



LORAIN COUNTY BLUE LODGE ASSOCIATION

DATELINE: 10/17/08

PLACE: COLUMBUS OHIO

RE: OHIO GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION

The 199th Annual Grand Lodge Communication opened in the Grand Ballroom of the Columbus Convention Center. The elevated platform upon which the Grand Lodge Officers, out of state guests and in state guests were seated, offered a mutual view of brethren and dignitary alike. The attendance appeared to be better than recent past years.

While the pending legislation changes this year didn't seem to elevate the brethren to the frenzied concern of the last couple years, it was quite evident there is still fire in the bellies of the men with great passion for this Fraternity! Confusing at times, the voting on legislation showed great concern for clarity, parity and equality in determining how best the Grand Lodge can serve the brethren across the state. Soon a full report should land on the Lodge Secretaries' desks relating the outcome and disposition of the proposed changes.

What was clearly evident, and probably won't be projected on the report, is the expression of the anticipation of forward change in the Fraternity. Less likely to be a direct result of any changes in the governance of the Grand Lodge and subordinate Lodges is the fact that there appears to be an opportunity for a renaissance in the growth of the brotherhood.

From the Assistant Grand Master of the United Kingdom Grand Lodge in England, to the Deputy Grand Master of the District of Columbia, to our own Grand Lodge, it was suggested that today's young men are looking for a sense of structure, substance and community that isn't being afforded them in organized religion. The connectivity and comradery that comes with our fraternity may help forge alliances that rejuvenate a sense of family, and, offer the building blocks for sustained interest in assembling a sturdy frame work on which to build family values, reset their moral compasses and reconnect with their faith.

It was also recognized that we must alter our approach to gaining and retaining members. To increase the public awareness of our overall good, while retaining humility and sovereignty of our precepts will be a test of our mettle, and proof of our worth. We should perhaps be more suggestive to prospective candidates, ever bearing in mind that the impetus for membership still lies with the desire of the man to improve himself, through Masonry.

New officers were elected and appointed with no alteration in the ascension of the lineup. The day closed out with a lively Grand Lodge Banquet in the Regency Ballroom.

OVER...

10/18/08

The morning saw the conclusion of Grand Lodge business and installation of officers. Our new Grand Master, Charles R. Murphy explained his theme for the ensuing year. He assured us that his one word theme, "REACH" was not necessarily as simple as it seems, yet at the same time wasn't complex either.

His message resounds with one of the most basic elements of connecting with one another. REACHING... As we determine and define our own reasons for involvement in the fraternity, so too can the definition and understanding of the word "reach" be as diverse and singular to our own purpose.

We have learned in our lessons that the Great Creator made man's dependence on one another a virtue. That we learn to depend on one another also ensures our existence. We must reach out to those who need our assistance, and we must be willing to reach out when we are in need. To fulfill, is to be fulfilled. We can readily incorporate this into our everyday lives without difficulty.

The emblem of the Grand Master's theme, shown on the front of this letter, displays simplicity at once in its message and yet, if we look closely, we can readily discern by the symbol of our fraternity, the clasped hands, and the word "REACH", that one enriches the other. Encircled by the words, "Grand Lodge of Ohio", we are reminded that unity translates into strength, and as is evidenced by the broader border in the upper section of the oval, we can imagine that we are under the protective canopy of the Grand Lodge.

Locally, in the past year, we have learned to recognize that reaching across invisible boundaries has enhanced the fraternity in the district. It should be very easy to assimilate the theme of our new Most Worshipful Grand Master as we continue to rebuild this "Wonderful World of Freemasonry"

Congratulations to our newly commissioned District Deputies, RWB Philip Smith, and RWB Robert Hager. Let's "REACH" out to them and offer to assist them as they work to promote Freemasonry.

We extend best wishes and a heartfelt thanks to outgoing Deputies, RWB Cole and RWB Phelps. May your endeavors be fruitful and fulfilling.

To our most recent PGM Winnett, thank you for leading us through a fantastic Bicentennial Celebration of Freemasonry in Ohio. We are truly inspired by the new found interest and reemergence of the Craft!

Upon leaving the Grand Lodge Communication, we find ourselves once again inspired with renewed vigor to carry on, making good men better. We anticipate that the new leadership will continue to build upon past successes. MWB Murphy, you are stepping into a big pair of shoes, but your enthusiasm and passion promises to lead you, to lead us! Lead on!

Sincerely and Fraternaly

Michael Ketchum
L.C.B.L.A.
Secretary/Communications Officer