

2018 August Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 2

Linden Lodge #637, F&AM

2436 West Dublin-Granville Rd, Linworth, Ohio 43235 (614) 799-9637



Degree Work To Be Completed

Over the next couple of months we will be conducting a lot of degree work. At our Stated Meeting on September 6th we plan to conduct a Fellowcraft Degree, on September 20th we plan to be raising a Brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason and on October 4th we plan to be raising another Brother to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. As you know we need a lot of help for these degrees. If you can help contact our Senior Warden Ed Kampbell at ekampbell@sbcglobal.net or at 614 579-0975.

Linden Lodge Annual Retreat

The annual retreat is coming up fast and we want you to join us. This year we will be at Dillon State Park near Zanesville the weekend of October 19 - 21, 2018. We currently have 3 state park cabins reserved so we can accommodate around 15 to 20 people. The cost is expected to be \$60.00 per person which includes lodging and food for the weekend. Kent Wright and Richard Lohnes will do the cooking (if you really want to help we won't turn you away) and we plan to have either a grilled ribeye steak or maybe even a prime rib dinner for our Saturday dinner. Non-alcoholic beverages are included however you are welcome to bring "other" beverages if you wish. Come and join us for fellowship, cards, scenic beauty, fishing and just plain fun. Make your plans now to join us and feel free to invite brothers from other lodges as well as prospective new members. This will be an all adult, all male event. ***If you want to attend contact RWB Ron Leonard and let him know. We will need to know by our first stated meeting in September, so we know how many cabins to hold for the weekend.***

2018 Grand Lodge Annual Communication

The Grand Lodge of Ohio will be holding their 2018 Annual Communication at the Kalahari resort in Sandusky on October 12 and 13, 2018. The Deputy Grand Master, RWB Jess N Raines, has outlined his proposed plan for the upcoming year, should he be elected as Grand Master. RWB Raines theme for the year is INVEST. He is asking the Brethren to Invest in themselves, their Lodges, Communities, and their Fraternity. In his message, he asks each of us to be proud of our membership and prepared to tell our own story of how we came to Freemasonry and why we stay. RWB Raines also detailed new developments for the coming year, beginning with the change to the Grand View membership management system. He described a new Masonic Academy that will be formed to provide better Masonic education online, at any time it is convenient to the member. He announced that he will authorize a series of Grand Master's Classes around the state at different times of the year. RWB Raines also has two exciting programs involving out of state travel. First, on November 3, 2018, Brethren from the Grand Lodges of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan are going to meet in Indianapolis to demonstrate their rituals. Next, RWB Raines has also planned a bus trip to Gettysburg and Washington, DC, to be held July 31 to August 4, 2019. Keep watching for more information on these great events.

Upcoming Meetings

September 6, 2018

7:30 PM

Stated Meeting
Fellowcraft Degree

September 20, 2018

7:00 PM

Special Meeting
Master Mason Degree

October 4, 2018

7:30 PM

Stated Meeting
Officers Move Up Night

October 12 - 13, 2018

Grand Lodge Annual
Communication
Kalahari Resort

October 18, 2018

7:30 PM

Special Meeting
Master Mason Degree

October 19 - 21, 2018

Linden Lodge Annual
Retreat

November 1, 2018

7:30 PM

Stated Meeting

All these meetings will be at the Northwest Temple unless otherwise stated.

Grand Lodge of Ohio

Grand View Systems Member Manager

The Grand Lodge of Ohio has started using a new membership information system called Grand View. This will be used by our Secretary to manage all our members. We urge you to go online, check your profile and make any updates for your personal information and preferences.

You can access the system at https://oh.grandview.systems/users/sign_in. Once there, you will need to click on the "Sign up" link just under the box where you would put your email and password so you can create your account. When you do this you will need your email address, the number on your membership card (do not include the letter at the beginning of the number or any preceding zeros) and you will need to create a password. Once online you can look at your information and make sure everything is correct. If you should ever move or change your contact information, you can update your information so you will not get lost by the lodge.



Linden Lodge Annual Meeting

Linden Lodge will hold our Annual Meeting at 7:30 PM on Thursday, November 1st, 2018. We invite you to join us for this important meeting. Hear the annual reports and see just how the Lodge is doing. Help choose our leadership for the upcoming year. Have a voice in how our Lodge operates and what you would like to see and do. The Senior Warden, Ed Kampbell, has met with the other officers and the Past Masters of Linden Lodge to outline his proposals for the upcoming year if he should be elected as Master.

Linden Lodge History Book

We are in the final stages of publishing the Lodge History for our first 100 years. This will be a hardback book and a treasured addition to your bookshelves. MWB Steven E Cokonougher has worked hard on the details for this book by pouring over the minutes of every meeting we have ever had and he has come up with some fascinating information. The first 50 copies will be free on a first come, first served basis. Please contact our Lodge Secretary, RWB Ron Leonard, to reserve your copy ASAP. You can pick one up at one of our meetings or it can be mailed to you. If you want one mailed to you, please send \$7.00 for postage and handling along with your dues payment.

We Are Looking For A New Treasurer

Our current treasurer, Tom McCauley, has indicated that he would like to step down as the Treasurer of Linden Lodge, so we are looking for a replacement for him. We are looking for a person who would be able to keep the job for five or more years and who can attend most, if not all, of our meetings. If you think you can handle the job and would be interested please contact our Senior Warden, Ed Kampbell at ekampbell@sbcglobal.net or at 614 579-0975.

Open Installation Of Officers

Linden Lodge will hold an Open Installation of their Officers on Thursday, November 15th at 7:30PM. We will not have a tiled lodge this evening, so you can invite your family and friends for this event.

Contact Information

Linden Lodge #637
2436 West Dublin-
Granville Rd, Linworth,
Ohio 43235
(614) 799-9637
(Leave a message)
lindenlodge637@gmail.com

WB Keven Clouse
Worshipful Master
(614) 402-6388
brotherclouse@yahoo.com

RWB Ron Leonard
Secretary
(614) 778-4168
rleon95596@aol.com

**Do you know
someone you think
would make a good
Mason?**
You can download and
print membership
petitions from our web-
site.

You can also find
petitions for
Restoration, Affiliation,
and Dual Membership
there too.

Information About Your Lodge Dues

Over the last few years we have noticed a lot of misconceptions, misinformation and general misunderstanding about the Lodge Dues that you pay. Hopefully, this article will clarify and answer your questions and concerns.

First, you should understand the 3 tiers of our dues. Those 23 members who have chosen to become Endowed Members do not pay any Annual Dues. They contributed \$800.00 which the Grand Lodge invests and returns the value of that investment each year to the Lodge to offset those dues. This is also a Legacy program in that those funds continue to be returned to the Lodge even after the member has passed to the Celestial Lodge Above.

Second, those members who have had 50 or more years in the Fraternity, not including any time under suspension, only pay \$22.00 per year which just covers the annual per capita from Grand Lodge and the 14th Masonic District plus some postage. This is 6 cents per day or 42 cents per week. This is not an impact on a Senior's income. About one-third of our membership, or about 63 members, is in this category.

Third, all of the remaining 100 members pay \$60.00 per year which is 16 cents per day or \$1.15 per week, less than a cup of coffee from most places. Brethren, we have held our dues to the above 2 categories beginning in 2014 and we do not have any plans in the works to increase them any time soon. Obviously, our expenses are going up for food, rent, supplies and programs for the membership but we have been able to offset those costs by the income from our Investment Portfolio, which is governed by the spending policy provisions.

The Secretary mails the Dues notices out around Labor Day which has been the norm for more than 25 years. This is done for 2 reasons: to give you time to pay them by the Annual Meeting on the 1st Thursday in November and to beat the Christmas expenses. Actually the Grand Lodge Code requires the Dues be paid by the Annual Meeting which gives you a 2-month window to do so. Over the last few years, approximately 70-72 % of our members pay their Dues by that date. Once you miss that date, you are considered "Not in Good Standing". The next deadline is December 31st each year, after which, by the Code, you have automatically suspended yourself.

For years, the Lodge opted to cover the per capita for a second year, hoping the delinquent member would pay. Most of the time the member did not pay which cost the Lodge those funds with no income from the member. As of the January 4, 2018 Stated meeting, a motion was approved to no longer do this. Accordingly, if a member does not pay his Dues by 12/31 of each year, the member is SUSPENDED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES and is reported to the Grand Secretary's office. This is the same provision most Lodges, the Scottish Rite and the Shrine follow. This also has the effect of suspending your membership in ALL Masonic Bodies.

Each year in the Dues notice, it is noted that any member, who may be having a financial or health reason why he cannot pay his dues, needs to inform the Lodge Secretary of that need for the Lodge to consider Masonic Charity. Do not let this problem keep you from membership in your Lodge.

The Lodge operates under a yearly Budget which is predicated on the membership doing its part by paying their dues. Hopefully, this explanation will guide you to processing our Dues request in a more timely fashion in the coming years. If you still have questions, contact the Lodge Secretary and he will try and resolve those questions.

Sick And Distressed Members

Brethren, often we are not aware that you, someone in your immediate family or another member of the Lodge that you know has experienced a hospitalization, or death. Contact our Senior Warden, Ed Kampbell, and let him know. He will report that information to the Lodge. You will find Ed Kampbell's contact information listed on the next page.

About Your Lodge Membership Card

Remember that you have received a plastic membership card which is intended to be used for about 5 years. Don't throw that card away, you will not receive a new card each time you pay. This does not mean you don't need to pay your dues each year. Even though there is not an expiration date on this card, it is not valid unless you paid your current (2018) years dues. If your card gets lost or damaged, contact RWB Leonard for a replacement. If you have moved and changed your address in the last couple of years contact RWB Leonard to make sure your records are up to date.

Masonic Model Student Assistance Program (MMSAP)

Brethren, on your Dues invoice you will see one of the Grand Lodge Masonic Charities listed as MMSAP. What, you may ask is this? Our Deputy Grand Master has indicated he wishes to highlight this as one of the Masonic Charities for 2018-2019 if he is elected Grand Master. Essentially this program, which has been a program of the Grand Lodge for several years, is a 3-day intensive training seminar for teachers to learn to identify youth at risk in our school systems. The Grand Lodge funds the costs of paying for Substitute teachers while the regular teachers attend this seminar where they are taught as part of a core team which then returns to school to teach other teachers how to identify those youth who are being bullied, have suicidal tendencies, or are having some type of trouble. There are 3 seminars offered each year by trained professionals. Your donations are really important.

Who are your Lodge Officers?

Worshipful Master	WB Keven Clouse	brotherclouse@yahoo.com	614 653-6388
Senior Warden	Ed Kampbell	ekampbell@sbcglobal.net	614 579-0975
Junior Warden	WB Earl Black	earl.a.black2.mil@mail.mil	614 895-2619
Secretary	RWB Ron Leonard	rleon95596@aol.com	614 778-4168
Assistant Secretary	WB Aaron Wyckoff	aaronjwyckoff@gmail.com	614 406-8080
Treasurer	Thomas McCauley	mccauley.thomas1@gmail.com	614 893-7670
Senior Deacon	Michael J Flanigan	imhammer1@yahoo.com	614 736-6775
Junior Deacon	David King	dking.2@go.ccad.edu	513 341-3472
Tyler	WB Kent Wright	rkentwright@columbus.rr.com	614 329-5970
LEO	WB Richard Lohnes	rlohn614@gmail.com	614 537-1067
Chaplain	WB Ted Pummell	(none)	614 263-2828
Senior Steward	Kent Wareham	kentwareham@att.net	614 878-6838
Junior Steward	Kevin Bice	kevbice@gmail.com	614-905-1000

Endowed Membership

Brethren, have you ever thought about leaving a legacy to Linden Lodge? Perhaps you have made provisions in your Will or you have designated a Life Insurance policy, some stocks ,etc. There is another way you can do this and at the same time eliminate the need to pay dues. The Grand Lodge has established an Endowed Membership Fund and the funds collected are invested and each year, a portion of the investment is returned to the Lodge in lieu of the Lodge collecting your Dues. The Legacy is the fact that after your death, those funds continue to be paid to the Lodge in your memory.

At present, the cost to purchase an Endowed Membership is \$800.00 plus one more year's dues at the next Annual Meeting following the purchase. If you desire, you may purchase the Membership on the Installment Plan. If you choose this method , you will still pay your Annual Dues each year until the \$800.00 is collected plus one last year's of Dues as noted above. Obviously, this would be a great choice for our younger members, but would also work for anyone.

If you are interested in this, please contact the Lodge Secretary and he will start the process and let you know the steps involved. You must be current with your Lodge Dues, so if you are reading this and your Dues are not current, you need to get them current.

E-mail Contact

Brethren, would you like to find out what is happening at the Lodge in a more timely fashion? Snail-mail is not a timely way to keep you up-to-date. We can provide quick notification of Lodge meetings, Funeral Specials, Degree conferrals or other events in 24 hours or less. But, we cannot do this by traditional methods. For the last year or two, we have found that e-mail gets the job done. If you have an e-mail account, simply send your address to the Lodge Secretary. His e-mail address is: rleon95596@aol.com. Your e-mail address is not published in any way. Only the Secretary and our e-mail coordinator, W. Bro. John P. Stains, will have it.

AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LODGE SECRETARY

Brethren, we now have 186 members. We have our Stated Meeting on the 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 p.m. with a light dinner starting at 6:37 p.m. We work MM Candidates on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a light dinner at 6:37 p.m. Our **Officers Installation** will be on November 15 at 7:30 and our **Annual Christmas Party and Awards Night** will be on Friday, December 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at York CC. Please send me a note with your dues check if you would like to attend. I will send you an invitation with all the details once they are finalized. At the Awards Night, we will be presenting 50 and 60 year pins and Certificates as well as 25, 35 and 40 year pins. If you are eligible for one of these Awards, I have noted that on an insert. Let me know if you plan on attending.

Brethren, it's time for payment of your **annual Lodge Dues, which are still \$60.00**. To our **Senior** members who have been a **member of the Fraternity for 50 years or more**, the Lodge will remit your Dues, however, in order to compensate for the Grand Lodge per capita and our District Dues, **we would ask you to make a donation of \$22.00**. We now have 63 Senior members. **Please remit all dues by December 31, 2018. Please NOTE that, by action of the Lodge at the January, 2018 Stated meeting, the Lodge will NO LONGER carry a Member for an additional year. Dues MUST be PAID no later than December 31 each year or you will be SUSPENDED !! Please use the enclosed envelope to return your payment and invoice. If you plan on moving, please keep me informed of your address, so we do not lose you.** If you are an Endowed member, no dues are due, but contributions to the Masonic Charities are welcome. If you are not an Endowed Member, let me know if you would like information about this program. **We now have 23 Endowed members.**

If you wish to make any donations or contributions to the Ohio Masonic Home, Grand Lodge Scholarship Fund, Grand Lodge Charitable Fund, Special Olympics, MMSAP (see page 4) or the Lodge, please note them on your Invoice and return it with your check and I will see they are properly distributed. The invoice will be returned for your records.

Brethren, your **Dues are due by the Annual Meeting, which is November 1, 2018**. Per the Grand Lodge Code, **all Dues must be paid in full no later than December 31st or you automatically suspend yourself**. Please do not let that happen. If you are having difficulty paying your dues, please let me know and the Lodge will consider Masonic Charity. If the Lodge member is in a nursing home and you are reading this letter as his caregiver, please let me know. If the Lodge member has passed away, please accept our condolences and advise when he passed on for our records. We are using the new Dues notice again this year, Your dues cards are now plastic and should last about 3-5 years before replacement. Dues will still need to be collected annually, however. **PLEASE DO NOT THROW AWAY YOUR DUES CARD**. There is a charge for replacement.

Brethren, for some of you I do not have your phone number with area code, e-mail address or snow-bird address and time period. If I do not have this information, I have enclosed an insert for you to return.

Brethren, I have completed my fourteenth year serving as your Secretary. If I can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to call me at 614-778-4168 (cell). Leave a detailed message on the voicemail if I do not answer. I will get back to you. You can also send me an e-mail: rlleon95596@aol.com. Hope to see you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

Ronald H. Leonard, PDDGM
Secretary



A Note From The Master

Brethren,

It has been an honor to serve our Lodge these past two years as your Worshipful Master. THANK YOU all for your support throughout these years. We have enjoyed many great experiences again this year both inside and outside the Lodge. From our great Holiday Dinner & Awards Program with Capitol City, Community and York Lodges, to our special program: Scouting & Freemasonry: A Brotherhood of Values.

We have been blessed with a full line of officers, including only two Past Masters in the moving line. Many of our Stated Meetings have included Degree work this year because of the number of our new candidates. The excitement and brotherhood are drawing many younger members to our Lodge.

We are still a long way from wrapping up our Masonic year- we are planning on bringing Further Light to a candidate at our Stated Meeting, on September 6th, and Raising two more at our Special Meetings, on September 20th and October 18th. Our Annual Lodge Retreat will be on October 19-21st. Reservations are \$60 for the weekend and due to our Secretary no later than September 6th.

Upcoming 2017-18 Events:

9/6/18- Stated Meeting/Fellowcraft Degree

9/20/18- Master Mason Degree

10/4/18- Stated Meeting (Officer Move up Night)/Entered Apprentice Degree

10/18/18 Master Mason Degree

10/19-21/18- Linden Lodge Retreat

11/1/18- Annual Meeting/Election of Officers

11/15/18- Installation of Officers

For the third Thursday of the month, we will be planning additional Degree work and or fellowship activities- stay tuned to our website and ensure that our Secretary has your most current email to receive the latest Lodge News. We are in the final stages of publishing the Lodge History for the first 100 years. This will be a hardback book and a treasured addition to your bookshelves. The first 50 copies will be free on a first come, first served basis. Look for more information about this book on page 2 of this newsletter.

We continue to have our Fellowship dinner, served at 6:37pm, before each stated meeting. A suggested donation of \$4 is requested. This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends to meet and check out our Lodge.

Fraternally,

Keven R. Clouse

WM, Linden Lodge #637 F&AM

Linden Lodge Stated Meetings 1st Thursday @7:30pm, Casual Dinner Served Starting at 6:37pm .

