



DeMolay Foundation President's Report: 2023-2024

Good morning, Brethren and Ladies,

As I complete my term as Foundation President, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on some of the work the Foundation has accomplished this year. First, I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you to the Foundation's Board Members for your hard work and support.

The Foundation Trustees have continued to concentrate our efforts on the four basic strategic core pillars of Building, Leadership, Education, and Endowment. Development takes a concentrated effort to cultivate existing and potential donors and is an integral part of what we do. Listening to donors, building relationships, and communicating with them on a regular basis is critical to success. We have an excellent group of Trustees, and I am grateful for their continued work on our development efforts.

This year, we look forward to the addition of Gary _____ and _____ as a Trustee, joining Richard Lynn, Aaron Habben, Steve Doan, Fred Baerenz, Brian Dodson, Shane Harshbarger and myself. This year we are losing George ___ as their terms as Trustees are expiring. We thank them for their past service to the Foundation and DeMolay in general.

This year, on Sunday, February 4th, the Trustees met in person and via ZOOM, for our annual mid-year meeting of Trustees. We had an excellent meeting with a lot of great discussion and strategic planning.

As Foundation President, I am pleased to share a few highlights of our Trustee's work this past year, and some plans moving forward:

- We continued the method of how the Foundation will support the programs of DeMolay International. In the past the Foundation Trustees chose which programs to fund depending on available funds for each year. This year the Trustees adopted a funding plan of 4% of the investable assets as of the end of each year that will be granted to DeMolay International for programs. This method allows the Grand Master along with the Board of Directors to decide which programs are funded for each year. This approach also allows the Trustees to focus on the growth of our assets and not be involved in which programs are funded. We hope this will allow for greater funding of DI in the future.
- We have reviewed major development plans for the Service and Leadership Center:
 - We have completed the upgrade of the alarm system for the building.
 - We are reviewing opportunities to update the restrooms, conference space, utility systems, and a professional display area or museum room for historical regalia, documents, and other artifacts.
- We made the decision to discontinue our relationship with Hartsook, now renamed to Kinetic. The focus next year will be to either find a new professional development firm or bring the function back in house while maintaining our Four Pillars focus:

- Building – The Service and Leadership Center
 - Leadership – The Leadership Training Conference’s and Field Representatives
 - Education - Scholarships
 - Endowment
- And last, but certainly not least, I am proud to announce that this year, the DeMolay Foundation will award \$45,000 in scholarships.

In Development:

We are pleased to have Brother Johnny Onkst in the role of Chief Development Officer for the Foundation. Johnny’s focus is to work hand in hand with Kinetic and our Masonic partners to ensure the development of a long-lasting relationship.

If you have a role serving a DeMolay organization or one of the Masonic family of organizations and would like to discuss your opportunity to impact the youth of DeMolay through the Foundation, please contact Johnny or one of our Trustees. Your support will leave a lasting legacy that will far outlast our time in DeMolay.

In addition to receiving 100% support from our DeMolay Trustees, we always keep an ambitious goal for 100% support from our Foundation members. As our development team has been interacting with non-masonic and non-DeMolay prospects, the importance of showing this type of support has come to the forefront. There are many who believe in the work we do, but they also desire to see that we are supported by those closest to us. We want to thank you in advance for considering what you can do to support our efforts.

In conclusion, I want to thank you once again for the opportunity to serve and I thank the Trustees for their contributions of their time, talents, and financial resources.

Respectfully submitted,

James C McGee, PGM, GC
President – 2023 -2024