



# LORAIN COUNTY BLUE LODGE ASSOCIATION

October 18, 2009

The 200<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ohio is in the history books! A very nice turnout was witnessed at the Seagate Convention Centre in, Toledo, Ohio. All the brethren that made the trek on Thursday met wind and rain, and uncertainty in the weather for the weekend. Friday was a little better, but was still overcast and cool. There was some concern that the weather would wreak havoc with the fireworks display at the Promenade Park on Friday evening. The Friday night fireworks went off without a hitch and were beautiful.

There were no fireworks as some expected during the Grand Lodge session earlier in the day. The proposed legislative changes, whether they passed or not, didn't seem to provoke the passionate banter we have been accustomed to in recent years. Now that doesn't mean we've lost the fire. No, it's just that the process was exceedingly orderly, and that some of the issues didn't carry the weight of changes sought in the past. Still, the issues as always are important concerns to the governing and survival of the Fraternity.

The regular session on Friday proceeded through the various committee reports and finally to the election of officers. The progression of officers transpired as expected. This year, however, a new Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were elected to resume the labors of retiring Grand Secretary, George O. Braatz, and retiring Grand Treasurer, Thomas H. Galyen. We extend to these men a hearty "Thank You" for their many years of commitment to the fraternity, and the Grand Lodge in particular.

We congratulate them on their retirement and wish them well. I'm sure their faces won't disappear any time soon.

Past GM C. Michael Watson, has been elected to serve as the new Grand Secretary. The Grand Treasurer duties have been assumed by newly elected Bro. Ronald L. Connelly. Both men were groomed by their respective counterparts and surely are prepared to seamlessly continue the fine jobs of their predecessors.

Some other changes we will see this year are the return of the District Education Officers, and a corresponding decrease in the number of District Deputy Grand Masters. The Grand Master's one day class program will bring changes that cause each district to be more in control of how and where the classes are held. There is still a rigorous process to go through, but the content, significance, and purpose of the one day class remains the same.

Grand Master Terry W. Posey's theme this year is, "Freemasonry-It's All in the Family". Whether you look at the Masonic family and its co-ordinate bodies, or the Community Family, your personal family or others, the tenets of our profession transcends all boundaries and encompasses the family of all our brethren with whom we share this world.

In our little corner of the Masonic world, the 22<sup>nd</sup> District, we saw the retirement of RWB Bob Behner, RWB Martin Woodworth, and RWB Don Van Horn. Thank you brethren for your diligent and

progressive work in our district. Your dedication and concern has helped this District move forward, and has helped spark a new level of co-operation between the Lodges in the District. In turn we welcome the return of RWB Phil Smith, and RWB Bob Hager. We also welcome our new District Deputy Grand Masters: Bro. Mitchell L. Alperin, and Bro. Stephen M. Behm. Surely the spirit of co-operation will be extended to and through our experienced and new District Deputies alike. You can go to the 22<sup>nd</sup> District web site to find out who your Deputy will be this year. Click on "District Lodges" and your Deputy will be listed with your Lodge. Congratulations!

If you only counted four DDGMs, that is correct. We now will have three District Education Officers working with the Deputies. Our new DEOs for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Masonic District are: Bro. Mark J. Bollinger, Bro. David R. Hildebrandt and Bro. Henry G. Mankowski. Please join in congratulating these brethren on their selection to serve our district. Each new DEO will be installed at a later date.

As part of the historic proceedings this year, a solid walnut Altar, hand crafted and donated just for the 200<sup>th</sup> Grand Lodge session was used to open Lodge and conduct business.

At the end of this letter you will find a facsimile of the commemorative lapel pin the brethren received at Grand Lodge when they registered. Actually, it is a medallion with a magnetic strip and magnetic bar that serves to hold it to your lapel without need for a pin and clasp. Pretty Clever! It was struck especially to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> session of the Grand Lodge and will serve as a nice memento of attending.

Most Worshipful Brother Murphy, we thank you for your leadership, your vision for the fraternity and your "REACH" into our lives. It has been a fantastic year under your watch.

To Most Worshipful Brother Posey, we listened to your plans and ideas for making changes and improvements to better the fraternity. It is readily apparent you have already worked long and hard to help us understand, "Freemasonry-It's All in the Family"

Brethren, not surprisingly, we couldn't leave Toledo without thinking the future of Freemasonry in Ohio was in good hands. We do have a responsibility though, and that is to remember we are part of the Family. I know I'm proud to say I am!

