THE SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE BODIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2016 Number 1

January 2016

SWOPEPARK.ORG



Master's Trestle Board

Well here we go. My first "Master's Trestle Board" of the masonic year. Very nervous, I have some big shoes to fill on writing these. I want to first and foremost let everyone know that I am not the best when it comes to writing articles. So needless to say you are not going to get long eloquent articles from me (thank you to editor WB Justin Dryer who I am sure will make my articles look like they were written by a literary genius).

I am currently sitting here in Cathedral City/Palm Springs, California taking some time to sit down and think of something to write for my first Rambler as WM of Swope Park Lodge. The first thing that comes to mind is that I hope each and every one of you had a great Christmas/Holiday Season, and a very festive New Year's Day. It is weird to be saying that while I am here in sunny warm California surrounded by desert, palm trees, and sandstorms instead of snow and freezing rain.

We had a fantastic temple Christmas party this year. Once again I was blown away at the turnout by the members of all the Masonic Bodies that meet at the Swope Park Masonic Temple along with the guests that attended. We had good food, great talent during the talent show, fantastic music provided by the lodge Organist WB Albert McDowell who lead the members and guests in singing festive Christmas songs to start off the "Show."

Connie Best once again went above and beyond on making sure that the Christmas party went smoothly and without any hiccups. We don't always see the magic she does to make the party a great success, or any event she is involved with. Hence why I gave her the name "The Miracle Worker." I would like to thank her for all her tireless work and dedication she puts into making our events a success (How is that for sucking up?).

As for Swope Park Lodge. I have completed the lodge calendar of events, the committee lists, and approved the budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Like I said in the last issue of The Rambler, the lodge has many events planned along with some new ideas that I would call "trial ideas." Some are committee based, some are activity based, and all of them would not be possible without the aid and assistance of the members of the lodge and other masonic body members that participate. If you are interested in becoming an active commit-

By WB James Lowman

tee member for this year please get in touch with me and I will make sure you get as involved as you want to be. We are always looking for new ideas and new events for the lodge. I know I have been overwhelmed with requests for members to be on the "Twin Peaks Outreach Program" committee lead by RWB Kenny Best. I personally still have yet to receive an invite to the committee meetings...

I would like to take this time to also welcome and announce a new officer to the Swope Park Lodge Masonic line this year. WB Albert McDowell has ioined Swope Park #617. He has come to us from Belton/Grandview Lodge #450 and I have appointed him as the lodge Organist for my year as Master. WB McDowell provides excellent music to the lodge meetings and events. His music also drowns out our horrible during singing lodge meetings. He has been very helpful and informative in sharing his ideas with me on suggestions for improving the lodge, along with new ideas that he brings to us from his time at Grandview Lodge.

I will be meeting with the other Worshipful Masters of the other lodges in our district to help strengthen the district and lodges through communication,



lodge visitations, assisting each other with degree work, etc. This committee hasn't met since the 2013-2014 Masonic year (my first year as WM of Ivanhoe Lodge). I am very hopeful in reviving this group to help make the 18th Masonic District a powerhouse in the state. We have dubbed the Master's meetings in our district "The Council of Masters."

I hope to see you all in lodge this year. I would also like to see the Past Masters/Members who are able to attend. If you need assistance in getting to lodge please let us know and we will try to help make sure you get to lodge. A lodge is only as strong as its members and the participation of its members.

I need your help to make this a great Masonic year! Let's make this one for the record books!

Fraternally yours,

W.B. James Lowman

Worshipful Master

Swope Park Lodge #617

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Masonic Youth Day Assistance

Each year the Grand Lodge of Missouri sponsors a Masonic Youth Day, held at the Grand Lodge office in Columbia, MO. It is a day of fellowship, fun and games for our three Masonic youth groups; Job's Daughters, Rainbow for Girls, and DeMolay. Although the Grand Lodge was working with a very austere budget for the year, the monies budgeted for the Youth Day remained the same as in prior years.

As the Masonic Youth Committee started allocating funds for the various items, we found that we would run short this year. The largest single item each year is for food and drink and most of you know, the cost of food has increased significantly over the past year. This increase required us to try and cut in other areas.

Part of each year's festivi-

ties include drawings for gift cards at various retail stores. It was decided that the monies to support this would be better spent to maintain the same level of food and drink as in prior years.

I asked the Chairman if it would be okay if I went to the Masonic groups in the Kansas City area and asked for donations so that the kids could still have the drawings for the gift certificates. The committee was in agreement and I was given permission to proceed with raising the funds.

As I got the word out to local lodges and one Eastern Star Chapter, the money started rolling in. Individuals also wanted to contribute and the overall response was phenomenal. So many Masonic organizations in the 18th District came forward that I had to stop the fund raising. I ended up with \$1,290.00 for the kids. Having more money than past years enabled us to also fund drawings for the Squires, Jobies-to-Bee, and Pledges. What a day it turned out to be for the kids, they were cheering and chanting the names of the various groups and individuals who contributed to this event.

On November 8, 2015, MWB David W. Haywood, Junior Past Grand Master and RWB Richard W. Kaeser. Junior Grand Steward journeyed to Swope Park Lodge #617 to attend the Chevalier Degree at William F. Kuhn DeMolay Chapter. An added bonus was that both Grand Lodge officers were Senior DeMolays and Chevaliers.

After the Chevalier Degree, MWB Haywood presented each Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star Chapter and individual contributors a Certificate

By RWB Larry Cameron

of Appreciation for their support of the 2015 Masonic Youth Day.

The Masonic organizations honored were:

Swope Park Lodge #617, Swope Park OES #520, Alpha Lodge #659, Alpha Lodge Booster Club, Ivanhoe Lodge #446, Kansas City Lodge #220, and 18th Masonic District Square & Compass Association.

Individuals honored were:

RWB Larry Cameron, RWB Kenny Best, RWB Gary Dryer, RWB Glenn Burrows, RWB Dave Coburn, RWB Gene Wizner, WB Ben Pagel, WB Robbie Roberson, WB John Hoykins, WB Mel Tacke, WB James Lowman, WB Justin Dryer, WB James O'Shea, B Bert Ward, B Kirk Fetterolf, B Joe Miller, B Mark Foster and Connie Best (a.k.a. Mrs. Swope Park).

 (\mathbf{S})

Passing of an Icon

WB Ben Pagel passed on December 5th, 2015. Ben was a good and true Brother. Although he was not a card carrying member of Swope Park Lodge, he attended every event the lodge held and made large donations to many of our charity events. WB Ben was affectionately referred to as "The God Father of the 18th Masonic District" by many brothers within the district.

WB Ben must have been

Junior Warden in over 200 degrees, this was his favorite part and he always did an excellent job. I always saw a smile on his face as the candidate was standing in front of him and was delivered his jewel.

WB Ben spent his last years setting a great example of how a Mason should conduct himself. He will surely be missed in many lodges. Unknown to many people, WB Ben purchased many cars for those he felt were doing great work and needed transportation to help the fraternity.

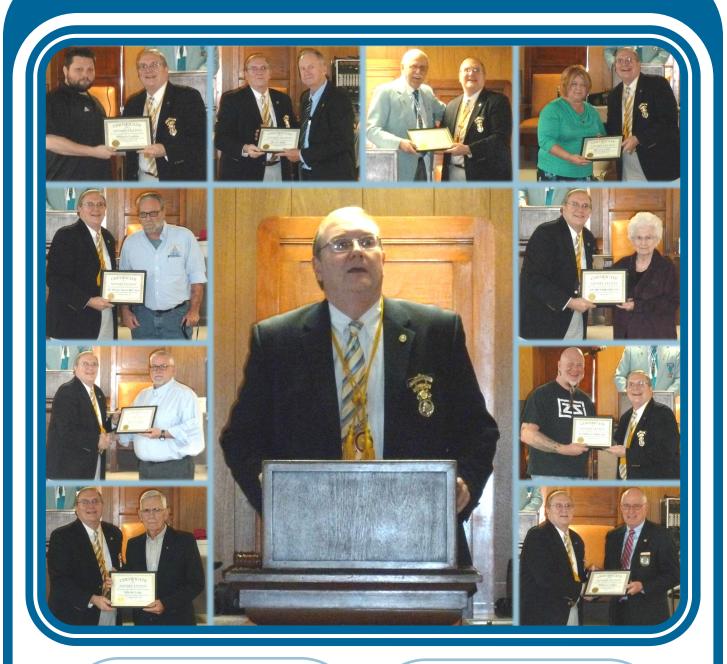
I would expect that he is the Junior Warden in the Grand Lodge on High.



By RWB Kenny Best



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Swope Park Masonic Family Trip to Veteran Hospital in Kansas City

On December 18th everyone arrived at lodge to begin assembling gift bags under the direction of B Larry Alvis, Chairman of the committee with extra supervision of WM James Lowman. In attendance were many members of Swope Park Lodge, Swope Park OES, William F. Kuhn DeMolay, Bethel #1 Job's Daughters along with additional visitors. This was the 9th year for this event so everything ran smoothly and our mission was accomplished in just one hour. The rest of the evening was spent socializing.

The next morning breakfast prepared by RWB Kenny Best, then the packages were loaded and the group headed to the hospital. After arriving at the VA, we were greeted by Temple Gate more importantly the so-Lodge member RWB Lyman Ridgeway and members of the Kansas City Free Runners, a social motorcycle group made up of Masons. Led by WM James Lowman the group was organized to start delivering of the gifts. It was great day as many of the Veterans were so appreciative of not only the gift bag but

By RWB Kenny Best

cial time each person spent with them. Many of them were confined to the hospital over the holidays and were very appreciative of having visitors. Thank you to B Jody Hale and family, B Danny Best, Rita Hanson, DeMolay, Job's, and everyone who helped make this a wonderful day.







Swope Park Chapter #520 Installation of Officers for 2015-2016

On Saturday, the 24th of October, 2015, the Chapter held our regular stated meeting for the month. Past Matrons and Past Patrons as well as members of other chapters who had answered the call to pro-tem an office during the last term were honored. The evening began with a delicious Hy -Vee catered meal and there was good food and fellowship all around.

The installation of officers is usually an open event and held separately from our meetings to enable those who are not members of the Order of the Eastern Star to attend. This year, due to circumstances beyond control, the chapter opted to install the officers for 2015-2016 during its stated meeting in October.

The following officers, having been elected or appointed in due form, are now serving Swope Park Chapter No. 520: Stella Turnquist, Worthy Matron; Larry Alvis, Worthy Patron; Becky Bow-

man, Associate Matron; Ed Culver, Associate Patron; Rita Hanson, Secretary; Barbara Stillman, Treasurer; Deb Merrick, Conductress; April White, Associate Conductress; Jayna Walden, Chaplain; Connie Sohn, Marshal; Frances Banks, Adah; Prudence Irwin-Brennan, Ruth; Holly Johnson, Esther; Pat Neece, Martha; Alby Shipman, Electa; Terry Scarborough, Warder; and John Stillman, Sentinel. We hope to fill the position of Organist

By Barbara Stillman

soon and get a photo of all 18 of our officers to publish in the next edition. (OES regulations prohibit the taking of pictures during a closed meeting and to complicate matters further, several of the officers were not installed until November).

All attending celebrated the chapter's 91st birthday in Shotwell Hall with a beautifully decorated cake following the meeting. We're looking forward to our 100th year in 2024!



District 18 Square and Compass Association "Building Of The Flag"

On the evening of October 29th, 2015 the Masons of the 18th Masonic District, Grand Lodge Officers, and Masons from the surrounding districts gathered together at Swope Park Lodge #617 to learn not only masonic education, but also history about our country's flag. Members of the National Sojourners #154 from Leavenworth, KS came out to present "Building of the Flag" to the brethren. This program describes the history of "Old Glory," from the first continental congress flag to the American Flag we currently use today. Donations were collected to help youth attend the Spirit of America Youth Conference. Details of this great program can be found at:

www.freedomsfoundation.

By WB James Lowman

<u>org</u>.

Members of the National Sojourners that presented this very informative and patriotic program were: Herbert F. Merrick, Barry Remmey, and Richard Schroder.



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Antonio Wesley Becomes Newest Master Mason

At a special communication of Swope Park Lodge on October 8th, B Antonio Deon Wesley became the lodge's newest Master Mason.

WB Charles Farris conferred the Degree, while WB Mel Tacke ceremoniously raised Bro. Wesley and RWB David Colburn gave the Lecture and Charge. B Wesley was appreciative for receiving the Degree.



After Lodge closed the Brethren in attendance retired to Shotwell Hall for a full spread of refreshments consisting of pulled pork sandwiches, potato

By WB James O'Shea

salad, pork and beans, coleslaw, chips, brownies, chocolate chip cookies, and drinks. A special thank you goes to the East Gate Traveler's Club for providing their assistance which allowed the degree to be conducted. Congratulations to B Wesley for obtaining this wonderful degree and becoming a member of the greatest fraternity.



From The West...

It is that time of year to start thinking about what happened in the last year and what needs to change in the new year, the time to make resolutions for those changes. Most people make resolutions to exercise more, to eat less, to pay more attention to family, to save more, to enjoy life more or something to that effect. But I think all of us who are part of the Masonic family have a greater calling to make a more profound resolution.

I don't want to sound like the above resolutions are meaningless. I believe many people need these resolutions in their life to get them into a mindset. I also believe many people use these each year and each time they last about two to three weeks before going right back to the same life. And while I don't want to tell you what your resolution should be, I will share some of mine:

1) I resolve to communicate better than I have in the past. The greatest obstacle any organization faces is communication. While I cannot make that problem go away, I can prevent the problem from my end. 2) I resolve to be available for every function that I can attend. While I can't attend everything due to work and family, I can attend more if I make better notes of when they are and manage my time better.

3) I resolve to recommit myself to my obligations. While I will not admit to not following my obligations from each group, I will make a concentrated effort to keep the obligations of each group I am a member in the forefront of my mind and to review those obligations on a more regular basis.



4) I resolve to be a better Grandpa than I have been in the last seven months! This is the fun one (everyone should have one that is fun)! I have really enjoyed the gift of grand parenting and hope I can do a better job for my granddaughter's sake.

These are my resolutions. I would hope that many of you would resolve similar things. I hope your Christmas and New Year's celebrations were the best with many more to come!

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Eastern Star Ladies Entertain with Pink Lodge Skit

The ladies of Swope Park #520 were joined by their sisters from East Gate #367, Oak Grove #407 and Blue Springs #428 on Saturday, October 17th, 2015 to perform a very special ceremonial for everyone's entertainment. From the reaction of the audience that day and rave reviews afterwards, it was a smashing success. Loads of laughter filled the lodge room as the ladies performed THE PINK LODGE; a (verv) loose interpretation from the female standpoint of what business transpires during a typical Masonic Blue Lodge meeting.

From the very beginning as a few of the 'brothers' entered the lodge hall to prepare for the evening by sweeping up sequins and beads fallen onto the rug from sparkly white Eastern Star dresses, the ladies captured everyone's attention. 'Emblems' were present-'badges' were ed: adorned by the 'officers'; the 'Master', resplendent in a top hat, sounded the ginormous gavel and the meeting began. Except for a couple of small interruptions because of the overwhelming glare in the room being cast by two highly polished and uncovered heads on the sidelines, it was business as usual. Well, perhaps it was business only slightly exaggerated.

'Grand Honors' were giv-

en twice. After the second time 'the Master' declared a practice was imperative since all Grand Honors were given differently and somehow none of them were close to being correct. To prove the point, 'the Master' commented that he was sure he saw YMCA dance moves as well as the Macarena. However, this reporter suspects the glare in the room had surely affected 'his' vision.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was when WM James Lowman was escorted to the East and presented with his frilly personalized pink gingham apron and crown which he wore proudly for

By Barbara Stillman

the remainder of the event. If you missed this fun afternoon please talk with someone who attended and get the full scoop as there isn't room to print all the details and pictures.

All of the OES ladies who put this skit on send a big thanks to the Masons from Swope Park Lodge #617 as well as the entire Masonic family at Swope Park. We're grateful for your support of the event as well as that from other lodges that were represented for this afternoon of fun and fellowship. Donations received from the delectable dinner held prior to the skit went to the Building Board for the Kitchen Fund.

Swope Park Continues To Assist Youth Where Needed

Young Jeffery Sykes who is a member of William F. Kuhn DeMolay recently requested help from the lodge for Raymore Peculiar High School. They were seeking judges for their upcoming debate tournament in November.

I was able to answer the call and spent Friday night and Saturday judging. I was graciously thanked by teachers and students alike, this was the first time many had seen a Mason in action.

Raytown South High School also called seeking help in December for their debate tournament. The lodge has been as-

By RWB Kenny Best

sisting them the last six years. B Clayton Stiff, B Tim Alvis, and myself all provided our assistance. It was all just another great day of being a Mason.



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

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Swope Park Chapter #520 Christmas Cheer

Worthy Matron, Stella Turnquist (L) presents a Christmas gift bag to Gayle Holland, one of several of our longtime members who can no longer frequent our chapter meetings. Sister Stella made the beautiful fabric bags that were a big hit with all of the recipients. Included were several useful items, many handmade by our Worthy Matron: a bib apron, a Kleenex pocket pack in a fabric case, a drawstring fabric bag full of candy, and a card holder. Also



purchased and included were lip balm, hand sanitizer, and a pair of gripper soled slipper socks.

Several Chapter mem-

bers volunteered to deliver Christmas bags to almost a dozen members. We are always given a big welcome and all of the

By Barbara Stillman

volunteers and members alike enjoy the visits most of all.

To further the Christmas spirit, Swope Park Chapter also donates money to the Swope Park Lodge #617 project for the veterans who are being treated at the Veteran's Administration Hospital. Those who can help with filling gift bags and then participate in delivering them.

These projects are most rewarding and we always look forward to the experience



Eagle Scout Court of Honor

On October 17, 2015, Boy Scout Troop 550 held a Court of Honor to recognize three boys who earned the rank of Eagle Scout this year. Steven Justice, Tim Alvis and Trevor Leslie were introduced to the public for the first time as Eagle Scouts. This was a culmination of over twenty combined years of work and effort by these three boys. They became Eagle Scouts number 153, 154 and 155



By Larry Alvis

for Troop 550 in their 54 year history of serving the youth in Raytown. Approximately 70 people came to see the ceremony, which included Kenn Miller, Eagle Scout and Scout Executive of the Heart of America Council. BSA. A special thanks to the many groups that meet at the Temple for allowing the use of the building amidst a busy weekend.



Remembering Those Who Passed On in 2015

Billy Jester Ben Pagel Robby Roberson Erma Keeton William Flora Gladys Mohart David George Carolyn White





Youth Honors and Recognition

On November 8, 2015, William F. Kuhn Chapter, Order of DeMolay, hosted a Chevalier Investiture to recognize active and senior DeMolays who have done so much to be named by the International Supreme Council of DeMolay. Lou Greenhagen (from Huron Chapter in Kansas City, KS and Chapter Dad of Rising Sun Chapter in Kansas City, MO), Jeffrey Alvis and Andre Newsom (from William F. Kuhn Chapter) were invested with all the rites and honors of a Chevalier of DeMolay for the outstanding leadership that was displayed by these individuals. The ceremony was performed by Chevaliers and included many Past State Master Councilors and the International Congress Secretary, Quentin Cockerham.

After the Chevalier Investiture, a Majority Service was held for Jeffrey Alvis. A DeMolay, upon reaching his 21st birthday, can no longer be active. The Majority Service is the way DeMolay says "thank you for your service and come back to continue to give." This was done by

By Larry Alvis

members of William F. Kuhn with assistance from Rising Sun Chapter and Quentin Cockerham.

Approximately 70 people witnessed this event, including the Past Grand Master of the State of Missouri, MWB David Haywood. A meal after the event was provided by several individuals.



RWB Dennis Spears, DDGL

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District Deputy Grand Lecturer Eighteenth Masonic District AF&AM of Missouri

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Swope Park Masonic Family Christmas

On December 12, 2015, the Swope Park bodies again put on their famous Christmas party for brothers, sisters, friends, and family.

Party 2015

Dinner started at 5:30 pm in Shotwell Hall. Over 70 people passed through the dining hall, with several different soups and chilies being served as well as an array of delicious desserts.

As everyone moved up to the lodge room as they finished dinner, they found WB Albert McDowell on the piano and Jeffrey Sykes leading Christmas carols. It was terrific fun singing along with the group.

Once the lodge was filled a special visit was made by Santa Claus who excited all the young people and those young at heart.

Each person sat on Santa's lap and told him their Christmas wishes, including the Worshipful Master James Lowman. After he collected their wishes, Santa remarked "Merry Christmas to all!" as he rode away on his Harley. There was no snow for the reindeer so Santa had to find other means of transportation.

After Santa's visit came the talent show which started with Jeffrey Sykes and his forensics piece from school, "Cinderella Wore Combat Boots." Several young people then sang and performed short skits, and the talent portion of the evening finished up with RWB

By RWB Kenny Best

Kenny Best and wife Connie performing the old skit "There's a Hole in My Bucket."

The night ended with a live and silent auction which raised over \$1,800.00 for the building fund. This fundraiser was a great help to the building board since all utilities were increased by around 9% for 2016. As everyone left they all had big smiles on their face, a testament to a wonderful day of fellowship and fun.



Clippings of The Rambler from November 1962



Brethren: Due to circumstances and conditions beyond our control we find it necessary to make an immediate change in our Temple site. We, therefore have discussed pro and con whether to rent a outpoble building in conther

suitable building in another area. We find most of our members favoring partially completing our new Temple thus we have decided to break ground as soon as blue prints have been completed. We will not be able to completely finish the Temple with present funds. However, our Finance Committee will be contacting our membership for donations to help with this project. By partially completing our building we will be able to meét in the finished portion thereby accomplishing our ultimate aim of moving into a new area much sconer than previously hoped for. It is possible for us to be in our new Temple before spring, weather permitting of course and with the ideas, assistance, and co-operation of each brother. We hope by this move to increase the attendance of our own lodge as well as the other organizations who meet in our Temple

A building committee has been appointed A Building Committee has been appointed consisting of Orin Masoner, Roger Parker, Jim Capper, Herman Tribue, Master and Senior Warden, Hal Stonebraker and Charles Day. These men will do the sub-contracting as well as work with the Building Association. We feel that they will do a splendid job.

as work with the Building Association. We feel that they will do a splendid job. A Finance Committee has also been appointed There will be about 25 men serving with the Chairman, James L. Thomas. These men have a lot of hard work to do and will be supplied with brochures giving all the pertinent information you may desire. Your co-operation will be expected, accepted and greatly appreciated, and our new Temple will be one to be proud of.

Harry G. Marshall Master November 1962 R-4

3 Editors Page R-A-M-B-L-I-N-G-S

There are always interesting bits of history available for the Freemason to discover by reading the many good publications available on this universal subject. I always enjoy and appreciate "The Freemason" published by our Grand Ledge of Missouri. This fine publication is available free and will be mailed to your address without charge if you will request the Grand Secretary to put your name on the mailing list.Recently, however, in the interest of economy each reader was requested to re-establish their request for "The Freemason" in order to eliminate the names of those who no longer desired the publication or lost mailings to incorrect addresses, etc. This is good business, indeed, for such a worthy publication. Seems to me it is always good to take an inventory at regular intervals to see how things are going and what action would be helpful for our issue of "The Rambler" and the Ramble Club objectives as well.

Consequently, I often wonder if our "Rambler" is reaching every one of the approximate 680 to 700 mailings each month? What improvements could be made to stimulate interest in our Lodge efforts?

terest in our Lodge efforts? Swope park Lodge No. 617 has a very proud history to maintain for our predececcessors and I am sure every member is grateful for the privilege of adding their name to the roster. Will YOU help retain and maintain this honor and tradition?

YOUR interest and support of every Lodge project is necessary now and in the future months.We welcome your attendance, your assistance, your support, your ideas as well as your constructive criticism. And, as ever, it will be good to see and hear from you at any time and in any way.

* * * * * Putting off an easy thing makes it difficult; putting off a hard one makes it impossible.---Sunshine Magazine

The measure of a man is not according to the number of his servants, but according to the number of people whom he serves.---Eugene Overton

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THE SWOPE PARK MASONIC TEMPLE BODIES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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Email: swope617@swopepark.org



SWOPE PARK TEMPLE MEETINGS DATE, TIME and CONTACTS

- 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 Rita Hansen, Secretary Phone (816) 525-2681
- Harry D. Brown Jr. Chapter 284
 First Monday 7:30 PM
 Roy Thomas, Secretary
 Phone (816) 318-3939

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
- Job's Daughters Bethel # 1 and Jobie-2-Bees
 Second and Fourth Mondays 7:30 PM
 Heather Kemery
 Phone (816) 560-2124
- 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