

Rocky River Lodge Trestleboard

Rocky River Lodge #703

20149 Lake Road – Rocky River Masonic Temple

COMING DATES

Rocky River Lodge	Thurs.	Sept. 10th	Final Stated Meeting
			7:00 pm Rocky River
Westshore Lodge	Tues.	Sept. 22nd	Consolidation Mtg.
			7:00 pm Rocky River
Christmas Party	Sun.	December 6th	2:00 pm
With River Chapter OES			Rocky River

From the East

Greetings Brethren,

I hope this article finds you in good health and high spirits. The 2020 Masonic year has presented itself with a great deal of challenges. Our Lodge consolidation with Mid-Century has been successful. I wish to thank all of our combined committees of both lodges for their hard work and dedication to keep our Masonic heritage alive. After many hours of zoom meetings, countless phone calls and written correspondence, their work made this a reality. Seeing the work first hand a special thank you is in order to our secretary WB Russ Kilpatrick and Treasurer WB Brian Spooner. They are truly the heart of our lodge and this would not have happened without them. With our meeting night changing to the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month I regret to announce WB Michael Goldbach will not be able to participate at the capacity he always has. His obligation to his wife is one of honor and is admired by all. His hard work spread the cement that helped bring us to our new lease on life.

As Master I spent our prolonged darkness calling all of our Brethren for welfare checks and to bring any new information to light. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to each and every one of you. I was upset that we could not perform for our annual inspection. Covid-19 took the wind out of my masonic sails. What I did not expect was to get to know my lodge better thru our conversations. That has meant the world to me. It has been an honor and privilege to serve our lodge and look forward to tending to the needs of our new lodge.

Thursday September 10th @7 P.M. will be the last meeting ever for Rocky River 703. We will open in the Entered Apprentice Degree and the dress is business casual. We are not serving dinner to help with social distancing. We are capable of gathering and meeting with up to 54 members with social distancing guidelines being met.

The next meeting will take place in the Rocky River Lodge building on Tuesday September 22nd @7P.M. It will be treated as the first annual meeting of our newly formed Westshore Lodge. We will operate under dispensation until the Grand Lodge of Ohio grants us our new Charter and number. The Rocky River Temple was chosen as our temporary home due to Covid-19 since we can safely gather more of our Brethren safely. Mid Century lodge has a tremendously talented officer line of and we will merge traditions of both lodges into one. We still have three candidates from RR 703 in need of degree work and a few petitions will be turned into the new lodge. Please show your support to the new lodge in any manner that you are able. Participation is critical as we need master craftsman to shape Westshore lodge into the proper home we deserve.

Fraternally,

Bill Ritley

WP Ritley, Worshipful Master

A Final Thought and Thank-you

As a Past Master and as Editor of the Trestleboard I would like to offer my sincere Thank-You to Worshipful Brother Ritley for his hard work during this most trying of years. As Bill sat in the East he did so with a calm as he steered the Lodge through not only the Covid-19 crisis but also the competing opinions on the consolidation.

He did so with the wisdom of ***always what is best for the fraternity***. The committee spent more than three years exploring possible partners. The discussions included serious conversations with Lakewood and Parkside Lodges before finding a partner with Mid-Century. When you look at the membership of both Lodges we have a significant number of members who live between Rocky River and Avon Lake, so this consolidation makes sense on many fronts.

The future depends on how well we all work together to create a new and strong Lodge in Westshore. I hope you will become part of the new Lodge and share our best traditions and create new ones together.

But most of all I hope you will come to Lodge on this **Thursday September 10th** for the final meeting of Rocky River Lodge to Thank WB Ritley.

Fraternally,

Mark Rantala

Past Master and Trestleboard Editor