

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

December 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates:

- 11/29/18 Installation of Officers
- 12/02/18 Temple Christmas Party 2:00 pm
- 12/06/18 Special Meeting
- 12/13/18 Stated Meeting - Bring a petition
- 12/20/18 Dark - Christmas Holidays
- 12/27/18 Dark - Christmas Holidays
- 01/03/19 Special Meeting

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

Volume 76 - Issue 08

More Light in Masonry

- www.rockyriver703.org
- www.freemason.com
- www.freemasonuniversity.com
- www.facebook.com/grandlodgeohio
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William P. Ritley, P.M. *Welfare*
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Russ Kilpatrick, P.M. *Editor*
 440-530-0600 pmredscot@gmail.com

FROM THE EAST

I am about to assume my duties as the 91st Master of Rocky River Lodge on November 29th. It is an honor that I never expected to have.

When I first served as the 75th Master in 2003, both the Fraternity and Rocky River Lodge were stronger than they are today. The demographics of our membership have aged.

We face the challenge of rebuilding our lodge and the fraternity in a much different environment. Although our membership has changed, we must all work to replace ourselves. According to the Grand Lodge of Ohio's report, our lodge will lose 10 members this year due to age. My goal is to raise 10 good men this year to meet this loss.

Make good men better is a worthy goal. For those of you who were members when I served in 2003 you will remember that we had an active program. I hope that this year will be even better! If you haven't been around for a while, watch our schedule for a reason to share an evening of fellowship.

We all know good men who would benefit from the lessons of the fraternity and contribute to our lodge and community.

Among the events this year we will have our 43rd annual Breakfast in the Park on January 27th. Also included this year is our 3rd annual range night on January 31st hockey night, Crushers baseball night, and in June we will be traveling to the Ohio Village to do a degree in an 1800's era lodge room.

Together with you, we can restore the greatness to Rocky River Lodge. Please watch the *Trestleboard* for the programs in the coming weeks!

If you could offer your help, please call me at (cell #) 440-759-3261.

Fraternally,
 Mark W. Rantala, W.M.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/29/18 Open Installation of Officers - Dinner at 6:30 pm. Non-Masons and guests are welcome.
- 12/02/18 Temple Christmas Party 2:00 pm. The River Chapter Order of Eastern Star and Rocky River Lodge Christmas Party.
- 12/06/18 Special Meeting - Casual dress, Officer training night.
- 12/13/18 Stated Meeting - Business suit, Bring a petition.
- 12/20/18 Dark - Christmas Holidays. Merry Christmas!
- 12/27/18 Dark - Christmas Holidays. Happy New Year!
- 01/03/19 Special Meeting - Business suit, FC exam and MM degree practice.
- 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 - 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)

FREEMASON LODGE OFFICERS

Officers are elected by the members of the lodge, although a few are appointed by the Worshipful Master. In most lodges, the officers serve in their positions for one year. The names and duties of the officers are mostly taken from very old customs practiced by the medieval stonemasons' guilds, where Freemasonry originated.

In England in the 1400s, under the reign of King Edward III, local (or what we now call municipal) governments grew out of the merchant and craft industries of the towns. The guilds had lots of money and property, as well as organizational and administrative experience. Heads of the guilds became heads of town councils, mayors, sheriffs, and more.

One of the ways a local official proclaimed his rank was by wearing a badge of office, or jewel, on a chain around his neck. This practice survives today. Masonic lodges do the same thing to identify their officers, carrying over this old guild tradition. Masonic jewels of office are symbolic (naturally).

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Every lodge is required to have a Worshipful Master, a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, a Senior Deacon, a Junior Deacon, a Treasurer, and a Secretary. However, Freemasons do not march in lockstep with one another. There are subtle and not-so-subtle differences in the names of officers and their duties, from country to country, as well as from state to state. And yet, a Mason from Iowa on vacation in Belgium will recognize the same basic framework of the Masonic officer's line that he had at home in Dubuque, governing the lodge he's visiting in Brussels.

Masonic officers are generally part of what is called a progressive line, also known as "going through the chairs." It is a line of succession that moves up one position at a time from one year to the next. When a man is appointed to the Junior Steward's position, in a perfect set of circumstances, seven years later he will be Worshipful Master. Although this curious plan for leadership has its drawbacks, it was designed based on the philosophy of equality among Masons. The progressive line is most common in the United States, but it exists in many other jurisdictions, as well.

There is supposed to be no politicking or campaigning for an officer's position. In the ideal lodge situation, each man simply advances each year, learning each position's duties and a portion of the Masonic ceremonies. *By the time he becomes Worshipful Master of the lodge, he has sat in every chair except, perhaps, the Secretary and Treasurer. He has learned public speaking, management of a volunteer organization, decorum, and responsibility.* And eliminating the annual popularity contest for election that many groups suffer results in a smoother, friendlier line of succession. Any man, regardless of his social, business, or economic position outside the lodge room, may aspire to be Master of his lodge. There are lots of differences from one jurisdiction to another, and many local lodges observe different customs that may slightly alter these duties. In the following sections, you'll find an outline of the most common officers' positions in the United States.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

The Worshipful Master sits in the east, symbolic of the rising sun, and presides over the lodge, like a president or chairman. Even if the building faces the wrong direction, the Master is said to be "in the east." While serving his term as Master, his word is final over the actions of the lodge. He is also responsible, as the ritual instructs, for "setting the Craft to work and giving them good and wholesome instruction for their labor." He presides over business meetings and the conferral of degrees.

The Master's jewel of office is the right angle of a square, a stonemason's tool used for checking the angles of cut and smoothed stones. It is not a measuring square, like carpenters use. It's used to make certain an angle is "true." It symbolizes virtue.

Masons call the man in charge of the lodge "Worshipful Master," but that does not mean they "worship" him. In parts of England, mayors and judges are also called "Worshipful" or "Your Worship." This is a term of honor, from the original intent of the word, meaning, "to give respect." French Masons use the word Venerable for their Masters.

SENIOR WARDEN

The Senior Warden sits in the west, symbolic of the setting sun, and assists the Worshipful Master in opening and closing the lodge. He is the second in command, like the vice president, and if the Master is unable to attend the meeting, he may open and conduct business. His ancient duties were to pay the Craft their wages and to handle disputes among the workers. These days, he's just a heartbeat away from the east, so his task is to support the Master and to prepare himself for that office for the following year.

The Senior Warden and the Junior Warden often have small wooden columns on the pedestals in front of their positions. When the lodge is at work (during a meeting), the Senior Warden's column stands upright, and the Junior Warden's column is laid on its side, showing that the Senior Warden is now in charge of the Craftsmen. When the work is concluded and the lodge retires to refreshment, the Junior Warden's column is raised, and the Senior Warden's is laid down, showing that the Craftsmen are now under the supervision of the Junior Warden.

The Senior Warden's jewel of office is the level, a stonemason's instrument used to check the level of horizontal surfaces. It symbolizes that all Masons meet on the level, without regard to social, political, or religious status.

JUNIOR WARDEN

The Junior Warden sits in the south, symbolic of the position of the sun at midday. Because he represents the sun at lunchtime, he metaphorically supervises the Craftsmen when they're at recess, or refreshment. He is the number-three officer in the lodge hierarchy, and he also may open the lodge, if the Master is unable to attend the meeting. The Master and the two elected Wardens (the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden) are the only officers who may open a meeting. Only a Grand Lodge officer may override this requirement.

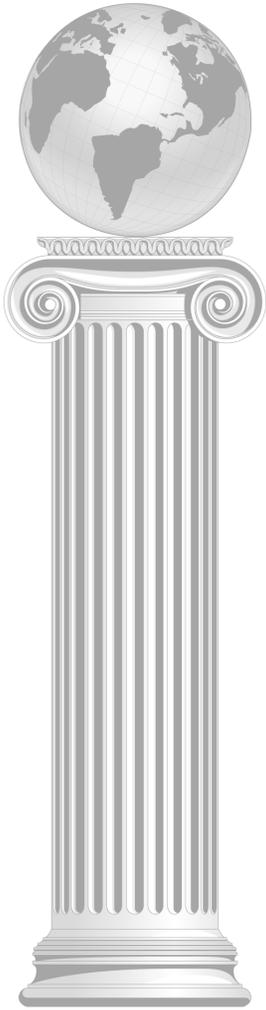
The Junior Warden is often in charge of arranging meals for the lodge, and the Stewards traditionally act as his assistants. One of the Junior Warden's symbolic jobs described in the ritual is to make certain that the members "do not convert (their) refreshment into intemperance or excess." In most U.S. jurisdictions, alcohol is barred from the lodge, but the ceremonial reference to earlier days remains part of the Junior Warden's job description.

The Junior Warden's jewel of office is the plumb, a stonemason's instrument used for checking the alignment of a vertical surface. It symbolizes upright behavior among Masons.

SENIOR DEACON

The Senior Deacon sits to the right of the Worshipful Master. He is the Master's messenger and does lots of walking. He welcomes and escorts both visitors and new candidates into the lodge and usually introduces distinguished visitors. During degree rituals, he is the guide for the new candidate, conducting him around the lodge room. In the opening and closing ceremonies of the lodge, the Senior Deacon opens and closes the Bible, and lights or extinguishes the candles at the altar. In many lodges, he also

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2019 ELECTED OFFICERS

Worshipful Master Mark W. Rantala, P.M.
 2709 Country Club Blvd. Rocky River, Ohio 44116
 440-759-3261

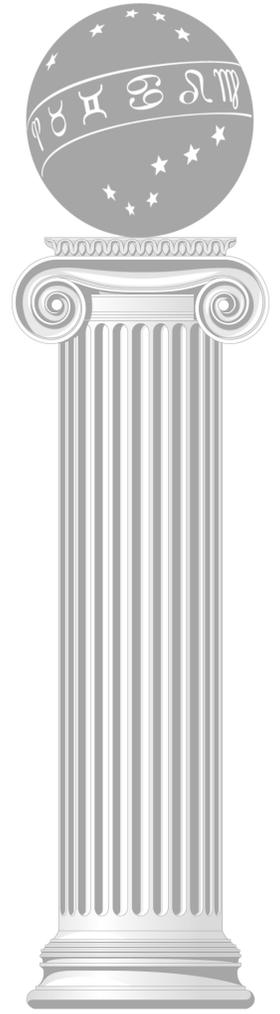
Senior Warden Rodger L. Edwards
 Junior Warden Willian P. Ritley, P.M.
 Treasurer Brian G. Spooner, P.M.
 Secretary Russell A. Kilpatrick, P.M.
 Senior Deacon Keith H. Blume
 Junior Deacon Karl A. Hoffman P.M.
 Tyler Paul M. Hartman, P.M.
 Trustee (3 Years) James E. LePrevost, P.M.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Senior Steward Johnny Idemoto
 Junior Steward TBA
 Marshall TBA
 Chaplain Michael J. Goldbach, P.M.
 Assistant Treasurer
 Assistant Secretary Benjamin F. Farah, P.M.
 Lodge Education Officer Michael J. Goldbach, P.M.

OTHER APPOINTEES

Trustee (1 Year) Paul M. Hartman P.M.
 Preparation Room Sidney L. Solomon, P.M.
 Ritualistic Director David G. Findley, P.M.



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carries the ballot box around the room when new members are voted on.

Both the Senior and Junior Deacon carry long staffs, or rods. Because they are messengers of the lodge, the rods they carry are symbolic of the caduceus, or wand, that the Roman winged god and messenger Mercury carried. The rods are topped by their jewels of office, to match the ones on their collars.

The Senior Deacon's jewel is a square and compass, with a sun in the middle. The sun signifies that his position is in the east, with the Master. (In other parts of the world, the jewel worn on the collar of the Deacons may be a dove, while their rods are topped by a figure of Mercury or a dove with an olive branch.)

JUNIOR DEACON

The Junior Deacon sits to the right of the Senior Warden, guarding the door to the lodge. He is the messenger of the Senior Warden, as well as the lodge "doorman." It is his job to be certain the Tyler is guarding the door on the outside, and he allows visitors to enter, after they've been properly vouched for. He and the Tyler communicate with each other by knocking back and forth on either side of the closed door.

Some jurisdictions split up this position into the Junior Deacon and an Inner Guard.

The Junior Deacon's jewel of office is the square and compass, like his senior counterpart. The difference is that the Junior Deacon's jewel has a moon in the center, signifying that he is in the west.

SENIOR STEWARD AND JUNIOR STEWARD

Because the Stewards are the low guys on the totem pole of the officers' line, they do much of the grunt work. They're the Junior Warden's assistants, and they help to set up the lodge room. They prepare all new candidates before entering the lodge for their degree rituals, and escort them to the lodge room, where the Senior Deacon takes over. They may also be the kitchen and wait staff of the lodge, which means they're champing at the bit to move up to the Junior Warden's job.

The Stewards, like the Deacons, also carry rods, in imitation of England's Lord High Steward's rod in the House of Lords. The rods are also topped with the jewels of their offices.

The Stewards' officers jewels are the same: a cornucopia, or "horn of plenty," symbolizing — what else? — lots of food. Masons love to eat and will find any excuse they can to have a breakfast, luncheon, or dinner to commemorate just about anything.