

## November 2009 Newsletter

**Riddle:** Three men rent a hotel room. Each pays \$10 for a total of \$30 spent on the room. The next day the hotel owner tells the three men that they over paid for the room as it only costs \$25. The three men tell the owner to give them each a dollar back and he can keep two dollars. If you do the math, each man paid \$9 apiece for the room for a total of \$27. The owner kept \$2 which brings the total to \$29.

The question is where did the other dollar go?

October 16th and 17th was Grand Lodge in Toledo. Before the opening of Grand Lodge, my wife and I were sitting in the hospitality room and a brother from the Dayton Lodge asked her, "Do you know how many Masons it takes to change a light bulb?" The answer he gave was "None – Masons don't like to change."

Well, we have come to the end of another year in our lodge, with elections on 9 November and installation of new officers on 14 November, so we will be seeing changes. I implemented some changes in my year which you may or may not have appreciated. The new year with new officers will bring some changes. Again, there may be changes that are not appreciated, time will tell for that. What does not and should not change is the brotherhood and camaraderie experienced in the lodge. I know I have received a lot of support to me personally and to the programs we have had in the lodge. It has been an eventful year.

In my personal life I had to deal with the illness and death of my mother and the settling of my parents' estate. You all were very supportive and I thank you. In our lodge we hit the ground running with our "Penguin" year, with a great installation dinner featuring a Penguin cake. We followed that with a Penguin-themed Christmas party with a lot of families participating and having their pictures taken with Santa. (Thanks to Jackie Butler in particular here for all his media support all year.) We also had a Pampered Chef catalog party with the Stolar's niece, Marcie, as our consultant. We got many useful items for our kitchen for free.

In January we were honored to have the Grand Master attend our inspection and to have the Grand Line Officers Visitation for the 8th District held at our lodge.

In February we hosted a Ladies' Appreciation Dinner in the lodge to thank our wives for all that they do.

In March we hosted a pancake breakfast/Open House with speakers and good food at no cost to the attendees.

In April we hid over 1,000 candy-filled eggs for our lodge members' children and grandchildren to hunt by the picnic shelter at the Masonic Home followed by a picnic lunch for all attendees. Also in April we took over Giovanni's Restaurant in Fairborn to serve a spaghetti dinner to raise money for the Special Olympics. We travelled to inspections and special meetings in other lodges in our district, cleaned up the highway, received many new members, participated in the One Day Class, made donations to many worthwhile charities, marched in the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics, and enjoyed breaking bread together throughout the year. Thank you again!

*Finish every day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.*

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

