

THE RAMBLER

The newsletter of

SWOPE PARK MASONIC LODGE # 617 AF & AM

Vol. 2005 Issue 3

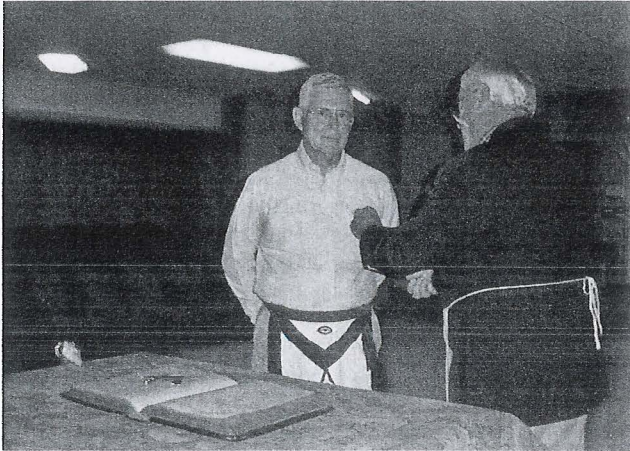
July-Sept 2005

Our 94th year

Constituted November 1, 1911



WB Bob Harman, Master PM WB Don Hurlbert, Secretary PM RWB Larry Cameron Treasurer PM
Senior Warden Gary Dryer Junior Warden WB Sergio Martinez PM
Phone (816) 358 0223 Cell (816) 694 3494
8521 Oldham Rd Kansas City, Missouri 64138



W.B. Mel Tacke receives 25 year Service Jewel



Brother John Waggoner receives 25 year Service Jewel

At the regular stated meeting held May 26, 2005, Swope Park Lodge No. 617 presented WB Mel Tacke his 25 year pin. Mel was Master of the Lodge in 1987. He was raised April 15, 1980. The presentation was made by Bro. Jim Payne (right) who, along with RWB Gary Mullins and WB Albert (Shorty) Reagan served on the investigating committee.

WM Bob Harman presented Bro Waggoner his 25 year pin June 23rd at the Missouri Masonic Home. Before the meeting, several members of the Lodge joined residents of the Home celebrating John's 95th Birthday with ice cream and fruit cobbler.



The Master's Trestle Board

Robert Harman WM

Dear Brothers and Friends,

It has been several years (1981) since I first crossed the threshold of Kronweiler Lodge #834, near my duty station of Baumholder West Germany. I had been a Mason for about a year and had been transferred a short ways across Germany. Finding a new Masonic home as a young Mason was a priority, and rewarded, when I discovered the local, mostly American Lodge, meeting on Monday's at a schoolhouse in a nearby town. Accepted immediately, I cannot remember a time when I was not serving in a chair in the more than 20 years since. I am, like so many of you, very typical in my view of Masonic obligation and idea of service. I believe that if you are going to complain you should be willing to sit in the hot seat and take some of it. I believe that not everyone wants to be an officer but we all should, who can, serve as best we can. It's good for us and the future of the Lodge. Since I am writing my last letter for the Rambler as Master I thought I would thank

the Lodge for the opportunity to serve. I will always wonder how I got talked into being a WM for four years and how I got talked into two back to back years. I can tell you, with no remorse, that I have enjoyed the challenge and will treasure the title "Past Master", both of York and of Swope Park. We have certainly not set the world afire with strokes of genius or changed the course drastically but we have maintained the dignity of Swope Park and reminded the world that we are still here. Certainly, I had very little to do with any real work these last two years. Our Secretary, WB Don Hurlbert and Treasurer, RWB Larry Cameron are the real workers. Each of them is constantly working in the quarry to keep Swope Park healthy and up to date. Each of us, mostly me, owes them both a debt of gratitude.

I do want to thank WB Sergio Martinez for his work as Junior Warden this year. His is an important, but not thankless job and his dedication is appreciated. Each member who stepped up and filled a chair is greatly appreciated, as well. Rarely do all the officers get to attend and somebody is always getting drafted. From the best, and most dedicated, fill in around, WB Frank Chester, who can do it all, to WB Ken Scott who loves Swope Park Lodge; from RWB Jack Clark who has served us all so well for so long to all the rest who gladly sit where we need them. I thank you.

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SECRETARY'S DESK

Don Hurlbert PM



Study Club announced.

A third study club is now established at Ivanhoe Lodge on the West Side of Holmes Avenue South of 85th Street. It is on Wednesday evenings beginning June 15th. The session will start at 7:00 PM and run 'til 9:00 PM.

The Study Club director is WB Paul Miller, Past Master of Alpha Lodge. He is appointed by RWB Glenn Burrows, DDGL. All Masons are invited to come and participate in this Study Club. Our Lodge could benefit to better perform degree work as well as the opening and closing of the Lodge

Grand Lodge Communication

The Grand Secretary has announced the One Hundred Eighty-Fourth Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of A.F. and A.M. of the State of Missouri, beginning Sunday September 25th 2005 and concluding the Morning of Tuesday September 27th, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select, 2200 I-70 Drive SW, Columbia, Missouri.

Phone number for reservations is 573-445-8531 for your convenience. When making your reservation mention that you are with the Grand Lodge Session. Questions e-mail Ron Miller at rmiller@momason.org

July Masonic Anniversaries

		Years
Harry	Brown	60
Walter	Metz	59
William	Ohalloran	57
Donald	Bigler	52
Hugh	Brown	51
Richard	Gauert	49
Thomas	Loftin	46
Cloyd	Green	42
Henry	Martz	39
Daniel	Quillen	35
Bernard	Tippie	34
Marshall	Rimann	31
James	Woods	31
James	Biles	30
Richard	Brown	27
Henry	Shive	26
Kenneth	Best	11
Ronald	Hilliard	11
Christopher	McCloud	6
Garold	Schnoor	6

August Masonic Anniversaries

		Years
Glenn	Huff	55
Thomas	McNeil	55
Roseph	Reed	54
Richard	Houston	52
Lewell	Cooper	45
Edward	Lyle	45
John	Nelson	38
Wilbur	Zahnter	37
Timothy	Duff	35
William	Hobson	34
Donald	Morgan	34
Harley	Manker	28
Edward	Nolan	27
John	Zion	21
William	Patten	20
John	Hess	19
Paul	Turnquist	18
Gary	McCloud	15
Gary	Dryer	13
Robert	Schadel	13
Michael	Whiteside	13
Claude	Wolfe	13

September Masonic Anniversaries

		Years
Evald	Lofgren	59
Willie	Davison	56
Charles	Phillips	44
Donald	Melin	39
Bill	Ferner	34
Donald	Matney	24
Charles	Newcomer	22
Russell	Newcomer	22
William	Palmer	21
George	Wilson	19
Joseph	Klos	14
Louis	Carter	13
Carl	Conteras	13
Billy	Pinion	4

Electronic Rambler News Letter

In the interest of saving printing and postage expense, we offer the opportunity to receive *The Rambler* via e-mail quarterly. Please e-mail your address to Jim Payne dsmazdad@yahoo.com to begin receiving the lodge newsletter in this fashion. You may also submit articles of interest for inclusion this way.

First Degree conferred May 12th

Brian Joseph Smith initiated and received into the lodge as an Entered Apprentice. RWB Lawrence Cameron conferred the degree and the first degree lecture was conducted by RWB Bill Van Meter. Brian is the son of Brother Ralph Smith, a member of Swope Park Lodge 617 since 1991.

Armed Forces Appreciation

The Lodge voted during the May 12th meeting to make a \$ 75.00 contribution to purchase and distribute telephone credit cards to servicemen and women serving overseas in Iraq and Afganistan.



In Memoriam

James C. Chapman
 Born April 16, 1918
 Raised August 26, 1948
 Passed away January 23, 2005

Master's Letter continued from page 1

Every brother needs to express thanks to Jim Payne for his efforts in getting out the Rambler. He believes in the importance of communication to the members and does a great job putting this newsletter together. Watch for great things from him in the future, he really is a leader in the wings.

I want to especially thank a few other brothers of Swope Park. First, WB Gary Barron for getting me involved at our Lodge before it felt like "my" Lodge. Gary is a friend before he's a brother and, to me, that's saying something special.

Second, I want to publicly say a special thanks to WB Harry Brown. I have spent almost four years in the East of a Masonic Lodge with Harry at my side as Chaplain. I would not be even the marginal ritualist that I am without Harry's patient guidance, corrections and encouragement. Harry exemplifies, to me, what Masonry really is. It isn't honors, and jewels. It isn't comparing membership cards and seeing how many titles we can pile up. Harry has all of that anybody could want, and you wouldn't know it. Masonry is treating another brother as an equal. On the square, as we say. Now this may seem simple to many of you, it may not. But I am here to tell you that it is the Harry Browns of the Lodge that are its most precious resource. I, and we, owe Harry a huge debt of gratitude for helping to hold our Lodge together over these many years. But, personally, the debt is from his treating me as a brother. He is the Master, to me, and I am so honored to be his brother. We have elections for next year coming the first meeting in August and I encourage you all to attend. Last year we had to postpone the election because of lack of attendance. Now, just in case you avoid that meeting to prevent being elected, re-read this article! Actually, all you have to do is decline to serve. We need members present to help elect a new line but nobody is going to get railroaded! Once again, it's been a long road since my time as Junior Deacon in Kronweiler. I sincerely hope I have many more years of serving Swope Park ahead of me and thank all of you for your support during these last two as your Master.

Fraternally,
 Bob Harman



NOTICE

Election of 2006 Officers

Swope Park Lodge 617

August 12, 2006 2nd Thursday

CEMETERY Lot FOR SALE

Floral Hills
 Blue Ridge & Gregory Blvd.
 Two plots
 Market Price \$ 1625 ea.
 Swope Park Lodge selling
 For \$ 800. ea
 Call Larry Cameron (816) 767 9073

Announcement
 July 28th Lodge Meeting will
 Feature a speaker from
 Masonic Services on a Child
 Identification community
 project

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS OF SWOPE PARK LODGE #617 A.F. & A.M.

The proposed changes to the existing ByLaws as of July, 2000 are listed, along with the existing ByLaws for comparison. The ByLaws committee recommends these changes be adopted as proposed.

Respectively submitted June 23, 2005:

Brother Gary Dryer	Chairman ByLaws Committee
RWB Lawrence Cameron	Member ByLaws Committee
WB Dean Bezinque	Member ByLaws Committee

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS, OFFICERS AND BRETHREN OF SWOPE PARK LODGE #617 A.F. & A.M. Proposed changes to the By-Laws of SWOPE PARK LODGE #617 A.F. & A.M.

All changes recommended by the By-Laws Committee are explained as follows:

Where words or phrases are to be deleted they are shown with a line through them. All additions are shown in **bold italics**.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The By-Laws of Swope Park Lodge # 617 A.F. & A.M. be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II MEETINGS

DELETE in its entirety, ~~MEETINGS, SECTION 1.1, NO SMOKING.~~

~~No smoking is allowed in the building while Swope Park Lodge #617 is having activities.~~

Statement of purpose:

This committee is of the opinion that since the brethren who smoke are conscientious and respect the non-smoking brethren and have endeavored to segregate themselves from the non-smokers, we believe this accommodates all brethren. Should the occasion arise where a brother is on oxygen or we have a large meeting, the Worshipful Master can order a no smoking rule for the dining area for that night.

AMEND SECTION 3. SPECIAL MEETINGS AND NOTICES to read:

Special Communications of the Lodge shall be held by call of the Worshipful Master. Notice of each Special Communication shall be published in a Kansas City daily newspaper ***not later than the day before the meeting, or notice by mail to all resident members not less than ten (10) days before the meeting, or announcement at the next preceding Stated Communication duly recorded in the minutes of such meeting, all*** stating the purpose, place, date and hour of said Special Communication.

Statement of purpose:

This change makes the By-Law conform to Grand Lodge Law.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

AMEND SECTION 2. ELECTION, WHEN HELD AND TERM OF OFFICE to read:

SECTION 2. ELECTION, WHEN HELD, INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND FISCAL YEAR

Statement of purpose:

This change correctly reflects the content of SECTION 2.

AMEND SECTION 3. OFFICERS, HOW ELECTED to read:

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

AMEND SECTION 2. ELECTION, WHEN HELD AND TERM OF OFFICE to read:

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Statement of purpose:

This change correctly reflects the content of SECTION 2.

AMEND SECTION 3. OFFICERS, HOW ELECTED to read:

SECTION 3. OFFICERS, HOW ELECTED AND TERM OF OFFICE

Statement of purpose:

This change correctly reflects the content of SECTION 2.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF OFFICERS

AMEND SECTION 2. TREASURER

(g) For these services faithfully performed, he shall receive the sum of ~~Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00)~~ per month or ~~\$45.00~~/quarter.

To read:

(a) For these services faithfully performed, he shall receive the sum of ***Twenty Dollars (\$20.00)*** per month or ***\$60.00***/quarter.

Statement of purpose:

This Office has not had a raise in over 10 years. Approximately 8 hours/month are spent on Lodge cost accounting and making deposits. Also the cost of driving has increased drastically. The \$5.00/month increase does not cover inflation since the last increase.

AMEND SECTION 3. SECRETARY

(k) To prepare and submit to the Lodge on the first required Communication of each Fiscal Year, a complete statement of all transactions of the Secretaries office during the preceding Fiscal Year.

To read:

(k) To prepare and submit to the Lodge on the first ***regular*** Communication of each Fiscal Year, a complete statement of all transactions of the Secretaries office during the preceding Fiscal Year.

Statement of purpose:

The word "required" can be interpreted many different ways. The Grand Lodge By-Laws uses the word "regular".

(m) For these services faithfully performed, he shall receive the sum of ~~One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$145.00)~~ to be paid to him quarterly.

To read:

- (l) For these services faithfully performed, he shall receive the sum of One Hundred ~~Sixty~~ Dollars (~~\$160.00~~) to be paid to him quarterly.

Statement of purpose:

This is essentially the same as the Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VI
COMMITTEES**

AMEND SECTION 1. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (c) A Budget Committee consisting of the Worshipful Master, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) members appointed by the Worshipful Master. It shall be the duty of the Budget Committee to budget all expenses of said Lodge for the ensuing year. It shall include among the liabilities of the Lodge the Per Capita Tax owing by the Lodge to the Grand Lodge. Such Budget shall be reported at the second communication after the installation of the Worshipful Master and Wardens and upon a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members present at any Stated Communication. It shall be the duty of this committee to submit the Budget to the Lodge.

To read:

- (c) A Budget Committee consisting of the Worshipful Master, Treasurer, Secretary and two (2) members appointed by the Worshipful Master. It shall be the duty of the Budget Committee to budget all expenses of said Lodge for the ensuing *fiscal* year and submitting the proposed Budget to the Lodge for approval. It shall include among the liabilities of the Lodge the Per Capita Tax and other assessments owing by the Lodge to the Grand Lodge. Such Budget shall be reported at the second communication after the installation of the Worshipful Master and Wardens and affirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority aye vote of the members present at any Stated Communication. The Lodge Budget may be amended at any time during the fiscal year by motion, seconded, approval by the Budget Committee and affirmed by a majority aye vote of the members present at any Stated Communication.

Statement of purpose:

This paragraph is reworded for clarity and provides the method to be used to change the Budget during the Fiscal Year.

**ARTICLE VII
PETITIONS AND FEES**

AMEND SECTION 2. FEES

The fees required for the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry conferred in this Lodge shall be One Hundred ~~Thirty-Five~~ Dollars (~~\$135.00~~) together with such other fees, levies and assessments as may be required by the By-Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge. The Lodge requires as a minimum, at the time of petition, ~~Ninety-One~~ Dollars (~~\$91.00~~) together with all Grand Lodge fees, levies and assessments; ~~Twenty-Two~~ Dollars (~~\$22.00~~) before or at the time the Second Degree is conferred; and ~~Twenty-Two~~ Dollars (~~\$22.00~~) before or at the time the Third Degree is conferred.

To read:

The fees required for the degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry conferred in this Lodge shall be One Hundred *Fifty* Dollars (*\$150.00*) together with such other fees, levies and assessments

as may be required by the By-Laws and Edicts of the Grand Lodge. The Lodge requires as a minimum, at the time of petition, *One Hundred* Dollars (*\$100.00*) together with all Grand Lodge fees, levies and assessments; *Twenty-Five* Dollars (*\$25.00*) before or at the time the Second Degree is conferred; and *Twenty-Five* Dollars (*\$25.00*) before or at the time the Third Degree is conferred.

Statement of purpose:

The fees for the degrees at this lodge continue to be one of the lowest in the area. To minimize the impact of a dues increase the fees for the degrees must be increased. A fifteen dollar (\$15.00) increase is minimal and will keep our initiation fee still competitive for the area.

**ARTICLE VIII
DUES**

AMEND SECTION 1. DUES

Dues for this Lodge shall be ~~Twenty-Two~~ Dollars (~~\$22.00~~) per annum plus the Per Capita Tax assessed for that year by the Grand Lodge, increased to the next higher even dollar figure and shall be required from each member unless remitted by a vote of the Lodge hereafter provided.

To read:

Dues for this Lodge shall be *Thirty-Five* Dollars (*\$35.00*) per annum plus the Per Capita Tax and any other special assessments assessed for that year by the Grand Lodge, increased to the next higher even dollar figure and shall be required from each member unless remitted by a vote of the Lodge hereafter provided.

Statement of purpose:

It has been many years since the dues have increased and operation of the Lodge has depended on the generosity of the brethren. All brethren should share operational costs of this Lodge. This increase will allow the Lodge to essentially break even. Our rent has increased from \$120.00/meeting to \$200/meeting, or a yearly increase of \$2,000.00. This increase was driven by a reduction in the number of tenants paying rent to the Building Board. Although our remaining tenants rent was also increased

there was a serious shortfall in income for the Building Board this year resulting in a plea to the brethren for help. This plea was answered favorably by the brethren for this year. As it now stands the Building Board will just break even this year. Costs for heating, air and insurance have skyrocketed and if they continue to rise so will our rent. A \$13.00 increase per year in dues is not out of line, especially when you consider this Lodge is down to 240 members.

The Proposed Changes to the Bylaws were read to the attending members at the June 23, 2005 Lodge meeting held at the Masonic Home. In accordance with the By Laws of the Grand Lodge of Missouri the proposed changes must lie over for thirty (30) days. The vote on these By Law Changes will be at the stated meeting July 28 7:30 pm at Swope Park Lodge # 617 8521 Oldham Rd Kansas City, Missouri 64138