

THE GRAND LODGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

by R. W. Brother Richard D. Frasher, PDDGM

Thirty-five years ago, after six years of research and study, the Committee on Service to Youth recommended that The Grand Lodge of Ohio form a Scholarship Committee and establish a scholarship fund to “aid able and deserving young people to secure an education at an accredited college, university, or theological seminary of his or her choice.” The recommendation was subsequently approved at The Annual Grand Lodge Communication in 1962.

After careful review, the new Scholarship Committee selected 26 accredited Ohio colleges, universities, and seminaries to participate in the program. The Committee also wisely determined that those respective institutions were better qualified than the Committee to select worthy and needy students without regard to race or country of origin. The only selection stipulation was that preference be shown to residents of Ohio. All applicants for a Grand Lodge of Ohio Scholarship were advised to apply directly to the institution to which he or she was accepted.

Commencing with the 1963-1964 academic year, 25 recipients were awarded individual Grand Lodge of Ohio Scholarships of \$400. In addition, the Ohio Council of Deliberation, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, agreed to provide funding to support an additional scholarship making a total of 26 awards.

The Scholarship Committee recommended to The Grand Lodge that a self-sustaining Foundation be established to provide continuing financing for the Scholarship Program. Thus in 1964, the Scholarship Foundation of The Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Ohio was formed as a non-profit corporation for the purpose of receiving gifts, bequests, etc., to support the higher education aspirations of the youth of the state of Ohio.

The Scholarship Program is now in its 33rd year, and has grown both in the number of participating institutions and value of award. From a program that supported awards of \$400 at 26 institutions, the Scholarship Foundation is now funding scholarships of \$2,000 at 43 accredited Ohio institutions for the 1995-1996 academic year. And, by recent action of the Committee, the institution total is being increased by one to 44.

Through the continuing efforts of Ohio Symbolic lodges, the Ohio Council of Deliberation, individual Masons, and friends of the fraternity, operation, over its thirty-three years of The Grand Lodge Scholarship Program has supported some 1,053 scholarships with a total dollar value of \$973,950.

The Grand Lodge Scholarship Program continues to make a significant impact on the higher education aspirations of youth of Ohio. We are extremely proud of our

scholarship Program and encourage all of our members to keep the Foundation in mind as they consider annual contributions or bequests.