

The Warwickshire Rose

The Newsletter for Members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite

V. : Ill. : Bro Peter John Turner 33° Inspector General

March 2008

An historic occasion

For the first time since their founding the Northern and Southern Jurisdictions in the United States of America met in joint session in Washington DC in October 2007. Sharing the platform were the leaders of the two Supreme Councils, John McNaughton of the Northern Jurisdiction and Ronald Seale of the Southern Jurisdiction. Our own Supreme Council was represented at this historic event.

Centenary Appeal

In 2010 The Ancient and Accepted Rite will have occupied 10 Duke Street, St. James's as its headquarters for one hundred years. The premises occupy a very valuable site and in commercial terms they are greatly underused. The Supreme Council has taken professional advice as to how the building can be made to work harder for the Order. As a result it has decided to embark on a programme of improvements to bring the building up to date and to make it more welcoming. This will benefit not only the Brethren who make use of the building but will increase the income which the building earns for the Order. This should help to limit future rises in dues and charges so that all members of the Order will benefit from the scheme. To finance the work The Supreme Council has launched the Centenary Appeal and is seeking minimum contributions from each Chapter equating to £2.00 per member per year over the next four years. Warwickshire is the second largest District and therefore the contributions from our Chapters will be of great importance to the Appeal. It follows from this that apart from London Chapters which use 10 Duke Street for their meetings there are more visitors to the premises by Warwickshire Brethren for Higher Degree meetings than from every other District but one. It would be a nice gesture from Warwickshire therefore if those Chapters which can afford to do so send a contribution greater than the minimum. It would be a great help if contributions can be sent at an early stage so that the work can be started and completed before the date of the Centenary. Most Wise Sovereigns have received a letter from the Grand Secretary General with further information about the Appeal and how the contributions should be made.

District Archive

For some time the District Recorder has retained the summonses which each Chapter sends to him. These in themselves are of great historical value but they only record the bare bones of what has been done in the Chapters over the years. They would be much more interesting if they could be supplemented with information about the brethren named in them, the furniture used by the Chapter, difficulties experienced by the Chapter, how those difficulties were overcome and how important events were celebrated. Some Chapters have produced booklets on their history on the occasion of significant anniversaries. To have a central record with copies of those booklets would, in the years to come, be of great benefit to Masonic researchers and of interest to the Brethren generally. If your Chapter has produced such a booklet or has any other historical records it would be greatly appreciated if you would be kind enough to supply the District Recorder with a copy for the archive.

Festival

By now all Brethren should be aware of the Festival which will be held at Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham on Saturday 17 May 2008 and they should have in their possession a booking form.

Additional copies are available from Chapter Recorders. The 9^o and 10^o Ceremonies will be demonstrated by The King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement. These two Degrees are amongst the most colourful in the Order and we are very privileged to have them demonstrated in Warwickshire by this highly professional Chapter of Improvement. Take this chance to see them now because they are unlikely to be back in Warwickshire for another twenty five years! If you do intend to see the demonstration please apply at an early stage because it will greatly help the administration of the event.

Annual Church Service

The Church Service will take place at All Saints Parish Church, Sherbourne, Warwick on Sunday 14 September 2008. Once again the Provincial Choir have very kindly agreed to sing and to lead the congregational singing. Last year some Brethren expressed disappointment that the Nunc Dimittis was not sung to our traditional tune. This year our tradition will be observed and Brethren will be able to sing with their usual enthusiasm.

Sword

For several years only two swords have been available in the Rose Croix suite at Stirling Road, Edgbaston. On numerous occasions this has been the source of some confusion in Perfection Ceremonies as three swords are required. The problem has been overcome by the generosity of Ill. Bro. Alan Wellan 30^o. The sword formerly belonged to Bro. Sam Tomlinson – Jones and as Ill Bro. Alan has no use for it he decided to donate it to the Chapters at Stirling Road. The sword was presented to the Inspector General on their behalf by Ill Bro. Alan at a meeting of Edgbaston Chapter on 4 January 2008.

Accolade for the MRCCI

Ill Bro Michael Sprakes 30^o the Recorder of Priors Chapter No 488 has written in praise of the MRCCI for making a Deputy Preceptor available to visit them on two occasions in 2007. The evenings have helped to boost the confidence of the more recent members and assisted all in the correct method of undertaking the ceremonies. Ill Bro Michael encourages all Chapters to take advantage of the assistance that the Deputy Preceptors can provide.

More benefits from the MRCCI

The MRCCI held an informal evening on 30 November 2007 at Knowle. Thirty six Brethren were in attendance. The 1st and 2nd Points were conducted, both in the Main Temple, with an explanation being given as each Point was conducted. Brethren then received a Power Point presentation of the Collar and Jewel. The work was undertaken mainly by the District Assistant Preceptors with some help with the 2nd Point and a volunteer to act as the Candidate. A short question and answer forum followed and it was agreed by those present that the evening had been both edifying and enjoyable. The evening ended with an informal buffet. The event may be repeated this year so watch this space for details!

Annual dues

The annual dues payable to Supreme Council on 1 July 2008 will increase to £13 plus VAT for every subscribing member of each Chapter during all or any part of the preceding year. The dues payable to the District will increase to £1 for each subscribing member.

Meeting for Sovereigns and Generals

The next meeting for Sovereigns and Generals hosted by the Inspector General will take place at Alderson House, Warwick on Thursday 22 January 2009. Those qualified to attend should note the engagement on their diaries now.

Membership

1,330 18^o certificates (including South Africa) were issued in the year to 30 June 2007. The number of Chapters on that date was 912 with an average membership of 34. The average age of candidates for Perfection was 56.

The Order of The Eagle and The Rose

The Supreme Council has conferred this award on V. :. Ill. :. Bro R K Matterson 33°, Ill. :. Bro R M Collins 32° and Ill. :. Bro E P Armstrong 32° for the exceptional service they have given to the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Chapter contacts

Chapters should seek to nominate a member who is willing to act as an email contact for his Chapter; he does not have to be the Chapter Recorder but must make available all information he receives by email to the Recorder. The contact will only receive emails from the District Recorder or the editor.

Sponsorship

We would like to keep costs down. If a Chapter or a member would like to sponsor an edition of The Warwickshire Rose contact should be made with the editor who will be pleased to quote the amount required.

Contributions

This is your newsletter. More contributions of items are needed from members of all Chapters in the Districts. Most of the current information is generated either by the Inspector General, the District Recorder or the editor. Do your best and let me have items on a regular basis.

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