

MILO LODGE #108, F&AM

Master: Robert Schwarting 315-536-9850

Secretary: James H. Rice 585-554-6032

February 2010

Thanks and appreciation: The absence of any notice suggests that all brothers and families are well and prospering in the New Year. For our good fortune we are thankful.

Masonic Anniversaries this year:

- Don Stork – 55 years
- Charles Morgan – 50 years
- Howard L. DeMay – 45 years
- William Updike – 35 years
- Mark Lord – 20 years
- Bruce Warfield – 15 years

Degree of Master Mason: The lodge and newly minted Fellowcraft brothers travelled to Garoga-Sincerity Lodge and joined four others for their final symbolic lodge degree. We welcome Brothers Cady and Supinski into our ranks of Master Mason.

Second Degree: Brother Derek Archer was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft last week and is preparing for his Master Mason degree on March 3rd. The lodge was assisted by several Brothers of Seneca Lake Lodge and the OSY district officers filling chairs about the Lodge room.

First Degree: Brothers Fish and Davison have attained the rank of Entered Apprentice and are waiting for the next 2nd degree.

Candidates in waiting: The lodge has two candidates in waiting while they try to clear their Wednesday night calendars. The next 1st degree is scheduled for April 21st, with Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees anticipated for the second Wednesday of May and June.

Work on the Building: We keep on making improvements. The attic has been getting our most recent attention. Derek Archer and his brother, as Keuka Builders, installed new fireproof insulation over top of the old, the ceiling vents were boxed in and given a winter cover. All the damaged ceilings

in different storage and concordant body rooms have been repaired and the pigeon coop windows and gaping holes to the outside from the attic have been closed up. It is reassuring to not be hearing cooing in the middle of degree lectures.

Brother Archer laid new flooring in the reception room bathroom, and will be adding wainscoting this week. Brother Schwarting has a new large bowl, high-riser toilet ready to be installed.

To answer our tenant's needs, we are replacing a back door on the Literacy Volunteer – United Way office and extending a rear deck across the back of the building to provide a fire escape route. Some non-operating windows will be replaced on the tenant and lodge levels. We will replace the reception-dining room windows as soon as a permit application is submitted to and approved by the historical district committee.

We are looking for an electrician to rewire the lights in the drop ceiling in the basement barroom. When that is done, brothers will install new drop ceiling panels. Can you recommend a good electrician?

Master Schwarting has replaced plaster damaged by water on the Masonic north of the lodge room and is repainting this weekend. Brother Culver and his son cleaned and oiled the oak pediment/cornices in the Masonic east, again to remove water stains.

Presentations and congratulations: Past Master Rich Petersen was presented a Past Master's apron for his many years of service while the lodge barely stayed open. Twice a month, he would come to lodge, turn on the lights and welcome anyone who would come. Now, he serves dutifully as one Steward and sees that the lodge has wonderful sweets and coffee after every meeting.

Senior Deacon Brother Egbertson and Junior Deacon Brother Long completed the Masonic Study program: Road to the East. District Staff Officer Valois and District Deputy GM Galens presented each with a certificate and pin. Congratulations!

In need of aid or sympathy: Any brother in need of relief or companionship is invited to contact the lodge Master, Secretary or other officer. Anyone

knowing of a brother, widow or orphaned child needing some assistance is to contact the same.

An Information Program on Freemasonry: Your Lodge is presenting a public discussion of the history, philosophy and future plans of Milo Lodge. It will be followed by a reception, with the evening starting at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 10th. You and your spouse are encouraged to attend for a show of strength. Bring your family and friends to this informative night.

Over twenty-four men and their spouses have been invited and public invitation has been sent to the Chronicle Express for publication on March 3rd.

Master Schwarting, Secretary Rice and several other brothers will be speaking on ancient history, lodge history, and future plans. In the course of answering questions, it is expected that the officers and brothers will discuss more of the philosophy of Masonry and how brothers are inducted.

Masonic Study and Reading Group: Last month a small group from Milo Lodge and elsewhere in the district met in our reception rooms and discussed the ancient and modern meanings of the many symbols of Masonry.

The one thing that stumped the experts was an orb or large sphere often shown in pictures used as memory aids during the three degree lectures. This is not one of the globes atop the two Corinthian columns; rather it is larger, plain and is shown in a frame sitting on the floor. Anyone who has knowledge of this object is invited to come to lodge and explain; and if unable to attend lodge, to contact the Secretary.

Mysteries abound: Anyone knowing the combinations for the several large record safes in the several rooms of the Masonic edifice are invited to contact the Secretary as well. In particular, he is looking for the files of old petitions, minute books and the like.

A night with DeMolay Leadership: Two weeks ago a few brothers from Milo and Ark Lodges met with the Master Councilor and his Deputy for DeMolay in NYS. It was a wonderfully enriching

evening; with all of us learning a great deal about forming and supporting a boys' youth club.

DeMolay, according to these leaders, is primarily about brotherhood. Being a social, moral and civic training ground and working with the ritual ceremonies comes after the boys develop the bonds of friendship. Outings to West Point, an evening at the regional baseball farm team, an "air guitar" battle of the bands, a little 3-on-3 basketball or a picnic and water skiing at a sponsor's lakeside home are what make the club vibrant. Car washes, "slave for a day" auctions, walk-a-thons, and the like are fundraising events and another way to bond.

We learned that several key administrative ingredients for success are:

- Dedicated Chapter Dad
- 6-10 moms, dads and Masons for Advisors
- Car pool drivers
- Contacts on school staff
- Contacts in churches
- A supportive sponsoring body

The lodge officers asked the District Officers' Association and the new DDGM to consider youth as a special program for emphasis in 2010-2012. In some ways, the Chapter and Commandery of the Royal Arch bodies are the most logical source of dedicated Masons and Chapter Dad. In some areas, the Consistory sponsors a DeMolay Chapter.

DeMolay is a boys group for young men between 12 and 21. The youth does not have to come from a Masonic family; though as a matter of fact, parents of DeMolays and DeMolay boys in later years are likely to become Masons.

Dues and Brotherhood Fund: Almost everyone has sent in dues and made a contribution to the fund. If you are one of the few who have not, it is never too late, and we appreciate anything you can do. If you are in need of relief and unable to pay your dues, please contact the Secretary.

If you are aware of any Mason who is in need and would benefit from living in the Masonic Home near Utica, please also contact the Secretary for more information.

Charitable work and fund raising: This agenda item is still open. Send us your ideas for how we can raise funds for local charities. In a few months, our building will be restored and ready to serve charitable purposes. It is one of the assets that we can use to support community causes.

Our next scheduled giving will be to the Penn Yan Academy scholarship fund. The pastor of the Lutheran Church (her husband is a Mason and her music director) asked if the Lodge would like to help them support an Ecumenical Summer Camp or Youth Missions to Maryland this year. In other business related to youth, the Master has been invited by the Methodist Church to sit in on the congregation's discussion/strategizing on youth.

Masonic programs for winter/spring:

- March 3rd – Degree of Master Mason
- 1st Section at 5:30
 - Dinner at 6:30
 - 2nd Section at 7:30
- March 10th – Special Event – 7:30 PM
- Masonic Information Program
 - Reception and conversations
- March 17th – Regular Meeting – 6:00 PM
- Irish Corned Beef Dinner
 - Historical Program on Irish Freemasonry
- March 20th – OSY District meeting
- Geneva Lodge, Geneva 9AM
 - Breakfast 8AM
- March 31st – Table Lodge – 6:00 PM
- OSY District location TBA
 - Fun and tradition – great fellowship, impromptu commentaries and toasts
- April 7th – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM
- 3rd Degree Historical Lecture
 - The Boston Tea Party and Freemasons
 - The Masonic charges/lectures regarding civil authority and the higher authority of human rights, liberty and freedom
- April 14th – Yellow Dog Degree
- Seneca Lodge, 6:30 dinner
 - Fun and entertaining event!

April 21st – Entered Apprentice Degree – 7:30 PM

May 5th – Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM

- Report from Grand Lodge
- Election of Officers

May 16th – Necrology and Memorial Service

May 19th – Fellowcraft Degree – 7:30

June 2nd – Installation of Officers – 7:30

June 16th – Master Mason Degree

- 1st Section at 5:30
- Dinner at 6:30
- 2nd Section at 7:30

Report from the Treasurer: Brother Tim Culver reports that we are more than solvent; balances were reduced slightly by taxes and construction; tenants are for the most part current; and our insurance was finally underwritten for about three-quarters of the budgeted amount.

Happenings at Lodge: Hilarity was rampant at the close of last week's meeting. Sideliners took great delight in listening to the Secretary poke a little fun at the Worshipful Master. It seems that the Master had drunk way too much coffee during the day and with dinner, and the Secretary thought it would be good and proper to make the reading of the minutes extend well beyond the Master's thoughts of and need for a prompt closing. Fellowship in the reception rooms after lodge was the scene of more laughing and ribbing.

Brother Bob Ruggles ably presented the Middle Chamber Lecture and several brothers from around the district assisted with the 2nd degree. Brother Rich Kingsley obligated the new Fellowcraft. For the 3rd Degree, a degree team from Geneva Lodge will be assisting; while officers from John Hodge Lodge intend to furnish the Wardens. Milo's Master or SW will obligate the brother at the altar.

Many men can be used for the 3rd Degree; plan on attending. Those attending the dinner are asked to please contact me at: rhs32@cornell.edu or by phone at 315-536-9850.

Rob Schwarting, Master