September 14, 2019

To the Members of the Grand Chapter of Ohio:

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as a Grand Trustee for the last four years and as the Head Grand Trustee for the year of 2018/2019. The Trustees have been hard at work to make sure that the financial status of the Grand Chapter remains stable as in the past and to oversee the Charitable Foundation.

Our first meeting as a new Board of Trustees was held on Saturday, September 29th, 2018 following the election of our newest Grand Trustee, William Taylor Past Grand Patron. We met to discuss the duties our Brother would begin to assume and to thank RWAGP Lon Lowry for his service on this committee.

We then again met on November 7, 2018 at Kalahari Resort to review the post-convention comments and suggestions for future sessions. We welcomed Sharon Kloepfer, COA to the meeting as she discussed several issues that was experience at Grand Chapter. Fran Brown/Sales and Leslie Meyers/Catering joined the group to discuss issues that were experienced and a discussion of solution was held. Kalahari issued the Grand Chapter of Ohio a credit of $811.00 for the lack of service experienced at the Grand Banquet in 2018. This credit will be used against the 2019 Grand Chapter Food and Beverage expenses.

The Grand Trustees approved a proposal from B63 to redesign the Grand Chapter Website after reviewing three different proposals. The Education Committee under the leadership of Nancy Williams led the actions needed to move forward with B63. Nancy Williams became the new Web Master with a compensation of $50 monthly fee. The goal is to keep the site current, updated with new material and to assist our members with questions concerning the site and to improve communications for our Members.

Grand Trustees approved to pay to the account of the Grand Chapter Session, $26,750.00 to cover bills remaining for the 2018 Grand Chapter Session. On February 2, 2019, the 2018 final budget was reviewed and voted to accept. 2018 Grand Chapter Session was $33,150 over the estimated budget to hold the session at Kalahari Resort. Grand Trustees then reviewed the 2019 Budget supplied by Ken Foy and Deb Pool/Chairman of Arrangements for the 2019 Session. Suggestions were presented by the 2019 Chairman of Arrangements and Worthy Grand Matron Kelly Cholodewitsch on ways to cut costs for the 2019 Session. The Trustees thank the 2018 Chairman of Arrangements Sharon Kloepfer and her many committees for the service they have given to the Grand Chapter Session.

The Grand Trustees approved the request from The Ohio Party requesting that their funds be removed from the Grand Chapter accounts and allow that committee to handle their own finances. Approval was also voted upon to present each youth organization with $3,000 at their individual annual sessions.

The proposal and contract for our auditor, Laura McDonald was approved for her to continue to audit the Grand Chapter of Ohio accounts, the Chairman of Arrangements account and the Charitable Foundation accounts for a cost to not exceed $8,350.

Proposals were reviewed and voted upon for the 2021 and 2022 Grand Chapter Sessions sites after each location was toured by the Grand Conductress, Associate Grand Conductress and each perspective Grand Trustee. Proposals from the Roberts Centre, Wilmington, Dayton Masonic Center, Columbus and Sharonville Convention Center were reviewed at our March meeting. The City of Sharonville offered to pay $1500 towards each year’s deposit if we would accept their proposal. The Grand Trustees unanimously voted to accept the Sharonville proposals as they offered many items at no cost along with a $3,000 Food and Beverage credit toward each year. Hotel rates are to range from $89 to $124 plus tax per guest room per night.

We met on Tuesday, June 4th and June 11th at the Grand Lodge Headquarters in Springfield with Ronald J. Scharer, CFP, Whetstone Financial, LLC and his assistant Dani Landon to discuss the handling of our investment funds for the Grand Chapter of Ohio. The Grand Trustees were dissatisfied with the service of J P Morgan for over several years and unanimously felt that it was time to move the finances of the Grand Chapter of Ohio to Whetstone, LLC. Effective August, 2019, Whetstone Financial, LLC became the preferred handler of the Grand Chapter of Ohio’s investments.

We again met on Wednesday, August 14th at the Crowne Plaza/Worthington following the State District Association luncheon and meeting with the Charitable Foundation to settle needed business and with the Elected Line Grand Officers to confer over the 2019/2020 budget for the Grand Chapter of Ohio. The 2019/2020 Grand Chapter of Ohio Budget was approved for a total of $177,575.00. A copy of the budget is available at the Grand Secretary’s desk.

The Grand Trustees wish to thank Ed Erfurt for his legal advice that was utilized throughout this year. It has been a pleasure and rewarding for me to serve with those who served as Grand Trustees from 2015/2016 year to the current year. Sister’s and Brother’s, this is just a sample of items we have discussed and solved during the year. I assure you that each of our Grand Trustees have served with dedication for the betterment of this Grand Chapter.

I move that this report be accepted,

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Pelfrey, Chairman/Grand Trustee

Steve Farus, Past Grand Patron

Steve Moore, Past Grand Patron

Gail Walsh, Past Grand Matron

William (Bill) Taylor, Past Grand Patron