



John D. Gustafson, 33°

MEMBERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

The Ohio Council of Deliberation Membership Symposium was held on Sept-ember 8th in Worthington, Ohio. I would like to thank our Valley for their participation and their interest. Amidst an attendance of 244 from our ten Ohio Val-leys, Akron ranked third with an attendance of 27 members.

I've attended many programs of a similar nature. Personally speaking, this was the finest. It featured dynamic speakers with an inspiring message, an excellent format, and timely information and technique at an appropriate time.

State wide, our Grand Lodge has lost about 5,000 Masons per year since 1993. In 1997 our Ohio Council of Deliberation's roster numbered 67,817; in 2006, it waned to 49,054. In Summit County, we were 23 Blue Lodges strong in 1995; today, we number 14. Our Valley of Akron's membership was 2,502 in 1997; today, our membership numbers 1,570. It was mentioned that 71% of our Scottish Rite members are 60 years of age, or older. To put this in a 15-year actuarial perspective, we had 46 in attendance at our September 2007 Stated Meeting. If the statistics bear true, our September 2022 Stated Meeting will have 14 in attendance.

The Symposium's tactical solution focuses on four Membership modules. Recruitment: making a Mason a Scottish Rite Mason; always remembering that we also need to make good men Masons. Enrichment: developing a culture of inclusion that promotes pride, priority, and value. Assimilation: incorporation of the new

member into our lessons and into relationships among our Rite. Reclamation: retaining and reclaiming membership through a brotherhood of caring.

Recognizing that our audience crosses many generations, we learned to recognize their traits, their peers, and the best modes of communication. The G.I. generation (1901-1924) was civic; they lived the American dream. The Silent generation (1925-1942) was adaptive; influenced by public opinion, opinion ruled. The Baby-Boomer generation (1943-1960) is idealistic. When they were younger, they trusted nobody over 30; today, they trust nobody under 30. Generation "X" (1961-1981) is reactive. They're tribal; attracted to a group by being attracted to what's happening in the lives of group members. The Millennial Generation (1982-2003) restarts the cycle by being civic. They want intimate relationships and they like large groups.

About the time the Symposium's message implied "you've got to get busier", we watched a video message from Dr. Wayne Cordero of Oahu. As Senior Pastor of one of the fastest growing churches in the nation, he spoke on the necessity of balance in one's life; recognizing what fills and drains you emotionally, and the practice of leading out of rest, rather than fatigue.

The meeting gave us the tools. The momentum and enthusiasm has traveled from Worthington to Montrose. Most important was our charge for membership recruitment, enrichment, assimilation, and reclamation. "What work is being done and what are the positive results?"

John D. Gustafson, 33°
Deputy's Representative

WE NEED ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE RITE LITE

We have an ongoing campaign to solicit individuals and companies to advertise in the *RITE LITE*. If you or anyone you know, would benefit from placing an advertisement in a publication that has approximately two thousand circulation

at each printing, which occurs bimonthly, please consider the *RITE LITE*. All advertisements are Tax Deductible as a business expense. All monies received for advertisement will go towards the printing and postage of the *RITE LITE*, which is in excess of \$750.00 for each printing. The next publication of the *RITE LITE* will be for the months of January and February. The dead line for new advertisements for the next issue of the *RITE LITE*, will be December 1, 2007. All, who may be interested in placing an advertisement in the *RITE LITE*, should contact:

Raymond B. Strickland, 33°, Editor
Tel: (330.864.2653)

email: rbskych@aol.com

or

George A. Seabeck, 33°, Secretary
Valley of Akron

Tel: (330.666.8443)

Email: valleyofakron@neo.rr.com



YOUR OLD PAPERS WILL HELP OUR LEARNING CENTER

You will see a new bright green and yellow paper container in the northwest corner of the Summit Masonic Complex parking lot. The container is supplied by Abitibi Paper Retriever Company. They are a major company, that recycles paper and pays charitable organizations for the paper. They have agreed to pay our Dyslexic Learning Center for Children, for every pound of paper we deposit in the container. Please help, by bringing your clean and dry newspapers.

Please bring your magazines, shopping catalogs, office computer paper, school papers and mail with you when coming to the Masonic Complex. Please **no shredded paper**. Also, they **cannot take laminated paper, food containers, plastic of any kind, metal, glass, cardboard, chipboard, phone books, and hardbound textbooks**. Our training center will benefit from your support.

MASONIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Each year the Masons donate thousands of dollars to feed the hungry in Summit County and surrounding areas. If you actively attend your Blue Lodge or the Scottish Rite meetings, you probably already know about this worthy, charitable effort. However, for those of you who cannot attend these meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one of the charitable outreach programs in which Masons are actively involved. During the year we receive the names of individuals and families who have fallen on hard times. These names are provided by area Masons, community churches, The Salvation Army, and The Akron Beacon Journal.

Because the Masonic Assistance Program is active "throughout the year," we are continually seeking funds to support this endeavor. Who can receive assistance from the Masonic Assistance Program? Any Mason can recommend someone who has a need, such as families or individuals who have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own; someone who has lost his job; a family that has suffered through a death or an illness; a family that is new to the area and is looking for a job or a new place to live; someone who does not have enough money at the end of the month to buy prescriptions or make the necessary repairs on the family car; or someone who has endured the anguish of house damage due to fire or other disasters. For these and so many other reasons, these individuals can receive a food basket or gift certificate to show our concern and support. By sending some assistance, we convey the message that we do care about what is happening in their lives. For them, tomorrow will be a better day because Masons helped them today.

Just as much as we need funds to purchase food baskets and gift certificates, we are also looking for the names of Masons, their widows, family or friends, those who are deserving of our assistance. Perhaps a brother who has lost his employment or whose family is experiencing a personal crisis would appreciate knowing that we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. One

EVENTS

Nov. 11, Sunday, at 2:00 PM,
Family Life Program, See Page 3 for details.

Nov. 12, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officers Association Meeting.

Nov. 15, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
short Stated Meeting, followed by the portrayal of the 8°.

Dec. 20, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

Jan. 14, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officers Association Meeting

Jan. 17, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

Feb. 9, Saturday, at 6:00 PM,
Sweethearts Dinner.

Feb. 21, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
short Stated Meeting, followed by the portrayal of the 10°.

Mar. 17, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officers Association Meeting.

Mar. 18, Tuesday, at 7:00 PM,
Feast of the Paschal Lamb.

Mar. 20, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

April 17, Thursday, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

April 17, 18 & 19, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 2008
Spring Reunion.

May 12, Monday, at 7:00 PM,
Officers Association Meeting

May 15, Thursday, at 6:00 PM,
Trustees' Meeting, at 7:30 PM,
Stated Meeting.

May 22, Thursday, at 7:00 PM,
Annual AASR Officers
Open Installation.

June 6 & 7, Friday & Saturday,
O.C.D. in Cincinnati, OH.

way that we can express our love and concern for them is by our charitable generosity.

So if you know of a brother or family in need of our assistance, please phone the Valley of Akron office at (330.666.8443). When you call, please have the intended recipient's name, address and phone number available.

If you will, please take a few moments of your time to send a donation. Funding is directed through the Valley of Akron. Checks should be made out to: Aroba Lodge of Perfection, with the notation: "Masonic Assistance Program." Mail your contributions to: Valley of Akron, 91 Springside Drive, Akron, Ohio 44333.

This year on Sunday, December 23, 2007, Masons and their family members will deliver food baskets to area families from Craftsmen's Park. These food baskets will be assembled on Saturday, December 22, 2007. If you can volunteer to help assemble or deliver these food baskets, please call Tom Spencer at (330.854.5219).

The outstanding success, which the Masonic Assistance Program has enjoyed for the past 17 years is due entirely to the generous contributions of the Masons, not only through our financial support but also the many hours donated delivering food baskets at Christmas time. You are to be congratulated for your past participation in this program, where 100% of the funds donated provide hope and nourishment to deserving families in our communities.

Thomas L. Spencer, 33°
Chairman

8° INTENDANT OF THE BUILDING ON THURSDAY NOV. 15, 2007

The revised 8° will be portrayed during the stated meeting of Aroba Lodge of Perfection on Thursday, November 15, 2007. Please come out and see this presentation by an outstanding cast of actors.