

Dear Brother,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the need to increase our membership dues. Unfortunately, expenses have risen and over the past several years have outpaced current incoming dues. This past August the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Tennessee tax per member on roll was increased at its annual session (From \$50 per Member to \$75 per Member). Great Light Lodge #300 current dues are \$125 per member. With this increase and other rising costs, this dues level cannot sustain what is needed to support our Masonic Lodge.

Here's a breakdown of how current dues are distributed:

<b>Yearly Budget</b>	<b>Total Members</b>	<b>23</b>
	Exempt Members (Life Member and Secretary)	2
	Current Dues	\$125.00
<b><u>Income (If everyone pays)</u></b>	<b><u>Obligated Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>
\$2,625.00	Building Rent	\$450.00
	Grand Lodge Ad	\$100.00
	Grand Lodge Taxes	\$1,725.00
	WM Registration Fee	\$125.00
	Lodge Grand Master Visitation Fee	\$30.00
	<b><u>Total Obligated Expenses</u></b>	<b>\$2,430.00</b>
	<b><u>Remaining Balance</u></b>	<b>\$195.00</b>
	<b><u>Not Funded</u></b>	
	Charity	\$0.00
	Refreshments/Food	\$0.00
	Postage	\$0.00
	Supplies	\$0.00
	Miscellaneous	\$0.00

As you can see from the chart above, we are experiencing deficit spending because we are not able to recover membership dues payments in a timely fashion. We also have several categories of expenses that are not funded. Most important of which is our obligation to perform some level of charity and community service projects. With your continued support we will establish regular participation in charitable projects in the near future.

After careful review of our financial requirements for the upcoming year of 2025 our lodge leadership team evaluated the level of membership dues needed to meet our obligated expenses and fund our ongoing operation in the coming years. **The new membership dues is now \$175 per member effective and due no later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.**

I realize that increasing membership dues is always painful but sometimes necessary. We've been fortunate to have gone many years without an increase, so hopefully you will understand that to remain viable as an active Masonic Lodge we must take some action to get our finances in order.

Below is my contact information. Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

By order of the Worshipful Master.

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Secretary

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Please ensure to maintain the confidentiality and decorum befitting such communications in line with the lodge's protocols and traditions