

THE RAMBLER

THE SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE BODIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2015 Number 1

January-March 2015

SWOPEPARK.ORG



Master's Trestle Board

Brethren, by the time this issue of the Rambler is published I will have been your Worshipful Master for six months. It doesn't seem possible that my year in the East has passed the halfway point. It's been a busy year of regular Communications, Study Clubs, Official Visits, Schools of Instruction, and special monthly events which provide all of our Masonic Bodies the chance to come to the Lodge and participate. After a Christmas break we started the new year with a regular communication followed by our official visit by DDGL Dennis Spears on January 22. Swope Park Lodge #617 hosted the Square and Compass meeting and combined study club on January 28. We closed the month with a meeting to discuss the health of the Lodge that included topics of updating future projects, passing a budget amount for our 2015 Christmas Party, discussing why Brothers are not attending lodge on a regular basis and what can be done to bring them back, reviewing improvements needed in the lodge and identifying a Bro. interested to take on the responsibility of keeping our website up to date with the schedule and happenings of our Lodge. As always the Brethren are always striving to improve our Lodge and make it more visible and have better attendance to support the lodge.

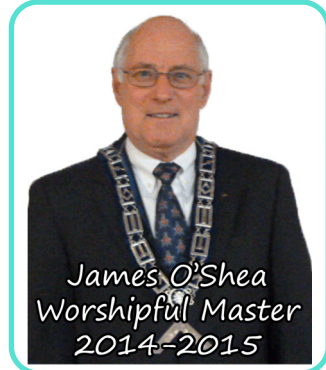
On Sunday, February 8 the Lodge hosted their annual Sweetheart Luncheon with several Lodges attending and supporting the event. After a delicious lasagna meal held in Shotwell Hall the guests retired to the Lodge room for some vocal with piano accompaniment provided by Bro James Wright, Summit Lodge #263 and WB Albert McDowell, Past Master of Grandview Lodge #618. This being a paid event the lodge ended the day with a surplus of money, voted by the membership to place in the Building Fund.

As our calendar year moved on to March and April our regular Wednesday night Study Clubs were replaced by the DDGL School of Instruction. Each week the Brethren within the district traveled to other lodges within the district to learn more about our ritual and Freemasonry. The agenda for each evening was different giving the Brethren the opportunity to get an overall composite of our Masonic ritual. Our last school is scheduled for April 8, 2015 to be held at Alpha Lodge #659. The second section of the third degree is planned for the evening so a large turnout of Brethren is needed to fill all the chairs. As always, whenever a Brother attends a Masonic event his presence counts toward the lodge's point count for

the achievement award at the end of the term. On March 19, Bro. Robert Lee Ward chaired the first blood drive at Swope Park assisted by the Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City. The lodge room was transformed to receive the "Call to Arms" from all able-bodied donors.

As warmer weather approaches with the coming of spring, the Lodge will host a combined MoCHIP event / Bicycle Safety Rodeo at Longview Chapel Christian Church, 850 SW Longview Road, Lee's Summit on April 18th from 8 am to 12 pm. With the church having a day care, two elementary schools within a mile of the event and being adjacent to Longview Community College where their annual kite festival is held, a large turnout is anticipated to give support to this project. As always this program needs the support by members of Swope Park Lodge, Wm. F. Kuhn DeMolay, Swope Park Chapter Order of Eastern Star and Job's Daughters Bethel #1.

Looking ahead to the second half of my year, the lodge will continue with their weekly Wednesday night Paul A Miller Study Clubs with a 7:00 pm start time, and regular communications on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays beginning at 7:00 pm. A mentoring pro-



gram is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 25 for ALL Master Masons at 9:00 am with breakfast at 8:00 am to be put on by our William F. Kuhn DeMolay Chapter. Additional activities include a spring work day at the Lodge on May 2 at 9:00 am; a Widows Tea / Past Master's Luncheon / Empty Chair Degree on May 16th; an All Family Picnic on June 13th; a trip to assist Harvester's Food Pantry on July 11; and Past Master's Breakfast in August. Prior to each of these events a flyer will be sent out to all having emails to inform of updated information.

In closing, I want to thank all who have attended on a regular basis to assist me with my Masonic ritual and for supporting your lodge with all the special events planned for this year to bring all our masonic bodies together to share, get better acquainted and enjoy.

Jim O'Shea, WM



Sister Deb Merrick Recognized at 11th District Reception

Swope Park Chapter #520 was so pleased and honored to have their own Sister Deb Merrick, Grand Representative of Tennessee in Missouri, recognized at the 11th District's Official Reception held at the Independence Masonic Temple on Janu-

ary 10, 2015. Swope Park OES members came out strong to assist with the program. The light presentation with a Tennessee Road Trip theme showered Sister Deb with information and all the necessary items needed for a road trip to

Nashville so she can attend Tennessee's Grand Chapter in the spring. Sister Virginia Robbins, Grand Organist, and Brother Jim Wilcher, PP, accompanied the presentation with music and song. Hank Williams' "Hey Good Lookin'-What

'Ya Got Cookin'" with lyrics re-written by Sister Barbara Stillman, was sung to Sister Deb. Her fondness for cooking influenced the party theme. It was a fun time and a memorable day for Swope Park OES.



11th District Reception Honorees and the Grand Family of Missouri Honorees, (left to right): Virginia Robbins (Grand Organist), Carlene Morford (Grand Representative of Washington), Cinda Reeder (Worthy Grand Matron), Suzy Umstead (District Deputy Grand Matron), Frank Jurotich (Worthy Grand Patron), Deb Merrick (Grand Representative of Tennessee), Denise Porter (Grand Chaplain)

Swope Park Chapter members who attended the District Reception (left to right):
Front Row: Jane Withers (PM), Connie Sohn (PM), Barbara Stillman (PM), Deb Merrick (Grand Representative of Tennessee), Lois Compton (Worthy Matron), Stella Turnquist (PM), Delores McChesney (PM)
Back Row: Terry Scarborough (PM), Frances Banks (PM), Holly Johnson (PM), Prudence Irwin-Brennan, Larry Alvis (Worthy Patron), Rita Hanson (PGM), April White, Jean Vantellman (PM), Pat Neece (PM), John Stillman (PP)



Traveling Gavel Taken From Swope Park By Kansas City #220



On January 22, 2015 WM James Lowman and four other Brothers from Kansas City Lodge #220 were present to capture the traveling gavel during the Official Visit at Swope Park Lodge #617. WM Jim O'Shea and four Swope Park lodge officers previously captured the gavel on December 16, 2014 from East Gate Lodge #630.

The traveling gavel moves from Lodge to Lodge by way of visitations from other lodges consisting of a combination of Officers and Brethren. The traveling gavel allows the Brethren to support other Lodges in the District as well as raise money for a local charity from the lodge providing the most visitations during their year in Office.



Pictured are WM Jim O'Shea presenting WB James Lowman with the traveling gavel.



Evolution of The Rambler

As many readers may have noticed, The Rambler looks quite different than it did a few years ago. Several may have even found that each new edition of The Rambler has also seen upgrades large and small.

The biggest and most notable change is the new format design that has been used. As technology evolves, tools to build and create this publication have improved. Hopefully everyone enjoys the new bold format filled with color found in the electronic version.

The next change is the addition of the black ribbon on the back cover which represents the passing of a member in the Swope Park Masonic Family. This is done as a memorial similar to what is done in the Masonic Lodge when a Brother passes on to the other shore where the Charter is draped with a black cloth for one month following their death. Looking at previous issues it can be seen that this black ribbon has not been removed since its first introduction, a somber

reminder that our membership continues to deal with losses.

The previous issue saw the introduction of

and large family of Sisters, Brothers, Moms, and Dads.

This issue comes with two additional changes,

that it was recreated in digital form and proudly brought back as the title font.

The second change in this edition may only be apparent to the digital subscribers. Each new edition will bear colors representative of the season at the time of publication. As in April we are blessed with the warming temperatures of spring, The Rambler also reflects warmer colors. Look for each new edition to capture the essence of the season with fun and exciting colors.

The Editor of The Rambler is always excited to introduce something new to each edition of this great publication, so continue to look for changes big and small in each issue. As always, if you have any ideas on articles or ways to improve The Rambler, you are encouraged to send them to Justin Dryer at justinwdryer@gmail.com.



A look at the cover of the August 1961 edition of The Rambler.

“buttons” which signify the content of the article by representation of the Lodge, Chapter, Bethel, etc. in graphical form. Many articles include the simple “SP” button which identifies that the article is applicable to the entire Swope Park Masonic Family. This can also be seen by the grouping of all the logos on the back cover to forever remind us all that we are a single entity and part of a great

hopefully both of which are eye catching. The first is the title font for The Rambler. While this may appear new to many, looking at the history of this publication will find that this is really just a throwback to the font which was used as early as the 1960s where it appears to have been hand drawn for those early editions. The appearance of the font was so attractive to the Editor

Swope Park Lodge #617 Looks Forward to Masonic Family Picnic at Darter Park

Plans are now underway for the upcoming Swope Park Lodge #617 Masonic Family Picnic on Saturday, June 13, 2015. Darter Park, at 105th and Hillcrest Road is now reserved for the entire day allowing us and our families to come together

for an afternoon of Fun and Masonic fellowship from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. The park offers a shelter, playground, walking trail and community center. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided and the membership is asked to bring a special covered

dish to share. Special old time games will be available for the kids organized by our Master Masons. Bring your lawn chair and plan to have a great time sharing with your Masonic Family. A special flyer with directions will be posted at the lodge along

with a signup sheet and forwarded via email to the Brethren. Hope to see you there!

WM Jim O'Shea

Swope Park Masonic Lodge #617





Swope Park Lodge #617 Holds First Blood Drive

On March 19, 2015 Swope Park Masonic Lodge #617 had its first blood drive hosted by Community Blood Center. In attendance were ten registered donors in which nine were able to donate. Out of the nine that donated five were first time donors. Con-

gratulations to WM James O'Shea and Brother JW Larry Alvis who donated using the ALYX machine, which doubles the collection of red blood cells. Swope Park Lodge was able to collect eleven units of life-saving blood to go out to the communi-

I would like to thank those brothers and their families that were able to make it to donate the gift of life for those in need. I would also like to thank WM O'Shea and fellow brothers for their hard work in helping me make this a successful event. Without them we wouldn't

have had the success we had. Hopefully this will become an annual event for the lodge.

Brother Bert Ward
Marshall



Lenexa
In the Country Hill Center
(SW Corner of 87th & Lackman Road)
15117 W. 87th St. Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66219
Phone: (913) 492-1604 Fax: (913) 492-6229

Prairie Village
In the Prairie Village Shops
(Tomahawk & Mission Road)
3917 Prairie Lane
Prairie Village, KS 66208
Phone: (913) 236-5311 Fax: (913) 236-6582



Combined MoCHIP and Bicycle Safety Program to be Held at Longview Chapel Christian Church

Swope Park Lodge is planning to hold their second annual Missouri Child Identification Program (MoCHIP) and Bicycle Safety Program on Saturday, April 18, 2015. The

event will be held at Longview Chapel Christian Church, 850 SW Longview Road, Lee's Summit, Missouri and run from 8 am to 12 pm. The MoCHIP event will be in

Long Hall and the Bicycle Safety Program will run in the church's parking lot. All youth through young adults are encouraged to attend.



Previous Editions of The Rambler Online

A treasure trove of 23 editions of The Rambler were recently found and have since been scanned and placed on the swopepark.org website. These editions range from 1961 to 1986 and cover many important events throughout the lodge's history.

Many may find interesting the editions during the 1960s when Swope Park Lodge was in the construction phase of the current building at 8521

Oldham Road. Two additional files are also on the website which are the programs for the dedication and cornerstone laying ceremonies for the lodge.

The stories that aren't explicitly told are also quite interesting, like references to phone numbers with exchange names instead of seven digits. The September 1963 edition also references the "newly assigned zip code number."

At your leisure, check these editions out to see the long history of our lodge and appendant bodies which are all highlighted in many of these issues.

In an effort to put the complete history of The Rambler together, if you have any old editions that are not already included online, please contact Justin Dryer at justinwdryer@gmail.com. Even more recent issues of The Rambler which were pub-

lished by WB Jim Payne are needed as his working files were lost after his death and the printing company who published them has since gone out of business. Any editions you can provide will be scanned and returned to you if desired. Thanks for helping Swope Park recapture history!



Secretary's Notes

Brethren I would like to thank everyone who has so generously assisted with our programs this year. I would like to update everyone on each event.

I have received several thank you cards along with three personal phone calls in response to the Veteran's Christmas Gift Bag program at the Kansas City Veterans Hospital. This has been the largest response received from the beneficiaries of our gifts.

The Flag Retiring Ceremony attracted over 60

people who braved the 20 degree temperature to support this event. 20 of those in attendance had no connection with the lodge, but left with a new interest in Masonry.

The Bicycle Rodeo helped the Swope Park Masonic Family become better recognized by the general public for our charitable work. A special thank you to all who assisted in this new program.

The debate tournament at Raytown High School was very important as it placed Freemasonry not

only in front of the students, but the teachers and administrators. There was a new appreciation for the lodge because there was a shortage of judges for the third year in a row so the lodge was a very vital part of making their program a success. The organizers were very appreciative of all the lodge brothers who participated.

The Christmas Party attracted over 95 people to the event. Several Worshipful Masters from other lodges stopped by to borrow some of the lodge's

ideas to make their lodge as successful as Swope Park.

Finally a special thank you to all the Brothers who have helped by giving donations, whether monetary or in time and assistance, no matter how large or small. This support greatly benefits the lodge and keeps all of the programs designed to help others active and moving forward.





DeMolays at School

In early February, the Raymore-Peculiar East Middle School performed "Once on This Island". The cast of the Island themed musical included Jeffrey Sykes, Junior Councilor elect of William F. Kuhn Chapter, who played the part of Agwe "God of Water".

The colorful stage set and costume design along with the fantastic singing voices, lent themselves to three outstanding performances, including a sold out Saturday night show. Congratulations to Jeffrey and the other cast members for a job well done.



Jeffrey, on left, poses with other members of the cast.

Sweetheart Luncheon



On Sunday, February 8, 2015 Swope Park Lodge #617 hosted their annual Sweetheart Luncheon with several Lodges attending and supporting the event. The menu of Lasagna, salad, rolls, cake, and drink was prepared and served by RWB Kenny Best, WB James Lowman, Bro.

Larry Alvis, and Bro Mark Martinez. Mrs. Swope Park Connie Best assisted at the door with collecting money from the attendees. Entertainment was provided by Bro. James Wright, Chaplain at Summit Lodge #263 and WB Albert McDowell, Past Master of Grandview Lodge #618. Bro Wright

sang several familiar tunes including How Great Thou Art, Hello Dolly, Amazing Grace, Song from Casablanca, and concluded the afternoon event with God Bless America. Lodges represented at the event included Summit Lodge #263 with their OES Officers from Summit Chapter

#101, Grandview Lodge #618, Ivanhoe Lodge #446, Kansas City Lodge #220, Temple Gate Lodge #299 and the host Swope Park Lodge #617 with members of their OES Chapter, Swope Park Chapter #520.



WM James O'Shea with Bro. James Wright and WB Albert McDowell.



Many of the attendees enjoying the bountiful food.



Bro. James Wright singing for the crowd, with accompaniment by WB Albert McDowell.



Masonic Home to Visit Swope Park Lodge

May 16, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm has been scheduled as an official visit from Carly Dibben, Representative from the Masonic Home of MO. Carly plans to give a Masonic Home Presentation as part of a scheduled Widow's Tea / Past Mas-

ters Luncheon and Empty Chair Degree. Plans are presently in the beginning stages of development with further details of the event scheduled to go to all of Swope Park's Masonic Widows during the first of April.





York Rite Fall Festival

On January 17, Kansas City Chapter and Council held a York Rite Festival to bestow the Capitular degrees and the Cryptic Degrees. There were three Candidates present. Harry D. Brown Jr Chapter #284 and Westport Council had one candidate, Michael Schmidt. He is pictured flanked by

our King, Will Jennens and our High Priest, Thomas Schmidt. The day started with breakfast at 7:00 am. It was a nice spread with biscuits and gravy coupled with scrambled eggs and drinks.

After breakfast the festival went straight into to the first degree after brief

remarks by the hosting High Priest Jeffrey L. Fielder-Bey. Once the Capitular degrees were completed it was time for a lunch break where a great meal and conversation was again provided. The afternoon was spent doing the Cryptic Degrees.

not had the privilege of watching Very Excellent Companion Dan Quesenberry perform the part of principal Sojourner you are missing a treat and an education at the same time.

A side note, if you have



Harry D. Brown Jr Chapter's candidate Michael Schmidt with Will Jennens and Thomas Schmidt.



25 Year Pin Recipient B William Groll with WM Jim O'Shea, WB James Lowman, and B Larry Alvis.



25 Year Pin Presentation

On Thursday afternoon, March 5, 2015 WM Jim O'Shea, WB James Lowman, SW; Bro. Larry Alvis, JW; with RWB Kenney Best paid a visit to Bro. William Groll's home to present him with his 25 year pin of honor from Swope Park Lodge #617. Service award pins are usually presented at an open session prior to an

official communication where family and friends could attend and witness, but due to health issues Bro Groll was not able to fulfill this request.

Bro. Groll joined Swope Park Lodge #617 in 1990 with the desire to be a Shriner. After his successful giving back of his Entered Apprentice and

Fellow Craft degrees he passed to the sublime degree of Master Mason and later obtained his goal of becoming a Shriner.

William proudly served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War. William married his sweetheart and was married for 45 years before

an unexpected accident changed his life. Bro. Groll shared his life experiences with the Brethren present and was then presented with his 25 Year Service Pin which he proudly accepted. Congratulations my Brother on achieving this honor to your fraternity.

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Swope Park Officers Hold Special Meeting

On Saturday, January 31, 2015 a Special Meeting was called by WM Jim O'Shea to discuss the following topics:

The health of Swope Park Lodge #617 as it pertained to retaining members and getting the membership more active in the Lodge.

Updates to the Master's proposed projects during his term. These events are highlighted in various articles within this issue of The Rambler.



The budget for the 2015 Christmas Party chaired by Mrs. Swope Park, Connie Best. The Christmas Part is planned to be held on December 12, 2015.

Keeping the lodge website current by a Master Mason and/or his spouse.

A design and schedule for enclosing the Lodge's Clothes rack with storage

and sliding doors.

RWB Kenny Best organized a wonderfully delicious breakfast of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee with the assistance from JW Larry Alvis, RWB Larry Cameron and WM Jim O'Shea. After breakfast the meeting was attended by the previously mentioned brethren as well as WB James Lowman, SW; Bro. Mark Martinez, SS; and Bro. Roy Gutierrez, Mar.



William F. Kuhn Potato Bash

William F. Kuhn Chapter Order of DeMolay held their 8th Annual Potato Bash on March 7, 2015 and served over 60 people. In attendance was RWB Jim Spencer, who shared his 85 year old DeMolay membership card with the slightly younger active DeMolay in attendance. They were extremely impressed and flooded RWB Spencer with many questions about DeMolay during his time.

There were eight young men who helped serve everyone who attended and they would like thank all those who were able to support their fundraiser.



Mrs. Swope Park, Connie Best to Chair Swope Park Lodge Masonic Christmas Party One Last Time

Connie Best announced that she would be retiring as Chairman of the Swope Park Masonic Christmas Party prior to the stated communication of Swope Park Lodge #617 on January 22nd. Also on that

evening Mrs. Swope Park gave a short talk on her responsibilities of Chairing the 2015 Swope Park Masonic Family Christmas Party on the second week of December. With the approval by the Brethren present, Connie is

able to begin obtaining gifts and planning for this big event in our Lodge. The Christmas party in 2014 saw 93 people in attendance and a total of \$2500 was raised and given to the building board fund.

Swope Park would like to thank Connie for her years of dedication to this party and look forward to the new Chairman and the ideas that they will bring to the wonderful family event.



Swope Park #520 Proudly Displays New Banner

The banner for Swope Park Chapter #520 arrived in time to display at our January 2015 meeting. We are very pleased

with the quality of workmanship and are proud to add it to the display of banners in Swope Park Lodge. The banner even

came with a protective cover to use during parades and will help extend the life of the banner overall.

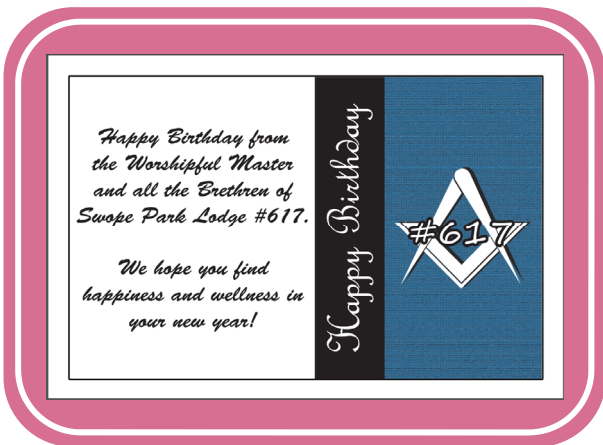


RWB Dennis Spears

District Deputy Grand Lecturer
Eighteenth Masonic District

Phone: (816) 468-5674

New Birthday Card Design Created For Swope Park Lodge Membership



For the last two years Swope Park Lodge stopped sending birthday cards to the Brethren due to running out of stock and the increased cost of mailing with the US postage stamp. WM Jim O'Shea asked WB Justin Dryer to redesign the birthday card, making it a postcard format with a special Masonic graphic on the front. On the back, a printed return address, special Masonic message

and a space for affixing an address label. With the approval of the Brethren, 1,000 colored birthday cards were recently printed and have started to be mailed out to the Brethren. Thank you WB Justin Dryer for the completion of the Worshipful Master's request. The continuation of birthday card deliveries truly benefits all lodge brothers.

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A Thank You on Behalf of Sister Lois Patten

Swope Park Chapter No. 520 wishes to say "Thank You" to the many individuals and OES Chapters that extended Swope Park OES expressions of sympathy in the passing

of Sister Lois Patten, Secretary. Some of those expressions of sympathy came in the form of donations received to go to **ESTARL** in her memory. **ESTARL** stands for

Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership. Qualified applicants use grants received from this program to assist with their religious training. Appli-

cants do not have to have a Masonic or Eastern Star relationship; however they must be recommended by an Eastern Star Chapter.



Masons Outside Lodge

B Larry Alvis pictured below as he helps a local Boy Scout Troop raise funds for their activities. Just another example of how Masons conduct

themselves in and out of lodge. B Alvis has two sons in Scouts, and hopes to call these two "Brother" soon!



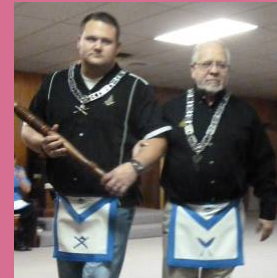
Brother Robert Lee Ward Installed as Marshall

Brother Robert Lee Ward was installed as Marshall of Swope Park Lodge #617 by RWB Larry Cameron. The installation of B Ward occurred on Jan-

uary 8, 2015 prior to the Official Communication for the evening. Bert's family was in attendance and were proud to witness the event.



Left: B Larry Alvis assisting the Boy Scouts



Right: B Bert Ward escorted by RWB Kenny Best after being installed as Marshall

At Grand Session



Good Luck

From Mom Rita



At Conclave



A Brief look at the Recruitment Issues

I want to start with an excerpt from an article in Midnight Freemason by B Jamie Guinn. The Article is titled "What Could be More Necessary?" This is a very well thought out article. It states:

One of my favorite movies is "The Last Samurai" starring Ken Watanabe and Tom Cruise. It's about a disgraced American soldier named Captain Nathan Algren (played by Cruise) who is asked to help Japan modernize its army during the Meiji Restoration Period (late 19th century). During the course of the movie Algren is captured by one of the last bands of samurai who are loyal to the emperor but who are rebelling against the modernization. As a captive of Katsumoto Moritsugu (played by Watanabe), he is allowed to wonder the samurai village and witness the simple and disciplined lifestyle of the samurai. Algren and Katsumoto begin to have conversations where Algren learns that the samurai life is guided by a philosophy called Bushido, or Way of the Warrior. In it, Algren begins to learn a way to redeem himself and his honor. In one of my favorite scenes from the movie, both Algren and Katsumoto are in a

cherry tree orchard where Katsumoto tells Algren that a life spent looking for the perfect cherry blossom would not be a life wasted. Katsumoto then laments that the way of the samurai is dying out and no longer necessary. Algren replies, "What could be more necessary?"

In our Craft much has been said about why membership numbers are declining. I won't rehash the discussions here, or even the solutions that have been offered. What I offer is a response to the idea that Freemasonry is no longer necessary. But I ask what could be more necessary? It's been said that today's modern young men no longer find ideals such as honor, respect, dignity, or integrity as necessary or even desired traits. Personally, I don't think that is correct. While it may be true that we are the instant gratification generation, and many young men aren't attracted to fraternities or clubs, I've met plenty of men who are attracted to those ideals and desire to find a place that foster them.

We are not the only organization that is suffering through this. The VFW, American Legion, and other service organi-

zations have suffered a downturn in membership. The issue is not an easy one to address and each young member you speak to will give you a different answer on what they would like to see. There is one trend that can not be escaped, we are having to compete with a sound bite mentality and with gaming systems, girlfriends, work and general "What have you done for me" issues. These can lead to retention issues.

So it is just my humble opinion that we have a two prong issue, retaining new members and attracting new members. The second is a touch easier as we have a defined group to draw from since to be a member of the York Bodies you must be a Master Mason in good standing, therefore we know who we can recruit from. The first can be more elusive because in most cases we do not know we are losing them until they are gone. So how do we do this?

We have had one really good start I think we all want to continue. This was the family meal outing that Illustrious Master Best came up with and carried through. Setting something like this up quarterly, and inviting

new Blue Lodge members to come to the meal and learn about us as a people and as members of York Rite. Another great suggestion came from Companion Fowler about offering a reduced price initiation fee and giving them a free Marked Master Degree. We have all the paraphernalia to do this in house so why not? Based on the Grand by-laws, which have not yet been changed, we can use ritual books as aids, so the parts do not need to be completely memorized at the time we do the degree.

The hardest part of recruiting and retention is just getting started on these ideas and sustaining them. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on recruiting please share them with the presiding officer or the bodies as a whole. I think the goal of three new members over the next year to each body is obtainable as a starting point.

Mark Schmidt



Schools of Instruction

Our Schools of Instruction are coming to a close for this year with one last one scheduled for Alpha Lodge #659 on April 8, 2015. The Brethren were

once again supportive of DDGM Kenny Best and DDGL Dennis Spears to attend each school and learn the Ritual. DDGL provided a very informa-

tive and interesting way of meeting Brethren from other Lodges and learning the Chairs. Thanks to all who attended and to our District Leaders for

another successful year.

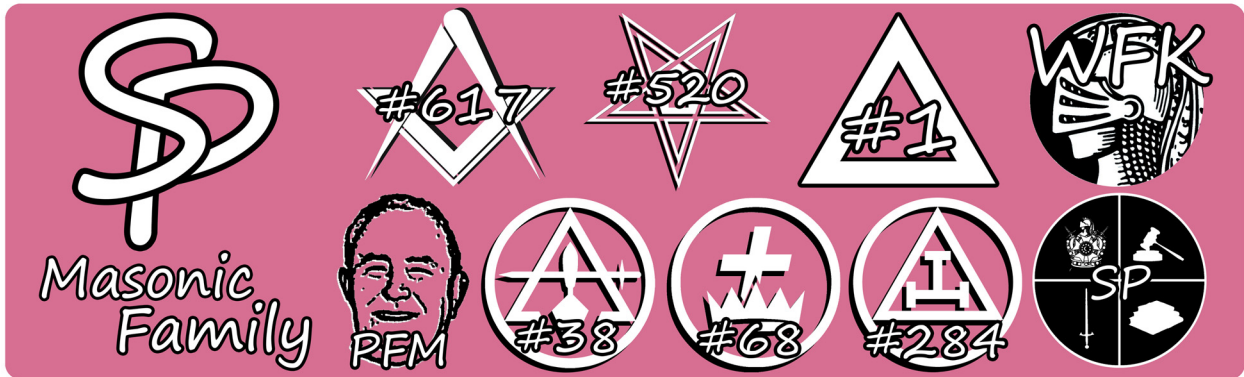


THE RAMBLER



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PO Box Nr 35313
Kansas City, MO 64134

Email:
swope617@swopepark.org



SWOPE PARK TEMPLE MEETINGS DATE, TIME and CONTACTS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Swope Park Lodge #617 AF&AM
Second and Fourth Thursdays 7:00 PM
Kenny Best, Secretary
Phone (816) 965-5261• Swope Park Order Eastern Star Chapter 520
Second Tuesday 7:30 PM
Lois Patton, Secretary
Phone (816) 318-9808• Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter 284
First Monday 7:30 PM
Roy Thomas, Secretary
Phone (816) 318-3939 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westport Council Royal & Select Masters Nr 38
First Monday 7:30 PM
Roy Thomas, Secretary
Phone (816) 318-3939• Commandery of Knights Templar Nr 68
Third Tuesday 7:30 PM
Roy Thomas, Secretary
Phone (816) 318-3939• Paul F Miller Memorial Study Club
Wednesdays 7:00 PM
Jeff Engle, Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Job's Daughters Bethel # 1 and Jobie-2-Bees
Second and Fourth Mondays 7:30 PM
Rita Hanson
Phone (816) 525-2681• William F. Kuhn Chapter DeMolay
First and Third Thursdays 7:30 PM
Gary Dryer, Chapter Advisor
Phone (816) 763-9494• Squires of the Round Table
First and Third Thursdays 7:00 PM
Kevin Sykes, Adult Advisor
Phone (816) 322-3485 |
|---|---|---|