Secretary Message

I would like to share some of the things we accomplished together as a team last year. The Association migrated to QuickBooks online which helped us gain a lot more capabilities to support our units and this Association. Most importantly you can now pay your Association dues invoices using your checking account or a credit card, which saves us money and most importantly time. We bill quarterly to assist our units with paying their invoice in full rather than receiving a huge bill at the end of the year.

We were able to reduce the lodges in arrears to only 2 as of the end of our fiscal year which was September 30th. The Association Compliance Review Committee will continue to work diligently to ensure that no one falls behind on their obligation to support this Association.

The Association Policy Manual was updated, and assignments adjusted between the Association Chaplain and Treasurer. Some adjustments were also made in the requirements for a District President. The Districts are now required to sign an Obligation of Understanding to ensure that they understand the duties and responsibilities of their positions and the requirement to support their assigned District and the units within that District. We also updated the District Guidance to better identify what is expected of our District Officers.

We also updated the Committee Guidance to help our Chairpersons and members better understand what is expected of them. We created and published reimbursement guidance for our District Presidents and Chairpersons. We also created some new online forms and updated existing ones to better support our members. We made some slight adjustments to the 5 Star Award program in hopes that more lodges will qualify to receive a reduction in their Association dues.

As promised we held our convention and conference prices and absorbed the fees associated with using online payments via a checking account, a debit or credit card. We will continue to do this as a convenience to our members. Processing everything online creates an invaluable online repository for our Association, and we greatly appreciate everyone who has taken advantage of this capability. We improved our merchandise sales and are hopefully providing the things you want to see at our conventions and conferences! Please let Jeanne and her team know how much you appreciate her efforts in purchasing the merchandise you want with or without or logo and we were even able to offer embroidery on site!

The next Association billing will occur on November 15th using the membership on your rolls as of 4/30/2023. Please pay close attention to the invoice and the amount due as sometimes they are different amounts! If you have any issues or concerns regarding your invoice please send me an email!

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