

ROCKY RIVER LODGENO. 703 F. & A. M.  
 20149 LAKE ROAD  
 ROCKY RIVER OHIO 44116

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Dec 02 Children's Christmas Party  
 Dec 06 Dark  
 Dec 13 Stated - Sloppy Joes  
 With all the fixin's  
 Dec 20 Special - Polish Feast Dinner  
 Reservations Required  
 Dec 27 Dark - Merry Christmas!  
 Jan 03 Dark - Happy New Year!  
 Jan 10 Stated

December 2007  
 Volume 65 - Issue 09



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**20149 Lake Road**  
**Rocky River, Ohio 44116**  
**Phone: (440) 331-4797**

### 2007 Officers

**Donald M. Auping ..... Worshipful Master**  
 440-842-9925 ..... [wm@rr703.com](mailto:wm@rr703.com)

**Benjamin F. Farah..... Senior Warden**  
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**Ryan C. Wilson ..... Junior Warden**  
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**Thomas Lindsey, P.M..... Treasurer**  
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**William Gay, P.M. ....Secretary**  
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**Raymond Ecobichon, P.M. .... Welfare**  
 440-934-6402

**Russ Kilpatrick, P.M. ....Editor**  
 440-356-1717 ..... [redscot46@yahoo.com](mailto:redscot46@yahoo.com)

### *From the East*

Brethren,

I would like to thank the Brethren for electing me to be the 80th Worshipful Master of Rocky River Lodge. It is an honor and I will do my best to make this year successful and fun.

On December 20th we will be having a Polish Holiday Feast. Fresh Kielbasa, ham, pirogy casserole, etc. You will need to make a reservation for this dinner. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at the Lodge, you can email, or call me and leave a message. As I stated in the past, we will eat well this year.

Future events that are in the planning stages include our annual Breakfast in the Park, a night out to see the new Lake Erie Monsters hockey team, and a trip to see the Lake county Captains baseball team in early summer. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see the Lodge do, please let me know.



*Worshipful Master  
Donald M. Auping*

Donald Auping, Worshipful Master

### *From the West*

Brethren, thank you for electing me (I think) to the officer line. I look forward to serving the Lodge and hope to show your confidence is well placed.

Our new Master has a full year planned, with lot of activities. It would be great to see some of you that have not been up to Lodge in a while. It is time to get back into the habit of coming every Thursday. Your time will be well spent.

I will be responsible for Awards Night which has been scheduled for March 6, 2008. More information will be available as we get closer to that date.

Ben Farah, Senior Warden

### *A Question of Balance*

I have a friend who is a member of a chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in another state. We were chatting the other day and she made a comment about going to a board meeting, unless she slit her own throat first. I asked why it was so painful to serve on the board. She indicated that the response to every question as to why something was done in a certain way, is "Because we always do it that way." There is neither allowance for innovation nor explanation.

After stepping down as Secretary a number of years ago, my participation in Lodge fell off to the point where I was only coming when called upon – perhaps only once or twice a year. In the past couple of years, I have become active again.

I have found it striking that a number of Rocky River Lodge's traditions seem to have fallen by the wayside. Perhaps some of our traditions fall into the category of doing them "because we always do it that way." Those traditions may or may not be worth maintaining strictly for tradition's sake. Some of our old traditions; however, have had value in terms of brotherhood, officer development, membership growth, personal development, or public relations.

That is not to say we have not had some innovation. As an example, marching (or rather walking) in the Memorial Day parade is a relatively new event. It is a good event by which we may become known to the public.

While I am a firm believer in innovation, I am hopeful that over the next couple of years we can restore some of those old traditions that have fallen by the wayside, at least those that have value to the Lodge. If you can think of activities or events we used to do and would like to see reinstated, please let me know. Let us see if we cannot balance tradition and innovation.

Thank you, Brethren.

Ben Farah, Senior Warden

### *Birthday Trivia*

This month of December, we have 14 most advantageously timed IRS dependents celebrating the fact that they are still able to walk around in an upright position (pretty much so anyway). The oldest of these distinguished brethren is Harold Armstrong who has been at it for 100 years. (Harold along with Daniel Draeger who also hit 100 in June of this year, are the two oldest members in the Lodge.) Travis Henderson, one of our Entered Apprentices, is our youngest. This month accommodates only one crusty old Past Master and that is your writer; but, less crusty and undoubtedly more distinguished celebrants are Dick Haug, Walt Riemenschneider (unique in that his name is the longest in the roster), Dick Leonard, Walt Hendricks, Bill Carothers, James Burke, Jim Browning, Vijaya Konangi, John Hamm, Dick Warner and Dave Norris our sole Fellowcraft. Happy Birthday, Happy Holidays, Happy New Year and happy any other darned thing you can think of for all these celebrity brethren this last month of the year.

Bill Gay, P.M., Secretary

## ***THE HULL THAT CONCEALS THE KERNEL***

*From the address of the Grand Master of Arkansas, M. W. Ichabod, J. Jordan. Freemasons' Monthly Magazine - 1857*

"Our principal tenets are Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. What can be sounder and more deeply moral than our creed? What more beautiful and simple than our tenets?"

That institution built upon the sand (we have from high authority) must fall, but that which is built upon a rock resists all floods and storms; and, amid crumbling empires and falling dynasties, still lifts its time honored head above the ruins, pursuing those labors of love and good will to the human family, that have characterized Freemasonry in all cries of its existence, Dr. Oliver very truly says: "There is something in Masonry deeper and better than words and signs and ceremonies;" and I say that he who is content with merely knowing how to work his way into a Lodge room and to pass himself as a Brother, will never see the real living beauties of Masonry - will never behold the dazzling glory of the Mystic Temple - its moral, its Scriptural excellencies.

I admit that the outward defenses thrown around our institution are absolutely necessary to preserve the secrets of the Order from unhallowed hands, and the approach of the impostor and the unworthy; and all Masons should be perfect in a knowledge of them; but then we must bear in mind that they are but the casket that contains the precious jewel - the hull that conceals the kernel - the shell to preserve the egg.

The destruction of the one is the inevitable ruin of the other. Preserve both.

Masonry itself is a living, active principle, possessing both a body and a soul, as well as outward adornments.

Its paraphernalia and mystic signs are but the robes that enshrine and cover its vital, living principles, with which every Mason should be deeply imbued. We should all stand by and contend for the old land marks of the Order, and never recognize the existence of any power under the canopy of heaven to change those features of the Masonic Ritual which mark its distinctiveness as a systems and give it universality in the three symbolical Degrees.

The world may and ought to progress in the arts and sciences, in philosophy and morals. In our efforts to do good, to alleviate the sufferings of our species to dry the widow's tears, to educate and relieve the orphan, to hush the sighs of affliction and human woe, to shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and instruct the ignorant - in all these, as the divine mission of our Order, we may progress.

There should be progression. But in the observance of our Ritual we should be 'Old Fogies.'

While it behooves us to preserve, with vestal vigilance, all the words, signs and ceremonies of the Ritual, we should also dig deep for the pearls that lie concealed at the bottom, and familiarize ourselves with our great principles, and become well acquainted with those sublime doctrines so beautifully taught and illustrated by our symbols.

To do this satisfactorily requires great diligence. We must not only commit to memory our lectures, but should avail ourselves of all the Masonic publications and authorized Masonic literature, to which we can gain access. Time and perseverance accomplish all things; and the beauties and moral excellencies of Masonry are only to be discovered and rightly appreciated by the industrious and diligent student. A lazy Mason is a misnomer."

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## ***OLE' SOL***

The craftsmen at 703 1/2 while craftily dispensing with liquid refreshment, were discussing some of the hard-feelings that have recently been exposed in our district and thought it ironical that our tenants of brotherhood and goodwill toward each other have been forsaken recently in actions taken by some Lodges and the resultant reactions by the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

WB Tom Coste recently sent me a opinion by some Worshipful Master of a Lodge outside of Ohio which set forth the premise that the institution of the Grand Lodges and their officers are the villains for preventing those change which many feel is so necessary.

I also find many frustrations with the Craft but I also remind myself that what now exists is what attracted me in the first place. Our "Craft" much like the kind that floats, is very hard to maneuver as once it is in motion, it tends to continue on in the same course despite whatever may be in the way. Great effort is necessary to alter coarse let alone effect reversal and perhaps that is a good thing for "Craft" Masonry. No other fraternity has existed as long as Freemasonry so it must be built on solid foundation. What attracted grandfathers, also attracted their sons and the grandsons often inherited the appreciation of it's values as well. But, we continue to lose members so a very persuasive argument needs to be made that if we are to reverse or even slow our diminishing membership we certainly must institute change or our sons will never have the opportunity to experience the satisfactions Freemasonry can provide.

In the desire to effect change it is all too easy to blame those in charge or the rules that form the Code that governs Freemasonry. The best source I've found for ideas to change is visiting other Lodges and if another Lodge is already experiencing success in its innovation then it probably is allowable by the Grand Lodge officers and the enabling code. Like any machine political or mechanical, the means to adjust and fine tune are always there it just takes time and diligence to persevere though the procedures of change. Impatience is the hallmark of the young and before we "throw the baby out with the bathwater" we need the concurrence of those that have served before and seen fit to maintain their membership for 25, 50 and 60 years.

I think it is wrong to demean and ridicule those who advocate change because the root of their desire is the same as those of lesser advocacy and that certainly must be to maintain the opportunities of Freemasonry. I feel we all lose when talk turns to pulling charters and yanking dues cards for that represents an intolerance for new ideas by the veterans just as much as an unwillingness to work within the system for those who desire more immediate change. Ole' Sol has made many friends in this great Fraternity and to lose any because of their frustration with the system means an action has occurred that none of us can afford and that we all have failed in one way or another.

We just elected a great and innovative slate of officers for the coming year and I look forward to working with them as they make their mark in the history of #703. WB's Tom Lindsey and Greg Hayden have already left and WB Jim Manthey is angling toward the door with the keys to "Old Harry" in his hand so that means the barmaid is not going to accommodate Ole Sol overnight. So until next month,

Ole' Sol, Secretary #703 1/2

**2008 ELECTED OFFICERS**

**Worshipful Master** ..... **Donald M. Auping**  
 4919 Alberty Avenue, Parma, Ohio 44134-3325  
 (440) 842-9925

Senior Warden ..... Benjamin F. Farah  
 Junior Warden ..... Ryan C. Wilson  
 Treasurer ..... Thomas E. Lindsey, P.M.  
 Secretary ..... William A. Gay, P.M.  
 Senior Deacon ..... Eugene J. Ferrell, P.M.  
 Junior Deacon ..... Brian G. Spooner  
 Tyler ..... Raymond F. Ecobichon, P.M.  
 Trustee (3 Years) ..... James E. LePrevost, P.M.

**2008 APPOINTED OFFICERS**

Senior Steward ..... Wayne Bereman  
 Junior Steward ..... Charles R. Pavlovski  
 Marshall ..... R. Scott Croxford, P.M.  
 Chaplain ..... Gregory D. Hayden, P.M.  
 Assistant Chaplain ..... Sydney L. Solomon, P.M.  
 Assistant Treasurer ..... Theodore D. Cutts, P.M.  
 Assistant Secretary ..... Russell A. Kilpatrick, P.M.  
 Lodge Education Officer ..... K. Jack Allen Jr., P.M.

**2008 OTHER APPOINTEES**

Trustee (1 Year) ..... Melvin C. Schurdell  
 Preparation Room ..... Sidney L. Solomon, P.M.  
 Ritualistic Director ..... R. Scott Croxford, P.M.  
 Organist ..... David R. Freeman

**2008 COMMITTEES**

The first name listed designates the committee chairman.

**Auditing**

Sydney L. Solomon, P.M.  
 Benjamin F. Farah  
 Gregory D. Hayden, P.M.

**Budget & Finance**

Benjamin F. Farah  
 Thomas E. Lindsey, P.M.  
 William A. Gay, P.M.  
 K. Jack Allen Jr., P.M.  
 Theodore D. Cutts, P.M.

**Endowment**

David Freeman  
 James B. Manthey, P.M.

**Grievance**

Benjamin F. Farah  
 Raymond F. Ecobichon, P.M.  
 Brian G. Spooner

**Investigating**

Brian G. Spooner  
 William A. Gay, P.M.  
 K. Jack Allen Jr., P.M.  
 Eugene J. Ferrell, P.M.  
 Thomas E. Lindsey, P.M.

**Membership & Restoration**

Gregory D. Hayden, P.M.  
 William A. Gay, P.M.  
 David Freeman

**Telephone**

Brian G. Spooner  
 Donald M. Auping, W.M.

**Trestleboard**

Russell A. Kilpatrick, P.M.

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