

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

March 2018

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Upcoming DATES:

- Mar 01 Special Meeting - EA degree practice
- Mar 08 Stated Meeting - Inspection!!
- Mar 15 Special Meeting - Awards Night!
- Mar 22 Stated Meeting
- Mar 29 Dark - Range Night
- Apr 05 Dark - Holy Week
- Apr 12 Stated Meeting
- Apr 19 Special Meeting - Rusty Nail Degree
- Apr 26 Stated Meeting

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

*Volume 76 - Issue 02*

**More Light in Masonry**

- [www.rockyriver703.org](http://www.rockyriver703.org)
- [www.freemason.com](http://www.freemason.com)
- [www.freemasonuniversity.com](http://www.freemasonuniversity.com)
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*In Memoriam*

**Richard Harry Haug**

Brother Richard H. Haug was born on December 01, 1954 in Brooklyn, New York Brother Haug was initiated an Entered Apprentice on February 23, 1983, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 23, 1983 and raised to the sublime Degree of Master Mason on May 07, 1983. All degrees were conferred in Smithtown Lodge #1127 in Smithtown, New York. Brother Haug affiliated with Rocky River Lodge # 703 in 1988.

Brother Haug was called to the Grand Lodge above on January 25, 2018 at the age of 63, ending 35 years of continuous Masonic affiliation.

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**From the West**

On March 29th we will have our second annual **Range Night** at Select Fire Range in Berea. For reservations please call our Secretary Russ Kilpatrick at redscot@gmail.com. Cost is \$ 20.00 per person. Limited to the first 20 reservations.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> we will be attending a **Hockey Night with Mid-Century Lodge**. Tickets are \$ 19.00 per person. Let call me at 440-759-3261 and let me know if you would like to attend. Reservations are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will also be having a **Rusty Nail Degree and Replace Yourself Program** in April, Mark your calendar for this fun night. April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't been to Lodge for a while it will be a great chance to see old friends. Details to follow.

On May 17th we are going to have a **Veterans and First Responder's Night**. Please join us and help our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Eric R. Shau, as we salute the Veterans and 1st responders of our Lodge. Please help us put together a list of our Veterans and First responders and when and where they served.

Mark Rantala, P.M., Senior Warden

**Awards Night March 15th**

We have a busy calendar ahead of us. Coming off another great Breakfast in the Park (our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual) we move into a series of great events. After our inspection on March 8<sup>th</sup> in the Entered Apprentice degree will be our Annual Awards night the next week on March 15th.

As Senior Warden I am responsible for the **Awards Night March 15<sup>th</sup>**. Dinner will be held at 6:00 pm. Please make your reservations by leaving a message on my phone (440) 759-3261. You and your family and friends are invited as our guest.

The awards presentations will begin at 7:00 pm followed by a presentation by the Clague Playhouse Players. I hope you can join us and your Lodge Brothers and old friends. Honorees include:

**65 Years**

- Robert W. Patzwahl ,
- Wallace G. Preslan,
- Claude N. Rowan

**60 years**

- Allen J. Bendo, Emil W. Krug,
- F. James Lloyd

**50 years**

- W. James Priest, Clarence Frier

**40 years**

- Eugene J. Ferrell, Karl A. Hoffman
- James L. Maudsley, Thomas D.

**Plotz**

**35 Years**

- George A. Mettler

**25 years**

- William F. Armstrong,
- Charles P. Simmelink

**Rocky River Lodge Range Night!**

Brethren, Just a reminder that we are having our Range Night on March 29th. This event will begin promptly at 6:30 pm for orientation and shooting will be from 7:00 to 8:00 pm when the range closes.

We will have 20 shooters with 2 per each lane. I have managed to get the same arrangement as last year. This includes 2 shooters per lane, Eye and ear protection, 1 or 2 targets, firearm rental, and a range officer/instructor. Have your own pistol, revolver, or rifle (up to .223/5.56mm)? Feel free to bring it with you of course! If you rent a firearm from SFTC you will need to buy their ammo.

Cost for this evening is \$20.00 per person not including your ammunition.

Please contact Russ Kilpatrick at 440-530-0600 for details sign up. All money is due by Thursday March 15, 2018.



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## Memorial Monuments: Be A Part Of This Historical Undertaking

Written by Ron Runion

Published: 03 January 2018

It is the desire and hope of Grand Master Eric R. Schau that Ohio Freemasons recognize and honor our Masonic Military and Service Veterans by placing memorials at the following locations: National Cemetery Rittman, Ohio; National Cemetery Dayton, Ohio; Browning Masonic Community, Waterville, Ohio; and the Western Reserve Masonic Community, Medina, Ohio. Each location will be adorned with this beautiful monument:

The inscription on the memorials will read:

FREEMASONS OF OHIO  
Dedicated to all Masonic Veterans  
who served with Honor, Loyalty and  
Integrity, while upholding the principles of  
Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.  
Grand Lodge of Ohio – 2018  
Eric R. Schau, Grand Master



Every Lodge and their members can become a part of this great undertaking through a generous donation. Checks should be made out to the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation with Veterans Projects in the MEMO line and mailed to 1 Masonic Drive, Springfield, Ohio 45501.

All donations for this project will be tax-deductible because the Grand Lodge Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)3 foundation. Any donations received in excess of that needed for the memorials will be donated in support of Honor Flight.

## Our Grand Master's "Replace Yourself Program"

We've been too quiet about our fraternity! Every Brother needs to become a spokesman for Freemasonry. It's important to talk with non-Masons about who we are and what we do.

Seventy-six percent of new Masons joined because it is tradition in their family, someone they respected was a Mason or their friends or co-workers are Masons. A Brother who knows of a man that he feels would make a good Mason should talk to him about our fraternity.

Help ensure the future of our great fraternity and your lodge...REPLACE YOURSELF! Make your commitment now! Go to the this web page, <http://www.replaceyourself.org/> and complete the form.

### First Line Signer

The commitment to replace yourself is one of the most important decisions a Brother can make to ensure the future of this lodge. Replacing yourself by recommending a new member and encouraging other brothers to do the same will have a significant impact toward increasing membership not only for your lodge but for Ohio Freemasonry as well. As a first line signer on a Petition for Degrees you are eligible to receive the Replace Yourself Award once the candidate becomes a Master Mason.

### The Lapel Pin

The custom designed lapel pin is truly one of a kind and those who wear it should do so with pride knowing that they have made an important contribution to the future of their lodge and Ohio Freemasonry. As Masons we wear many different pins. However, this one is extraordinary in that it MUST BE earned.

The rules are simple...REPLACE YOURSELF and when your candidate becomes a Master Mason your lodge secretary will notify the Replace Yourself program chairman that you are entitled to receive the award.

Wear it with pride and tell others . . . *REPLACE YOURSELF...I DID! WILL YOU!!*

## Ensuring Our Future One Brother At A Time!

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## Breakfast in the Park - Thanks Gary!!

The Annual Breakfast in the Park was started by W.B. Mel Fink in 1976, during his year as Master. But we have all taken for granted that one Brother has and will always help us with this event. Brother Gary Szechy has been our chef and organizer for as long as I can remember and has always answered the call. While several Brethren have filled in at times, Brother Gary have shouldered the majority of the burden.

Rocky River Lodge would like to extend our heart felt gratitude for your help over the many years!

This was submitted by one of our readers in 2006, and I found it interesting enough to share once again.

W. B. Russ Kilpatrick, Editor

I find this article to be both interesting AND disconcerting. The whole of masonry is still stronger than its many parts. However, unless we move forward and allow some evolutionary change in the way masonry is perceived it may still wither away.

As an example - within the shrine the "fez" has long been its symbol. However, when one looks at the past potentates pictures one can visibly see some evolutionary changes in dress and garb to adjust to the times. The dress of earlier potentates were in full regalia including scabbards, turbans, capes ... fresh out of the Arabian Nights. Now the pictures are of men with suits, a jewel and their fez. The same can be said about the pictures in Lodge's of past masters.

Is this a message from the past leadership? I think it is. I think it is a message to us that we MUST adjust to current needs of the Lodge and Shrine. We MUST evolve so that we can attract young men who want to come to the light. The BIG question is ... will the governing bodies allow this evolution?

### ***That Which was Lost And May Perhaps Meet with Death***

The social upheavals of the Vietnam era brought a grinding halt to fraternalism in America. The vast majority of young men of the 1960s and 70s would grow up to reject the institutions venerated by their fathers and grandfathers, and the number of candidates knocking on Freemasonry's doors slowed to a trickle. Massive Lodge's with 700 and 800 members would dwindle or close in less than two decades. The appendant bodies that relied on the Lodge's for new members would find themselves in even worse shape.

Scottish Rite and Shrine auditoriums designed for a thousand candidates would have only a handful at their convocations. The Shrine removed the requirement of York or Scottish Rite membership as a prerequisite for joining, and flirted with dropping their association with Masonry altogether.

Lodge's became dominated by ritualists, the Old Guard of members who remembered the boom years, who were resistant to change. Dues overall remained at unconscionably low levels, often driven by a desire not to alienate the swelling ranks of retired members. Actuarial tables march inexorably forward, and as time passed, the Lodge's were overwhelmingly populated by ever-aging members, further contributing to the appearance that Masonic Lodge's were places no man under thirty would ever consider.

Lodge's closed or merged. Buildings were sold. More damaging was the loss of prestige and knowledge of the Craft in the public consciousness. Less than a hundred years after the formation of the Grand Lodge in England, the whole of the civilized world knew who and what Freemasons were and what they stood for. Yet, sixty years after WWII, fewer and fewer people in society knew what a Freemason was, or that the fraternity still existed.

Freemasonry today stands in the unenviable position of being forgotten by almost three generations of men. Unlike our European brethren who constantly battle with anti-Masons, society in the United States has not turned against us or held us responsible for world domination. We have simply been ignored and cast on the heap with Edsels, 8-Track tapes, and buggy whips.

Lodge's, at last coming to grips with the severity of the decline, have pleaded with Grand Lodge's for help. In response, they have been granted the right to solicit new members, raise multiple candidates, advertise, hold one-day classes, reduce proficiency, and more. But the simple fact is that the groundswell of members who joined around WWII in record numbers were a statistical aberration, unlikely to be repeated.

The truth is that as a ratio to the US population, almost the same percentage of the population are Freemasons today as in the years immediately after the Civil War.

A tide is turning, and more and more young men are rediscovering Freemasonry. They first learn of it through unlikely sources - History Channel exposés, sensational (and largely fictitious) popular books such as Dan Brown's Da Vinci Code and Solomon Key, films like National Treasure, or unflattering ones like From Hell, or League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. Even ridiculous references like the Simpson's Stonecutters have made young minds curious. But instead of finding a relative or neighbor who might be a Mason, they are turning to the Internet for their information. It is increasingly common for their first knock on our doors to be an electronic one. If the numbers hold constant, there appears to be a growing interest once again in Freemasonry.

So the question that faces us now is, what will these new men find when they enter our Lodge's? We were once the premiere gentlemen's fraternity in the world. But after decades of throwing the doors open to anyone and everyone, diminishing our standards, and allowing our Temples to crumble both literally and figuratively, what can we do to stop the downward spiral of mediocrity we seem to have embraced out of desperation?

Your thoughts???