

The G. C. Builder

June 2010

The Masters' Message

Greetings brothers! It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter. As you may or may not know, *The Ohio Mason* in its printed form has been discontinued. *The Ohio Mason* had been an effective way to communicate with our membership for many, many years. The officers of Grove City 689 have discussed this matter, feel that communication with our membership is essential, and have made the decision to start our own newsletter. This is the first such copy of that newsletter, or is it? I am currently gathering information and history of Grove City 689 and have discovered that Grove City had its own printed newsletter started in 1954 entitled, *The G.C. Builder*. I felt it would only be appropriate to incorporate the title into our renewed lodge newsletter. The renewed *G.C. Builder* is a living document, which is to say we will be updating, changing and exploring new ways to make it an effective means of communication to our membership. We are looking for feedback, ideas and stories for the articles published. After all, this is our newsletter and encourage the brethren to actively participate in its format.

Grove City 689 updates

It has been a busy spring for the officers of Grove City. Our inspection, on March 8, was in the Fellowcraft degree. The officers and other members worked very hard on making sure that the night was successful and guess what? We passed! Another big event this past spring was a fundraiser for the Shriner's Hospital for Children, a spaghetti dinner held on April 17th. It was a busy day, a delicious dinner and we raised \$2000 for the hospitals. In recognition of Grove City's contribution, we received a plaque from the hospital and many thanks. On May 1st, Grove City hosted a one day class with joint participation from Avery, Luther B. Turner, Westgate and ourselves. Thirty new members were raised that day, with thirteen from Grove City. So far in 2010, Grove City has raised fifteen new members and have worked several others in the first two degrees. On May 15th, Grove City held a "ladies night" with a dinner, entertainment and gifts. It was a rewarding evening for those in attendance as we honored the ladies in our lives and upheld our obligation to see after the widows of the lodge.

Secretary's Corner: With the release of Grove City Lodge's own newsletter, please remember to keep your mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address updated and current with the secretary (Bill McNicol, 4683 Heatherblend Court, Grove City, OH 43123-3689). **DUES NOTICES for 2011** will be sent out the first week of September and need to be paid by November 1, 2010 to remain in good standing. If you do not receive a dues notice in September, please communicate with the secretary to ensure that you receive a dues notice and that you will remain in good standing.

Grove City upcoming

As June nears its close and we are able to take a two month respite from our work, I would like to wish you and your families a wonderful summer. Take some time to enjoy one another, take a walk or catch a baseball game (not literally as it is very hard on the knees). And if you are in the mood for some fellowship, join Grove City in its monthly breakfast on July 3rd and August 7th. As always, your attendance at our meetings is earnestly solicited, we would enjoy your company at any of our stated meetings which will begin again on Labor Day, September 9th.

Stay in touch

Lodge website- grovecity689.com

If you would like to receive email updates from the lodge, please email our Secretary, Bro. Bill McNicol at wmcnicol@ameritech.net

If you are in need of lodge information or services from the lodge please email our Worshipful Master, Mikel Goldhardt at biggoldy@aol.com or call 614-592-1047

Grove City from the past

Grove City Lodge #689 began to build. The original 29 members had worked hard and by 1943 the membership had increased to 143, by 1948 to 251 and

The following article was written for *The G.C. Builder*, volume 1-no. 1 published in June, 1954. As an interesting side note: at the original publication of this article, Don Washburn was the Junior Deacon at Grove City!

History of Grove City Lodge

By Bob Wagner

When Grove City had a population of about 1500, interest was high among Master Masons in the vicinity to have their own lodge. On April 8, 1923 an organization meeting was held in the American Legion hall with 28 Master Masons present among which there were three Past Masters of various lodges. It was voted to petition the Grand Lodge of Ohio for a charter to be located in Grove City.

On April 15 of the same year another meeting was held and committees, etc., appointed to the temporary chairman. After much hard work a charter was granted on October 18, 1923. The first stated meeting was held on September 24, 1923 working under a dispensation.

First elected Worshipful Master was Frank C. Wright. It has been said that Bro. Wright was by far the most influential in getting a charter, by his sincere love for Masonry and plain hard work.

The first special meeting was held October 4, 1923 at which time the E.A. petitions of Bro. Harry Washburn, Bro. George W. Borrer and Bro. Phillip Brodt, were read. (Bro. Harry Washburn's father had been made a Master Mason on June 21, 1877.) Bro. Harry Washburn was the first candidate made a Master Mason in Grove City Lodge #689 on November 15, 1923. The petition of Bro. Harry Linebaugh was referred at the 4th stated meeting on October 26, 1923.

On November 9, 1923 a special meeting was held for the dedication ceremony by M.W. Grand Master H.S. Johnson who said at that time that what made a man a Mason was the word itself, M meaning the man, A for aggressiveness, S for service, O for obedience and N for nobility. We might at this time take stock of ourselves and determine if we are Masons as were our members thirty years ago. (cont'd, top next column)

in 1953 to 304. It is interesting to note that Grove City's population has doubled in 30 years but our lodge membership is over 10 times its original size.

Through the years many trials faced the neophyte lodge. They were met and disposed of with honor to the lodge. The minutes of the meetings through the years are not without their share of humor. On October 26, 1923 a bill was presented by Bro. Rolla White to the amount of \$4.50 for two suits of pajamas. On November 23, 1923 a motion was made and carried to pay the tyler \$1.00 per meeting. Later a motion was passed to fine any Past Master \$5.00 if caught in the lodge without his jewel as evidence. The stewards were as efficient then as now with the knife and fork serving apples, cigars, and sometimes cake.

Grove City Lodge #689 has been building for thirty years. Let us, by starting plans for a temple, be links in the chain that builds Masons and strengthens the harmony which is our support.

[editors note: in this same issue of the *G.C. Builder*, it was announced that the lodge had acquired the ground to build a new temple, not at the current site, but on South Broadway]

The trestle-board

- Stated meetings- 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month, Sept.-June
- Craft Club breakfasts-8-10, first Saturday of each month, year round
- Temple Company meeting, 7pm, second Tuesday of each month
- 6/25- Opening Ceremony for the Special Olympics @ The Jesse Owens at OSU
- 8/8- 14th District Family Picnic, 1-4pm at Blacklick Metro Park
- 9/6- Labor Day meeting
- 10/15-16- Grand Lodge Annual Communication- Dayton
- 11/7- VA Visitation Day for Grove City with Lockbourne, Groveport and Avery
- 11/13- Grove City semi-annual sub sale for the OSU/Penn State game
- 11/14- 14th District serves dinner at the Faith Mission