



June 2016

Stated Meetings 3rd Tuesday 7 pm  
848 Clough Pike

[jbcovertlodge.com](http://jbcovertlodge.com)

## Report To The Members

In this the 2016 "Report to the Members of J. B. Covert" you will find excerpts of our Annual Inspection Report, the statistical record of membership, the financial statistics, our building health report, and our long-range outlook. We ask that you review this document carefully and should you have questions after your review please send an e-mail to [worshipful@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:worshipful@jbcovertlodge.com) or call the Worshipful Master at 513-600-8813.

## EMERGENT NEED Dining Room Heat Pump Compressor Died

While our Flag Retirement and Awards Ceremony on June 11th was very well attended with over 100 people, six different law enforcement agencies, and a slew of veterans the bad news was that halfway through the morning the air conditioning stopped working. As the dining room was over 84 degrees by the end of the luncheon you can imagine how oppressive it felt.

On Tuesday the Trustees met with our HVAC expert and confirmed that the issue was indeed the compressor. Two of the current heat pumps are circa 2001 which puts them right at the point where their expected life expectancy is across the industry. (National average for heat pumps is around 13.8 years depending on what survey you use).

*We need to replace this unit for a cost of \$5,800.  
Please consider making an emergent donation to this un-budgeted expense.*

## Print Newsletter Now Quarterly Publication E-mail Version still monthly

The U. S. Postal Regulations for bulk mail have made it impossible for us to continue mailing a monthly newsletter to every member. Currently our advertisers pay for the printing and the bulk of our postage, but the USPS has begun to enforce a rule that prohibits advertising on non-profit bulk mail. This ruling doubles our postage costs and we simply cannot afford that.

Meanwhile our e-mail newsletter has a very wide verifiable readership and with the ability for members to click on links within the various articles to register for events or purchase items this format has become a very useful tool for us.

If you're not receiving the e-mail newsletter please send an e-mail to [web@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:web@jbcovertlodge.com) and we will add you to our distribution.

The quarterly print newsletter will have less timely information than our email newsletter, so if you want the latest information on degrees and programs please send us your e-mail address as soon as possible.

Follow us @  /jbcovert

## 2016 Officers

### Worshipful Master

M. Jack Lennon

513-600-8813

[worshipful@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:worshipful@jbcovertlodge.com)

### Senior Warden

Carl White

937-725-7335

[srwarden@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:srwarden@jbcovertlodge.com)

### Junior Warden

Dave Olmstead

513-617-0906

[jrwarden@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:jrwarden@jbcovertlodge.com)

### Treasurer

R. Paul Wheeler

513-732-3322

### Secretary

T. David Miller

513-752-4601

[secretary@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:secretary@jbcovertlodge.com)

### Senior Deacon

Bruce Ehas

### Junior Deacon

John Rowe

### Chaplain

Daniel O. Campbell, PM

### Tyler

Otis Davis

### Musician

Alfred R. Determan

### Trustees

Russell Shippley

Paul Reuscher

Charles Wright, II

Robert Cordes

# Annual Inspection Highlights

On January 15, 2016 RWB Rodney Kirker, District Deputy Grand Master for the 6th Masonic District, inspected the operational paperwork and the ritual performance of the current officers in the conferral of the Master Mason Degree. Brother Allen York was the Inspection Candidate and he and the 107 members and visitors present witnessed a "very fine" degree according to RWB Kirker. He also noted our unique social events and our support of the community through our Kyle Adkins Memorial Scholarship, Boy Scout Campership, and support of the Grand Lodge of Ohio and 6th District's various campaigns.

Membership	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Estimated)
New Members	28	6	11	13	11	9	7
Suspended Non Payment of Dues	20	6	15	13	6	9	6
Demits	0	2	3	1	2	1	0
Deaths	11	7	5	5	11	11	2
Net Membership	309	300	288	282	274	262	261

## 150th Anniversary Planning Started

In 1869, a lodge in Clermont County received dispensation to meet. A year later on October 18, 1870, at the convocation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, a charter was granted to that Clermont County Lodge to be known as J. B. Covert Lodge #437 F. & A.M. In October of 2020 we will celebrate this 150th Anniversary in true Masonic Form.

While we will be juggling the date around the Grand Lodge of Ohio's Annual Communication. As we get closer to the anniversary year we will roll out a schedule of events and campaigns. Between now and then we will be sending some interest surveys via our electronic newsletter to gauge member interest in everything from events to commemorative items that would be available for purchase.



*Joseph Benham Covert*

If you are interested in being a part of the planning for this auspicious event, please contact Junior Warden/Social Committee Chairman Dave Olmstead at 513-617-0906 or [jrwarden@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:jrwarden@jbcovertlodge.com).

# Annual Inspection Highlights

Financial	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 (Estimated)
Dues Income	\$12,320	\$17,125	\$18,024	\$17,896	\$16,511	\$16,690	\$16,350
OES Donation	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200	\$4,200
Commandery Donation	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,100
Campership Donations (1)	0	0	0	250	250	\$1,120 <sup>(a)</sup>	\$500
Scholarship Donations (2)	0	0	0	0	\$1,306	\$3,847 <sup>(b)</sup>	\$1,500

## Core Expenses

Insurance	\$1,885	\$2,033	\$1,093	\$1,908	\$2,089	\$5,499	\$5,500
Electric Bill	\$7,727	\$6,087	\$7,351	\$6,889	\$7,496	\$7,826	\$7,800
Per Capita Paid to GLOH	\$3,864	\$3,892	\$4,311	\$4,548	\$4,447	\$4,184	\$4,170
Camperships	0	0	0	\$250	\$250	\$500 <sup>(a)</sup>	\$500 <sup>(a)</sup>
Scholarships	0	0	0	0	0	\$1,500 <sup>(b)</sup>	\$1,500 <sup>(b)</sup>

## Financial Summary:

In 2012 the first Flag Retirement event was held and in 2013 an initial donation of a “Campership” valued at \$250 was made to the Boy Scout Troop who supports us with this annual event. The majority of that Campership was paid for by members as an additional donation to the lodge. Since 2013 we have run the “Fill The Boot” Campaign and all of the Camperships since then have been paid for by individual members or funds collected in the hiking boot. **NO DUES FUNDS ARE USED.**<sup>(1)</sup>

(a) \$500 dispersed at 6/15 Flag Ceremony including a directed gift of \$250 from one brother and at the 2016 ceremony over \$700 was raised in the “Fill the Boot” campaign through the year, but only \$500 was dispersed

In 2014 following the death of WB Kyle Adkins the Kyle Adkins Memorial Scholarship Fund was established. The scholarships awarded by this fund are entirely funded by direct donations to the fund. **NO DUES FUNDS ARE USED.**<sup>(2)</sup>

(b) \$1,500 of the original collected amount dispersed in May of 2015. In 2016 the fund had grown to over \$1,700, but only \$1,500 was disbursed

***There is a very high probability that the OES and Commandery, both of which are sharply declining in members, may not be around to continue donating to the operating expenses of the lodge. We need to prepare now!***



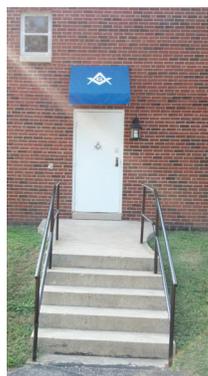
Left: 2016 Flag Retirement JW Dave Olmstead and Scout MC Tyler Scott



Right: Daniel Campbell, WM Jack Lennon, Austin Lisa & Jeff Miller, Carl White (L to R)

# Building Health

In 2013 the roof was replaced under our insurance plan, which of course resulted in them dropping us. While an unfortunate process at the time it did turn out to be a \$34,000 roof job that we didn't have to pay for.



In 2013 donated entry awnings were hung over the East and North exterior doorways.

Due to a fire inspection in 2012 it was determined that our dry chemical fire suppression system in the kitchen needed to be updated or we had to remove both stoves and other equipment which would prevent us from using the kitchen to do anything more than microwave food. In 2013 the fire suppression system was updated using funds originally earmarked for the roof.



In 2013 in an effort to reduce our electric bill and to improve our HVAC system's effectiveness the two heat pumps and air handlers that heat and cool the lodge room were re-ducted which significantly impacted their effectiveness. A small band of brothers and a member of another lodge with his HVAC license accomplished this work over the course of a few evenings. The result is that the lodge room cools and heats much quicker and has since paid for the cost of the flex duct material used in the project.

In 2014 we became property tax exempt! This saved us THOUSANDS of dollars each year!

In 2014 a new, to us at least, Sub Zero refrigerator was donated to the lodge replacing a previously donated refrigerator that was starting to suffer mechanical issues.

In 2014 as part of a program with Duke energy to reduce our electric bills a group of lodge members spent a few evenings upgrading all of the fluorescent lights from the original 1970's technology to much more efficient T8 systems. The Duke rebate and donations from members covered 98% of the cost of this improvement.

April of 2014 thieves stole one of the 2 heat pumps that services the lodge room and damaged the second. Members built cages and a replacement heat pump was acquired through the property insurance.

In 2014 the wheelchair lift had to have a new controller board and new break shoes installed.

In 2015 Duke Energy brought new 3 phase service to the building due to their exterior equipment leaking.

In 2015 the new heat pump was stolen after the thieves dismantled the cage. After another heat pump was acquired through the property insurance the company that carried us dropped us, we are now considered too high risk and are paying a significantly higher premium. The cages were and are still being modified. An alarm system has been attached to the HVAC system.



In 2015 a stereo/PA system was donated and installed in the dining room at no cost to the lodge.

In June of 2016 the dining room heat pump compressor failed and the cost to replace this part in a 15 year old apparatus did not make good financial sense, so the decision was made to replace the unit.

## Current issues within the building that need to be addressed:

1. Dining room heat pump needs to be replaced- the upstairs units include a 15 year old model and the unit that was replaced through the insurance claim
2. North exterior wall shows signs of water leakage in the furnace room
3. Lodge room needs a new pa system with assisted listening devices
4. Lodge room needs additional lighting
5. Parking lot needs to be resurfaced
6. The paneling throughout the building dates the interior, but in the dining room due to a drain flood and other exposure the paneling really is showing its age (which is 46 years) and it may be time to consider drywall and a fresh coat of paint.



*WB Daniel Campbell presents Roy Elliott with Exemplar Award 2015*



*WB Daniel Campbell presents John Rowe with Mason of the Year 2015*



*Trustees Paul Reuscher (l) and Russ Shipley (r) man the grill at an event*



*Great Crowd at 2016 Inspection Dinner*



*College Friends and Brothers  
WB Brian Carlson, WB Daniel Campbell, WB Jack Lennon*

# Long Range Outlook

Masonic Lodges across the country are experiencing a renewed interest by younger men and J. B. Covert is also seeing this same level of interest. Part of this phenomenon is related to our increase in public awareness, our level of activity, and our own member's pride in their craft. As this document is being written we have 1 Entered Apprentice, 4 Fellow Crafts, and a Master Mason in the process of returning their memory work.

The challenges coming for J. B. Covert are at this point related to our increasing operating costs and not necessarily a program driven loss of members.

We know that the Grand Lodge of Ohio will be increasing the "per capita" over the next couple of years. Currently of the \$75 a member pays for annual dues approximately \$15 goes straight to the Grand Lodge and the balance stays with J. B. Covert until we start paying out Duke Energy and Insurance bills. ***Those two bills account for 39% of our total operating cost. Thanks to our HVAC thefts we now are on high risk insurance at a cost of \$5,200 per year, which makes insurance, electric, and per capita responsible for 53% of our TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES!***

When and if the Covert Chapter OES and Covert Commandery no longer have enough members to continue as solvent entities on their own the potential is for them to move out of J. B. Covert or to merge others into their respective organizations. The former has the possibility to result in a loss of over \$6,000 to our annual budget. If this were to happen today and there were no other fundraiser options it would require a minimum of an additional \$30 be assessed to each member's dues. We don't want to do that!

The officers and members are diligently searching for new fundraiser options and means to eliminate or mitigate operating expenses, but ultimately when per capita increases on top of our operating costs there will have to be a dues increase.

Members can take advantage of the Grand Lodge of Ohio's Endowed Member program which allows for a one-time payment that will carry them through their life and also provide ongoing funds for the lodge after their death. Contact the Lodge Secretary, David Miller, [secretary@jbcovetlodge.com](mailto:secretary@jbcovetlodge.com), for additional information.

Members can also include J. B. Covert in their will and estate planning. Please talk to your financial planner about this option and let us know if you have made this part of your ongoing Masonic Legacy.



***A whole crew of J. B. Covert Members tried valiantly to solve the Secret Cincinnati Puzzle at the Cincinnati Escape Room***



***Every Tuesday from 11:30 am until about 1 pm a group of Brothers bring their lunches and meet at J. B. Covert to enjoy fellowship***



***J. B. Covert Members tour the Museum of the Air Force at Wright Patterson, AFB***

# What Can You Do?

Your lodge needs you as much as you need the lessons taught within our rituals.

## *Time • Talent • Treasure*

We are each afforded varying amounts of all three of the above items and how we choose to invest each of these finite resources is our choice, but consider this:

### **Time:**

- There are more than twice as many words in the Twelve Days of Christmas than there are in the Apron Lecture of the Entered Apprentice Degree, so why not invest the time to learn this beautiful piece of ritual and present it in our next Entered Apprentice Degree?
- There are always odd jobs to do around the lodge from cleaning to repairing things to shopping for and preparing a meal for a meeting.

### **Talent:**

- Do you have the gift of music, mathematics, public speaking, painting, or underwater basket weaving? Why don't you share your talent with the lodge?
- There are roles that do not require memorization of ritual for you to share your talents with us!

### **Treasure:**

- If 200 members gave \$2.50 a month or \$30 more per year we would have an additional \$6,000 that could be used for infrastructure improvements and operating costs
- To put it in perspective a gallon of gas today is \$2.69 so for less than a tank of gas per year from 200 members J. B. Covert Lodge would replace the donation income from the Eastern Star and Commandery should they leave our facility.

### **The Payback:**

- None of us joined Masonry to just go to business meetings and write checks The more you invest your Time-Talent-Treasure into YOUR Masonic experience the more YOU are going to get out of it.
- Your lodge is a vibrant group of men who, just like you, are looking for more out of life. We're looking for friendship and fellowship and the chance to improve ourselves. It's a lot more fun to do the hard tasks of self improvement with the comradeship of good friends and brothers.

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## I'm Ready To Get More Out of My Masonry!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me to discuss how I can help my lodge with my:

Time: I am available typically \_\_\_\_\_

Talent of \_\_\_\_\_

Treasure:  I would like to make a long-term gift plan

I am enclosing an immediate donation

Please tear this off and send it to the Lodge Secretary or bring it with you to our stated meeting on the Third Tuesday of the month.

J. B. Covert Lodge  
T. David Miller, Secretary  
4842 Pathfinder Way  
Milford, OH 45150

J. B. Covert Lodge # 437 F. & A. M.  
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Brethren:

Enclosed is the 2016 Report to the Members of J. B. Covert Lodge.

The next 150 years of J. B. Covert Lodge may very well depend on whether or not you read this document and take action!

Please read through it carefully and contact me if you have any questions.



*M. John Lennon  
Worshipful Master*

*Join us for a tour of the Tri-State War Bird Museum on August 6th at 10 am. E-mail [web@jbcovertlodge.com](mailto:web@jbcovertlodge.com) for details.*

