

The Rambler

A Newsletter of

SWOPE PARK MASONIC LODGE # 617 AF & AM

Vol. 2007 Issue 1 January-March 2007 Our 96th year Constituted November 1, 1911

WM Gary Dryer , Master WB Warren Weston , Secretary PM RWB Larry Cameron Treasurer PM
Senior Warden Ken Best Sr. Junior Warden Johnnie Nemeç

8521 Oldham Rd Kansas City, Missouri 64138



Master's Trestle Board

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support and re-electing me as Worshipful Master for the ensuing term. I will continue, to the best of my ability, to serve this lodge working with the officers to make our lodge grow and prosper. **Our annual building board meeting will be Sat. Feb. 3rd at 2:00 p.m.** All tenants, Brethren and youth groups are invited and encouraged to attend. Many improvements are planned and we need valuable input and volunteers to make them happen. Election of new officers will take place and a round table discussion of needs and wants will take place. On December 14, our official visit was held with **R.W.B. Dennis Abernathy**, District Deputy Grand Master and **R.W.B. Paul Miller**, District Deputy Grand Lecturer, in attendance. The opening and closing of the lodge was almost flawless and R.W.B. Paul Miller had a hard time finding things to correct us on. Along with the visitation, Brother **Justin Dryer** returned his second degree with **R.W.B. Larry Cameron** serving as the examiner. It was nice to see such dedication as Brother Dryer shown in giving back his degree flawlessly. **On Jan. 11 at our next stated communication Brother Justin Dryer will receive his Third Degree.** All help and support will be appreciated to give him the best degree possible. Membership, membership retention, and assisting our brothers that need help is our primary goal for this year. Although bringing in new members is important, keeping them active and filling chairs is also important. Finding our poor distressed brothers in need is just as important. If you know of anyone please let us know so we can help in any manner that is needed. If you're unable to pay your dues, or know of someone who cannot, once again, let us know. We are all family and that's what we do take care of our own. We have already set in motion a group of volunteers to

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From the West

Kenny Best

Senior Warden

I am very excited about the New Year. We are starting out with a third degree the first meeting this month, January 11th, with a couple of firsts and at least one second soon to follow. Our youth groups are growing. We open the Squires program on January 28th 2007 at 3:00 P.M. with Jobs Daughters to follow soon. **Swope Park Lodge will hold its first C.H.I.P.S. program on February 24,2007 starting with pancake breakfast at 8:30 and the child id program at 9:30 hope to see everyone there.**

Swope Park Lodge looks to have its busiest year in a long time and I see more activity from the Brethren than ever before. I would also like to take this time to extend a special thank you to Brothers Cameron and Payne. I don't know where this lodge would be without their extra efforts.

The men's restroom is finished with a new tile floor and the ladies restroom should be done by the end of February. We hope to paint the exterior of the lodge this spring. I see a bright future for Swope Park Lodge and hope for a closer unity between all of the Masonic bodies who meet within our temple.. Yours in the Faith,

Kenny Best

STUDY CLUB

Make a New Year's resolution to exercise your mind as well as your body. Come out Wed. evenings at 7 PM at Ivanhoe Lodge, 8640 Holmes and enjoy the fellowship.

We improve our Ritual and improve our memory while having a good time. **RWB Paul Miller** is our Coach and he makes it an enjoyable experience. Our Lodge is always well represented. Come on out! You'll be glad you did.



From the South

Johnnie Nemec
Junior Warden

Numbers are very significant to Freemasonry. Our ritual tells us about the importance of the number combination of 3, 5, and 7. When you go beyond the Blue Lodge into the various rites you encounter more numbers and combinations. But is there a Masonic significance to the following number combination: **3, 7, 77** ?

This combination is very important to Masons as well as members of the Montana State Police, where the numbers are worn with pride on their shoulder patches. In the late 1800's, while Montana was still just a territory, there was a town that was suffering at the hands of outlaws. They eventually hired an outsider to be their sheriff. Instead of bringing justice, he hired a band of thugs and began a reign of terror. After months of relentless brutality the citizens had enough. A group of very prominent townsmen, many of whom were Masons, formed a vigilance committee and issued the following decree, "Any outlaw caught in the territory would be put in a grave 3 feet wide, 7 feet long, and 77 inches deep."

The committee was true to its word. Within a few months, all the outlaws were dispatched and peace was restored. The committee disbanded and the men went back to their every day lives. The Montana State Police commemorate the event by wearing those numbers: 3, 7, 77, on their uniform patches.

Masonry does not condone taking law into your own hands but it does ask its members to follow the dictates of their own conscience. When law or government fails, it falls on men of conscience to step forward and do what is necessary restore order. The same is true for our fraternity. Just something to think about as we start the New Year.

INAUGURATION NEW YOUTH GROUP

Swope Park Lodge is proud to announce the inauguration of the **Squire's Manor**, for young boys under the age of 14. This organization will prepare the youth for later participation in DeMolay and lay the groundwork for their eventual initiation into the Blue Lodge and other peripheral organizations in the Masonic family. Bro Neil Cowan is the advisor. Please mark your calendars to attend the inauguration ceremony at Swope Park Lodge **Sunday, January 28, 2007 at 3 PM.** In addition to the Squire Manor inauguration and installation, Swope Park Lodge has **invited several Brethren to attend and receive their Grand Lodge Fifty Year certificates and Jewels earned recently.**

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COURTESY DEGREE CONFIRRAL

(Oct 26, 2006) Our newly installed Lodge Officers worked their respective chairs in participating in the Raising of **James W. Begar**, candidate from Independence Lodge Nr 76. It was an honor to assist our brothers raise Br. Begar. Bro. Begar began his Masonic journey initiated back in Iowa in 1964, despite the long period between degrees, Bro Begar is very enthusiastic about working in the craft and participating in Lodge 76. We wish him well as he continues seeking more light.

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New Member

Brother **Ed Culver** demitted from Grandview Lodge Nr 618 and was voted into Swope Park Lodge at our stated meeting November 10th. Bro. Ed was raised June 21, 2003 and is very active in Masonic youth organizations. We look forward to his participation in our Masonic family.

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Bro. Kirk Federoff Raised

Bro. **Kirk Federhoff**, initiated October 27, 2005 was passed to FC and raised to the sublime degree of MM at a one day class Saturday, December 9, 2006 at East Gate Lodge.

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From the Secretary's Desk

WB Warren Weston, PM

Brethren: Taking on the project of sitting at this desk (becoming Lodge Secretary) has been quite an adventure. In sending out the dues cards, I neglected to emboss the Lodge seal on some of them. If yours is one of them, please bring your card in or mail it to me and I will correct that omission.

Communication between the Lodge and some of the members seems to be a major problem. Unless we receive a change of address notice, our efforts to get the word out (the Rambler) and dues cards out to everyone becomes a problem. We are working on getting important information about the **Masonic Home Outreach Program** out to all the older Brethren. There are many services available to you and your spouse that you need to know about. You should be receiving this packet very soon. None of us know what may happen tomorrow so we should have this information available to aid our family in our time of need. Another facet of this program will be to have lodge members call or visit the homes of nearby Brethren to aid and assist where needed. Just prior to writing this article, Bro. Payne and I ventured out to learn the whereabouts and condition of Brother George Leslie, whose dues notice came back "return to sender address unknown". We checked with his neighbors and found out he had been moved to a nursing home down in Adrian Missouri. Upon receiving this information, we drove down to the facility and visited Bro. Leslie. He was very happy to meet and talk with us and find his Lodge Brothers care about him.

All of us who are able should start doing this visitation and call upon those who haven't (or cannot) attend lodge for some time. Our Brotherhood will be warmed and blessed with true fellowship and Brotherly love.

Change of Address Notice and all correspondence should be sent to
Secretary
Swope Park Lodge Nr 617
PO Box 35313 Kansas City MO 64134



Treasurer's Report

RWB Lawrence Cameron, PM

YEAR END REPORT FY2006

The Lodge continues to financially function in a sound manner. Although the Lodge experienced some high expenditures for the building this fiscal year, cash on hand was able to absorb them without accessing the principal on our savings. This was primarily due to the brethren of this Lodge answering the call for donations for the Building Fund and Charity. The brethren of this Lodge are to be commended for their generosity. In addition the lodge was able to renew 2 of the 3 CD's for a more favorable return, and the opening of a money market account paying 4% has enhanced our income.

A deficit budget was projected for this year but actual income was up 15.7% over projections and disbursements were up 4.3% over projections. This enabled the lodge to have a close to break even year. The Officers continue to serve the Lodge in a financially prudent manner and are to be commended.

The Lodge started the fiscal year with \$13,241.89 in checking and \$90,000.00 in CD's for a combined total asset of \$103,241.89. The Lodge ended the fiscal year with \$12,926.50 in checking and \$90,000.00 in CD's for a combined total asset of \$102,926.50.

Although the Lodge continues to remain on a sound financial footing for the present time, trends based on recent history do not look favorable for the years to come. Lodge expenses continue to exceed lodge income. Financial support for the building continues to be our biggest expenditure and will continue to escalate based on utility costs only. The Lodge also continues to draw the interest from all of our savings to help offset a shortage in income.



From the Editor
Jim Payne
 Senior Deacon

Master's Trestle Board (cont. from page 1)

DeMolay honors Bro. Farris



December 14, 2006. W.F. Kuhn chapter DeMolay Master Councilor Danny Best (ctr) and Senior Councilor Alex Barnes (Rt) presented Bro. Charles Farris a certificate of appreciation for making the Spaghetti sauce and chili for recent fund raisers. Chef Farris' culinary efforts contributed substantially to their success. The chapter contributed a portion to the Building maintenance fund.

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Official Visitation Dec 14th

RWB Dennis Abernathy, DDGM and RWB Paul Miller, DDGL conducted their official visitation at our Lodge Dec. 14th. The DDGM spoke about the Masonic home and Outreach programs and encouraged us to better inform the membership of the many benefits. We are asking the Masonic home to send an information brochure out to every brother over the age of 65. The program has changed over the years, and each of us should review this upon receipt. The Secretary, WB Weston, will assist any brother applying for further information and assistance. His phone number is (816) 524 1180, or you can contact him at the mailing address on the front page. In attendance that evening, WB **Robert Nickell**, PM **1964** along with PM's **1954 WB Harry Brown**, WB **Frank Chester 1994** and WB **Robert Harman 2004**, a fifty year connection of service to our Lodge and craft.

actively seek, aid, and help brothers in need as well as ones we owe membership pins to, and for the ones with lost addresses, etc. Youth groups are the future of our fraternity. Our DeMolay chapter continues to lead the way on the west side of the state. Our Squires Manor is set to open Jan. 28th with the installation of officers. I encourage all to attend and show our support. Our march towards getting a Job's Daughter Bethel is moving forward with the hard work of Brothers **Ken Best** and **Ed Culver**. They have the names of 8 - 10 girls of the 15 needed, plus they have many adults willing to help. Great job!. We have been approached and have voted to support a Rainbow Assembly. If that comes to pass, it will bring us great joy to have the full array of youth groups represented. If you know of a family member, neighbor, or friend whom you can recommend to join one of our youth groups, send them our way! Community involvement is another goal of ours this year- being seen and making a difference in the community. We use the programs sent out by the Grand Lodge to help school children and our elderly that need assistance. **We are putting on the C.H.I.P.S. program at our lodge on Feb.24 and again on May 5 at Triumph Structures in Grandview** There will be more to follow on community activity as the year progresses. Last year was a good year and we achieved a lot of positive movements during the year. I would still like to dedicate one meeting per month to raise new brothers thru the degrees. We have a lot of entered apprentices still on our books that we'll actively pursue during the year. I would like to thank all the lodge officers for their continued hard work and effort to keep us moving in the right direction. Without them we would simply close the door on another piece of history. Keep up the good work, I know it comes from the heart and believe me, I can feel it and I'm sure all the brethren attending Lodge feel it also.

Fraternally,
 Gary Dryer, Worshipful Master



Masonic Milestones

January Masonic Anniversaries

| | | Years | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----|
| Alexander | Hamlin | 1/16/1947 | 60 |
| Loren | Lundy | 2/18/1947 | 60 |
| Kenneth | Peck | 1/14/1950 | 57 |
| Jackie | Reeder | 1/30/1958 | 55 |
| Chas | Clark | 2/2/1954 | 53 |
| Larry | Maple | 1/18/1955 | 52 |
| Cecil | Thompson | 1/29/1955 | 52 |
| Kenneth | Todd | 1/15/1963 | 44 |
| Lawrence | Akers | 1/19/1965 | 42 |
| Billie | Jester | 1/13/1968 | 39 |
| Harold | Moody | 1/13/1968 | 39 |
| Joseph | Holt | 1/13/1968 | 39 |
| William | Monroe | 1/23/1969 | 38 |
| Walter | Lilley | 1/14/1971 | 36 |
| Richard | Wilson | 1/22/1972 | 35 |
| Dale | Carter | 1/9/1975 | 32 |
| Allen | Beach | 1/18/1977 | 30 |
| Floyd | Scheinost | 1/14/1978 | 29 |
| Alan | South | 1/25/1979 | 28 |
| Robert | Bazan | 1/26/1983 | 24 |
| Loren | Taylor | 1/14/1993 | 14 |
| Charles | Hamilton | 1/25/1996 | 11 |
| Jerome | Joyce | 1/27/1996 | 11 |

February Masonic Anniversaries

| | | Years | |
|---------|------------|-----------|----|
| George | Eib | 2/28/1957 | 50 |
| Robert | Stephenson | 2/21/1957 | 50 |
| Donald | Zahnter | 2/18/1964 | 43 |
| Alvin | Hills | 2/23/1967 | 40 |
| Thomas | Leo | 2/27/1975 | 32 |
| David | Irvin | 2/24/1975 | 32 |
| William | Parker | 2/10/1977 | 30 |
| Fred | Medlock | 2/28/1980 | 27 |
| Herman | Brunssen | 2/26/1981 | 26 |
| William | Dean | 2/12/1981 | 26 |
| Armando | Nunez | 2/20/1985 | 22 |
| Paul | Gilbert | 2/11/1988 | 19 |
| Kenneth | Love | 2/9/1999 | 8 |
| David | Wilbanks | 2/6/1999 | 8 |
| Dale | Mort | 2/6/1999 | 8 |
| Chris | Morgan | 2/6/1999 | 8 |
| Allen | Hartley | 2/6/1999 | 8 |
| James | Blau | 2/6/1999 | 8 |
| Randall | Mason | 2/4/2000 | 7 |

March Masonic Anniversaries

| | | Years | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|----|
| David | George | 3/2/1950 | 57 |
| Lee | Young | 3/19/1957 | 50 |
| Linden | Pankin | 3/7/1957 | 50 |
| Lawrence | Noah | 3/24/1960 | 47 |
| Dean | Lawson | 3/27/1961 | 46 |
| John | Washburn | 3/16/1961 | 46 |
| George | Leslie | 3/21/1967 | 40 |
| Walter | Bollinger | 3/8/1979 | 28 |
| Donald | Hurlbert | 3/12/1981 | 26 |
| Thomas | Allen | 3/24/1983 | 24 |
| Chris | Aller | 3/24/1989 | 18 |
| Larry | Winterton | 3/3/2001 | 6 |
| Dwight | Dodgen | 3/2/2001 | 6 |
| Anthony | Broome | 3/2/2001 | 6 |

In Memoriam



Beatty Barnes
 Born May 7, 1923
 Raised November 14 1963
 Passed away March 25, 2006



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

The Mason's Life

With joy we meet each other,
We pass our time with mirth and glee,
And hail each friendly brother:
In lodge no party-feuds are seen,
But careful we in this agree,
To banish care or spleen.
The Master's call, we one and all
With pleasure soon obey;
With heart and hand we ready stand,
Our duty still to pay.
But when the glass goes round,
Then mirth and glee about,
We're all happy to a man;
We laugh a little, we drink a little,
We work a little, we play a little."

"Th' Almighty said, 'Let there be light,'
Effulgent rays appearing.
Dispell'd the gloom, the glory bright
To this new world was cheering;
But unto Masonry alone,
Another light, so clear and bright,
In mystic rays then shone;
From east to west it spread so fast,
That, Faith and Hope unfurl'd,
We hail with joy sweet Charity,
The darling of the world.
Then while the toast goes round,
Then mirth and glee about,
Let's be happy to a man;
We'll laugh a little, we'll drink a little,
We'll work a little, and play a little."

*- from J. Bisset, "Song XXX" in William
Preston's Illustrations of Masonry (1804)*

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