



# Alpha Lodge Newsletter

## May & June

2013

2251 S. Smithville Rd.  
P. O. Box 20191  
Kettering, Ohio 45420  
Phone: 937-252-1151  
Web site: alpha729.com



James F. Easterling, Jr.  
Grand Master of Masons in Ohio  
Brethren,

At 3 pm on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, Speaker of the House, Brother William G. Batchelder released House Bill 59 which contains the House version of the Governor's proposed budget. HB 59 includes language that offers property tax relief to Masonic lodges as well as those of the Prince Hall Masons, Granges, Odd Fellows and Knights of Columbus by removing these properties from the tax rolls.

Annually, Ohio Freemasons contribute \$15 million in charity within the state of Ohio. Most lodge halls are not used to generate income but rather are the central location for the distribution of charity, community activities and the promotion of the general good in Ohio's rural and urban community. The property tax burden carried by individual lodges constitutes a major part of their annual budget, while providing very little financial support to local schools or public services through tax revenue. As lodges are forced to sell their buildings, local communities lose one of their limited charitable resources.

Several years ago, Worshipful Brother Jim Hughes, then an Ohio Representative and currently an Ohio Senator, sponsored two bills that would have removed the lodge buildings. Though one passed the House, it never made it out of committee in the Senate.

HB 59 is our greatest chance to receive this well-deserved property tax and enable these fraternal orders to continue their charitable and social work. If you support Brother Batchelder's efforts to enable our continued charitable and fraternal existence in Ohio communities, please send him as well as your

state Representative and Senator a letter to that effect.

Mention one or more of the following in your letter:

1. Your support of this section of HB 59
2. The amount of your property taxes versus the lodge's annual income
3. The charitable work your lodge does and the community's use of the building
4. That statewide, Ohio Masons contribute about \$15 million in charity and pay approximate \$3 million in property taxes. The elimination of that property tax burden will have little effect on local and state coffers but will enable Ohio Freemasons to continue their charitable efforts in rural and urban areas.

The mailing address of the Speaker of the House is:  
William G. Batchelder  
Speaker of the House  
77 S. High St  
14th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

FYI

Last year the Lodge paid over \$13,000 in property taxes.

## **Trestle Board**

|      |  |        |
|------|--|--------|
| May  | 3 Seniors                                      | 8-11AM |
| May  | 3 Meeting with One Day Class                   | 6PM    |
| May  | 4 Breakfast                                    | 7-10AM |
| May  | 7 Special Meeting<br>Entered Apprentice Degree | 7PM    |
| May  | 10 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| May  | 14 Stated Meeting                              | 7PM    |
| May  | 17 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| May  | 21 Table Lodge                                 | 7PM    |
| May  | 24 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| May  | 28 Stated Meeting                              | 7PM    |
| May  | 31 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| May  | 31 Game Night                                  | 7PM    |
| June | 1 Breakfast                                    | 7-10AM |
| June | 7 Seniors                                      | 8-11AM |
| June | 9 Masonic Home Day                             | 10A-4P |
| June | 11 Stated Meeting                              | 7PM    |
| June | 14 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| June | 21 Seniors                                     | 9-11AM |
| June | 25 Stated Meeting                              | 7PM    |
| June | 28 Seniors                                     | 8-11AM |
| June | 28 Game Night                                  | 7PM    |

## **One Day Class**

The One Day Class is over and Alpha has 27 new members. The new candidates will meet again on Friday May 3 at 6PM to receive dues cards and other information. The candidates only are invited as the information will be for Masons only. Unless something unforeseen happens we will show a gain in membership this year, the first time in a number of years. Congratulations to the new members. And thanks to all who made this possible.

## **Breakfast**

The breakfast will continue though out the Summer, as usual. If you would like to help, just show up and we'll pay you to work.

## **Table Lodge**

On Tuesday May 21st at 7PM the Lodge will hold a Table Lodge. To many this is a new event one where a meal will be served and a speaker will talk on an interesting topic. The speaker for this evening will be Brother Jack Daugherty who was a Navy Corpsman serving with the Marines on Iwo Jima during World War II. Jack is very nervous about doing this therefore, to help him out please come with a lot of questions. Jack won a number of metals in this campaign so he was greatly involved. It should be a very interesting evening. To make reservations call the Secretary at 312-7315 or e-mail me at alpha0729a@sbcglobal.net. The cost is \$10 and is limited so don't delay.

## **Game Night**

On the last Friday of each month beginning at 7PM a group of our younger members and their families and friends gather at the Lodge to play a variety of board games. Come join them all are welcome. If you need further information call W. Bro. Alf Butler at 294-4840.

## **Masonic Home Day**

Masonic Home Day this year is on June 9th. Once again we will be serving the food in the 2nd District Officers' Association food booth. As in per prior years we will need 6 to 7 people. Please call the Secretary at 312-7315 to volunteer. In prior years we have had to arrive by 8AM to help set up. I assume it will be the same. It's normally over by 4PM. For those who want to attend with their families there is a picnic lunch, entertainment and guided tours of the facilities.

## **Good Cheer Report**

Since the last Newsletter there have been no deaths. However, we do have a few who have been reported with health issues. Brother Ed Case and Brother James Stargell. I'm sure they would like to receive a card just as a remembrance. If you call the Secretary or the Chaplain they can give you the information you need. 312-7315 for the Secretary and Bill at 434-5137.