

FRANKLIN LODGE #14

# THE TRESTLEBOARD

VOLUME 2008, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER 7, 2008

LARRY W. BRITTON, WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WB TIMOTHY B. RAY, SECRETARY

## BY-LAWS/STANDING RESOLUTIONS CHANGES

Below is a summary of several changes that have been recommended to the By-Laws and Standing Resolutions of the Lodge. Please read through these carefully as they will affect the way the Lodge, (your Lodge), operates in the coming years. These changes will be voted on at the first stated meeting of November (11/4). Your opinion matters! If you disagree with any of these changes, please attend the 11/4 stated meeting to discuss them.

### **Article 1 of the By-Laws which currently reads**

“The elective officers of this Lodge shall consist of a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler, who shall be elected annually by ballot at the **second** (here insert the first, second, or otherwise specified meeting), in November and together with a Chaplain, a Senior Steward, a Junior Steward and a Lodge Education Officer (which officers shall be appointed by the Master at the time of his installation) shall be installed into office within sixty days there from. There shall also be one trustee elected. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for an election.”

### **Shall be amended to read:**

“The elective officers of this Lodge shall consist of a Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon and Tyler, who shall be elected annually by ballot at the **first** (here insert the first, second, or otherwise specified meeting), in November and together with a Chaplain, a Senior Steward, a Junior Steward and a Lodge Education Officer (which officers shall be appointed by the Master at the time of his installation) shall be installed into office within sixty days there from. There shall also be one trustee elected. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary for an election.”

**Why the change? In many years, the second stated meeting was held the same week as Thanksgiving. With so many members travelling over the Thanksgiving weekend, the newly elected officers would often have to wait until the first Saturday of December to be installed. This will allow the election and installation of officers to be done in a more timely manner. Keep in mind that if the newly elected Master has not received the Past Master degree in Chapter, he must still wait to be installed until after the Past Master’s Convocation (usually the first Saturday in December).**

### **Article 10 of the Standing Resolutions which currently reads**

“All Master Masons, who are members in good standing of Franklin Lodge No. 14 F. & A. M. and who have attained 50 years of membership and so honored by the Grand Lodge of Ohio beginning in Lodge Year 2001, will be honored and have dues remitted in the years so honored by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, i.e.: 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, etc. The dues for the intervening years of said honored Masons will be at 50 percent of the current annual dues. All Master Masons on record and in good standing who have attained 50 or more years of membership as of Grand Lodge year 2000, will be grand fathered and continue to have their dues remitted each year as has been the custom of Franklin Lodge No. 14 F. & A. M.”

### **Shall be amended to read:**

“All Master Masons, who are members in good standing of Franklin Lodge No. 14 F. & A. M. and who have attained 50 years of membership and so honored by the Grand Lodge of Ohio beginning in Lodge Year 2009, will be honored and have dues remitted in the years so honored by the Grand Lodge of Ohio, i.e.: 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, etc. The dues for the intervening years of said honored Masons will be at 100 percent of the current annual dues. All Master Masons on record and in good standing who have attained 50 or more years of membership as of Grand Lodge year 2008 and currently have their dues remitted in part or in whole will be grand fathered and continue to have their dues remitted at the established percentage as has been the custom of Franklin Lodge No. 14 F. & A. M.”

**Why the change? Franklin Lodge currently has 361 members, 58 of which pay no dues and another 50 who pay only fifty percent dues. Unfortunately, new members are joining at a far slower rate than the current membership is aging. If the Lodge continues to offer reduced dues, in 2009 or 2010, there will be less money coming in than there is going out (negative cash flow). Keep in mind that even though Franklin Lodge remits these dues, the Lodge must still pay the per capita for each member to Grand Lodge. Also, those members whose dues are currently being remitted will continue to have their dues remitted. How can you avoid paying dues altogether? Consider purchasing and endowed membership.**

### **Amendment #14 of the Standing Resolutions which currently reads**

“The Night of Installation of Master Elect, the Junior Past Master shall be awarded, by the lodge the sum of Fifty (\$50) dollars, to be used by or at his discretion towards purchasing a past masters emblem.”

### **Shall be amended to read:**

The Night of Installation of Master Elect, the Junior Past Master shall be awarded, by the lodge a Past Master’s Apron.

**Why the change? At no time in recent years has the outgoing Master been presented fifty dollars for the purpose of purchasing a Past Master’s emblem. Instead, it has been the custom of the Lodge to present the outgoing Master with a Past Master’s Apron. This change is merely bringing the Standing Resolutions in line with actual practice.**

### **Amendment #18 of the Standing Resolutions which currently reads:**

“The salary of the Secretary shall be \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) per year, payable quarterly on the first Tuesday of February, May, August and November.”

“Be it further resolved, the Secretary is authorized to employ any assistance he may require, the salary of said assistance to be paid from the standing salary of the Secretary.”

### **Shall be amended to read:**

“The salary of the Secretary shall be \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) per year, payable on the first day of August.”

“Be it further resolved, the Secretary is authorized to employ any assistance he may require, the salary of said assistance to be paid from the standing salary of the Secretary.”

**Why the change? This is merely a book keeping change to make the job of the secretary easier (he writes one check instead of four).**

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## FRANKLIN TAKES INSPECTION HONORS

At the May 14th Third District Officer Appreciation Dinner held at the Greenville Country Club, Franklin #14 received three awards: to Bro. Jeremy Locke, JS, for best 2008 Fellow Craft Charge, to Bro. Larry W. Britton, WM, for best 2008 Fellow Craft Lecture, and one to Franklin #14 Lodge for best overall 2008 Fellow Craft degree presented at an Inspection. It should be noted that at the time of the Inspection, Br. Locke had only been a Master Mason for 10 months! Great work and congratulations!

## COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Plan to join us in the Lodge dining room on Saturday, November 15th, for a homemade breakfast of scrambled eggs, biscuits and sausage gravy, baked sausage, bacon, French toast and syrup, and hash browns along with juice and coffee. We'll be serving from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Everything is served buffet style and is all you can eat! Our breakfasts are open to the public and are scheduled for the third Saturday of every month throughout the year. The purpose of the breakfasts is to raise funds for the scholarship program of the Blue Lodge. In 2008, the Lodge gave four \$500 scholarships to deserving students.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED AN ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP?

What is an Endowed Membership? It's a way for you to contribute to the financial stability of your Lodge, not only now, but for many years into the future. The benefits of purchasing an Endowed Membership are many. Among the most important is that you will have given the Lodge a gift that will continue to provide much needed revenue as long as the Lodge exists. Even after your death, Franklin Lodge will continue to receive revenue from your Endowed Membership. This is possible because Grand Lodge invests the funds received from Endowed Memberships and pays the Lodge a portion of the dividends each year. And you benefit too. After purchasing an Endowed Membership, you are only required to pay your Lodge dues one more time; after that, you never pay dues again. The Secretary will continue to mail you a dues card each year. How much does an Endowed Membership cost? Currently the cost is \$800 which is payable over 5 years. When you consider that dues increases are inevitable, an Endowed Membership is excellent way to protect yourself from ever increasing costs. If you

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED AN ENDOWED MEMBERSHIP? - CONT'D

would like an application for an Endowed Membership, or if you have questions, please contact the Lodge Secretary WB Timothy B. Ray at 339-8383 /email him at timray48@yahoo.com

ELECTION/INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Franklin Lodge will be holding its annual Election of Officers on November 18th at 7:30 pm. Potluck is at 6:30 pm. Come and have a good meal and then participate in the government of your lodge. The Installation of Officers will be November 22nd at 7:30 pm.

AWARDS NIGHT/FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

Mark your calendars and set aside the evening of Monday, November 17th. Franklin #14 will hold an Awards and Friendship Night at 6:30 pm in the dining room, to be followed by the presentation of 25, 50, 60 and 65 year service awards. The dinner is complimentary for members and spouses, but reservations are needed in order to know how much food to prepare. The menu will be announced at a later date. Plan now to join us. Phone the Worshipful Master, Larry W. Britton at 335-3042 to reserve a spot, or email him at lbritton1@woh.rr.com.

If you know of a man interested in learning about Masonry, invite him and his wife to join us! Simply inform WM Britton that you will have guests attending.

**Franklin Lodge #14 F. & A. M.**

**P. O. Box 501**

**Troy, OH 45373**

Non-Profit Organization

**U.S. Postage Paid**

Troy, Ohio

Permit #177

**October 2008**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

