	Job's Daughters - Bethel 62
13	1/30/2026	Malachi Mead	DeMolay - Groveport
13	1/30/2026	Meg Mumford	N/A
14	3/14/2026	Emma Justice	Job's Daughters
14	3/14/2026	Madeline Korn	Rainbow Girls
14	3/14/2026	Malachi Mead	DeMolay - Groveport
15	2/27/2026	Carter L.E. Blauser	Eagle Scout
15	2/27/2026	Ella Abbott	N/A
15	2/27/2026	Emma Obert	Rainbow Girls
16	5/15/2026	Aidan Aldrich	DeMolay
17	1/31/2026	Eliza Kopenski	Rainbow Girls - Logan
17	1/31/2026	Kavant Marshall-Matthews	DeMolay - Rufas Putnam
18	3/27/2026	Alexander Sheanshang	Eagle Scout
18	3/27/2026	Sophia Marshall	N/A
19	3/28/2026	Jason Butler, Jr	N/A
19	3/28/2026	Megan Korn	Rainbow Girls
20	5/1/2026	Emma Nickles	N/A
20	5/1/2026	John Franke	DeMolay
21	5/2/2026	Adalyn Zuber	Job's Daughters
21	5/2/2026	Jaylee Shank	Rainbow Girls
21	5/2/2026	Larry Lee Mackey, III	DeMolay
22	5/16/2026	Abigail Walker	Rainbow Girls

22	5/16/2026	Tyler Wasinski	DeMolay
23	4/24/2026	Addysen Sichina	N/A
23	4/24/2026	Nora Smithberger	N/A
24	4/25/2026	Christa Cook	Job's Daughters
24	4/25/2026	Kris Wojcicki	DeMolay
25	5/30/2026	Courtney Wilcox	Job's Daughters
25	5/30/2026	Logan Sylvester	DeMolay
25	5/30/2026	Marjorie Boyd	Rainbow Girls

Grand Lodge Dedications, Reconsecration and Cornerstones

Brethren, throughout this year, I have had the privilege of participating in Lodge dedications, reconsecrations, and cornerstone ceremonies **across** Ohio.

These ceremonies remind us that Freemasonry is built upon both tradition and continuity. A dedication celebrates a place where Masonry will continue to grow, a reconsecration honors the generations of Brothers who have carried the Craft forward, and the laying of a cornerstone reminds us to build, both literally and symbolically upon a firm foundation.

Each of these occasions connects our past with our future and reminds us that what we build today is entrusted to the generations that will follow us.

Date	Day of the Week	District	Event Title	Type
1/24/2026	Saturday	2nd	Bolivar #82	Dedication
1/31/2026	Saturday	13th	Somerset #76	Recon
1/31/2026	Saturday	13th	Rushville #221	Recon
1/31/2026	Saturday	13th	Amanda #509	Recon
2/7/2026	Saturday	13th	Delta #207	Recon
2/14/2026	Saturday	17th	American Union #1 250th	Recon
2/21/2026	Saturday	10th	Lima #205	Recon
2/21/2026	Saturday	10th	Sager #513	Recon
2/28/2026	Saturday	15th	Mt. Gilead #206	Recon
2/28/2026	Saturday	15th	Bellefontaine #209	Recon
3/14/2026	Saturday	10th	Center #86	Recon
3/21/2026	Saturday	3rd	Temperance #73	Recon
3/28/2026	Saturday	18th	Olive #210	Recon
3/28/2026	Saturday	18th	Lafayette #79	Recon

4/18/2026	Saturday	5th	Bryan #215	Recon
4/25/2026	Saturday	21st	Port Washington #202	Recon
4/25/2026	Saturday	21st	Tuscarawas #59	Cornerstone
5/2/2026	Saturday	21st	Summit #213	Recon
5/2/2026	Saturday	21st	Hudson #510	Recon
5/9/2026	Saturday	1st	Calvery #204	Recon
5/9/2026	Saturday	1st	Hanselmann #208	Recon
5/30/2026	Saturday	19th	Ohio #199	Recon
7/18/2026	Saturday	2nd	Minerva #98 / Miamisburg	Cornerstone
9/19/2026	Saturday	17th	Belpre School	Cornerstone

Grand Master's Award

Brethren, the Grand Master's Award was created to recognize Lodges that went beyond simply conducting meetings and truly demonstrated what it means to be Committed to the Craft. It recognizes Lodges that focused on Masonic education, meaningful candidate experiences, community involvement, Brotherly Love, and the overall health of their Lodge.

This award was never intended to be about checking boxes. It was about encouraging our Lodges to set a higher standard, try something different, and become stronger because of it.

To every Lodge that worked toward and earned the Grand Master's Award this year, thank you for your effort, your leadership, and most importantly, your commitment to the future of Ohio Freemasonry.

1st Masonic District	Hoffner Lodge #253
1st Masonic District	Montgomery Lodge #94
1st Masonic District	Avon-Miami Lodge #542
2nd Masonic District	Germantown Lodge #257
2nd Masonic District	Alpha Lodge #729
2nd Masonic District	Vandalia Lodge # 742
3rd Masonic District	Greenville Lodge #143
4th Masonic District	
5th Masonic District	
6th Masonic District	Milford Lodge #54
7th Masonic District	Lucasville Lodge #465
7th Masonic District	West Union Lodge #43

8th Masonic District	Jeffersonville Lodge #468
8th Masonic District	Heber Lodge #501
8th Masonic District	Yellow Springs Lodge #421
9th Masonic District	Madison Lodge #221
10th Masonic District	Sager Lodge #513
11th Masonic District	Genoa Lodge #433
12th Masonic District	
13th Masonic District	
14th Masonic District	University Lodge #631
14th Masonic District	Sparrow Lodge #400
15th Masonic District	
16th Masonic District	Bellevue Lodge #273
17th Masonic District	
18th Masonic District	
19th Masonic District	
20th Masonic District	Cedar Lodge #430
20th Masonic District	Ebenezer Lodge #33
20th Masonic District	Bellville Lodge #376
21st Masonic District	Tuscarawas Lodge #59
21st Masonic District	William McKinley Lodge #431
21st Masonic District	Trinity Lodge #710
21st Masonic District	William H. Hoover Lodge #770
22nd Masonic District	Theodore Breck Lodge #714
22nd Masonic District	Cleveland Lodge #781
22nd Masonic District	West Shore Lodge #804
23rd Masonic District	Shadyside Lodge #724
24th Masonic District	Sebring Lodge #626
24th Masonic District	East Palestine Lodge #417
25th Masonic District	Old Erie Lodge #3
25th Masonic District	Cortland Lodge #529
25th Masonic District	Newton Falls Lodge #462
25th Masonic District	Rockton Lodge #316

Veterans and First Responders, First Lady Colleen's Initiative

Brethren, there are certain things we do as Masons that remind the world and perhaps remind ourselves of exactly who we are. This is one of them.

This year, Colleen chose to place special emphasis on supporting our Veterans and First Responders through the First Lady's Charity. Think for a moment about the people we are talking about. They are the men and women who raised their hands and took an oath to serve our country. They are the police officers, firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, and other first responders who leave their families behind when the call comes, never knowing exactly what they are going to face. They serve; they sacrifice.

And very often, they do it without ever asking for anything in return. Brethren, that should mean something to us as Masons.

Because Freemasonry teaches us that our obligations do not end when we close the Lodge. The lessons taught within our Lodge rooms are supposed to follow us through those doors and into our communities.

And I believe one of the greatest ways we demonstrate that is by taking care of those who have spent their lives taking care of others.

I am incredibly proud to tell you that, **as of the time of this report**, \$33,615 has been collected in support of this effort.

And this isn't simply money sitting in an account. We are putting it to work.

To date, \$14,013.74 has already been distributed to support veterans and first responders. That is something every Brother, every Lodge, every lady, and every person who contributed should be proud of. But there is something else about this effort that is especially important to Colleen and me.

This does not end when my year as Grand Master ends. The support of our veterans and first responders is an ongoing charitable effort through the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation. What we are doing this year is helping strengthen an effort that can continue making a difference long after we have completed our journey together.

And that is exactly how it should be. Because service does not have an expiration date. Gratitude does not have an expiration date. And our responsibility to care for those who have sacrificed for our communities and our country should not have one either.

So, Brethren, thank you. Thank you to every Lodge that held a fundraiser. Thank you to every Brother who reached into his pocket. Thank you to our ladies and families who supported this effort. And most importantly, thank you to our veterans and first responders. We see you. We appreciate you. And we will not forget what you have done for us.

At the end of this year, I hope we will measure our success by more than the amount of money we raised. I hope we measure it by the lives we touched, the families we helped, and the message we sent that Ohio Freemasonry stands behind those who serve.

That is charity. That is service. And that is what it means to be Committed to the Craft.

America's 250th Anniversary

Brethren, this year also gives us an opportunity to recognize an extraordinary milestone. Two hundred and fifty years ago, on July 4, 1776, the United States of America declared its independence. For two and a half centuries, generations of Americans have worked, sacrificed, served, and sometimes given their lives to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

As Freemasons, this anniversary should cause us to reflect not only on the history of our country, but also on the principles we are responsible for carrying forward. Freemasonry does not belong to a political party, a particular ideology, or a single moment in American history. Our fraternity brings men together who may have very different opinions about the issues of the day.

But when we enter a Lodge room, we are reminded that there are principles greater than those differences. Brotherly Love. Relief. Truth. We are taught to practice charity, to seek knowledge, to govern our passions, to respect one another, and to recognize the dignity and worth of our fellow man. Those lessons are just as important in America today as they were generations ago.

The 250th anniversary also gives the Freemasons of Ohio an opportunity to remember the many Brothers who have served this country throughout its history, not only those whose names appear in history books, but the countless Masons who served quietly as soldiers, community leaders, first responders, teachers, businessmen, tradesmen, fathers, husbands, neighbors, and friends. Most of them never became famous. They simply went home each day and tried to leave their community a little better than they found it.

And Brethren, perhaps that is one of the greatest contributions Freemasonry can continue to make to America. Good men becoming better men and then taking those lessons back into their families and communities.

As America celebrates 250 years, we should certainly look backward with gratitude. But we must also look forward with responsibility. Someday, another generation will celebrate America's 300th anniversary. The question for us is simple:

What will we leave for them?

What kind of Lodges will we leave?

What kind of communities will we leave?

And what example will we leave for the young men who will someday stand where we stand today?

We cannot control everything that happens in our country. But we can control the kind of men we choose to be. We can practice civility when others choose division. We can demonstrate integrity when no one is watching. We can serve when others are in need. And we can continue teaching the timeless principles that have been passed from Mason to Mason, generation after generation.

Brethren, 250 years is more than an anniversary. It is a reminder that we are temporary caretakers of something much larger than ourselves. Our country was handed to us by generations who came before.

Our Craft was handed to us in much the same way. It is now our responsibility to preserve them, strengthen them, and pass them forward.

May the Freemasons of Ohio continue to be men of character, men of service, and men worthy of the trust placed in us. And as our nation celebrates 250 years of independence, may we recommit ourselves to building stronger Lodges, stronger communities, and a stronger future.

That is our responsibility.

That is our opportunity.

And Brethren, that is another way we remain Committed to the Craft.

Lodge Consolidations

Brethren, we also need to have an honest conversation about Lodge consolidations. Our membership has declined for many years, but in too many places our Lodge structure has not changed with it. Buildings that were once supported by hundreds of members are now being maintained by a fraction of that number.

At the same time, many Lodges have kept their dues artificially low. The result is that some of our Lodges are one furnace, one roof, or one major repair away from having to close their doors. Consolidation should never be viewed as failure. Sometimes it is an act of good stewardship, recognizing that our responsibility is not simply to preserve a building or a Lodge number, but to preserve Freemasonry for the next generation.

We must be willing to have these conversations before a financial emergency makes the decision for us. Our goal should not be to see how long a Lodge can survive. Our goal should be to make sure the Craft can thrive.

Lodge Consolidations in 2025-2026:

Edenton No. 137	into	Goshen Lodge No. 119
Western Reserve No. 507	into	Western Phoenix No. 42
Coventry Akron No. 83	into	National No. 568
New Lexington No. 250	into	Somerset No. 76
Dunkirk No. 83	into	Senate No. 378
La Rue No. 463	into	Mt. Carmel No. 303
Wilmington No. 52	into	Sabina No. 324

Baltimore No. 475 and Alturas No. 537 surrendered their charters to consolidate into a new lodge named Harrison Applegate, currently operating under dispensation.

Edicts and Official Actions

Brethren, during my year as Grand Master, I have tried to use the authority of this office thoughtfully and only when necessary.

This year, I issued **one Edict, Edict 2026-1**, related to the **Grand Master's One Day Class**. Its purpose was to provide the necessary direction and authority for this special opportunity while maintaining the standards and expectations of our Grand Lodge.

I have always believed that the authority entrusted to the Grand Master should be exercised with **care, purpose, and respect for our Constitution, Regulations, and the Craft we serve.**

Social Media and Masonic Conduct

Brethren, we are fortunate to live in a time when communication has never been easier. Through social media, the things we say and do can reach hundreds, even thousands of people almost instantly.

But with that opportunity comes responsibility. When we identify ourselves as Freemasons, our words and actions reflect not only upon us, but upon this fraternity.

There will always be disagreements among Brothers. We will not always see things the same way, and that is okay. But social media is not the place to settle every disagreement, criticize one another, or air our dirty laundry for the entire world to see.

Sometimes we simply need to show a little restraint. Before we make that post, write that comment, or respond in anger, perhaps we should ask ourselves whether what we are about to say represents the principles we profess inside our Lodge rooms.

If we have a disagreement with a Brother, **pick up the phone.** Sit down together. Talk to him as a Brother. Meet him on the Level. The world is watching us more closely than ever before. Let us make certain that what they see is Brotherly Love, respect, civility, and men who practice outside the Lodge the same principles we teach within it.

Brethren, sometimes the most Masonic thing we can say on social media is **nothing at all.**

Grand Masters One Day Class

Brethren, this year we held eight Grand Master's One Day Classes across the state, and I want to take a moment to explain the purpose behind them. These classes were designed primarily to provide an opportunity for those Brothers who had already begun their Masonic journey but, for one reason or another, had never completed it.

By concentrating candidates at eight locations throughout Ohio, we were able to bring together some of the best degree teams and ritualists in our state. My goal was to ensure that these candidates received the very best degree work we could provide and that the lessons and principles of those degrees were properly impressed upon them.

If we were going to provide this opportunity, I wanted it done well. I wanted every candidate to leave understanding that he had become part of something meaningful and that receiving his Master Mason Degree was not the end of his Masonic journey, it was only the beginning.

But Brethren, I also want to be very clear: A One Day Class is a Band-Aid. It is not the cure.

These eight classes helped us meet an immediate need and gave Brothers an opportunity to complete a journey they had already started. But a One Day Class can never become a substitute for strong local Lodges doing quality degree work.

If Freemasonry in Ohio is going to survive and thrive, our Lodges must be able to initiate, pass, and raise their own candidates. There is something special about a candidate receiving his degrees surrounded by the Brothers who will become his mentors, friends, and Lodge family. We cannot lose that.

I want to offer a special thank-you to MWB Tim Wheeland, PGM Program Liaison to the Grand Master; MWB Doug Kaylor, PGM and Director of Membership; MWB Steve Cokonougher PGM; RWB Adam Michael; and RWB Keith Fields, who served as our statewide program coordinators. Coordinating eight classes across Ohio required tremendous planning, cooperation, and commitment. I sincerely appreciate their leadership, along with every degree team, officer, Lodge, and Brother who helped make these classes successful.

The Grand Master's One Day Classes served an important purpose this year. But our long-term future will not be secured through One Day Classes. It will be built one candidate, one degree, and one Lodge at a time.

District	Event Date	Candidates	Mentors	Observers	Total Registrations
District 2	27-Jun-26	259	251	53	563
District 7	2-May-26	81	78	19	178
District 12	13-Jun-26	80	79	18	177
District 14	27-Jun-26	119	103	29	251
District 16	30-May-26	34	34	22	90
District 21	25-Jul-26	114	110	91	315
District 22	25-Jul-26	49	48	15	112
District 23	13-Jun-26	79	78	9	166
815			781	256	1,852

Difficult Decisions and the Weight of the Office

Trial Case 2026-09 - Exline

Brethren, serving as Grand Master is an incredible honor, but there are moments when you truly understand the weight of this office. One of the most difficult situations I faced this year involved Trowel Lodge No. 132 and serious concerns surrounding its finances and the operation of its Temple Committee.

A Zoom meeting was called involving officers of Trowel Lodge along with District and State leadership. During our review, significant questions

arose concerning accounts to which Dale Exline had access. Both Blue lodge and the CTA. After this meeting I temporarily suspended Dale pending the outcome of a Masonic trial.

As the matter developed and the financial information was examined, the amount of funds in question between the Commandery and Trowel Lodge exceeded \$40,000. This situation was made even more troubling by the fact that Dale had served in one of the highest positions of Masonic leadership as a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Ohio.

Brethren, leadership carries with it a higher level of trust and responsibility. Those who are entrusted with positions of leadership and particularly with the finances of our Masonic organizations must conduct themselves above reproach. The higher the office, the greater our responsibility is to demonstrate the integrity we expect from others.

When more than \$40,000 is in question, we cannot simply look the other way. I requested that Trowel Lodge conduct a forensic audit of its finances. Changes were made to account signatories, and I directed the Lodge to take the necessary steps to address the operation and future of its Temple Committee.

I will also acknowledge that there was resistance within the Lodge to some of the directions I gave as Grand Master. That made an already difficult situation even harder. But my responsibility was clear. My goal was never to punish Trowel Lodge. My goal was to protect Trowel Lodge.

At the conclusion of his Masonic trial he was found guilty of Un-Masonic conduct by the trial panel and was sentenced to expulsion. Expelling a Brother is among the most serious actions that can be taken in Freemasonry. But our obligations, our laws, and the trust placed in this fraternity must mean something. Titles, honors, friendships, and past service cannot place any of us above accountability.

There are times when leadership requires decisions that will not be popular. There are times when you must ask difficult questions, stand firm when there is resistance, and accept the criticism that may follow. That is the weight of this office.

Throughout this situation, I tried to remember that accountability and Brotherly Love do not have to be opposites. Protecting the institution sometimes requires us to make decisions we wish we never had to make. My hope is that Trowel Lodge emerges from this difficult chapter stronger, with greater transparency, stronger financial controls, and renewed trust among its membership.

Through every meeting, every difficult conversation, and every decision, my purpose remained the same: Protect the Lodge. Protect the Brethren. Protect the Craft.

That was my responsibility as Grand Master, and when the moment came to exercise that responsibility, I could not and would not look the other way

Trial Case 2025-22 - Brinley

Brethren, another difficult matter this year reminded me that the responsibility of the Grand Master sometimes requires making decisions involving not only an individual Brother, but also the relationship and respect that exists between Grand Lodges.

In January, while attending a service award presentation for a Brother, I was approached by a Past Grand Master of Indiana who asked that I remove the temporary suspension of Most Worshipful Brother Gary E. Brinley in Ohio so that he could attend a meeting of an appendant Masonic body.

Prior to that conversation, I had already been made aware of communications involving Brother Brinley and our Grand Lodge office. After considering the information available to me, I informed the Past Grand Master that I would not lift the temporary suspension.

Instead, I directed that the matter be returned to Greenville Lodge No. 143, Brother Brinley's Ohio Lodge, for its review and vote. The Lodge reviewed the matter and determined that his conduct did not warrant a Masonic trial and voted in favor of his reinstatement.

I respected the Lodge and its right to consider the matter. However, I also had information before me concerning Brother Brinley's expulsion by the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

Brethren, we enjoy a longstanding fraternal relationship with our sister jurisdictions. I could not simply ignore the seriousness of another recognized Grand Lodge having expelled a man who continued to hold membership in Ohio. At the same time, I did not believe that the appropriate response was for the Grand Master of Ohio to personally determine his guilt.

Brother Brinley was entitled to due process under the laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Therefore, pursuant to Section 43.03(h) of our Code, I forwarded the matter to the Trial Commission-in-Chief and directed that a Trial Panel be convened to determine whether Brother Brinley was guilty of unMasonic conduct under Ohio Masonic law.

Brother Brinley received notice of the charges and entered a plea of not guilty. On September 5, 2026, a duly appointed Trial Commission Panel convened at the Dayton Masonic Center. Brother Brinley appeared with Masonic counsel, and testimony was received from witnesses on behalf of both the Grand Lodge of Ohio and Brother Brinley.

The Trial Panel considered the testimony and documentation presented and applied the Code Book of Masonic Law of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. The Panel unanimously found Gary E. Brinley guilty of unMasonic conduct under Section 34.01 and determined that expulsion was the appropriate penalty. The case was closed effective September 5, 2026.

Brethren, I share this because there is an important lesson in it.

Due process matters.

Our obligations matter.

Our relationship with other recognized Grand Lodges matters.

And the laws of this Grand Lodge must matter, even when following them takes us down a difficult road. I could have lifted the suspension in January. I chose not to. I could have allowed the decision of the Lodge to end the matter. Given the information before me and the gravity of the situation between two sister jurisdictions, I believed further review was necessary.

I placed the matter where our Code says it belonged and allowed the process to work. The Trial Commission heard the evidence. Brother Brinley was given the opportunity to defend himself. And ultimately, the Trial Panel, not the Grand Master rendered the verdict. That is how our system should work.

There will be times when a Grand Master must make difficult decisions, but the authority of this office should never be confused with unchecked authority.

Our responsibility is to protect the integrity of this Grand Lodge, respect the rights of every Brother, honor our relationships with our sister jurisdictions, and above all, follow the Masonic law we have sworn to uphold. That may not always be the easiest path. But sometimes, Brethren, doing things the right way is more important than doing things the easy way.

What I Learned Traveling Ohio

Brethren, over the past eight years, I have had the privilege of traveling across this great state and visiting Lodges in every corner of Ohio. I have been in beautiful Masonic temples built by generations before us, and I have been in small Lodge rooms where the roof leaks, the furnace is questionable, and everybody knows which chair you shouldn't sit in.

But I learned something along the way: The building does not make the Lodge. The Brothers do. I have visited Lodges with hundreds of members and Lodges struggling to get enough Brothers through the door to open. I have seen Lodges that are thriving and others fighting simply to survive.

But everywhere I traveled, I found Brothers who love this fraternity. I found men cooking meals, mowing grass, fixing buildings, teaching ritual, mentoring candidates, raising money for their communities, visiting sick Brothers, recognizing veterans, and quietly doing the work of Freemasonry without ever expecting recognition.

I also learned the importance of listening to our Brothers. Some of the best ideas I have heard came while sitting around a Lodge dining room table after the meeting was over. Sometimes leadership means talking. But more often, leadership means listening.

Our Lodges face real challenges. Membership has declined. Buildings are aging. Costs continue to rise. Some traditions that served us well for generations may need to change if we expect this fraternity to remain strong. But after traveling Ohio, I remain encouraged about the future of our Craft. Why? Because I have met the men who will determine that future.

They aren't perfect. Neither am I. We will disagree from time to time. But there are good men throughout this state who still believe that Freemasonry matters and who are willing to work to preserve it.

Perhaps the greatest lesson these years of traveling have taught me is that Freemasonry lives in our local Lodges. It happens when a candidate knocks on the door. It happens when an older Brother takes a younger Brother under his wing. It happens when we help a widow, recognize a veteran, support a family in need, or simply call a Brother we haven't seen in a while. That is where the Craft lives.

And after thousands of miles, hundreds of Lodge visits, countless meals, handshakes, conversations, and friendships, I have come to appreciate something even more than when this journey began: It's the friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate the journey.

Brethren, Ohio Freemasonry has given me friendships and memories that I will carry for the rest of my life. And wherever the road has taken me, I have been reminded of one simple truth: Our greatest strength has never been our buildings, our titles, or our numbers. Our greatest strength is each other. And as long as we remember that, remain on the Level, and stay Committed to the Craft, the journey ahead is one worth taking.

Transition to the Next Grand Master

Brethren, as my year as Grand Master begins to draw to a close, there comes a time when each of us who has been privileged to serve in this office must prepare to hand the gavel to the next Brother.

That is one of the great strengths of our fraternity. The office was here before me, and it will continue long after I am gone. Each Grand Master is simply entrusted with its care for a short period of time.

I have tried to use my time to leave Ohio Freemasonry a little stronger than I found it. I know that I did not get everything right, and there are certainly things I would do differently. But every decision I made was made with what I believed to be the best interest of this Grand Lodge and the Brethren of Ohio at heart.

Soon, another Brother will assume this responsibility. He will have his own ideas, his own priorities, his own leadership style, and his own vision for Ohio Freemasonry. And he should.

We should never expect the next Grand Master simply to continue doing everything exactly as the Brother before him did. Progress requires new ideas, new energy, and sometimes a different direction.

What he will need from us is the same thing every Grand Master needs: Our support. Our counsel. Our patience. And our Brotherly Love.

There may be decisions with which we disagree. When that happens, I hope we will remember that disagreement does not have to become division. Meet him on the Level. Give him the opportunity to lead. And remember that while Grand Masters change, our responsibility to the Craft does not.

When I hand over the gavel, I will do so knowing that this fraternity was never mine to keep. It was simply mine to serve. And when that moment comes, I will return to the place where this journey began, not as Grand Master, not because of a title, but simply as Brother Shawn Johnson.

And I will be proud to stand beside the next Grand Master and say: The gavel is yours, my Brother. Lead well. Because the journey of Ohio Freemasonry does not end with any one of us. The journey continues.

Closing - Return to "Committed to the Craft"

Brethren, when this journey began, I chose four simple words to represent what I hoped this year would be about: Committed to the Craft. Over the course of this year, you have heard me say those words many times. But they were never intended to be just a slogan on a pin, a banner, or something printed on a program.

They were intended to be a challenge. A challenge to me. A challenge to our Grand Lodge Officers. And a challenge to every Mason in Ohio. Because being Committed to the Craft means more than simply paying our dues and attending a meeting.

It means being committed to the candidate who walks through our doors.

It means being committed to our ritual and Masonic education.

It means being committed to our Lodges, even when difficult decisions must be made.

It means being committed to charity and to serving our communities.

It means treating one another as Brothers, not only when we agree, but especially when we do not.

And it means remembering that we are only temporary caretakers of this fraternity.

Brethren, I have spent the past eight years traveling this state. I have shaken thousands of hands, sat in Lodge rooms large and small, shared meals, laughed with Brothers, mourned Brothers we have lost, and made friendships that will remain with me for the rest of my life.

And after all those miles and all those experiences, I believe in Ohio Freemasonry today just as strongly as I did when this journey began. But its future will not be determined by the Grand Master. It will be determined by you. By the Brother who decides to mentor a new Mason. By the officer who takes the time to learn his ritual. By the Lodge that chooses to make the candidate experience something meaningful. By the Brother who reaches out to someone who hasn't been to Lodge in a while. And by each of us deciding that the principles we profess inside our Lodge rooms will guide the way we live outside of them.

Soon, I will lay down this gavel.

The title will change.

The responsibilities of this office will pass to another Brother.

But there is one thing that will not change.

My commitment to this Craft.

Long after I am no longer Grand Master, I will still be a Mason. I will still be a Brother. And I will still believe that what we do matters.

So, Brethren, as I bring this year and this incredible chapter of my Masonic journey to a close, I leave you with the same challenge with which we began:

Be present.

Be involved.

Take care of one another.

Guard the reputation of this fraternity.

Leave your Lodge better than you found it.

And when your own journey in this Craft is complete, may those who follow be able to say that you did more than simply belong to Freemasonry.

May they say:

He lived it.

He served it.

He was Committed to the Craft.

Brethren, it has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve you as Grand Master.

Thank you for your trust.

Thank you for your friendship.

Thank you for allowing Colleen and me to share this journey with you. It's the friends we meet along the way that help us appreciate the journey. Stay true to your obligations. Stay true to one another. And above all Stay Committed to the Craft.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn A. Johnson, Grand Master

Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio

DEPUTY GRAND MASTER'S ANNUAL REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

Grand Master, Distinguished Masons, Officers and Brethren all,

It is truly a humbling honor and amazing privilege to serve the brethren of Ohio and our Grand Lodge as your Deputy Grand Master this past year, and I certainly thank you for the opportunity to represent you as I have travelled over the country and state these last several months. I am so proud of Ohio Freemasonry and the efforts of the craft to keep Ohio at the forefront of all the Grand Jurisdictions of the United States.

It is incredible how the sands of my hourglass have rapidly fallen since the installation of Officers last year in Kalahari. To kick off last November, I travelled with our Grand Master to Greenville, Ohio to help present an 80 year Service Award. Also In November, I attended Past Master's Convocations in the 8th and 12th districts and installed Lodge Officers, District Deputy Grand Masters and District Education Officers throughout different parts of the state.

In December, along with many other Grand Lodge Officers and the Grand Master, we attend the ground-breaking ceremony for the expansion of services of the Ohio Masonic Communities at the Springfield Masonic Campus. I also again installed several lodge officers and attended multiple convocations.

In January, we travelled to Florida for the annual visitations of the Grand Master to our brethren living there, visiting Peridia, Bonita Springs and the Villages in Orlando. Inspections also began this month and the opportunity to travel to other lodges and districts and witness fine degree work was certainly a wonderful opportunity.

In February we travelled to Chicago to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America for our annual session. The chance to collaborate with other Deputy Grand Masters of other Grand Jurisdictions has been so valuable and to maintain relationships with them has been a blessing.

Throughout the winter and spring of 2026, Becky and I travelled to all 25 of the Grand Master Receptions in Ohio. It is certainly a humbling feeling to be welcomed into every district so warmly and to be able to continually establish new friendships and connections and to be able to return to seeing them every year. The hospitality of every host is amazing. Becky and I certainly thank you for these events.

In May of 2026, the Grand Lodge Officers travelled to Dayton for Cornerstone ceremonies at the 100th Anniversary of the Dayton Masonic Center and the adjacent Montgomery County Law Enforcement Officer Memorial on a very hot Sunday afternoon.

In June, I travelled to the Ohio Council of Deliberation Session held in Perrysburg, Ohio where I had the opportunity to speak before the board regarding the upcoming plans for 2027 if elected and was blessed to have the support of our Scottish Rite Brethren. Becky and I stopped in the 2nd District on the way home from OCD to meet with the Sr. Wardens of the district and to share some of our hopes for the year to come. Also in June, I attended the Grand Master's One Day Class in Dayton to mentor my best friend as he began his journey in Freemasonry that day along with another of our close friends and almost 270 additional candidates.

July saw the travel to Madison, Wisconsin for the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters along with our Grand Secretary and Senior Grand Warden. This conference allows us to work together with our Great Lakes neighbors as well as those along the eastern seaboard. It is interesting to see the operations of several lodges of the Midwest that share similar membership sizes versus the New England states that are much smaller, yet we all share in similar challenges and learn new ways of growth.

August brought the busiest month so far this year. Beginning with Advisory Council in Springfield the first weekend of the month, then the quick transition to presenting 13 Deputy Grand Master rollout programs all over the state of Ohio. We were so warmly welcomed and the brethren reactions to our vision were beyond all expectations. There has been so much planning to coordinate all of these visits and so much time put into programming and vision and now it is all complete. To put icing on the month of August, our first grandchild was born, making this a month I will never forget.

As I contemplate the numerous things accomplished over this past year, the more than twenty reconsecrations of lodges, the several cornerstone ceremonies, all of the events we attended and all of the significant planning that has gone into this year, it has at times been a blur, but it has always been a blessing to get to do this.

I am humbled that I GET to be your Deputy Grand Master and represent Ohio Freemasonry!

I am sincerely thankful that I GET to be your brother.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael L. McCandlish
Deputy Grand Master, Grand Lodge of Ohio F&AM

STATE OF THE CRAFT REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio F&AM:

My ability to travel over the state over the last several years as a Grand Lodge Officer has given me a unique perspective to see the exercise of time, patience and perseverance of this fraternity. My early years were dampened with the effects of a pandemic, a condition that forced us into isolation. Brethren were challenged by a lack of fellowship, a lack of interaction and fear for our world. Slowly coming out of that isolation, were tried to return to the old ways, but unfortunately, we were changed. Something was different and there was distance.

We had concerns that we may have lost too many brothers to complacency, which was an effect of the isolation. Maybe we did, but the reality is that we all still had a strong desire to work as Freemasons. To have fellowship together, to learn more and challenge our thinking and to practice our charity for our brothers, widows and communities. I have been able to see the brethren of this jurisdiction have their resolve proven, their hunger for something better is surging and I believe we are on the edge of something great for Ohio Freemasonry.

There is a hunger burning in the hearts of our brothers, a hunger to have a more meaningful and useful fraternity. A desire to elevate Ohio Freemasonry. The want to make lodges something “more”. Understanding that we have ownership in the commitments of being an Ohio Freemason, a commitment that every one of us solemnly took at the altar, it is time to go and get the change we all want to see for the Craft.

We all have a part to play in the future of our lodges and the growth of our gentle craft. We must not suffer our basic precepts to change. But we must be ready to say it is time change the old way of doing things. There are lodges who need our help and we need to help them. We must empower our leaders better for more successful lodges and we must remind every lodge member that he is needed for the prosperity of everyone.

- We GET to sit alongside of men with like values and similar morals who chose this same journey as us.
- We GET to be an influence on what we want Freemasonry to be.
- We GET to be an example to the world of what we want to see in each other as a society.
- We Get to be the change we have all been waiting on, we just have to step forward and make the change.

The generations and leaders who came before us knew that ownership was necessary for survival. They did not do these things because they were forced to do them, they did them because they believed that our fraternity was worth preserving. The generations who came before them entrusted that responsibility and ownership to them and they have done the same for us.

It is now our time to accept that responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. McCandlish,

Deputy Grand Master
Grand Lodge of Ohio

REPORT OF WAYS, MEANS AND ACCOUNTS

*To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:
Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Past Grand Masters, Right
Worshipful Brethren, Worshipful Brethren, Brothers all Good Afternoon.*

Your Grand Lodge Officers, and the Ways, Means & Accounts Committee have worked diligently to come up with ways to keep costs down and still provide funding necessary to operate in a way that best serves the Brethren and Lodges of this Jurisdiction.

I would like to thank our Grand Secretary, MWB Keith Newton, Grand Treasurer MWB Steven Grindle, Deputy Grand Master RWB Michael Mc Candlish, Grand Master MWB Shawn Johnson and the members of this committee for their part in developing this budget.

Today I present a budget for our upcoming Masonic year.

The 2026-2027 Budget consist of the following funding items:

Estimated Expenses:

Payroll/Personal	\$361,446.00
Office/Administration	\$118,950.00
Fraternal	\$289,370.00
Grand Lodge session	\$262,000.00
Travel/Conference	\$49,050.00
Charitable	\$43,100.00
Sales, Cost of goods	\$36,000.00
Building and Grounds	\$23,775.00
Total expense	\$1,183,691.00

Estimated Income:

Per capita (56,267 Masons @ \$15.00)	
(750 <u>EA@\$2.00</u>)	\$845,505.00
Sales revenue	\$50,000.00
Investments	\$300,000.00
Total	\$1,195,505.00

Surplus	\$11,841.00
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Most Worshipful Grand Master I move acceptance of this budget and of this report.

Fraternally submitted,

Eric R. Schau PGM, Chairmen, Ways, Means, and Accounts

REPORT OF THE GRAND SECRETARY

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F. & A.M., of Ohio:

It is my pleasure to submit this brief report of my stewardship of the office of Grand Secretary during the past year to the 217th Annual Communication.

First, I begin my report with a note of thanks to the devoted Grand Lodge Office Staff. It is through their hard work and devotion to service that enables us to keep the records and maintain the business of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Our Grand Jurisdiction is one of the largest Masonic jurisdictions in the world. Few Ohio Masons realize the amount of effort required to provide the quality service that our 414 lodges and approximately 57,000 members deserve. Many thanks go to Gayle, Elora, Jim and Doug for their commitment to excellence to all of whom we serve. A special thank you to Darlene, who retired at the end of 2025.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio uses Grand View as the membership program. It has been in operation since 2018 and continues to improve functionality each year. 2026 is the sixth year that we are utilizing the Grand View program for the Annual Communication reservations. We hope you found it easy to navigate to make your reservations for GL2026. We would like to see more lodges utilizing the Lodge Calendar to publicize your lodge events to your membership. Communicate – communicate – communicate.

The Membership Renewal (dues) Notice process has been reported very favorable by many Lodge Secretaries. They recognize earlier dues payments and less time and cost preparing mailings to the lodge. Members paying online can select auto-renewal to make it even easier for future renewals. The first communication was sent by email in early August to all members who have their email address in Grand View. The first mailing was sent before September. This resulted in a September 2026 disbursement to lodges of more than \$282,570.00 for member dues paid before August 31. As I write this report in mid-September 2026, over 25,000 members have already paid their 2026 dues or they are Endowed or Service Exempt by their lodge.

More than 94% of Ohio lodges receive their Grand Lodge disbursements by Direct Deposit (ACH). Lodges have responded well to this service. It is intended to aid the Lodge Secretary and Treasurer with their tasks, as well as offering significant savings to the Grand Lodge operating budget. Please join with the others, if not already done, and sign your lodge up for ACH or Direct Deposit. Take advantage of the Direct Deposit program to receive your disbursements at no cost. Lodges not participating in the ACH program may be subject to check fees for future disbursements. Call the office with the name of your bank, account and routing number and we'll sign you up.

The Grand Lodge of Ohio Museum and Library are housed at the Springfield campus of the Ohio Masonic Communities. The Grand Historian held quarterly open houses hosting visitors who have been residents and

visitors from neighboring symbolic lodges. Watch the *Ohio Beacon* or *Monthly GLO Newsletter* for future museum and library events. Call the office to arrange a visit the next time you travel close to Springfield.

Since our last Annual Communication, Most Worshipful Brother Shawn A. Johnson has approved eight Lodge consolidations. An accounting of these consolidations during the 2025-2026 Masonic year can be found in the report of the Committee on Charters and Dispensations. These activities bring the number of Lodges at year-end to 412. Baltimore and Alturas Lodges consolidated into a new Lodge named Harrison Applegate Lodge U.D. They are working to receive their Charter very soon.

Bi-monthly Grand Secretary zoom meetings continued this year. I want to thank all of those who attend to help make them a success. This is another tool we use to connect the office with Lodge Secretaries. The agenda opens with upcoming events, a few Secretary training tips and news from the office. The remaining time is open to questions on any topic. The office staff looks forward to them as much as those attending. The zoom invitation link is emailed to Lodge Secretary's and Assistant Secretary's prior to each meeting. Meetings are scheduled at 10:00am and 7:00pm, same agenda at each meeting, held on the last Tuesday of November, January, March, May, July and September.

During the year, I had the pleasure of attending many Grand Master Receptions and local Lodge and appendant body events around this great jurisdiction. I attended the Grand Masters Receptions in Florida and Annual Communications in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Indiana and Delaware. The 2026 Conference of Grand Master's and Grand Secretaries was held in Chicago, IL and the Northeast Conference of Grand Masters was hosted by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. I had the honor, traveling with the Grand Treasurer, to present a gift to the Grand Lodge of Michigan at their 200 year Bicentennial celebration of Masonry in Michigan on June 24. A plaque recognized our shared Masonic heritage through MWB Lewis Cass, Past Grand Master of both Ohio and Michigan whose influence shaped both our Fraternity and nation.

The Grand Lodge Office continues to receive, preserve and store original Lodge Charters in a secure vault for safekeeping. A total of 273 active Lodges have taken advantage of the service for their charters. There are 312 extinct charters on file.

It has been a pleasure to serve this year with Most Worshipful Brother Shawn A. Johnson, Grand Master. I wish the very best for Most Worshipful Brother Johnson and Lady Colleen in the months and years ahead.

Respectfully and fraternally submitted,
Keith W. Newton, PGM
Grand Secretary

Report of the Grand Secretary

The following is a report of Membership and Lodge data as of July 31, 2026

GAINS		2026	2025	+/- Change
	Raised	1,243	604	639
	Affiliated	375	378	(3)
	Reinstated	650	791	(141)
	GM Restoration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Total Gains	2,268	1,773	495
LOSSES				
	Deceased	1,941	2,139	(198)
	Demits	295	376	(81)
	N.P.D.	1,685	1,990	(305)
	U.M.C.	7	11	(4)
	Expelled	12	19	(7)
	M.M. Exam	5	4	1
	Total Losses	3,945	4,539	(594)
	NET GAIN (LOSS)	(1,677)	(2,766)	(1,089)
	Membership	56,610	58,293	(1,683)
	Emails in Grand View	75%	72%	3%
	Cell Phone Numbers in Grand View	60%	57%	3%
	Addresses verified in Grand View	99%	99%	0%
	Number of Chartered Lodges	412	420	(8)
	Average Member Loss Per Lodge	9.5	10.8	(1)
	Average Members per Lodge	136.7	138.8	(2)
	Average Annual Dues	\$69.56	\$68.82	\$0.74
	Average Fees For Degrees	\$148.60	\$148.15	\$0.45
	Average Member Age	65.8	65.7	0
	Lodges Reporting Net Gain in Membership	95	51	44
	Lodges Reporting No Change in Membership	35	26	9
	Lodges Reporting Net Loss in Membership	284	343	(59)
	Lodges with a Membership of 50 or Less:	25	26	(1)
Lodge Name and Number	Members	Lodge Name and Number	Members	
Almbic No. 793	13	Oberlin No. 380	45	
Sycamore No. 520	31	Carey No. 420	43	
Flat Rock No. 580	30	Arts & Sciences No. 792	42	
Stonecutter No. 802	32	Rushville No. 211	45	
Fort Recovery No. 539	34	Napoleon No. 256	44	
Erie No. 239	34	Weston No. 560	47	
Clemente Amitie No. 285	39	Shawnee No. 526	48	
Corning No. 584	38	New Straitsville No. 484	46	
Sullivan No. 313	39	East Liberty No. 247	48	
Gibsonburg No. 575	42	Nevada No. 343	51	
Amesville No. 278	43	Liberty Center No. 518	48	
Pleasant Valley No. 531	43	Spartan No. 126	50	
Sherwood No. 620	40			

REPORT OF THE GRAND TREASURER

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio

It has been a pleasure to serve the Grand Lodge of Ohio as Grand Treasurer this past year. I would like to thank the Grand Secretary and his office staff as they have done an outstanding job this past year. The Grand Secretary and his staff are professional, accurate, and make my job easy. I appreciate what they do on behalf of Mason's of Ohio. Thank you!

All Grand Lodge funds, including the Charitable Accounts, have been audited by our auditors, Clark, Schaefer & Hackett, Springfield, Ohio. Their reports are available from the Grand Secretary's office on request.

The Grand Treasurer's office is responsible for managing the assets of Grand Lodge, including all accounts listed. This has been accomplished with the assistance the Grand Lodge Investment Committee and our Investment Advisor, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management of Findlay, Ohio. The Investment Committee has been diligent in maximizing returns on Grand Lodge investments while minimizing risk inherent to market conditions. The financial markets have remained strong for the past few years. The one-year composite return on the Grand Lodge portfolio was 22.83% and the three-year composite return was 14.98%, at the end of the second quarter 2026.

I am pleased to say that the returns for the Grand Lodge portfolio have met the pre-determined benchmarks established by the Investment Policy of the Grand Lodge. The members of Grand Lodge Investment Committee and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management of Findlay, Ohio have worked hard and should be commended for their dedication.

At the end of the second quarter of 2026 the fund balances totaled:

Endowed Membership Fund	\$ 18,053,897
Grand Lodge Master Account	\$ 16,119,311
Charitable Foundation	\$ 4,186,369
Scholarship Fund	\$ 3,008,114
Masonic Model Student Assistance	\$ 2,335,803
Total Invested Assets	\$ 43,703,494
Gain in last year	\$ 7,578,125

The funds in all accounts are restricted for specific purposes except for the Grand Lodge Master Account. This account represents only 36.88% of the total invested assets.

The Grand Lodge Investment Committee has approved a distribution of \$44.00 for the \$600 Endowed Members and \$59.00 for the \$800 Endowed Members. These distributions represent just under five percent of the Endowed Membership funds, which is the maximum payout permitted from that fund. The payout is covered by investment gains for that account. None of the restricted funds were used.

The Charity Fund has made several gifts for charitable relief this past year. Due to prudent investment strategies, the fund continues to grow and experienced a 22.26% return during the past year. The scholarship fund paid seventy-five scholarships this year, and its growth is from Ohio License Plate income and investment income. The Scholarship distributions for 2027 will increase to \$2,000 per recipient, up from \$1,500 per recipient in 2026. Each district will receive scholarships, with a maximum of three recipients in each of the 25 Districts in Ohio.

The financial condition of Grand Lodge is strong. The future of this success is the fiduciary responsibility of the Grand Treasurer's Office. However, the future is dependent on several factors. Market Conditions, Grand Lodge annual spending, and Grand Lodge membership. Market conditions are to some extent uncontrollable. Grand Lodge spending and membership are the responsibility of the members of this Grand Lodge. The Ways, Means, and Accounts Committee is charged each year with placing before Grand Lodge a budget to assist in controlling expenses. Over the past few years, Grand Lodge spending has been consistent, and we have strived to reduce expenses where possible while delivering the same level of service and programs as we have done in the past. The Grand Lodge spending policy allows up to five percent of the thirteen-quarter average of the Grand Lodge Master Account to supplement the per capita income. This five percent has been accessed in past years and will need to be accessed in 2026 - 2027. Like all our expenses, Grand Lodge is facing increases in spending. A Per Capita increase is needed to keep up with rising costs. The Grand Lodge of Ohio has one of the lowest Per Capita in the country, if not the lowest. The increase in cost of living and our decline in membership makes it imperative to raise the Per Capita.

I urge each lodge and member to make a renewed commitment to membership retention and development. The future success of our fraternity depends on each of us.

My brethren, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve the brethren and the Grand Lodge of Ohio as Treasurer for the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven M. Girndle, PGM, Grand Treasurer

THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF OHIO

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Year Ended August 31, 2026

Support and Revenue

Grand Lodge Dues	\$	1,058,959
Endowed Memberships		575,600
Sales of literature and accessories		70,764
Total Revenues	\$	1,705,323

Expenses

Per Capita payment - Ohio Masonic Home	\$	124,522
Endowment payments - Ohio Masonic Home		21,460
Per capita payments - Geo. Washington Memorial		62,816
Payments of Endowed Member Dues		745,876
Charitable Programs		36,677
Fraternal		411,740
Grand Lodge session		268,563
Operating Expense		626,979
Total Expenses	\$	2,298,633

Excess revenue/ (expense) from operations	\$	(593,310)
Other Income		8,187
Investment Income/(Loss) - net		5,748,075
Increase in Net Assets	\$	5,162,952

Member's Equity

Beginning of Year	\$	30,511,821
End of the Year	\$	35,674,773

Assets, Liabilities & Members Equity

Current Assets	\$	17,695,140
Endowed Members Assets		18,527,569
Leasehold and F/A net of accumulated depreciation		41,677
Operating Lease right-of-use Asset		434,536
Total Assets	\$	36,698,922

Liabilities and Members Equity

Current Liabilities	\$	589,613
Operating lease liability, current portion		3,250
Total Current Liabilities	\$	592,863
Operating Lease liability, long-term portion	\$	431,286
Total Member's Equity	\$	35,674,773
Total Liabilities and Member's Equity	\$	36,698,922

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio By-Laws require that the Investment Committee consisting of the Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Chairman of the Ways, Means, and Accounts committee, as well as at least three at large members. The at-large members are appointed by the Grand Master to serve a three-year term. The Investment Committee consists of:

Steven M. Grindle, PGM, Grand Treasurer
Keith W. Newton, PGM, Grand Secretary
Eric R. Schau, PGM, Chairman of Ways, Means, and Accounts
At Large members:
Steven E. Cokonougher, PGM
Thomas Savage
C, Michael Watson, PGM
Ronald L. Connelly
Michael Leichner
Mark Howard

The Grand Lodge Investment Committee met quarterly during the 2025-2026 Masonic Year to review the investment performance of the individual money managers and to make necessary adjustments to the Grand Lodge Investment strategy. The Committee members are to be congratulated for their diligence and dedication in serving the Grand Lodge as the fiduciaries in the extremely important function of the Grand Lodge of Ohio. Merrill Lynch Wealth Management continues to work closely with the Investment Committee to maximize investment returns and at the same time minimize market risks. The Investment Committee continues to manage Grand Lodge assets in compliance with the Grand Lodge Investment Policy and in a consistently conservative and prudent manner.

Annual distributions for the Endowed Membership Program are determined by the Investment Committee based on the Endowed Membership Fund earnings and market performance. Annual Endowed Membership distributions are determined by the originally established Grand Lodge of Ohio Free and Accepted Mason By-Laws. The uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act was adopted by the Committee in 2017. As specified in the Ohio Masonic Code, the annual distributions are not to exceed five percent of the Funds' balance. The Investment Committee approved a \$44.00 distribution for \$600 Endowed Members and a \$59.00 distribution for \$800

Endowed Members for 2026. The distribution is just under five percent and is covered by income from fund investments. There were 16,994 eligible Endowed Members for 2026. At the end of the second quarter approximately 41% of the Endowed Members are deceased.

On behalf of the members of the Investment Committee, it is a pleasure to serve the Grand Lodge of Ohio in this important role.

Respectfully submitted:

Steven M. Grindle, Chairman

Keith W. Newton, PGM

Eric R. Schau, PGM

Steven E. Cokonougher, PGM

Ronald L. Connelly, PGT

C. Michael Watson, PGM

Thomas Savage

Michael Leichner

Mark Howard

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITORY, SECURITY BONDS, AND AUDIT

To The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

The Depository for the Grand Lodge of Ohio funds and investments are PNC Bank for cash and cash equivalents and Merrill Lynch Wealth Management for investments. Security bonds for the Grand Secretary and Treasurer are required by Section 3.03 of the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Ohio have been approved and issued. Pursuant to Section 2.05(A) of the By-Laws, the accounting firm of Clark, Shaefer, & Hackett, Springfield, Ohio was selected to audit the accounting records of the Grand Secretary and Grand Treasurer. Their audit reports have been filed and are available to review upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven M. Grindle, PGM, Grand Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

Technology continually evolves, creating continuous improvement for tools and processes available to perform many functions. The Grand Lodge Technology Committee evaluates how they might improve Freemasonry in Ohio Lodges and Grand Lodge operations. Areas affected include administrative, social, and educational opportunities to be more effective in the delivery of the Masonic experience and embracing new technological advances promoting increased visibility of Freemasonry via online channels.

Technology improvements for remote meetings for Grand Lodge Officers, staff as well as by Committees and Lodges across our jurisdiction. These are helpful for committee meetings where time and distance are overcome to bring key resources together.

The Grand View membership program enhancements were made in the redesign of the software to improve the user performance. Grand View is used for membership management, membership renewal as well as Annual Communication reservations and communications. Lodge communications have been made easier with the use of Newsletters and emails in the membership program.

The mission is to support the Grand Lodge of Ohio by advancing secure, effective, and meaningful technology solutions that enhance the Masonic experience, improve administrative efficiency, and ensure that every Brother can connect with the tools and knowledge necessary for his journey in Freemasonry.

Respectfully submitted,
Keith W. Newton, PGM – Chairman, Grand Secretary
William M. Carter, III, PGM
Jess N. Raines, PGM
Richard A. Dickerscheid, PGM
Steven M. Grindle, PGM
Kenneth D. Chamberlin

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

Beacon Publication

The Beacon continues to be our one form of communication across all our platforms that we know gets to all Brethren. That is why it is such an essential tool that we use for communication. We continue to advise our Brethren of upcoming events across the state as well as highlighting the great things that Lodges and members are doing. We always focus on the Grand Master's Travels and thoughts in his own article as well as the Grand Secretary's article. It is essential that both of those officers have a section to convey their thoughts and plans.

Background Checks

The Background Checks have been processed by the Grand Lodge Office and continue to do so without any major issues other than user errors. We continue to use ESA Checks and BIB for our Background Check needs and have had 143 Checks come back with the only errors being on the potential candidates submitting information incorrectly.

Social Media/Website

We have concluded our contract with Cercone Brown (CBC) as our premier content creator for our Social Media Channels as well as our website. Their work over the past year has seen our Facebook followers grow to over 18,000, our LinkedIn followers grew to over 6,000, and our X followers grew to over 8,100. When looking at the almost 4,000 total followers we gained compared to most other jurisdictions, we are leading the way in Social Media content! They consistently prepare us month-to-month social media calendars that will encompass all the posts that will be happening to keep our pages relevant. They are also able to take any evergreen content that we get whether it is from Brothers of the Grand Master and incorporate that into the social posting schedule. They also work on paid campaigns that get our name out there to potential candidates on social media. This gives us a better opportunity to stay in front of men who may want to knock on our door but may not know how. They also provide us with a monthly newsletter that is sent digitally to the members of the State. These will encompass events that are happening in the next month or so as well as big events such as Grand Master's Classes and our Annual Communication. They have consistently written blogs that premier on Thursday that can cover topics from historical Masons, Grand Lodge Officers, Lodge Spotlights, and more. Lastly, CBC keeps our website up and running throughout the year. They make changes as we ask for them and will scope out work that includes building new pieces onto the site. They worked hand in hand with us to continue the tie-sales from the Charitable Foundation and as we rolled out our Commemorative 250th Anniversary Coin. They've also worked tirelessly to have our webpage be SEO (Search Engine

Optimization) rank as high as possible as well as in AI SEO. That way when someone searches “Freemasonry” our GL of Ohio website will be the top website that they see. AI has allowed an answer bar to show up before your first website to click on when searching. These answers are pulled by AI directly from websites from which CBC’s AI SEO work has kept our webpage on the top for quite a few key search words! We would like to Thank CBC for the work that they’ve done with us in the past years. Our social media and web presence would not be where it is without them.

We have entered into a Contract for all the items that are listed above with Dyer Media Group (DMG) to assist the Grand Lodge in performing all the functions that CBC were doing. DMG came under contract in July and worked hand in hand with me and CBC to transition over all assets that the Grand Lodge of Ohio had through CBC. They took July to watch everything that CBC had in progress as well as assessing what may need to be changed or tweaked to get the best possible function out of our social networks and website. I’ve worked hand in hand with them in transferring access to social media, Website, & all analytic outputs that they need to track what they do. It is also nice that RWB Chuck Dyer is one of the two owners of the company along with his wife Tamera. He, being a former District Deputy Grand Master, will have a rich connection to Freemasonry which will benefit us! The transition has been a peaceful one, and we are excited to see where this new chapter in Ohio Freemasonry marketing may take us.

Bro. Kyle Heib and I continue to be vigilant on policing and watching our Social Media channels as well throughout the year. We try to answer questions that followers may send us as well as delete and block harmful comments and people. We know that our socials are a beacon for men looking to join our Fraternity and we will not sit idly by while people post profanity that may dissuade men to not petition.

New Programs

The Grand Lodge of Ohio Store is currently still being featured with many new additions that are currently in the works. We’ve investigated some more options depending on the season to keep a new stock of items rotating. This gives our members another reason to stop back in and purchase something that they can be proud to wear and represent our great fraternity.

We worked extensively in the design and sales of the Grand Lodge of Ohio’s Charitable Foundation’s 250th Anniversary Commemorative Coin sale. I worked with MWB Keith Newton to design the specially shaped coin to coincide with MWB Shawn Johnson’s “Committed to the Craft” Grand Master’s pin. These coins were extremely successful in their sales and are something we will continue to investigate for future fund raisers!

Inquiry Process

I work on the top end of the “Membership Funnel” bringing in new prospects and vetting them to move onto Districts and then to the Lodges. This to me is one of the most important things I do, day to day. These men are knocking on our door virtually and we need to be diligent in answering that call! The Funnel works by bringing in men who are initially interested in Freemasonry via the internet as “Leads.” These leads are then sent an email asking them if they are interested in being contacted to input some more contact information for us to reach out. We do this multi-stepped process in the hopes of clearing up any unwanted or uninterested submissions before they get to the District and Lodge level. Once these confirmed they become “Prospects” in our system and then I start the process of verifying that they are indeed an actual person. I use BeenVerified.com and Google Earth to verify their name, email, phone number & address. We do this so that our Lodge’s do not have to deal with people are not intending to ever respond to our calls.

We are still experiencing the same bottleneck at the Lodge level with Prospects. This is a combination of Lodge’s not responding in a timely manner and not reaching out to the prospective new member in multiple different ways. The days of simply sending an email asking them to come to a Lodge’s dinner before their stated meeting are over. These men have questions that they want answered and want to take time with a direct contact or two to go over them. Lodges should be reaching out using all forms of communication: Call, E-mail, and Texting. By reaching out three different ways you’re ensuring that the Prospect has at least seen the message one way or another.

The goal of the Prospect Process is to give men another avenue to find Freemasonry in Ohio if they don’t have a direct connection to the craft or do not know how to ask the question. We continue to promote to the Lodges that you wouldn’t wait months to submit a petition that someone handed you to your Lodge, so why would you wait to contact these men who’ve already taken the first step? We will continue to educate and inform Lodges who are willing to accept Online Prospects in the process and best practices.

Respectfully Submitted,
James R. Hall , DDGM, RSS

CHARTERS AND DISPENSATIONS

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio,

The following mergers and consolidations transpired during this masonic year:

- On November 25, 2025, Edenton Lodge No. 332 merged into Goshen Lodge No. 119, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On January 21, 2026, Western Reserve Lodge No. 507 merged into Western Phoenix Lodge No. 42, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On February 10, 2026, Coventry Akron Lodge No. 83 merged into National Lodge No. 568, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On February 16, 2026, New Lexington Lodge No. 250 merged into Somerset Lodge No. 76, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On March 27, 2026, Dunkirk Lodge No. 549 merged into Senate Lodge No. 378, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On June 9, 2026, LaRue Lodge No. 463 merged into Mt. Carmel Lodge No. 303, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- On July 27, 2026, Wilmington Lodge No. 52 merged into Sabina Lodge No. 324, the latter being the surviving lodge.
- Baltimore Lodge No. 475 and Alturas Lodge No. 537 merged to form a new lodge, Harrison Applegate Lodge U.D. (No. 805). The new lodge is expected to receive its charter at the 2026 Annual Communication.

Respectfully submitted,
Jess N. Raines, PGM, Chairman
Jack L. Allen, PGM, Member
Troy L. Davis, Grand Marshal, Member
Brian J. Arehart, Jr. Grand Deacon, Member

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Education Committee has a few programs in progress:

1. The committee was tasked with providing the script for the one-day classes this year. These were finalized by RWB Chad Kopenski.
2. The Deputy Grand Master has requested the Funeral Service be updated. MWB Carter will revise this service.
3. The Deputy Grand Master has requested the Lodge in a Box program be updated to a Statewide Program. This will be ready for presentation at Grand Lodge Training.
4. The Committee will revise the one-day class scripts to accommodate next year's District classes.
5. RWB Dan Brake has supplied the Zerubbabel pins to the DEOs this year. I plan to push this program harder in the fall, as participation has been weak.
6. The Grand Master has requested the TELL Program be brought back. I spoke with RWB Steve Hessler and plan to work with Ken Cohen to have this working ASAP.
7. I was asked by the RSS to have the DEOs assist in presenting the certificates for fellow and pillar of the craft. Most districts have assisted.

I did attend the Midwest Education Conference in Omaha, Nebraska in April. MWB Murphy attended as well. There were a few items of interest and next year's conference will be in Michigan. With a closer location I am hoping for better attendance from Ohio.

One last comment on one-day classes. It is important to ensure the Lodges train the candidates in all aspects of the Lodge. Remember one-day class members have no idea how to even vote. When I speak to classes, I inform them they are members but must attend their Lodge to become Masons. We must create a connection with the new Brother or risk a high number of SNPDs from these classes.

Fraternally,
RWB Joseph C. Radocy
Chairman, Education Committee

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The District Grand Lodge Scholarship committees began their annual selection of scholarship recipients throughout the 25 Masonic Districts early in January and continued until the deadline for submission. Each district chairman and their committees reviewed their applicants and submitted three Grand Lodge scholarship winners to the Grand Lodge Scholarship Chairman in a timely manner. Each scholarship was in the amount of \$1,500.00 and if possible one male and one female applicant were to be selected and the third scholarship could be either gender.

The checks were mailed out to the individual winners unless a special request was made to have the Grand Lodge bring the checks to their Grand Masters Receptions.

A suggestion was made to try and have the chairman or committeeman present at the high school awards ceremonies to recognize the scholarship winners. This is a wonderful way to show the public Free & Accepted Masons within our communities. Some districts also submitted a picture of the scholarship winners to local newspapers with a short article about the Grand Lodge Scholarship program.

I would like to thank each of the Scholarship Chairmen and their committees for job well done. Their timeless hours and expertise are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted:
WB William M. McGowan
Scholarship Committee Chairman

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS BY DISTRICT

District 1

Rebecca Davis
Cameron M. Goodin
Jonah T. Kolshorn

District 2

Arianna M. Corwin
Hosanna E. Henson
Emmanuel J. Williams

District 3

Layla Lee Lucas
Olivia S. Schmitmeyer
Brooks M. Taylor

District 4

Keira L. Breese
Johan T. Gemmer
Caroline V. Marks

District 5

Isaac P. Meyer
Carter T. Schwiebert
Abigail G. Steward

District 6

Hailie J. Beaver
Isaiah S. Filla
Ruth A. Hornsby

District 7

Claire Clevenger
Brandon Eichenlaub
Colin L. Tolle

District 8

Leah J. Marine
Cooper Robertson
Elizabeth Smith

District 9

Carly Clem
Braden Malone
Claire Stott

District 10

Brookanne N. Busch
Isabella T. Fry
Hunter M. Wellman

District 11

Alaina Jakutowicz
Natalie T. Murray
Searra Wishon

District 12

Paisleigh K. Colwell
Harper N. Euton
Cole P. Williams

District 13

Haylee LeMay
Samuel S. Quackenbush
Hollie M. Swaim

District 14

Alexis L. McGary
Madelyn B. Ohl
Kanyon Z. Williams

District 15

Angela L. Rincon
Kelsie L. Snapp
Cooper M. Titus

District 16

Ella M. Andrews
Logan J. Snavely
Isabel M. Stockmaster

District 17

Jayce D. Eskey
Madison L. Smith
Rorie L. Tabler

District 18

Alvero J. Lawler
Carter R. Mackie
Ava J. Miller

District 19

Grace C. Emery
Caleb M. Schultz

District 20

Ava M. Canada
Kaiden M. Dettmer
Alyssa M. Koehler

District 21

Liana T. Orn
Steven R. Simpson
Avery Wayman

District 22

Chayson M. Blanc
Alisha Stevenson
Erin A. Warren

District 23

Nicolette Peeler
Dawson M. Spratt
Michael Stock

District 24

Macy McCullough
Savannah Swearingen
Richard Sylvester

District 25

Claire Cafaro
Jackson Corbett
Alaina Haroulakis

TEMPLE COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The following is the report of the Grand Lodge Temple Committee for the year 2025-2026. During the preceding year, the Grand Lodge approved the following requests:

<u>Lodge</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Approval</u>
Hiram 18	Parking lot maintenance	\$70,800	Yes
Western Hills-Cheviot 140	Construct Elevator	\$150,000	Yes
Rockton 316	Replace roof	\$200,000	yes
Sebring 626	Repair leaking pipes	\$43,000	yes
Lebanon 26	Replace HVAC unit	\$25,495	yes
West Shore 804	Repave/add to parking lot	\$115,000	yes
Edon 474	Buy former lodge bldg..	\$40,000	yes
Steubenville 45	Selling building	n/a	yes
Golden Gate Temple Co.	Capital improvement	\$902,000	yes

Respectfully submitted,
Ronald L. Winnett, PGM
Chairman, GL Temple Committee

FRATERNAL CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

1) The Grand Orient of Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil has asked for recognition.

This request was made in 2020 but due to covid, it was overlooked. They were formed in 1979 and have a very long list of other Grand Lodge's that have recognized them. ***I find their paperwork in order and will recommend in the Fall that we approve their request.***

2) The Most Worshipful Grand Master Bro.: Aleko Poshnjari of Albania sent a letter to share a communication with us over a matter of genuine concern and importance for Freemasonry in their Grand Lodge. Evidently, a former Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Albania, dismissed by a formal decision of our Masonic Court on November 7, 2023, continues to issue self-proclaimed "decrees" under the title of Grand Master. These include the purported "dismissal" of all his predecessors - the Founding, Second, and Current Grand Masters - as well as numerous Worshipful Masters and officers of our jurisdiction. They wanted the Grand Lodge of Ohio to know that their letter was not in anger, but "in the spirit of transparency and truth - trusting that Regular Grand Lodges, guided by Light and understanding, will recognize what is genuine and uphold the dignity of Regular Freemasonry in Albania". The letter was sent by their Grand Secretary, Dr. Neshad Asllani.

3) The Annual Communication of the National Grand Lodge of Romania was held on Saturday, September 27th, 2025, and we didn't receive notification until after our Grand Lodge session. Most Worshipful Brother Dr. Valentin CALU, a man of science and compassion, was duly and lawfully elected Grand Master of the National Grand Lodge of Romania.

4) The National Assembly of the Grand Lodge of Georgia elected Most Worshipful Brother David GOGOKHIA Grand Master for next three years (2025-2028).

The Most Worshipful Brother Giorgi Pataridze, Grand Master, and the Grand Line Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia, located in the ancient and noble country of Georgia, in Eastern Europe have requested recognition. They were duly and regularly constituted on March 14, 2015, and they have faithfully labored in Masonic harmony under the guidance of the

Grand Architect of the Universe. Their Grand Lodge adheres to the Ancient Landmarks, the Old Charges, and the foundational principles of Regular Freemasonry, practicing the Craft in full conformity with the recognized standards of Regularity.

Several Grand Lodges have recognized them from the United States, and I find their paperwork in order and will recommend in the Fall that we approve their request as well.

5) The Grand Lodge of England at its December Quarterly Communication held on December 10th, 2025, resolved that recognition be accorded to the Grand Lodge “Benito Juárez García” of the State of Oaxaca (Mexico).

6) I received a communication from MWB Newton asking if we recognize the Grand Lodge of Rites of the United States? Evidently there is a MM asking if he can join. I honestly don’t know anything about them and would appreciate any information from anyone. I found their website at: <https://grandcollegeofrites.org/>

Other Communications:

Gran Logia Benito Juarez del Estado de Coahuila

This Grand Lodge has enjoyed recognition of a number of regular Grand Lodges. In summary, the Grand Lodge presided over by Adalberto Chapoy, address Absaolo #763 Pte, Primitivo Centro, Torreon, alleges that their identity was stolen by a splinter group, and that this has affected their recognition by other Grand Lodges.

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon (2023)

The history of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon may be seen from prior CGMNA reports of 2022 and 2023. In those reports, they declined to find that the Grand Lodge met the Standards of Recognition. They were informed that subsequent to their 2023 report, three constituent lodges of the Syria- Lebanon District of the Grand Lodge of New York each voted to form a new grand lodge. These three lodges then held a convention on May 20, 2023, and formed a new grand lodge, the “Lebanese Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Lebanon” (LGL). Subsequently, the LGL voted to amalgamate with the first Grand Lodge of Lebanon. The first Grand Lodge then ceded its “name, logo, history, belongings, relations, territory, Lodges, and all that is associated with its existence,” including its main building. The second Grand Lodge, the LGL, then accepted the amalgamation and changed its name to that of the first grand lodge, The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Lebanon. This amalgamation was then reported to those grand lodges with which the first Grand Lodge of Lebanon enjoyed amity. As precedent for the process they followed, the 2023 F&AM of Lebanon points to the Grand Lodge of Michigan which suffered a lack of recognition subsequent to cessation of activities during the Morgan affair. Lodges received new charters from the Grand Lodge of New

York and, in 1844, met at a convention to form a new Grand Lodge of Michigan.

The CGMNA again noted (see Commission Report 2022), the well-established custom and practice outside the United States of consultation with other Grand Lodges working in a jurisdiction. This is the fraternal course that would be expected. It did not occur. Nevertheless, it is not a requirement for forming a Grand Lodge. The CGMNA would urge all those with interests in the country of Lebanon to work together as Masons to restore harmony. It appears the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Lebanon (2023) meets the Standards of Recognition.

Gran Logia de Valle de Mexico

This Grand Lodge has presented a report to the CGMNA regarding its legitimacy. In 2014, the Commission noted that “Over the last decade, it has been reported that [Valle de Mexico] have invaded the territory of a number of neighboring Grand Lodges.” In 2022, they stated, “We are advised that they have continued this pattern of conduct in an unrepentant manner.” In March 2025, the Inter-American Masonic Confederation (CMI) suspended the membership of Valle de Mexico because it admitted issuing charters to existing lodges in the territories of three other Mexican Grand Lodges. Valle de Mexico claimed as its defense that the charters were granted pursuant to a “right of asylum” (*derecho de asilo*). In its written presentation to the Commission, Valle de Mexico explains that the Lodges “claimed that it was not possible for them to work under the auspices of their respective Grand Lodges.” They acknowledge that the CMI did not consider this a valid defense to invading the Masonic territory of another grand lodge. Your Commission does not consider it a valid defense either. Valle de Mexico states that in June 2025 it revoked the charters for the lodges in the three other masonic territories. Additionally, they have revoked a 2013 “Grand Charter” issued to “Antiguo Gremio Baja California, in the State of Baja California, Mexico, though it is not clear such a grand lodge has been in operation. It is understood there continue to be unresolved issues.

While the CGMNA are pleased at the progress of this historic Grand Lodge in rectifying their errors, their prior view remains unchanged: this Grand Lodge does not currently meet the Standards of Recognition. Charters were granted pursuant to a “right of asylum” (*derecho de asilo*). In its written presentation to the Commission, Valle de Mexico explains that the Lodges “claimed that it was not possible for them to work under the auspices of

their respective Grand Lodges.” They acknowledge that the CMI did not consider this a valid defense to invading the Masonic territory of another grand lodge. Your Commission does not consider it a valid defense either. Valle de Mexico states that in June 2025 it revoked the charters for the lodges in the three other masonic territories. Additionally, they have revoked a 2013 “Grand Charter” issued to “Antiguo Gremio Baja California, in the State of Baja California, Mexico, though it is not clear such a grand lodge has been in operation. It is understood there continue to be unresolved issues.

While the CGMNA are pleased at the progress of this historic Grand Lodge in rectifying their errors, their prior view remains unchanged: this Grand Lodge does not currently meet the Standards of Recognition.

I received a letter from the Grand Lodge Valle de Mexico and their Grand Chancellor, Diego Feregrino stating,

Dear Most Worshipful Grand Master Shawn A. Johnson.

I hope this message finds you well. It was a genuine pleasure to have the opportunity to converse with brothers of your Grand Lodge during the recent Conference in Illinois. I greatly appreciated the cordial exchange and the openness with which we were able to discuss matters of mutual interest to our respective Grand Lodges. Following up on our conversation, I would like to respectfully express our interest in exploring the establishment of mutual recognition and fraternal relations between our Grand Lodges Ohio and Valle de México. We firmly believe that strengthening the bonds of regular Freemasonry through friendship, dialogue, and mutual understanding contributes to the unity and harmony of the Craft worldwide. Should your Grand Lodge consider it appropriate, we would be honored to initiate the customary process through the exchange of information and any documentation that your Committee on Fraternal Relations or Recognition may require for its evaluation. Please know that we hold your Grand Lodge in the highest esteem, and we sincerely hope that the fraternal dialogue begun in Illinois may develop into a lasting relationship between our jurisdictions. I remain at your disposal for any additional information you may wish to receive, and I look forward to continuing this cordial exchange.

With fraternal regards,

We usually let a Grand Lodge contact us about recognition, so if the Advisory Committee agrees, I would ask the Grand Secretary to reach out to them to start the process.

I received a letter from the Grand Chancellor of the United Grand Lodge of England,

Dear Sir and Brother,

After six years as the Grand Chancellor of the United Grand Lodge of England, I will hand over to my successor Very Worshipful Brother Sebastian Madden, PGSB (Past Grand Sword Bearer) at the end of this month. Brother Madden has been my Deputy throughout my tenure, and I am sure you will warmly welcome him to the role. His direct email address is smadden@ugle.org.uk.

As the UGLE's third Grand Chancellor I followed RW Brothers Alan Englefield and Derek Dinsmore into this important post and, like them, I found the work both demanding and enjoyable. Without stalwart assistance and support from Brother David Roberts-Jones, Miss Kerry Byas and latterly Miss Charlie Stewart, my task would have been impossible.

As core members of the UGLE's External Relations Team, they will continue to maintain the office at the address from which this email is sent. Against the background of both the pandemic and some dramatic international events, it has been my great pleasure and privilege during the past six years to make many personal friends and share fascinating and constructive conversations across such a wide variety of Grand Lodges - large or small - across the World as we sought to maintain and promote regularity. I enjoyed receiving your news and views in return, and I trust that our shared Craft continues to inspire us all, whatever the varying circumstances near our homes.

ALSO from the UGLE;

I write to inform you that at its June Quarterly Communication held on 10 June 2026, the United Grand Lodge of England resolved that recognition be accorded to the Grand Lodge "Jesús González Ortega" of the State of Zacatecas (Mexico).

I write to inform you that at its Annual Communication held on May 16, 2026, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Türkiye decided to recognize the Gran Logia de Estado Baja California and Grande Oriente de Minas Gerais.

UGLE members are attending our Quarterly Communications in very large numbers with consequential pressure on seating given the limits on numbers we must observe to comply with health, safety and fire regulations.

I regret therefore to have to inform you that we have decided that with immediate effect official visitors from Foreign Grand Lodges will only be able to attend once a year at the June Quarterly Communication.

This means that the next possible date for attending a meeting of this Grand Lodge will be the Quarterly Communication of 9 June 2027. We very much hope that you will be able to visit us then or at a future June meeting and we will be delighted to see you. Please may I also take this opportunity to remind you that in the event you would like to attend one of our June meetings, we will need to have your applications with dietary requirements etc. six weeks beforehand.

In case anyone was planning on attending.

Most Worshipful Grand Master, I move for the acceptance of this report.

Fraternally,
James F. Easterling, Jr. PGM, Chairman

REPORT OF THE TRIAL COMMISSIONER-IN-CHIEF

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ohio:

As Trial Commissioner-In-Chief, I submit the following report:

Activity of a total of THIRTY-TWO (32) cases came before the Trial Commissioner-In-Chief this past year up to this date.

A total of NINETEEN (19) new cases have been received by the Trial Commissioner-In-Chief since our last communication.

A trial panel and chairman have been appointed by the Regional Trial Commissioner for each of these cases. FIFTEEN (15) of the cases completed involved felony convictions or pleas of guilty to a felony.

There were NINETEEN (19) findings of GUILTY OF UNMASONIC CONDUCT. NINETEEN (19) of these cases have been completed and THIRTEEN (13) are still pending. Many of these pending cases have been received in the last few months.

FOURTEEN (14) of these cases resulted in the penalty of EXPULSION, FIVE (5) in the penalty of SUSPENSION, NONE in the penalty of REPRIMAND, and NONE NOT GUILTY.

Since my appointment I have, at the request of our Grand Master, fully implemented Code Section #43 and there have been appointed seven (7) Regional Trial Commissioners and Judge Advocates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the good brethren who have served on our Trial Panels this year, either as Chairman or a member of a Trial Panel. At best, serving on a Trial Panel is a very unpleasant task. Surely, these dedicated brethren have done just a bit more for Freemasonry in Ohio this year.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Most Worshipful Brother Newton and his fine staff for their counsel and excellent cooperation this year. It is indeed much appreciated.

Most Worshipful, I want to thank you for all your efforts this year to see that justice has been done and see that the principles of Masonry have been protected. I move for the acceptance of this report and the details of the individual cases attached hereto.

Respectively Submitted,

R. Wesley Webber, Trial Commissioner-In Chief

Regional Chairmen: 1 - Mark Allred, 2 - J. Rodger Caplinger, 3 - John R. Teller, 4 - Jeffery Rannebarger, 5 - Robert C. Cygan, 6 - Hal G. Dill, 7 - Timothy W. Jagers

REPORT OF THE RITUAL COMMITTEE

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Ritual Committee for 2025-26 has received two requests for our review. They are as follows:

Brother Jeff Garringer created a Power Point Presentation of the Past Master lecture for the PM Convocation, complete with the words in the PPP notes and very applicable pictures. This presentation would make the Past Master lecture more appealing to those attending the PM Convocation. As there is no coded wording in the lecture, the Ritual Committee recommends the use of this presentation for those DDGM's wishing to do so.

The Grand Secretary referred a Brother to the Ritual Committee who was asking a question concerning a specific use of the gavel during the three degrees. The Brother noticed that the raps were inconsistent from one degree to the next at the start of each degree. It was observed that the rap of the gavel by the WM to call the Stewards to begin the EA and FC degrees were not present, which is typically done. However, in the MM degree there is the use of the gavel to call the Stewards to prepare and present the candidate.

After reviewing and comparing, both original typewritten ritual and the 1892 handwritten ritual it was determined that possibly a mistake was made when creating the typed copy from the handwritten copy. The review of this revealed that no gavel rap was used in any of the three degrees to call the Stewards, however due to the positioning of the handwritten WM's action on the page it could be assumed the Masters gavel rap was used for the Stewards when it was actually intended to seat the brethren from the previous action, that of the SD returning to his seat from attending the Altar. The Ritual Committee concluded this was a typing mistake in our current coded ritual and no raps are required previous to giving directions to the Stewards.

The original typewritten ritual and the handwritten ritual, both secured at the Grand Lodge office, were reviewed during a summer inspection. The typewritten ritual is showing signs of wear on the binding and the handwritten ritual is in excellent condition.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Joseph Shilling
Chairman of the GL of Ohio Ritual Committee

DANIEL CARTER BEARD SCOUTER AWARD

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of F & A M of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge of Ohio Committee for the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is pleased to report that 5 Brethren were nominated and approved to receive the Award for the 2025-2026 year as of July. These Brethren are to be commended for their exemplary service to Scouting and the exemplification of our Masonic tenets within their communities. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is a national recognition approved by the Boy Scouts of America and promoted by the various Masonic Grand Lodges in the United States. It may be presented to any Master Mason who has made significant contributions to youth through Scouting. This is a selective and prestigious award, by a nomination from a fellow Brother without the recipient's knowledge. The purpose of the Award is to recognize the recipient's outstanding service to youth through the Boy Scouts of America. The selection should be based on what the Nominee has done in Scouting as an Adult, not in his Masonic Journey.

Surely many of you know of a deserving individual to receive this Award. Requirements for the Award are listed on the Grand Lodge of Ohio's web page:

www.freemason.com. Go to "Awards" and click on "Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award" and follow ALL of the instructions. Incomplete submittals will be returned for completion and resubmittal. Since the inception of this program in 2002 in the Grand Lodge of Ohio, approximately 122 Ohio Masons have received this Award.

To the District Deputy Grand Masters, we would urge you to take a few minutes at your PM Convocations to mention this worthy Program. If you have any questions, please contact the Chairman at rleon95596@aol.com and I will gladly assist in explaining what needs to be submitted.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ronald H. Leonard, PDDGM, Chair
Brian Arehart
Thomas E. McAllister
Randy Echelberger
William Estell
Charles E. Udischas
Mason "Butch" Wiseman

REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

Most Worshipful Grand Master, Distinguished Guests, Brethren All,

In the teachings of Masonry, we are reminded that the distinctions of this world are temporary. Time levels every man -the rich and the poor, the mighty and the humble-until all stand upon the same level before the Great Architect of the Universe.

Today, we honor the memory of those who have laid down the working tools of life. Their labors may have ceased among us, but the examples they set, the friendships they formed, and the good they accomplished remain as living stones within the foundation of our fraternity.

May we remember them not only with sorrow, but with gratitude; not merely for the years they lived, but for the light they shared with their brethren. While time does not allow us to say all their names, we can pay tribute to some of those who have gone before us, ever mindful of the Masonic charge: that we should so live and labor that, when our own time comes, we may be remembered as faithful men who served their Craft well.

The Necrology Report is one of the last times that we can say the names of some of our cornerstones. Let us pause to remember those Brethren who have passed from their earthly labors to that Celestial Lodge above.

Vernon E. Musser	Past Grand Master
Raymond T. Clark	PDDGM 1 st Masonic District
George W. Koehnke	PDDGM 1 st Masonic District
Paul Alexander	PDDGM 2 nd Masonic District
Ronald E. Reeder	PDDGM 2 nd Masonic District
William A. Coffman	PDDGM 5 th Masonic District
Walter Schilb	PDDGM 5 th Masonic District
Edward P. Moore	PDDGM 7 th Masonic District
Lee A. Smith	PDDGM 13 th Masonic District
Larry Lance	PDDGM 15 th Masonic District
David L. Vassar	PDDGM 15 th Masonic District
Donald H. Griffaw	PDDGM 16 th Masonic District
Daniel C. Jenkins, Jr.	PDDGM 17 th Masonic District
Harry L. Wilson	PDDGM 19 th Masonic District
W. Larry Sears	PDDGM 21 st Masonic District
Gary Wilms	PDDGM 24 th Masonic District
Gary W. Evans	PDDGM 25 th Masonic District
Terry E. Swauger	PDDGM 25 th Masonic District
William A. Tecil	PDDGM 25 th Masonic District
Richard K. Yoho	PDDGM 25 th Masonic District

Kip A. Kuhn
Paul H. Barnes, Sr.
Gary Shugart
Michael J. Uhl

Master, Mason Lodge #678
Secretary, Shawnee Lodge #526
Secretary, Quaker City #500
Treasurer, Spartan Lodge #126

Let us join in prayer: Great Architect of the Universe, we have come together to remember some of those who have laid down their working tools. We ask that as we may be overwhelmed with sorrow at times remembering them, we also remember them for their trestle board of life. They were examples of the craft to follow and brethren to engage. We should be so humble as to have known them. Please bring peace to those who struggle in their remembrance and joy to those who knew them. May we all strive to perfect our living stones and keep our lambskins pure and spotless so that we may hear those words, well done good and faithful servant, enter now into the joy of the Lord.

Amen

Respectfully submitted,
David L. Waggoner, Grand Chaplain

GRIEVANCE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The committee has two new members Dan Slavin and Jamie Kilburn, Both Past Deputies. I plan to rotate another member off the committee in October as most of the previous members had served on the committee for extended periods of time. I also inform the trial panel and Wes Weber of every hearing so they may attend and give testimony as to the original charges.

The Committee met at Moore Masonic Temple in Delaware on January 16th at 10am to hear a request for the reinstatement of Mr. Koslofsky. Due to the nature of his offences the committee voted to not recommend reinstatement.

The Committee has scheduled hearing for the reinstatement of Mr. Mark Monk on August 13th at Moore Masonic Temple 11am.

All hearings will have their reports presented at Grand Lodge with recommendations for vote. Please keep in mind the committee does not retry the case. We simply ensure proper procedures were followed and the trial was conducted in a fair manner. The reputation of the Fraternity is our top concern when considering reinstatement.

Fraternally,
Joseph C. Radocy, Chairman
Grievance Committee

MASONIC MODEL STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

Thank you for the privilege to serve Ohio Freemasonry in this capacity!

We have revised the committee structure this year. We continue to have a coordinator for each Masonic District assigned by the District Advisor. In addition to the coordinators, I have created the MMSAP Committee consisting of: Chairman: Gregory Kita, Vice Chairman: Linc Jerome, Rocky Jackson, Elizabeth French, Bryan Trego, Doug Moshier, John Padley, and Tim Hill.

This year the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program held four (4) programs.

We applied for the R and M Stephenson Foundation as usual and were not awarded in 2026.

We have held four (4) programs this year. The encouraging part of this is that we held a Masonic Model Student Assistance Program in St. Mary's, Ohio for the staff at St. Mary's Memorial High School and two staff members from Botkins Schools.

Date	Program	Attend.		Schools	Masonic District
9/2/2025	Peer Mentorship	45	High School	Toledo School of the	11
9/3/2025	Unity Day	133	6th Graders	Toledo School of the Arts	11
3/7/2026	Masonic Youth Leadership Day	120			
5/27/2026	MMSAP	27	High School	St. Mary's and Botkins	6,5

The committee met on March 7, 2026 at the Aladdin Shrine. We discussed the new partnership with Excel and a strategy to get the programs in front of schools throughout Ohio. This partnership with Excel will open up many opportunities for all schools in Ohio.

We are working with the National Masonic Foundation for Children to conduct a half day Zoom training with the district coordinators

We have already scheduled Toledo of the School of the Arts for Fall of 2026 and the Masonic Youth Leadership for Winter 2027.

I would like to thank all of the District Coordinators for their efforts to spread them program throughout Ohio.

District and Name

1 David P. Kelly	10 Bryan Trego	19 Mark Bruns
2 Robert Jackson	11 Mark Allred, Jr.	20 Jason Boggs
3 John Beard	12 Robert Beegle	21 Jim Seelye
4 Todd Smith	13 Jeff Milligan	22 John Padley
5 Elizabeth French	14 Doug Moshier	23 William McGowan
6 Tim Hill	15 Jon Reminder	24 Richard Purks
7 Dennis Evans	16 Denny Claxton	25 Linc Jerome, Vice
8 Bruce Porter	17 Roger Calendine	Chairman
9 Johnnie Williams	18 Kelly Raines	

Fraternally submitted,
Gregory M. Kita, Chairman

HISTORY COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

Pursuant to Section 4.02(j) of the Bylaws of the Grand Lodge, the responsibilities and duties of the History Committee are as follows:

History. whose Chairman shall be the Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge, shall establish historical facts of events in Lodges, and the lives of members and report their findings to the Grand Lodge to the end that there may be preserved the record of Masonry's contribution to the civic, political and religious life of our State, as well as promote the moral and spiritual principles Masonry seeks to inculcate.

With this charge in mind, the History Committee offers the following report:

America's Semi quincentennial

The United States celebrated the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026, an occasion marked by lodges across Ohio in a variety of meaningful ways. Grand Master Shawn A. Johnson joined Beavercreek Lodge No. 752 for their city parade before traveling to Alpha Lodge No. 729 in Kettering to join brethren for evening fireworks. Lodges across the jurisdiction celebrated with picnics, meals, community fairs, and civic events. Notably, while popular myth claims that a majority of the signers of the Declaration were Freemasons, only nine have been verified through documentary evidence.

American Union Lodge No. 1 Reconsecration

On February 14, 2026, the Grand Lodge held a formal reconsecration ceremony for American Union Lodge No. 1 to mark its 250th anniversary. Originally chartered in Massachusetts on February 15, 1776, as a traveling military lodge, it met in various encampments throughout the Revolutionary War. Following the war, Major Jonathan Hart retained the original charter and brought it to Fort Harmar (Marietta) in 1785. By 1790, Major Hart, General Rufus Putnam, and fellow Masons resumed labor under that historic document. Past Grand Master Neil M. Smalley presided over the reconsecration ceremony while Grand Master Johnson was away attending the Conference of Grand Masters.

Historic Property Transitions

Also of note in 2026, the Cincinnati Masonic Center closed its doors, and the Masonic bodies that had met there for over a century successfully relocated to a new facility in downtown Cincinnati. Prior to the move, two public auctions of furniture, fixtures, and historical memorabilia were held—one for brethren and a second for the general public.

The Cincinnati Masonic Center was constructed during the post-World War I era, a time of unprecedented fraternal growth when major temples were erected across Ohio's urban centers. With the sale of the Cincinnati building, the Dayton Masonic Center in Southwest Ohio and the Canton Masonic Temple in Northeast Ohio remain the state's two largest historic temples in continuous operation.

Museum & Archival Outreach

The Grand Lodge Museum, overseen by the Grand Secretary, continued its popular quarterly open house series, advertised in The Ohio Beacon and via digital media platforms. The Grand Historian extends special thanks to the residents of the Ohio Masonic Communities' Springfield campus for volunteering their time to support these events. Photographs of displayed artifacts and historical exhibits can be viewed on the Grand Lodge Museum webpage at Freemason.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas N. Kaylor, PGM
Chairman, GL History Committee

REPORT OF THE GRAND LODGE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation has received 35 requests for relief of Brethren during the current Masonic year. Of those 35 requests, 1 currently remains open, pending additional information.

There were 4 additional requests that were withdrawn due to the following:

- 2 were withdrawn from the Brother after further investigation
- 1 Brother who was a Master Mason for less than 12 months (Brother Applegate of National #568 will be eligible for the request for relief on October 21, 2026.)
- 1 was only an Entered Apprentice, Brother Prater from Clark #101

The total amount requested for relief outside of the Veteran and First Responders Fund, currently stands at \$68,447.78. Of that amount, \$58,562.28 has been approved for relief. The one open case currently reflects a requested amount of \$2,500.

- The amounts requested for relief have ranged from \$1,000 to \$6,200.
- The average amount requested was \$2,308.54
- The average amount approved was \$1,967.66

Veterans and First Responders Fund:

The total amount received to date for the Grand Master /First Lady's Focus is \$32,920. The Veterans and First Responders Fund currently has approximately \$53,000.

There were five requests received from this program, all were approved. Total amount distributed was \$12,455.

- Case V2026-1: Orville FD \$2,500
- Case V2026-2: Shelby FD \$5,000
- Case V2026-3: Bellaire PD \$1,500
- Case V2026-4: Neffs FD \$1,000
- Case V2026-5: Charlestown FD \$2,455

Organizational Charitable Requests:

The Grand Lodge also received one organizational request in support of charitable relief earlier this year. It was a special fundraising campaign entitled "Turn the Page" from the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association. A one-time donation of \$1,000 was approved and

divided equally between the Memorial's Library Fund and the George Washington Bible Project. These funds were withdrawn from the Museum Library subcategory, which at the time held a balance of \$4,651.

Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation Commemorative Coin Fundraiser:

On November 21, 2025, a proposal was submitted by our Grand Secretary to establish a Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation Commemorative Coin Fundraiser. This proposal was approved on November 10, 2025.

In celebration of our nation's 250th Anniversary, there were 1,776 limited-edition coins struck. We had an anticipated net revenue of approximately \$30,000 to benefit the Foundation.

- Total expenses \$16,143.95
- Total income \$52,978

A much-deserved congratulations goes to our Grand Secretary as this successful fundraiser exceeded the anticipated net revenue of \$30,000, resulting in a net profit of \$36,834.05 for the foundation.

Grand Lodge Tie Sales:

The profits from the Grand Lodge Tie Sales benefiting the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation this year to date is \$2,320.

The Scholarship Program:

This Masonic year, the Grand Lodge has distributed \$111,000 in total scholarships throughout the 25 districts. To date, the Scholarship Fund has received \$47,811.09 from the Ohio license plate program.

Under the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation for this Masonic year, we have received over \$119,885 and disbursed \$183,025.

Fraternally and respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey M. Sime, Junior Grand Warden
President, Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation

MASONIC CODE REORGANIZATION

Fraternal Greetings, Grand Master,

I am pleased to offer this Report of the Masonic Code Reorganization Committee

As was stated in the original charter for this committee, our mission was to rearrange the current contents of our Code Book of Masonic Law into a more readable and more accessible format. It was systematically reviewed for conflicting clauses, outdated language, and legal requirements and then reorganized into its current, Final Proof stage.

Having been reviewed by the Advisory and Jurisprudence Committees along with the Grand Lodge Officers, this Reorganized Code Book, was presented to the Grand Lodge at the 2025 Session for consideration with a layover for discussion. The discussion was facilitated by making the Reorganized Code Book available on Grand View for subordinate lodges and members to review and reach out to this committee for discussion.

With the discussion complete, this Committee move for the adoption of the Reorganized Code Book as presented during this 2026 Grand Lodge session..

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan H. Krapf, PDDGM Chairman
Rich Greater, PM
Rich Dickerscheid, PGM

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

To the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio:

The role of the Membership Committee is to promote recruitment, retention, and restoration for the betterment of our Lodges. As in the recent past, the Committee's primary focus has been on recruitment, working alongside Cercone Brown on marketing while supporting a dedicated network of prospect managers in lodges and membership managers across districts.

Under the direction of Most Worshipful Brother Shawn A. Johnson, the Membership Committee launched Prospect Management 2.0. This project focused on building an effective district membership infrastructure for the Grand View Prospect Management system. Key elements included:

- Enhancing training for District Membership Managers.
- Conducting district-wide lodge performance reviews to identify best practices.
- Requiring lodges to sign a commitment to specific performance standards to receive prospect referrals.
- Directing that the initial outreach to a prospect occur at the district level within 24 to 48 hours, rather than leaving first contact solely to the lodge.

Historically, from 2021 through 2025, over 6,000 inquiries were received through the Grand View system. Of those, fully 60% per year failed to advance to candidate or petitioner status. Anecdotal reports from lodges indicated that prospects often did not respond to outreach, leading them to be written off as lost contacts. However, district reports revealed that many lodges were simply too slow to make contact—sometimes waiting weeks. In an era where same-day or next-day delivery from Amazon is standard, even a delay of a few days can cause a prospect to lose interest.

Centralizing initial contact at the district level placed real operational stress on our District Membership Managers, but they rose to the occasion. This year, the percentage of "lost contacts" and "not interested" prospects dropped from 60% down to 40% representing a major victory for Prospect Management 2.0 and a 33% improvement in prospect engagement.

While the long timeline of the degree process means it is too early to tell if this will translate into an immediate increase in Master Masons, the District Membership Managers and participating Lodges deserve immense recognition for stepping up.

Finally, the Chairman wishes to thank the District Membership Managers who comprise the Membership Committee for their hard work, dedication, and prompt execution in assigning leads based on prospect interests. The Committee also extends its sincere gratitude to the Grand Master for his visionary leadership and for the opportunity to serve the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas N. Kaylor, PGM
Committee Chairman