

THE RAMBLER

A Newsletter of

SWOPE PARK MASONIC LODGE # 617 AF & AM

Vol. 2006 Issue 4

October-December 2006

Our 95th year

Constituted November 1, 1911

WM Gary Dryer , Master WB Warren Weston , Secretary PM RWB Larry Cameron Treasurer PM

Senior Ken Best Sr. Junior Johnnie Nemec

8521 Oldham Rd Kansas City, Missouri 64138



Installation 2006-07 Officer Line



The ninety- sixth installation of line of officers for Swope Park Lodge took place Oct 7th. at the Temple. Pictured above front row, left to right, RWB Larry Cameron, Treasurer; Bro. Johnnie Nemec, Junior Warden; WB Gary Dryer, Master; Bro. Kenny Best, Senior Warden; WB Warren Weston, Secretary. Back row, left to right, WB Gary Barron, Installing Grand Master; Bro. Charles Farris, Junior Deacon; Bro. Jim Payne, Senior Deacon and Bro. Neal Cowan, Senior Steward. Not in photo, Installing Grand Chaplain WB Bob Harmon **cont. Page 3**

DeMolay Honors Lodge

Swope Park Lodge was presented an Honorary Membership in the Mother Chapter DeMolay for outstanding support of the young men's fraternal organization.

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WB Hurlbert Honored

The Lodge honored WB Don Hurlbert, retiring Lodge Secretary and twice PM of our Lodge with a certificate honoring him as Secretary Emeritus and, by unanimous proclamation, Mr. Swope Park Lodge 2006

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Change of Address Notice And all correspondence

Should be sent to:

WB Warren Weston Secretary

Swope Park Lodge Nr. 617
PO Box 35313
Kansas City, MO 64134

Grand Lodge Award

Our Lodge earned the Grand Lodge Silver Award by meeting the prerequisites for the award this year. WB Weston, WB Chester and SW Bro. Ken Best attended Grand Lodge in Columbia last month and brought home the award to present to WM Gary Dryer. WM Dryer thanked the Brethren who worked hard to qualify the Lodge for the award.

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Masonic Child Identity Program (CHIPS)

Our Lodge will participate in the CHIPS program twice in 2007. The first program will be conducted at our Lodge February 24th. WB Dryer's employer, Trumps Structures of KC, asked that we put the program on for the children of their employees at their facility May 2, 2007. Here are two excellent opportunities for the membership to turn out and assist in this most worthy service to our community project.

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Master's Trestle Board

WB Gary Dryer, WM

My Past Year

It has been a year full of ups and downs but I feel that the lodge had a good year. Membership has grown a little and the ritual put on in the lodge was awesome, giving many thanks to the visiting brethren that helped in so many ways. The membership growth was not to the point I wanted but it was a good start, hopefully next year we'll reach my goal of one new member a month.

The building board has once again taken its toil on our budget. But with the help and donations of the brethren it was kept at a minimum. I would personally like to thank all who donated to such a worthy cause. Without your generosity the future of this lodge would be very bleak.

The lodge officers are to be commended on their hard work and dedication. They fulfilled their roles and duties above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you brothers for all you have done. With my work schedule the way it is, all of them stepped up and served when needed for which I am very thankful. For the lodges' hard work and dedication we achieved the Silver Grand Master's Achievement award. All the members of the lodge played an important role in this award. Our bridge we built to help and support our youth group has been further supported and well maintained. Never before in my fourteen years have I ever seen the bond any tighter and the support so abundant. The brothers supported and adopted the One in Ten program and it has served as a valuable tool to help our young DeMolays and all others who need the support in order to join the lodge. We voted to sponsor a Squires program, which is for young boys age eight to twelve. I hope to introduce the first three members of Swope Park Manor at the installation. On the horizon for next year we are actively seeking to gain a Job's Daughters Bethel I am very proud to be involved in Swope Park, their hard work and dedication makes it easy for me to call each and every one of them Brother. I hope the ensuing year will have a lot of good memories as this year had.

Thank you one and all!

Gary Dryer, WM





From the Secretary's Desk
Don Hurlbert, PM
Secretary Emeritus

The Annual Report ended in June 30, 2006 and reports the following statistics:

Members as of June 30, 2005	241
Number raised	2
Suspended for non payment of dues	2
Number Demitted	2
Number died	12
Members as of June 30, 2006	227
50 year members	22
Living Endowed members	61
Deceased endowed members	14
Dues remitted	9

The Grand Lodge Liability insurance is assessed at \$1.89 each member for the 241 members is a total of \$455.49. The lodge building insurance premium was \$1,991.00. It has been raised to \$3,110.00. We have appealed and reduced the coverage to \$500,000 with an increased deductible to \$10,000. We are expecting a reduced premium of \$2,300 as a result. We have paid the original premium, and are awaiting the new additional premium for payment.

If there is a brother involved in the insurance business that can help with some advice on what can be done to reduce the insurance costs and still give us coverage, it would be appreciated. The lodge has never turned in a claim in over 40 years. The building is a concrete block walled building on concrete piers, with a wooden roof and some wooden interior partitions. A good portion of the building is underground and the risk overall is small. But our carrier has down-rated the building due to a recent audit to nearly double the premium.

The single most expensive cost of operating the lodge building is the insurance. All other costs are manageable. The Lodge finds itself in reasonably good financial position with \$90,000 in CD's earning about +/-5% interest and \$18,000 in the bank. The position could be enhanced with additional tenants for the building and more members in the lodge.

The Secretary is planning on renting the hall for his 80th birthday party on October the 5th. That is an example on how the hall could be used. A memorial for a member's spouse was held earlier in the year. There are a lot ways the income for the building could be enhanced. Let Ken Best know if you have a use for the building for some event of yours.



Ask the Secretary for a petition and carry it with you.
Sign up a Candidate This quarter!



Treasurer's Report
 RWB Lawrence Cameron, PM

The fiscal year has ended on a somewhat positive note. The lodge was expecting a loss of \$2,140 however we ended the year with only a \$538 loss. This was due to two things; renewing our CD's at a higher interest rate and the generosity of the brethren donating to the building fund. Total expenses for your lodge last year was \$17,737 of which \$9,412 was expended on the building or 53% of our total expenses. Our rent is \$5,000/year plus we donated to the building \$4,412 to keep the doors open. The \$4,412 donation came from the brethren answering our call for help. The Demolay chapter also responded by donating \$186 from their spaghetti dinner. Utility rates are astronomical especially since we are on commercial rates. We will be losing another tenant around the first of the year which will add to the shortfall in revenue for the building and that shortfall is projected to be \$1,620. Projected expenses for the building to our lodge for FY2007 will be \$11,032. I realize I am painting a gloom picture my brethren but the facts cannot be ignored. We continue to draw all of the interest from our CD's just to maintain a fairly balanced budget. The Building Board keeps trying to rent our building but with so many lodges and other Masonic organizations consolidating, the prospects are not very good. We have had to turn down potential rentals from outside sources due to the Grand Lodge ban on any alcoholic beverages on the premises. That eliminates most wedding receptions, anniversary celebrations, etc. For many years your lodge has paid out of your dues, \$2/member for Grand Lodge insurance, \$1/member for Public Relations and added this year \$2/member for the Child Identification Program (CHIPS). The lodge can no longer absorb the cost for this and it will be reflected in your dues notices this year.

Once again brethren we need your help with donations for the building fund. Most of our regular attending members and officers are volunteering \$5/meeting or \$120/year. Included in your dues notice will be a suggested voluntary contribution, which is a minimal amount. Please contribute to this fund as your ability will permit. I sincerely hope that you will pledge your continual support of our lodge. Please take the time to visit your lodge and see the work that is going on. If any of our brethren have a fund raising idea please contact me at (816) 767-9073. We need your help and input to keep our lodge going forward. Also if any brother needs coaching prior to coming back to lodge, feel free to call also. (cont. column 3)

To the right >



From the West
Kenny Best
Senior Warden

Brethren: Swope Park Lodge has been very busy with new members joining and a long list of activities On Saturday, February 24, 2007 starting at 10:00 am and running until 2:00 pm we will be hosting the **CHIPS (child identification program)** at the lodge. Please come out, help and support this event. Any questions call me at 913-961-7236

The Lodge is supporting a new youth group, **the Squires**, a group for boys between the ages of 8-11 the official name is **Swope Park Manor** we hope they will move into DeMolay and in due time progress to the Blue Lodge. Our newest raised Master Mason, Neal Cowen, leads them. There will be a get together when they officially get there charter and there will be an announcement at that time. A special thanks WM George Wilson for providing the alter for the Squires.

In William F Kuhn chapter DeMolay, The Sir Knight will be Past Master Councilor Danny Best.

I look for good things from all these young men and wish them great success. As Junior Warden this past year, I have enjoyed feeding my brothers hope everyone enjoyed the food. I see a bright future for our lodge from Senior Warden through to the Stewards. Particularly gratifying to see, our most newly raised Brethren, Charlie Farris and Neal Cowan have stepped up to the plate and taken the Junior Deacon and Senior Steward chairs. For the first time in a long time, there are no Past Masters in any of these chairs. Come out and joins us for evening of brotherhood and a good and informative time.

From the South
Johnnie Nemec
Junior Warden



Brethren, I look forward to serving as your Junior Warden for the coming year. Thank you for the confidence that you showed in me, you will not be disappointed.



Treasurer's desk (contd from col. 2)

All of the Officers are here to serve you and will assist you in any way you may desire or need. In the words of a good friend of mine, a Past Grand Master deceased, MWB Lewis C. "Wes" Cook; Happy to meet, sorry to part, Happy to meet again. See you in lodge brethren!

Larry Cameron

In Memoriam



Marvin Pollard
Born May 12, 1928
Raised January 15, 1953
Died June 29, 2006

Quinton Hinton
Born March 14, 1927
Raised March 7, 1957
Died August 30, 2006

Wilber Zahnter
PM York Lodge 1997
Born August 20, 1925
Raised August 6, 1968
Died September 28, 2006

One of the Basic Tenants Of our Fraternity

At the regular stated meeting held September 14th, The Lodge was informed that Bethel #29 Honor Queen **Shauna Bauml**, 14 years old, is suffering with lymphoma cancer. The Brethren took up a collection from those in attendance and voted unanimously for the Lodge to add an additional contribution rounding out the sum to \$ 500. On September 26 2006, RWB Larry Cameron, Brothers Charlie Farris, Neil Cowen and Kenny Best presented the check to her in the amount of \$500.00 on behalf of Swope Park Lodge #617. William F. Kuhn DeMolay followed with a \$ 50.00 check. we all know the financial devastation these things can have on a young family on top of the emotional problems they create. If any Brother wishes to contribute further to Shauna, **please send your check to .Swope Park Lodge Secretary, PO Box 35313 Kansas City, MO 64134.** Please note **FOR THE SHAUNA BAUML FUND.** Our Lodge Brethren send our best wishes and prayers to Shauna and her family.

Installation 2006 Officers (cont. from P. 1) and Installing Grand Marshal Bro, Tony Broome. A grand program was given before the actual installation with presentation of Colors by Wm. F. Kuhn DeMolay followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Jobs Daughters Bethel # 48 gave the Bible Ceremony. Invocation and Benediction was given by WB Bob Harmon. Many honored guests were present, along with many family members of the installed officers, Mrs. Hannah Farris, widow of 1996 Swope Park Master WB Al Farris and RWB William Van Meter.



WM Gary Dryer congratulates Brother Neil Cowan on being raised to the sublime degree Of Master Mason July 20, 2006. RWB Larry Cameron (right) raised Brother Cowan.



Brother Justin Dryer, EA (center) gave back an outstanding full Entered Apprentice proficiency in lodge August 10, 2006. WM Gary Dryer (left) proudly sat in the East as RWB Larry Cameron (right) examined the Brother. Justin is a past MO State Master Councilor of DeMolay.



From the Editor
Jim Payne, Senior Deacon

Brethren: This is the best edition of the Rambler put out over the past two years.

That is because more Brethren are getting involved and putting material together! A very wise Brother (WB Don Zahnter) recently told me "a lodge is only as strong as it's weakest link- it takes all us participating together to make our lodge dynamic and relevant in our community". WB Dryer "kicked er up a notch" with increased membership activity this past year and I am sure we will continue to bring in good, active Lodge members who will assist us as we do more community service and Masonic charity work in the new year! Come out and join with us working the quarries of the Craft! Your contributions are earnestly solicited for future Ramblers!

Masonic Milestones

October Masonic Anniverseries

		Raised	Years
Edward	Miller	10-29-36	70
Glen	Stuart	10-07-52	54
Lewis	Robb	10-07-54	52
Everett	Bozarth	10-17-57	49
John	Shollenberger	10-03-57	49
Glenn	Borchers	10-01-59	47
Kenneth	Bollinger	10-14-71	35
Edward	Welch	10-28-71	35
Eric	Peterson	10-03-72	34
James	Starke	10-12-72	34
Ernest	Bell	10-08-73	33
Leon	Jones	10-22-73	33
Harold	Martin	10-10-74	32
John	Kennedy	10-28-86	20
Daniel	Bishop	10-27-88	18
Charles	Lewis	10-16-99	7

November Masonic Anniverseries

		Raised	Years
Marion	Bybee	11-27-49	57
Harley	Ladd	11-15-49	56
Martin	Baier	11-07-50	56
Harvey	Johnson	11-20-52	54
Willis	Baker	11-01-56	50
Beatty	Barnes	11-14-63	43
Wm	Frazier	11-05-63	43
Jack	Clark	11-15-66	40
Stephen	Morgan	11-14-68	38
William	Groll	11-11-82	24
George	Behnke	11-21-92	14
Mark	Foster	11-21-92	14
Jack	Reeder	11-26-92	14

December Masonic Anniverseries

		Raised	Years
Clarence	McCalister	12-16-47	59
Franklin	Whiting	12-16-48	58
Clyde	Rayburn	12-15-55	51
Frank	Chester	12-16-76	30
Donald	Monroe	12-11-80	26
Oren	Woods	12-10-81	25

Degree Work Oct 05-Sept 06

Entered Apprentices

Steve Hill
Kirk Federoff
Danny Bertelli
Charles Farris
Neil Cowan
James O'Shea

Fellow Crafts

Steve Hill
Charles Farris
Neil Cowan
Justin Dryer

Master Masons

Steve Hill
Charles Farris
Neil Cowan

THE LAMBSKIN OR WHITE LEATHERN APRON

RWB LAWRENCE CAMERON

Freemasonry is a speculative science derived from an operative art. Operative Freemasons were principally concerned with the erection of edifices for public use; cathedrals, churches, monasteries, castles for the feudal lords, etc. Just as all these structures required a deep understanding of many arts, so does a deep understanding of those tools used by our ancient brethren to complete their building tasks relate to Speculative Masonry as symbols for the need of knowledge and skill required for our modern generation. The whole internal structure of Freemasonry's ritual is permeated with and built around matters of Architecture, Building and Working Tools, not used for their original purposes, but for "the more noble and glorious purpose" of setting forth some principle of life, some philosophy, some aspect of character making. When we first joined the lodge and undertook our journey to Master Mason we were each presented with a "lambskin or white leathern apron". We were informed that it is "an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Freemason, more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star and Garter or any other order that could be conferred on us at this or any future period by King, Prince, Potentate, or any other person except he be a Freemason". Other than the Square and Compasses I believe that the apron is one of the most important symbols of our fraternity. All of the working tools are symbolic and each has its own unique explanation but the apron stands out as unique in that each time we wear it we are reminded of our journey in Freemasonry. There is a special symbolism in the different ways in which the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason are taught to wear their aprons, emblematic of a progress from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge. The use of the apron is extremely old. Our ancient operative brethren used them to prevent soiling their clothes but a more ancient use was as a badge of honor. It was so used by the priests of Israel, by candidates for the mysteries of Mithras in Persia, by the ancient Japanese in religious worship as did both Ethiopia and Egypt. Throughout all recorded time the apron has been a badge of honor and distinction, and it is used likewise each time a Freemason wears it. The actual color and material type has varied over the centuries but Freemasons are not overly concerned about that. It is the symbolic importance of it that concerns us. There have been countless times that a lodge has had such a large attendance that they ran out of aprons and brethren entered the lodge room clad in a white handkerchief! In closing brethren I invite each and every one of you to (column 3)

(Cont. from column 2) visit your lodge again, to wear the apron and experience the fellowship which we all desire. It matters not if it has been so long that you may have forgotten the ritual or the Masonic courtesies. Just show up with your dues card and there will be brothers to coach you before the meeting so that you may again experience the joy of holding Masonic Communion with your brethren

Newest Entered Apprentice



Brother James E. O'Shea was initiated an Entered Apprentice at the Thursday, Sept. 11th regular stated meeting. He is shown with WB Gary Dryer (L) Master of the Lodge and WB Warren Weston (R) Secretary-Elect. WB Weston was Brother O'Shea's top line signer.

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What is FreeMasonry?

True Masonic Ritual teaches the great lessons of life: the importance of honor and integrity, of being a person on whom others can rely, of being both trusting and trustworthy, of realizing that you have a spiritual nature as well as a physical nature, of the importance of self control, of knowing to love and be loved, of knowing how to keep confidential what others tell you so they can "open up" without fear. In short, Masonic ritual teaches us to reach for a higher standard in conducting our lives. Freemasonry sometimes has been referred to as a "secret sociality". This is an inaccurate statement. . The only thing that could be referred to as secret- although we prefer the word private- are the methods of recognition such as grips, words, signs and our ritual by which we induct new members.

Condensed from an article Sept 2006

(Source: MO Lodge of Research)