

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

May/June 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Dates:

- 5/02/19 Special -Scottish Rite Night.
Dinner at 6:30 pm
- 5/04/19 A.A.S.R. Reunion
- 5/09/19 Stated-Dinner at 6:30 pm
- 5/16/19 Special meeting open to the public
"Masons In Space"
- 5/23/19 Stated-Dinner at 6:30 pm
- 5/30/19 Cleveland Axe Throwing
- 6/06/19 Master Mason rehearsal
- 6/13/19 Stated meeting
- 2/22/19 Outdoor Master Mason degree
- 7/11/19 Special meeting for 1 day class prep
- 8/08/19 Special meeting for 1 day class prep

See inside for more information.

Volume 77 - Issue 05

More Light in Masonry

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

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Rocky River Lodge # 703 F. & A.M.
20149 Lake Road
Rocky River, Ohio 44116
Phone: (440) 331-4797

2019 Officers

Mark Rantala P.M. Worshipful Master
 440-759-3261 MRantala@lcport.org

Rodger L. Edwards Senior Warden
 440-335-0136 repilot@wildblue.net

William P. Ritley, P.M. Junior Warden
 216-337-0012 aftershock1973@gmail.com

Brian G. Spooner P.M. Treasurer
 440-734-2741 bspooner@spoonman.net

Russ Kilpatrick, P.M. Secretary
 440-530-0600 pmredscot@gmail.com

William P. Ritley, P.M. Welfare
 216-337-0012 aftershock1973@gmail.c

Russ Kilpatrick, P.M. Editor
 440-530-0600 pmredscot@gmail.com

From the Editor

Brethren, I believe it is time to give our beloved Trestleboard a fresh perspective from a new set of eyes. I have edited this publication for a total of over years from 1996 to present with about 4 years off with my duties as and Worshipful Master and secretary.

While this may seem to be a daunting task, it really isn't. With the information from the internet readily at hand, and the templates that I have created, the layout work is mostly done. I have all of the past issues stored electronically to refer to, as well as the installation programs, mailing lists and advertisers invoices.

I am willing to assist the next editor, but I will not be publishing beyond this issue.

Thank you for all of the help and articles in the past.

W.B. Russ Kilpatrick, Editor

From The East

SEPTEMBER 14 – GRAND MASTER'S ONE DAY CLASS – MEDINA
 We have been making progress rebuilding the core of our Lodge with new members and reinstatements. We have an opportunity to bring in additional new members with the Grand Master's One Day Class in September. Get all three degrees without the proficiency exams in one day September 14th. Our target date for first reading of petitions is May 23rd. Let's see if we can get to 10 petitions.

Thursday May 2 - SCOTTISH RITE NIGHT/PEROGI NIGHT
 Hear from WB Ted Cutts 33rd about his Scottish Rite experiences together with WB Scott Croxford MSA honoree of the AASR on Thursday about his experiences as well. It is a chance to get a Scottish Rite Petition for the May 4th Ceremonial. No petition fees for this reunion. Dinner at 6:30 pm. Pierogi's and Kielbasa. Dress is Casual.

May 4 - A.A.S.R. Reunion marking 100th Anniversary of DeMolay at 3615 Euclid Ave.

May 9th - Stated Meeting - Bring a petition. Dinner at 630. Casual Dress. FC Exam. Sign up for Ax Throwing on May 30th. \$20 per person.

MAY 16TH -MASONS IN SPACE 7:00 pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Bring a friend or family member. Presentation by WB Bill Fletcher – District Education Officer. This is a great program. Lasts about 45 minutes. Business attire. No Dinner. Ice Cream Sundaes to follow.

May 23rd – Stated Meeting – bring a petition Dinner at 630. Casual attire. Sign up for Lake Erie Crushers game.

May 27th – Memorial Day Parade - 9:30 am at Rocky River High School. Wear Polo Shirts.

MAY 30TH – AX THROWING Valley View at Cleveland AXE. Great night out. Limited to first 12 that sign up. \$20 per person.

June 6th – Open in Master Mason Degree. SW Rodger Edwards in the East. Rehearsal MM opening and closing. 6:30 Dinner. Business Attire.

June 13th Stated Meeting. Dinner at 6:30 pm Casual dress.

JUNE 22ND – OUTDOOR MASTER MASON DEGREE at Oberlin Lodge – Rocky River # 703 will be raising a candidate. Breakfast at 10:00 am. Lodge opens at 11:00

JULY 11- SPECIAL MEETING 7:00 PM. CASUAL DRESS TO PROCESS PETITIONS FOR ONE DAY CLASS

AUGUST 8 – SPECIAL MEETING 7:00 PM. CASUAL DRESS TO PROCESS PETITIONS FOR ONE DAY CLASS

Dinner means great food and fellowship. Thanks to Rodger and Larry for Great meals – and no more pizza.

Fraternally,
 Mark W. Rantala, W.M.

Perhaps the next editor will be as silver tongued WB Bill Gay. Again, I, by no means am the wordsmith that Bill was, so I thought I'd share some of his musings. Here are a few more of his early works.

(From November 2004)

The Wisdom of Solomon

Last week we had a rare occurrence at Lodge #703 in that there was not the required number (8) "to open a lodge and transact business." All however, was not lost, as Lodge #703 1/2 has not nearly as stringent attendance requirements and the Linden Lounge lodge session opened in a timely and refreshing manner with eight thirsty souls. (If all who showed at 703 1/2 had shown for #703 we could have opened but that is a subject for another month) The subject this evening was the carpentry efforts undertaken by the Templeboard over the summer to expand the steps and platform in the East to better accommodate the ladies of the River Chapter OES #517. Yours truly was the operative carpenter who constructed the new addition and in so doing, found it necessary to temporarily move the gravestone sized granite blocks setting on the floor to the far left and right. Not wanting to turn this narrative into one of Masonic Education, the situation does however; offer a "jewel" of an interesting enigma.

The Entered Apprentice Degree instructs that the "Jewels" of the lodge are both movable and immovable. Not referring to precious stones, these jewels and particularly those referenced as "movable," include the rough and perfect ashlars. Moveable obviously is a symbolic expression as it took all of my fast flagging strength to move these two blocks of stone each tipping the scale at close to 250 pounds. Just as I was about to run down the street and solicit Frank Westerman's assistance, the damn things responded enough to a 2x4 I was using as a lever, to allow me to accomplish my renovation. Why anyone in their right mind would call such a thing "moveable" seems to question the intelligence of even the most astute Masonic scholar.

But as often is the case, there is an explanation and a good one is found in the book "The Craft and Its Symbols" which reveals "A well-governed lodge has six jewels as part of its furnishings. Three of these are movable; three immovable..... The jewels considered immovable (in America) are the Plumb, Square and Level. Replicas of these are worn by the three stationed officers of the lodge..... A question frequently asked is: "Why are these jewels considered immovable?" The officers who wear them don't remain stationary. They do move about during the conferring of degrees. They are considered "immovable" because each is assigned to a specific officer of the lodge. Every lodge must have a Master and two Wardens present or it can't be legally opened. In this sense the Plumb, Square and Level are immovable..... The moveable jewels – the Rough Ashlar, the Perfect Ashlar and the Trestle (or Tracing) Board – may be absent from a lodge and it still may be opened legally..... The Rough Ashlar is a crude stone, just as it's taken from the quarry. It symbolizes the uneducated man, the man unaware of his potential in the Fraternity. The Perfect Ashlar is a symbol of the educated man, the man who has been taught by those more knowledgeable than himself in the principals of Masonry."

Moving these darn things certainly was "Rough" but the explanation of their name makes "Perfect" sense. Enough so that I had another "Miller Genuine Draft" in hopes that my mind would be expanded enough to fully contemplate the beauty of those who serve us.

"Ole Sol", Secretary Lodge #703 1/2

(From May 2005)

Ole' Sol

March 21st, 2009 was a Saturday like no other in the State of Ohio as every Masonic Temple in the state was open to the public in compliance with an edict of Grand Master Charles R. Murphy in an attempt to lift the veil of presumed secrecy about what goes on inside our buildings. Rocky River #703 was no exception as a host of greeters were on hand to explain particulars about Blue Lodge Freemasonry, JOBS Daughters, Rainbow Girls and the Eastern Star bodies which meet within.

The Grand Master most likely took his idea from the success of #703 1/2 which not only has been open to the public for low these many years but has a fine record of good attendance predicated upon providing a sustenance to those with a thirst for knowledge and other similar needs. Last Thursday once again, without benefit of any edict, a number of Masonic souls whose desire for "more light" after adjournment of #703, found themselves on a path to the inventory of the Linden Lounge where further illumination was indeed received.

Holding forth was the humble and modest Secretary who was relating his experiences the past month providing restoration and installation assistance to the WRTOS organization. For those of thee who might not have read the article on our WEB site about the theater organ restoration presently under way at the Masonic Temple at 36th & Euclid downtown, WRTOS is the acronym for the Western Reserve Theater Organ Society. I have been down there sometimes six days a week at 6 or 7 hours per day and while the labor is all volunteered, the compensations are richly rewarding in the form of satisfactions associated with new learning experiences and the opportunity to meet new friends.

Addressing the later, I met a friend who was "impressed" because I wore a hat with a Square & Compass insignia on it which matched some of the insignia inside the temple. Other than our organist Dave Freeman, to my knowledge I am the only Mason on the restoration crew. He asked me about some of the terms he sees in the Temple such as "Consistory, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite", etc and I warmed to the opportunity to respond. He rewarded my efforts by asking what was involved in joining and I gave him my best sales pitch and provided him with several pamphlets pitched toward addressing such interest to those "On the Threshold". Unfortunately several days later after he obviously had read the material I gave him, he told me "I don't think I would fit in because I am not a very religious person". I quickly responded

that the depth of one's religious convictions is not a Masonic issue, and that all that is required in that area is a belief in God. He then replied, Bill, I not sure that I have such a belief. End of the solicitation!

I've talked to many candidates about Freemasonry but never has one admitted to what my friend confessed to me. I will never sit in lodge with him but that doesn't reduce the value of his friendship. Interesting point to ponder would be how prevalent that attitude really is if all candidates and existing Masons were to truthfully address this issue without fear of consequence.

But it is time to forsake the philosophical meanderings and assess the relationship between the amount of beverage remaining in the pitcher and the proximity of closing time. No departing jokes from the bar-maid this month to induce our departure, just a realization that another good Masonic night was had and now is the time to bring it to a close .

Ole Sol

Secretary #703 1/2

(From September 2010)

Ole' Sol

The September of 2003 Trestleboard was the first time this column appeared in our newsletter. Not every single issue had an 'Ole Sol' column in it but notwithstanding last month, not to many went to press without. 'Ole Sol' more often than not, ruminates about things which happen in lodge and does so in the beverage laden environment of the Linden Lounge which the readers and not the author of this column came to label as Lodge #703 ½. Lodge #703 ½ has not had much visitation after regular lodge meetings of late but to honor tradition and continuity we shall continue ruminating just as if there had been a regular physical visitation.

One of my good friends brother Bill Carothers has retired to Sunset Beach, N.C. but that doesn't keep him from staying in touch via E-mail. Bill advised me back in July of this year when a prominent news item was the then recent death of George Steinbrenner, III, the former Yankee owner. Bill asked me if I knew that George Steinbrenner's father Henry George Steinbrenner, II had been a member of our lodge. I could have lied and said that I did know that but of course I did not. What I did do was consult #703's membership archive that I have constructed over my years as Secretary and to the best of my intent and knowledge, contains the name and dates of every man who ever turned in a petition for membership to our lodge (some of course petitioned and were rejected and others just quit before finishing their degrees) but if they signed a petition card, we have them and there now stands a little over 1,500 names.

There I found listed as a charter member of Rocky River Lodge #703, Henry George Steinbrenner, II. Henry was born November 28, 1893 and died on November 7, 1988,

3 weeks shy of his 95th birthday. George Steinbrenner, III was born in Rocky River, Ohio the only son of Rita (née Haley) and Henry George Steinbrenner II, who had been a world-class track and field hurdler while at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The elder Steinbrenner later became a wealthy shipping magnate who ran the family firm operating freight ships hauling ore and grain on the Great Lakes. George III was named after his paternal grandfather.

In 1957, Henry's son George joined Kinsman Marine Transit Company, the Great Lakes shipping company that his great-grandfather Henry had purchased in 1901 from The Minch Transit Company, which was owned by a family relation, and renamed. Henry's son George worked hard to successfully revitalize the company, which was suffering hardship during difficult market conditions. In its return to profitability, Kinsman emphasized grain shipments over ore. A few years later, with the help of a loan from a New York bank, Steinbrenner purchased the company from his family. He later became part of a group that purchased the American Shipbuilding Company and, in 1967, he became its chairman and chief executive officer. By 1972, the company's gross sales were more than \$100 million annually. In 1960, against his father's wishes, Steinbrenner entered the sports franchise business for the first time with basketball's Cleveland Pipers of the ABL and the rest is sports franchise history.

But back to George's dad Henry. Henry was a charter member of Rocky River Lodge #703. Henry later withdrew his membership via a dimit to another lodge in 1933 but he was with us in 1928 and his name can be seen yet today on our charter which hangs on our lodge room wall. Since there is no record of Henry having had any degrees conferred on him by the Rocky River Lodge, it is assumed that his degrees were received previously in another lodge as was common for brethren to do when lodges needed names to qualify their Charter requirements.

Should any of you recall an interesting story about one of our brethren past or present please let me know so I can relate it here for all to enjoy. I try to keep the subject of this column oriented to the lodge and its history so any help I can get, would find me ever grateful.

As previously mentioned, I am not at the Linden Lounge so I don't have to transition the closing of this column from a alcohol environment into the task of getting Ole Sol home. I do believe I still have the presence of mind to hit the 'send' button and shoot this on to our eminent Editor Russ Kilpatrick.

Ole Sol
Secretary #703 1/2