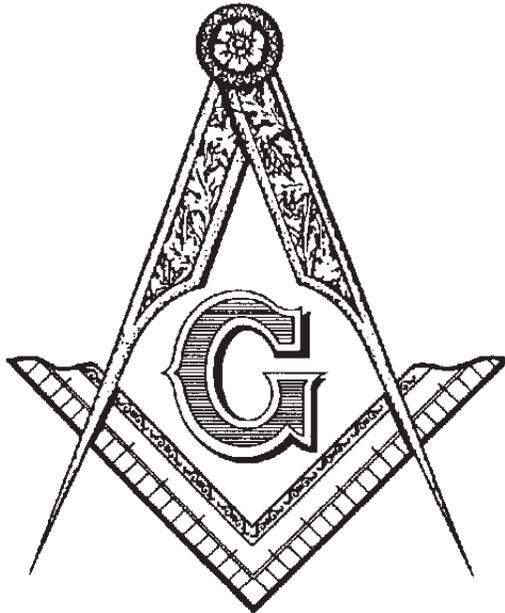


Spring 2007

Volume VIII: Issue #18

Fulton- Montgomery



Official Publication of the
Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
State of New York

The Fulton-Montgomery News

• Staff •

Editor: Roger B. Steele
Assistant Editor: Robert Smith
District Reporter: Your Name Here
Distribution: Keith Vietch & Dave Saltsman

• Newsletter Policy •

The Fulton-Montgomery News, published quarterly for the benefit of the Brethren of the Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District and their families, is the official publication of:

Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District
Free & Accepted Masons
489 Honeywell Corners Road
Broadalbin, NY 12025

The Staff welcomes all letters and submissions, reserving the right to edit for space and clarity. Material may be provided in any format including on diskette in text format or uploaded to “rbsteele@nycap.rr.com”. Contact the District Reporter or Editor for assistance.

The publication will go to the printer on 1 December, 1 March, 1 June & 1 September with submission dates one week prior.

Any of the contents of this newsletter may be copied, quoted or reprinted with the permission of the Editor.

Checks payable to Fulton-Montgomery Masonic District

Address all correspondence to: F-M News
Roger B. Steele
489 Honeywell Crs. Rd.
Broadalbin, NY 12025

Contents

• A View From The East •	3
• Lodge News •	5
• In Memoriam •	15
• Traveling Gavel •	15
• Complements of •	18
• More Light •	20
• Editors Desk •	21
• Something New •	22

• A View From The East •

by R. W. Claton D. Swain
DDGM Fulton-Montgomery District



Brothers,

Let me first congratulate all the lodges and the brothers who worked long and hard hours for our recently finished Masonic Charities Fund-raiser. Having talked to John Gurga (the father of the burn victim for whom the events were held) right after your breakfasts, brunches and dinner events it fills my heart with pleasure to express how much the family appreciates all you have done. John, while talking casually, expressed his deepest gratitude for telling him about and recommending his son to the Boston Shriners Burn Hospital. He tells me the young man (now 16) is progressing well and is very pleased with the hospital and all it is doing for him. Every Mason, whether Shriner or not, can be proud of the work we all do to support these wonderful facilities for the benefit of all mankind.

Our next district wide project is our annual Masonic Golf Tournament. Held to benefit our scholarship and benevolence funds the committee has put together a great package of golf for the golfers out there and a super chance for everyone to win some cash. This year our district was blessed with a brother who donated a week long stay in a two-bedroom ocean front condominium in beautiful Myrtle Beach, South Carolina as our raffle Grand Prize. There will also be 10 winners who divide \$2500 in cash. As always this project will mean a lot of hard work and dedication by all the members of the Fulton Montgomery District. I myself am handling the distribution of the tickets to be sold by you the members. If I have not seen you or your Master be sure to ask me about them. At \$5 per chance this hopefully should be our biggest and best scholarship fund-raiser ever.

Our annual golf tournament will be held June 15th at Fox Run Golf Club in Johnstown. A registration fee of \$65 per player will get him or her 18 holes of golf, use of 2 carts per four man team, "goodie bag" for each player, food and beverage at the start and turn. The awards ceremony will be immediately after the tournament at the William Dorn Pavilion located next to the course. A complete mouth watering open hearth cooked prime rib dinner with all the trimmings is included for all players plus anyone who wishes to attend for a small price. Brothers I

don't need to tell you this could be a wonderful opportunity for all your sons, daughters, grandchildren or anyone going to schooling after high school. The more we build our fund the more scholarship amounts can be increased. Your help is needed to make this work. Who amongst you wouldn't like to spend a week in sunny Myrtle Beach next April?

As our year progresses many of the lodges are involved with degree work. Our AGL John Morris is busy assembling and rehearsing out 3rd degree drama team for any lodge who needs their services. Many of our brothers are traveling to other lodges to help in degree parts. I commend each and every one of them for their dedication to the craft. Remember the Grand Masters biggest appeal in his term of office is "Teamwork". Together we can exemplify to our candidates and newly made brothers what Masonry is and does. History plays an important in anything we do; ritual is history in action.

Many of us will be traveling to Grand Lodge as a group. I wish I could say all plans are finalized as of now but I am still trying to get the best deal for our buck. If anyone wants to attend please let me now ASAP.

My final thought for this month; "Brothers we are, brothers we will always be". Thank you all for your dedication to Masonry, your lodges and the district.

Fraternally

R.:W.: Clayton "Skip" Swain, DDGM



• Lodge News •

St. Patrick's Lodge # 4
By W.: William J. Dorn, Master
1st & 3rd Thursdays
Phone # (518) 762-7015

Bretheren:

St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 has been busy this Winter. The basement has been renovated, including new energy windows.

In addition the Black Horse Lounge has been improved with new lighting and heating; the "36 Club" is meeting in the Lounge for its weekly coffee hour / breakfasts. Other meetings are now able to be held (for smaller groups) without heating the whole floor or Lodge room(s).

March 1 a Second Degree will be conferred on a Class of Entered Apprentices.

March 15 will be the DDGM Visitation at St. Patrick's Lodge # 4; the usual times will prevail. Corned Beef and Cabbage, catered dinner @ \$TBA; RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED BY MARCH 8 (to the Master at 736-1965 or Secretary at 774-6997). NOTE: GRAND SENIOR WARDEN R.:W.: Dennis Breheny, of Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of New York will be in attendance. A large turnout is expected.

April 5th. Regular Stated Communication;

April 19: Annual Membership / Service Pin presentations;

-----AND-----

a Member of St. Patrick's Lodge # 4 will receive the Dedicated Service Award & Apron Presentation. There will

be a catered dinner; RESERVATIONS are required (to Master or Secretary) by April 12.

May 3rd Regular Stated Communication;

May 6,7 & 8 Grand Lodge session in NYC

May 17th – Annual election of officers of St. Patrick's # 4;

June 7th – Installation of Officers of St. Patrick's # 4;

June 21st – Tentative date of 3rd Degree;

July and August – Lodge Recess – HOWEVER, watch for date of Annual (District) Family Picnic, hosted by St. Patrick's # 4;

W.: Wayne D. Schermerhorn,
Lodge – District Newsletter, Chrm.



Hamilton #79
By W.: Jeremy "Jay" Krajewski, Master
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
(518) 922-7668
wmchr1@aol.com



Amsterdam #84
By W.: Thomas D. Krutz, Master
2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Phone # (518) 842-7137

As we start to wind down this Masonic Year, I would like to take this time to remind the Brothers of Amsterdam Lodge and all other Lodges that our primary duty as a Master Mason is to make new Masons. As it has been said so many times before, we all must know at least one or even two or more friends or relatives that would make great Masons. I urge all Brothers to get out and beat the bushes the rest of this Masonic year and through the summer and really get serious about making the 2007 – 2008 Masonic year a really great one.

I want to thank all the Brothers of Amsterdam Lodge who have attended Lodge this year and help fill the sidelines, And also those Brothers who have not attended, but helped in other ways such as working in the kitchen preparing meals, working at our annual Barbeques or visiting Brothers in hospitals or nursing homes. "No Brother should ever be forgotten." And for those who have not attended, please try to make one meeting to renew old friendships and enjoy the camaraderie of your Brothers. If there is any Brother who would like to attend Lodge but needs a ride. "Not A Problem" please call the Master or the Secretary or any Brother and we will be happy to pick you up.

We will miss our Brothers who have put aside the working tools of our Lodge this year, and joined those who have gone before them to the Grand Lodge Above.

Fraternally,
R.: W.: Brother Sisto A. Surento, Secretary



Fish House #298
By W.: Robert Stankes
1st & 3rd Wednesdays



Fort Plain #433
By R.: W.: David Montanye, Master
2nd & 4th Tuesdays

Brethern of Ft. Plain Lodge #433

In December we had our annual Christmas party with about 25 people present.

On December we had the annual Secretary & Treasurer reports. Our Secretary reported for the year of 2006 we have 68 members since the last report of 2005. Five brothers passed away in 2006; Brothers Robert Impie- Jan- 20 -60, Robert MacKenzie-Feb-20-06, Dewitt Shults-June-7-06, Raymond Brunner-Aug-10-06, and Charles Wilson-Sept-10-06.

This year our lodge raised 3 new brothers; Zachary Miller, Joshua Parkinson and Steven Smith. Thanks to R.: W.: Robert Parkinson for the new brothers entering our lodge for membership.

In January, we didn't have any lodge meetings as we're trying to save on our heating bills. February 10th, Ft. Plain, St. Johnsville and Hamilton Lodges worked together to put on a spaghetti dinner for bum victim, John Gurga. I would like thank all the brothers from the lodges for their help.

To the brothers who are in south enjoying the nice weather, Feb 14th we received 3 feet of snow with strong winds and sub zero temperatures.

Under sickness; Brother John Tooker is doing well from his recent stay in the Hospital.

R.: W.: Robert Parkinson and Brother Roger Dillmant both doing well from recent surgeries.

Fraternally

R.: W.: David Montanye Master





Fultonville #531
By W. : Michael Krajewski, Master
1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Phone (518) 922-8712

Dear Brothers:

On February 17th we held a Pancake Breakfast, the proceeds going to the John Gurga Fund. Also on February 23rd we had our annual Brooks barbecue.

On March 7th we Initiated Eugene Hernigle to the Degree of Entered Apprentice.

We would like to thank the Brothers of other Lodges that showed their support to these events.

Every third Saturday we have a Pancake and French Toast Breakfast. This is held at the Fultonville Reformed Church, on the corners of Rte 30a and Rte 5s, from the hours of 8 am until 11 am. Our thanks, to all the Brothers who support us.

Any Brother that has an email address, and would like communication from our Lodge please let me know. Send email to Fultonvillelodge531@frontiernet.net.

Fraternally Yours,
W. : Michael Krajewski
Master Fultonville Lodge #53



Kennyetto Lodge No. 599
W. : Robert Jackson
2nd & 4th Wednesdays
Phone (518) 883-8448

To our brothers and families near and far.
Another year is starting and so are the brothers of our lodge. We are making great strides in the in the beautification of our lodge. Brother Masons and The Order of the Eastern Star of Kennyetto Lodge will have a joint clean up and painting of our kitchen and down stairs area, dates and times to follow.

We now have four new entered apprentice and more waiting for there first degree. The new brothers are; Brother Todd Mercer, Brother Paul Gardino, Brother Brian Dingman and Brother William Coloney. March 28th we will do a second degree and making plans for another first degree.

On Friday April 6th, Good Friday, we will have our 3rd annual Fish Fry at the lodge from 4pm-7pm.

And we cannot forget that on the second Saturday of each month we have our pancake partners breakfast all are welcome from 8am-11am

Fraternally

,W.: Robert Jackson Master

A short p/s from our Secretary W.: John P. Sira:

My brothers,

Please check in your wallets and see if you have your latest dues card, and please don't forget that a new year is upon us.

Thank you,

John



St. Johnsville #611

By W.: David Mosher Master

1st & 3rd Thursdays

St. Johnsville Lodge #611 has rescheduled our First Degree work for April 5, 2007. Please try to attend so we can welcome our new brother with good numbers. Also, we have several events scheduled for the next couple of months. They are as follows:

March 18, 2007 - Pancake Brunch 11:00 am-3:00 pm \$6.00

March 31, 2007 - Smorgashborg 3:00 pm-6:00 pm \$8.00

April 15, 2007 - Pancake Brunch 11:00 am- 3:00 pm \$6.00

April 28, 2007 - Spaghetti & Meatballs 3:00 pm- 6:00pm \$6.00

To my brothers at #611 please try to attend these events and give a hand or, if you can not help with the meals stop in and buy a meal. We need your help and support to keep our lodge going.

To all of our fellow masons, we would love to see you there.

Thank you & Take care,

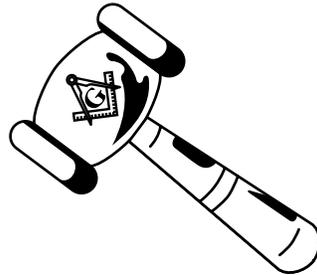
Fraternally,

W.: David A. Mosher

• In Memoriam •

Bro. Harold Banta	from his wife Norma
W.: Bro. Durant M. Friday St. Patrick's #4	from his wife Margaret
Harold Wilber Banta	from Unknown in Maine
Bro. Alvin V. Hichens, St. Patrick's #4	from his wife Edith
Richard J. Sponable	from his wife Shirley
Bro. William V. Hovey, Fultonville #531	from his wife Jeannette

Remember a Brother. A \$10 contribution to the newsletter will keep their name in this column for 4 issues. Any Brother may be honored.



Traveling Gavel 2006

_____ Thus far, as of our last District Deputy meeting, the total points for the year received for each lodge attending District Deputy and M&O meetings are as follows;

St Patrick's #4	245 points
Hamilton #79	107 points
Amsterdam #84	139 points
Fish House #298	98 points
Fort Plain #433	139 points
Fultonville #531	168points
Kennyetto #599	195 points
St Johnsville #611	98 points

Respectively Submitted,
R.: W.: David Saltsman,

A Rainy Night

It was a downpour not just a rain storm, My Bro. Bob pulled into my driveway to pick me up to go to a District Deputy Meeting in St. Johnsville. It was raining so hard on the way that we could not see or find the road in some spots. Maybe we should have taken route 5 S further up and turned over at the Airport Road. I made the comment to Bob. I wasn't much help, I could not see. We arrived at the lodge and parked across the street. I jumped out running across the street, and was soaked before I reached the door, entering the lodge some bro. hollered out is it still raining out their Phil. I felt like saying can't you see you dumb @\$\$\$. The dinner Was served. It was great, chicken and biscuits. We were all enjoying the meeting. When there came a knock at the Outer door. After being answered by the Jr. Deacon. He announced that they are going to close Route 5 below Nelliston towards Amsterdam. After which our District Deputy excused any brother that wanted to leave. I never saw so many Brother leave a meeting So fast. The ones that stayed were grumbling. All they have to do is Use 5S across the river to get home and down the valley, they said.

Bro. David Saltsman gave a history of the S1. Johnsville Lodge, It Was enjoyed by all and very interesting.

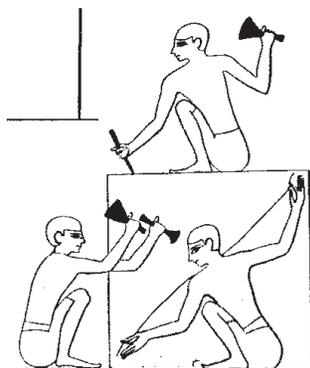
Our District Deputy then called us all together and closed the meeting and sent us home because of the storm.

Bob and I were on our way home there was water running across the road in spots. Bob and I arrived at my house. We had seen a car sitting across the street with its blinkers on. Thinking that it was a police car closing off the street, because of flooding. I went into my house not paying much attention. Going up to my bedroom, looking out the windows there was Bob standing in the rain helping some young man with his car that had stop, and then another car pulled up behind the car. Thinking to myself I had better go out and assist Bob. Going on downstairs telling my wife about the situation. She said that I should not go out.

Something could happen to both of us out there. You don't know who they are, she said. I did go out against my wife's wishes. Not

wanting my friend Bob out there all alone with two cars of strangers. After I had gone out to help, Bob jumped this man car battery and it still did not start. That the cables on his battery were losing and he did not have any wrenches to tighten them. I don't know how the car could run in that condition. The young man did not have a wrench in the car. Bob wrenches were of no help either. Bob again tried to start the car by jumping the battery, but it would not run. The young man then went to the trunk of his car and pulled out another battery to put into his car. He did not have any tools. I made a trip to my garage, and brought back an adjustable wrench and my long handled pliers. This seemed to be the tools that he needed. After some time we managed to get the bolts into the battery and back into the car. Again Bob gave him a jumpstart with his truck. This time the car started and he was one happy young fellow. Thanking us, he wanted to know what funeral home we worked for? We explained to him that we were two brother masons coming home from a lodge meeting. Thanking us again he jumped into his car. He told us his name but neither of us could hear or understand him. The last time that I saw him he was turning his car around and heading down the street from my house. The last time Bob saw him was he was going into Stewart's. He was heading towards Nelliston and over the bridge. We both still talk and wonder what happened to that young man and if he made it home that stormy night.

W.: Philip E. Hanley Fort Plain # 433



Youth Committee
By: W.:Michael Krajewski

Dear Brothers,

The Schedule for DeMolay and Triangle is as follows:

St. Andrews Chapter – DeMolay

First and Third Thursdays – 7pm. – Amsterdam Temple

Onistagrawa Triangle #215

Second and Forth Thursdays – 7:30pm. – Amsterdam Temple

Upon request both of these groups have a ceremony that they can perform for Masonic events or for the Eastern Star.

These are two fine groups of young men and women, of whom we should support. These are called “Masonic Youth Groups”. Yes, we as Masons sponsor them, but we should do more than that. We as Masons should also show our support for them. Yes there is that cable tow--but that cable tow is able to stretch at times.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR YOUTH IS OUR FUTURE! AND
AS MASONS, WE CAN BE THERE TO HELP MOLD BOTH!

Fraternally

W.:Michael Krajewski



ompliments of:

Dr. William S. Muehleck

Help the Newsletter! A personal contribution of \$10 or more will help

Fulton Montgomery Masonic Charities

I would like to thank all the brothers who participated in the fundraiser for the John Gurga family. A lot of work and support was put into this fundraiser by the lodges.

This June we will again have a golf tournament at the Fox Run Country Club with the Prime Rib dinner being held at the Dorn Pavilion after the tournament. The cost again this year will be \$65.00 a person in teams of four. This includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, food at the turn with beverages included. For those who don't golf the Prime Rib dinner alone will be \$18.00. Along with the Golf Tournament we will be having a raffle with a Grand Prize of a seven day condominium vacation in Myrtle Beach South Carolina during April 2008. Also several monetary prizes will also be given away totaling \$2500. We will need everyone's help to sell these tickets by June 15th.

You'll have to see your lodge representative to get your tickets to sell. This is going to be an awesome raffle sponsored by Amsterdam Charities Foundation. Tickets will sell for \$5.00 each with a minimum of 3000 tickets to be sold. There will also be several raffles of products and prizes like last year during the golf tournament and during the dinner. If you know a business owner who you can ask for a donation of a prize it would be a help to the golf committee, which is chaired by Bob Barr. We also need hole sponsors which cost \$50.00 or \$100.00 and this gets a sign on a hole for the golfers to see. Thanks for your help and support.

Jeffrey Lanfear
President



• More Light •

Deciding if you should forgive or not may be easier after reviewing exactly what forgives is – and what it is not.

- Forgiving does not mean that you forget the offense You may never forget (and probably shouldn't) what happened to you, but after forgiveness you can remember it without the emotional pain connected to it.
- Forgiving does not mean that you are saying what they did was O.K. Quite the opposite. We can forgive but still see what happened to you as horrific or unjust.
- You don't need to even tell people that you forgive them; the forgiveness occurs in your heart – not in conversation with them, although in some circumstances you may want to have a dialogue about it It often backfires if you go up to someone (especially a relative) and say “I forgive you.” This occurs because the offending person often doesn't see himself or herself as the problem. Better to do the forgiveness in your own mind and heart. One exception to this is if you are the victim of a violent crime. Some studies show that it helps your healing if you forgive your assailant face to face.
- Forgiving doesn't mean you will automatically trust them again Forgiveness and trust are two separate issues. Even after forgiveness, it may take a long time to re-build trust, if ever. To instantly trust someone again after they have violated you in some way is not a sign of good mental health or strong self-esteem.
- Forgiving doesn't necessary mean you like or love the offender, or even want to be in future relationship with them Absence of angry feelings doesn't necessarily create warm, positive, or loving feelings in you for the offender-at best forgiving may bring you up to neutral in your feelings toward them. It I possible to say to yourself, for instance, “OK. I forgive her but I don' want to have anything further to do with her-ever.”
- You don't need to forgive all at once. This is a concept that especially applies to forgiving an unfaithful partner. Dr. Abrams-Spring suggests that to start maybe you can only forgive 10%—just open the door—and then see how your unfaithful partner behaves. After a period of time, you might want to open the door a little wider and forgive maybe another 20%, and so on.

From the Editor's Desk

Roger B. Steele

Harmony and Forgiveness

Patience. Understanding. Forgiveness. Balance. All are key ingredients toward building healthy, harmonious relationships. Without them, the firm foundation of understanding and teamwork our relationships are built on has nowhere left to grow. Just as a plant needs sunlight to grow, we too need the light of God's love to illumine us so that we might grow in spirit. When we harbor negative thoughts, we are diffusing this divine light by turning away from love.

It could be that we have found ourselves caught in the past because of a situation we can't seem to move beyond. When we are able to let go, we are acknowledging that God is in charge. But how can we do this? By turning to God in prayer and meditation, we allow divine love to flow through us and from us in our words and actions. Forgiveness heals us in mind, body, and spirit.

While we cannot change the past, we can learn and grow from our experiences.

Once we are at peace within ourselves, we will find it easier to face others and open the lines of communication that may have previously shut down due to a misunderstanding.

As we forgive, we are allowing divine love to release us from the burdens of negativity and lift us up in Spirit. The love of God once again fully illumines us now that the shadows of doubt and fear are removed. Harmony is once again reestablished and our relationship can move forward.

The following are some helpful tips as you practice forgiveness:

Find time for open and honest discussions. Turn off the TV. Tune out the rest of the world. Talk to the ones you love. Even if there doesn't seem to be anything to discuss, make quality time a habit.

Let go of the past by affirming: I am God's love and understanding in expression.

Before going to bed, mentally forgive anyone you feel ani-

mosity toward. Release any negative feelings by asking yourself, “What would God want me to do?”

Rather than reacting immediately to something said or done, temporarily remove yourself from the situation. Take a walk. Listen to music. Meditate in a quiet place. Refocus on God’s presence, then return to work through the situation in a spirit of peace. Remember: God’s love can work wonders toward healing any relationship!

Forgiveness is freeing up and putting to better use the energy once consumed by holding grudges, harboring resentments, and nursing unhealed wounds. It is rediscovering the strengths we always had and relocating our limitless capacity to understand and accept other people and ourselves.

Think about it Brothers

Roger

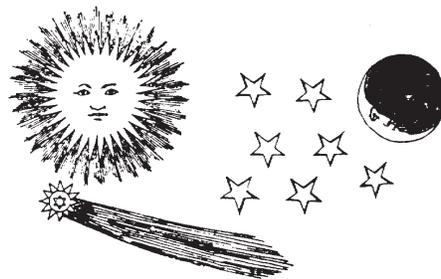
Something New

Scottish Rite Masons Announce Newest NASCAR Racing Team
Washington, D.C., January 3, 2007 - The Scottish Rite Racing Team will be officially announced and introduced by NASCAR, BC Motorsports, and the Frank Cicci Racing team at the Scottish Rite House of the Temple on Saturday, January 6, 2007, at 11:00am. NASCAR representatives, the Racing Team, and members of the Masonic community will be available to the media. The House of the Temple is located at 1733 Sixteenth St. N.W., Washington, DC. The Scottish Rite race car will be driven by veteran driver Brian Conz, who himself is a 32° Scottish Rite Mason. Brother Brian, who began his career in 1988 in the Street Stock Division, later moved to the ARCA/REMAX Series in 1996. Brian has 15 wins, 79 top fives, and 108 top ten finishes to his credit and will be in the running for the Raybestos Rookie of the Year

honors. He will be piloting the Scottish Rite #34 Chevrolet for Frank Cicci Racing based in Mooresville, N.C. The team will be

celebrating its 20th season in the Busch Series in 2007 and is the oldest running team in series history. With 743 starts and 19 victories, the team has fielded drivers such as current NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Champion Todd Bodine, Randy LaJoie, and David Green, along with a long line of NASCAR's favorite driver's. Owner Frank Cicci states, "We are so excited and privileged to have such an honorable organization associated with us, we look forward to a long-lasting relationship with the Scottish Rite and Brian."The Scottish Rite is part of the "Family of Freemasonry," the oldest and largest fraternal organization in America, dating back to 1730. Many famous American men have been Masons, including fourteen presidents from George Washington to Gerald Ford. Bro. Ford was a Michigan Mason as is Bro. Conz, and both received the 32° in the Scottish Rite, with Bro. Ford being honored with the 33°. About one-third of the 1.5 million American Freemasons have gone on to become 32° Scottish Rite Masons, and about 1% of those receive the 33° in recognition of their service to humanity, their communities, or to Freemasonry. The Scottish Rite sponsor 225 speech and language clinics for children across the country, part of the \$2 million a day or \$750+ million a year American Masonry spends on philanthropy.Scottish Rite Racing will compete in the 2007 NASCAR Busch Series commencing at the Daytona International Speedway in Florida on February 17th for the full 35 race schedule.

For additional information on the Scottish Rite Racing Team contact Stan
Dodd, 202-232-3579 or sdodd@scottishrite.org.



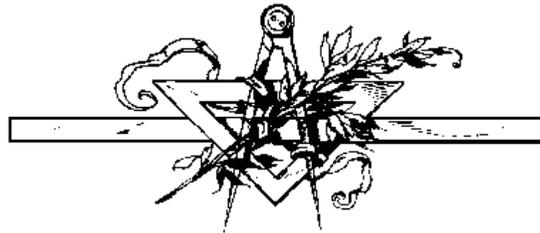
**Support
Your
Brotherhood Fund**

Postmaster!! Time Valued Material Inside

FULTON-MONTGOMERY MASONIC DISTRICT
NEW SLEETTER
489 Honeywell Cirs. Rd.
Broadalbin, NY 12025

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
MAYFIELD, NY 12117

**Remember,
Being a Member is More
Than Just Paying Dues!**



Visit us at www.newyorkmasons.org