

**ROCKY RIVER LODGE NO. 703 F. & A. M.
20149 LAKE ROAD
ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116**

January 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates:

- 01/10/19 Stated Meeting MM Degree
- 01/17/19 Special Meeting Awards Night
- 01/24/19 Stated Meeting
- 01/27/19 Breakfast In The Park
- 01/31/19 Range Night!

See inside for more information

**Please join us for dinner on
meeting nights at 6:30 P.M.**

Volume 77 - Issue 01

More Light in Masonry

- www.rockyriver703.org
- www.freemason.com
- www.freemasonuniversity.com
- www.facebook.com/grandlodgeohio
- www.ohiodistrict22.org



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From The East

Installation is behind us and as we move into the New Year we have a busy calendar.

We Had an MM practice on January 3rd. On January 10th WB Ted Cutts will be in the east for a special MM. I know Ted has reached out to many of you about participating in this special degree. It will be an opportunity for many of you to bring back some of the Rocky River magic for Ted's son. Dinner is 6:30 pm with Roast Beef. Please call Ted (216) 956-8940 or me at (440) 759-3261 to take a part. We would like to fill all the roles with Rocky River members.

On the 17th we will have our Annual Awards Night. It will be an open meeting so feel free to bring guests. Our award recipients will be WB James LePrevost, Bro. Raymond Ferguson, and WB George Mason

On the 24th at 6:00 pm we will have an OPEN HOUSE so potential members can *Learn the Secrets of Freemasonry*. Invite potential members to join us. The Open House will be followed by dinner at 6:30 pm and an opportunity for fellowship with our members. Our regular stated business meeting will be at 7:30.

Our 43rd Annual Breakfast in the Park will be at the Mastic Road Pavilion on January 27th at 8:30 am. Bring some bacon, sausage or eggs and dress warm. Invite some friends to share in the Fellowship. Rocky River Lodge will provide the cooking utensils, the potatoes, coffee and juice. Dress Warm!

January 31st will be our Third Annual Range Night. Sign up with WB Russ Kilpatrick at 440-530-0600 to reserve your spot. We have reserved two hours of time beginning at 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm for twenty shooters each hour at Select Fire Range on Bagley Road in Berea. Cost is \$20.00 per person per hour.

January is going to be busy. Hope you will enjoy our calendar. We need 9 more petitions for our goal for the year.

Fraternally,
 Mark W. Rantala, W.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

01/10/19 Stated Meeting - Tuxedo, MM degree. First section at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Second section will be at 7:30 pm.

01/17/19 Special Meeting - Tuxedo, Awards Night, Dinner at 6:00 pm.

01/24/19 Stated Meeting - Business suit. Open house at 6:00 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm.

01/27/19 43rd Annual Breakfast-In-The-Park at 9:00 am. Details to follow.

01/31/19 3rd annual Range Night. This year we will have 2 sessions. 1st at 6:00 to 7:00pm, and 2nd from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. (We will be able to accommodate 20 people per session and the cost is still only \$20.00 per person for each session)

Job's Daughters

Bethel #11 Job's Daughters that meets in the Rocky River temple. Any young ladies that would like to join must have a masonic relative to join. If you have a daughter or granddaughter that might be interested in joining, please let Mark Rantala know at (440) 759-3261.

Proposed Bylaw changes

What would you think about changing our meeting time from 7:30 to 7:00 pm starting in September? Would you like to see any other changes to our bylaws? Please contact any of our senior officers and we can discuss at a Stated meeting.

January 10th Master Mason Degree.

Wor Bro. Ted Cutts is presiding in the East for the raising of his son on Thursday January 10th. First section is at 5:30 pm. Dinner following at 6:30 pm and the second section will be begin at 7:30 pm. Officers attire will be tuxedos. Please join us for this beautiful degree and help a new Brother complete his journey into the Blue Lodge of Freemasonry.

Breakfast In The Park

Our 43rd Annual Breakfast in the Park will be at the Mastic Road Pavilion on January 27th at 8:30 am. Feel free to invite someone that you feel would like to join Freemasonry and share in our Fellowship. Rocky River Lodge will provide the cooking utensils, the potatoes, coffee and juice. Contact Mike Goldbach at (440) 759-5155 and let him know that you're coming and ask what you can bring.

Dress Warm!

In Memoriam

Ralph E Cunin

Brother Ralph E. Cunin was born on March 23, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Cunin was initiated an Entered Apprentice on March 23, 1963, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on April 18, 1963 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on October 03, 1963. All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703.

Brother Cunin was called to the Grand Lodge above on November 7, 2018 at the age of 84, ending 55 years of Masonic affiliation.

Robert H. Patterson

Brother Robert H. Patterson was born on March 23, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Patterson was initiated an Entered Apprentice on October 4, 1973, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on November 29, 1973 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 07, 1973. All degrees were conferred in Rocky River Lodge #703.

Brother Patterson was called to the Grand Lodge above on November 14, 2018 at the age of 81, ending 44 years of Masonic affiliation.

George Fredrick Sheffler Jr.

Brother George F. Sheffler Jr. was born on August 6, 1935, in Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Sheffler was initiated an Entered Apprentice on October 17, 1961, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on January 16, 1962 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on February 20, 1962. All degrees were conferred in A. A. Stephens Lodge #733.

Brother Sheffler Affiliated with Rocky River Lodge on January 31, 1984

Brother Sheffler was called to the Grand Lodge above on October 25, 2018 at the age of 83, ending 56 years of Masonic affiliation.

Masonic Light

by the Rev. Dr. James M. Floyd, Jr., MPS

Evergreen Lodge No. 713, F. & A.M.

Dwight L. Smith Lodge of Research, U.D., Indiana F. & A.M.

Are you a source of light, or of darkness?

We create our own reality. What we expect from life is what we receive. If we expect and look for the trouble, disagreement, and negativity in situations that is what we are sure to find. If however, we expect and look for the good, cooperative, and positive outcomes in situations that is what we will experience.

Life cannot, and does not always go smoothly. We cannot appreciate the good times and the joys that life brings without the rough times and the sadness that must cross our path on occasion. It is our response to these times that defines who we are.

Brothers, I am guilty of being a source of darkness. That is, in seeing and focusing only on the problems in lodge that I perceive need to be corrected. And in being privy to, and a part of, the occasional personality conflicts that are destined to arise in any group.

Yes, there are problems in every lodge. Yes, we do not always agree with, or get along with each other. This has always been, and always will be. But we cannot be negative about these difficulties. Our negative thoughts are like a cancer which spreads and weakens us, and those around us, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

It is easy to fall into the trap of negativity or darkness. But, with effort on our part, and the assistance of the G.A.O.T.U., we can instead choose to open our eyes to the light. My Brothers, that light is Brotherly love. Love is being positive and expecting the best life has to offer. Love is knowing that, although our human frailties will result in disagreement, where there is hope and understanding there can be the peace and harmony to work together towards a common goal.

So, for the sake of the Fraternity and your well-being, I urge you to make the commitment to change your life, to become a source of Masonic Light, that, like the Sun in the heavens, all the world can see.

ACACIA

by William R. Fischer

The Acacia tree is found in the area known as Palestine during ancient times, today it is found all over Africa. Acacia looks like the mulberry tree, can grow to well over one hundred feet high and is a hard wood. The gum obtained from it is known as Arabic.

Acacia is a sacred Hebrew wood known in the scripture as "Shittah." The ark of the covenant was made from it.

Acacia is part of our initiation as Master Masons and represents the immortality of the soul, as the soul lives on after our bodies have been put to rest.

Acacia can be a bush, tree, or a grove of trees. If you cut it down it grows back, if you burn it, it grows back. If you try to dig it up and leave one root it will grow back. Acacia can live through floods, droughts, and bad soil conditions. There is little doubt to the reason Acacia is our symbol of immortality.

Why The Black And White Clothing?

by Richard Num

The following was compiled in response to a question by a Prince Hall Brother on the Internet asking why freemasons wear black and white.

This has been the custom for over a hundred years. In the 1700's freemasons did not wear black and white. In an old masonic catechism of that time there is a question asking about the Master's clothing - "yellow jacket and blue breeches" forms part of the answer. This was an allusion to the colours of a pair of compasses and a square, perhaps. There is a painting showing the Scottish poet Robert Burns in Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, Edinburgh (Scotland) on his appointment as lodge poet laureate - members of the lodge wear variously coloured coats, breeches and stockings, not black and white. This event was supposedly on 1 March 1787 ; the painting (by Brother Stewart Watson) was produced in 1846. Blue and Gold were certainly recognised as the official colours of freemasonry in the 1720's - nowadays these colours are used as the edging on aprons of Grand Lodge Officers and on their collars; private lodge officers use light blue collars and have light blue trimmings on their aprons.

A quick Internet search on the history of men's formal wear yielded two useful sites: site (1) and site (2).

>From site (1) it seems that black formal wear was invented by an English writer. The idea of wearing black for evening wear was, according to the English clothing historian James Laver, first introduced by the nineteenth-century British writer Edward Bulwer-Lytton, who utilized it "as a romantic gesture to show that he was a 'blighted being' and very, very melancholy. " And it was Bulwer-Lytton who gave further impetus to this notion of black as the color for formal wear by writing, in 1828, that "people must be very distinguished to look well in black." Naturally, the moment this statement was noted by would-be dandies, the style became decidedly *de rigueur*...or "cool" in modern parlance.

This was probably a reaction to the sartorial excesses of men during the time of the English Prince Regent (later Brother King George IV) when dandies such as Beau Brummell wore more splendid apparel than females.

The original dinner jacket was "invented" by Brother King Edward VII when Prince of Wales. He was also the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England in the last quarter of the 19th Century. He certainly made the dinner jacket fashionable, and no doubt this is why the vast majority of freemasons in Australia and some other countries wear dinner jackets (some WMs and Grand Lodge folk wear white tie and tails).

From site (2) - the tuxedo was "invented" by Pierre Lorillard IV, a wealthy man of Tuxedo Park in New York State, in 1896. His son and friends wore the first tuxedos to a white tie and tails ball. The cummerbund and bow tie (popular with many freemasons in Australia) were later additions to the "tux" outfit.

In the more tropical parts of Australia, masons wear white mess jackets rather than the sombre dinner jacket or tuxedo or tailcoat. Members of daylight lodges here wear day clothes such as a business suit or perhaps a formal sports jacket.

Frequent attenders at lodge take their freemasonry fairly seriously, and wearing formal clothes perhaps helps to set the mood. Furthermore, the "uniform" of black-and-white might mean that we pay more attention to the man than his clothes - the reverse might occur if we wore catwalk "gear" to lodge!

In many parts of the world, at least a portion of the lodge floor is black and white. As to how long these chequered or black-and-white mosaic pavements have existed in lodge, maybe someone else can answer that question. I would suspect that these pavements became fashionable in permanent lodge rooms, when chalk marks on the floor or floor coverings were no longer required to be laid out by the Tyler in temporary accommodation such as taverns and hostels. As an aside, there is a vogue in Australia for some new lodges to meet in temporary accommodation such as clubs, so the rolled up masonic carpet (afghan) is making a comeback. Such carpets are mainly comprised of black and white squares arranged in a mosaic pattern.

Counseling

by William R. Fischer

Most of us who went to coaches and not counselors learned very little about the three degrees in Masonry. We may know the degrees but not the history, we know the words but not the essence, we know the symbols but not the purpose of them. This is why we have counselors, and this is why we should talk to them, even now. More important, this is why we have five minute educational short talks.

Coaches, though well intended, have not the training nor the references needed to help the new brother learn the craft or answer the questions asked of them. Coaches have a place in Masonry. Counselors are not always available when a brother needs help. Coaches add the fellowship of brothers helping brothers, this is especially helpful in that it shows the new mason, that we are here and ready to help.

A good counselor has the knowledge to teach the new brother about the many parts of Masonry. If they do not have an answer to a question, they have the means to find it. They put forth an effort to answer all questions asked by any brother. In this way they are responsible for spreading more light to more brothers than any other person. The more counselors we have the more knowledge we can spread.