



News and events from the organizations that meet at Suburban Lodge #740.

From the East:

## Starting Fast in 2025.



By Hank Buckwalter  
Worshipful Master

Hello Brethren! It's been an eventful few months since I have been placed in the Oriental Chair and we sure are getting some tasks accomplished and having a great time doing it. We have been doing a lot of traveling and visiting many Lodges both within and outside our District 13. We have visited Taylorsville Lodge, Salt River, Louisville 400, Shawnee, Okolona-Preston, Sunset, Willis-Stewart, and many more to come! We have enjoyed observing the slight differences in ritual, engaging in fellowship with our brothers, and of course enjoying a few meals. The Lodges that we have visited are more than happy and welcoming when we visit and we do not plan on letting up.

Many updates and repairs are currently underway at our Lodge and these have been a long time coming. We are invested in the condition of our physical Lodge, as well as the well-being and condition of our membership and Fraternity. The Hall Association has been working diligently towards completing all the work that needs to be done and I have highly appreciated all of their hard work and attention to our Lodge's needs.

Our Committees are also laboring to exercise the duties required of us. Our Refreshment Committee continues to provide wonderful meals for us prior to all stated communications. Their work is imperative and we are all engaging in the "Knife and Fork Degree." Our Widows Committee is making regular contact with our Lodge's widows and offering support. Our Visitation Committee continues to visit our Brethren at Lodges throughout KY

and have a great time in doing so. Speaking of committees, a list of committees and members are included in this Newsletter and I am grateful that we have such a great group of Brothers that are contributing to our Lodge and its prosperity.

Our Social Club and Officers continue to be such a vital part of our Lodge and its perseverance. We cannot thank Clinton, Clayton, Bo, Stan, and Dave S. enough for all their hard work that makes this machine function. All of the Brothers that chip in to receive the fish, meal the fish, prepare the onions, make the coleslaw, and operate the fish fry on Saturdays. This all exemplifies the investment in the Lodge by these Brothers and we all need to contribute to the success of this operation and tradition. Words cannot express how thankful I am to be able to work with all of you to maintain our Lodge and further our cause.



As always, I am more than honored to serve as Master of Suburban #740 this year. We are a great group of men that truly set an example for our community. I'm always just a phone call away (502-377-4814) and am happy to talk to you and address anything that requires my attention and care.

Fraternally Thine,  
Henry "Hank" Buckwalter  
Worshipful Master, 2024 ♦

### In This Issue:

From the East .....	1
The Man in the West .....	2
From the South .....	3

Important Dates .....	3
From the Secretary .....	4
He Wore the Apron .....	5
Calendar .....	5



**Suburban Lodge #740 Free & Accepted Masons**  
3901 South 3rd Street, Louisville, KY 40214  
Hank Buckwalter, Master • Tom Mercer, Secretary

# The Man in the West

by G. Thomas "Tom" Mercer  
Secretary, PM

Many members who have not visited Suburban Lodge No. 740 F. & A. M. for the past several years (and there are many) may not have met our Senior Warden, Brother Ron Adcock.



But he is a man you ought to meet. Born in Beauford, South Carolina, on August 2, 1951, Brother Ron later moved to Louisville, Kentucky. Perhaps some of our long time members met Ron years ago, because he was initiated in our Lodge as an Entered Apprentice Mason on January 15, 1976. He

was then passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft on February 19, 1976, and he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 27, 1976. Unlike many, Brother Ron quickly passed his Master Mason Proficiency on April 27, 1976.

In addition to joining the oldest known surviving fraternity and, after a period of absence in which he dutifully attended to work and family before coming back later to serve our Lodge, our Senior Warden also joined and served our nation as a member of its armed forces. He served two tours in the United States Navy, his first being in the early 1970s and his second beginning in the mid-1970s when he was a Naval Recruiting Officer in Louisville.

Sometime after the death of Brother Ron's wife of many years, Linda, he decided he would come back to Lodge to see if he might be of any service. Our Treasurer, Clinton Carrier, PM, has told the story of how he was working the cash register on the opening day of our Fish Fry on the first Saturday in March, 2021, when a man approached him and asked, "Do you all need any help around here?" Clinton said he replied something to the effect of "No, I think we have it covered," when the man said, "Well, I'm a member here." Not one to miss an opportunity, Brother Clinton, who was then serving as President of the Suburban Social Club that runs the Fish Fry, immediately put the man to work. That man, Brother Ron Adcock, has been here ever since.

Two years later, when Brother Clinton had to step down from his many duties as Social Club President before the

Fish Fry resumed in March 2023 so that he could serve the Grand Lodge of Kentucky as District Deputy Grand Master of District Thirteen (13) upon being appointed to the position by Grand Master E. Darren Wilson, Brother Ron Adcock consented to having his name placed in nomination for, and was elected to, the position of President of our Social Club, in which capacity he served for 2023 and 2024.

But Brother Ron's service did not stop there. Prior to the start of Brother Steven Freeman's year as Suburban's Master in 2024, he asked Brother Ron if he would be willing to take the office of Junior Warden, if nominated and elected. Despite working full time as the owner of All Weather Heating & Air Company, as well as serving as Social Club President, Brother Ron agreed that he would. Subsequently, he was nominated and elected as Suburban's Junior Warden for 2024.

Now Brother Ron Adcock is this year's Senior Warden. We are grateful for his service to this Lodge, and for the service of our other officers who give of their time for the benefit of Suburban Lodge No. 740 F. & A. M. and of our community, as well as for all the other officers who have gone before them since our Lodge was first chartered on October 23, 1902. For those members who have not visited their Lodge in some time, do not let Brother Ron's extraordinary last four years of service scare you away. Most members understandably cannot picture themselves doing that much, and it is not expected. But I believe you will find that the opportunity to be around such men, at least from time to time, can do you much good and is time well spent. ♦



## ATTENTION!

In accordance with our bylaws, Suburban Lodge will be dark on June 19 for the Federal Holiday.

Greeting from the South:

## Taking a Seat in the South.



Tom Holcomb  
Junior Warden

When I first joined Suburban Lodge, I had no idea I would someday become one of its line officers. This year's Master, Hank Buckwalter, and I took our Fellow Craft and Master Mason Proficiency Exams together, and Brother Hank became Senior Steward in 2022. However, I did not think about trying to join the line until the later part of 2023 when then Master Clayton Carrier asked if I would take the chair of the Junior Deacon when someone up the line unexpectedly resigned. In 2024 I was nominated and then elected as Senior Deacon. Now I have been honored to be nominated and elected to the office of Junior Warden. I am also serving in my third year on the Hall Association, and I regularly work on Fridays and Saturdays for our Social Club's Fish Fry.

In the past few months, I have gotten more comfortable with the duties of the Junior Warden. Now those duties will be increased as I prepare to confer my first degree on Brother Matt Stull, who is getting ready to take and pass his Entered Apprentice Proficiency so he can advance to the Fellow Craft Degree.

I know that members of Suburban Lodge take pride in the Lodge's ritual work, and I will do my best to meet those expectations. But if I make mistakes, I know that they will be pointed out to me so that I may do better next time. Like those who have gone before me, I have learned that is one way in which line officers improve themselves as they travel upon their journey to the East.

Thank you for the continued faith you have placed in me as Junior Warden. I hope to continue to merit your trust and support. ✧

### 2025 Suburban Lodge

## Important Dates to Remember

EVENTS	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Family Night	5/29	6:30pm	Suburban Lodge
LODGE DARK FOR HOLIDAY	6/19	—	—
Master Mason Re-Obligation Ceremony	7/3	7:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Family Night	7/31	6:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Past Master's Night	10/30	6:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Elections/St. John's Day	12/27	7:30pm	Suburban Lodge
Installation	TBD	TBD	Suburban Lodge

*Note: Dates and times may change. More will be added in future newsletters.*



## From the Desk of the Secretary :

# The Widows Initiative



G. Thomas "Tom" Mercer  
PM (2014), Secretary

Like many of our Past Masters, last year's Master, Steven F. Freeman, set a goal for Suburban Lodge to achieve the Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award.

As noted in the District Deputy Grand Master Handbook published each year by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky F. & A. M., the award "has strenuous achievement requirements and is the highest award a lodge can achieve in this state." During his year as Master, Brother Freeman and others worked hard to see that Suburban Lodge received that award by completing its various requirements. But there was one task which he and the Lodge were unable to fulfill—the "Widows Initiative."

That task as then constituted required that the Master appoint one brother per lodge widow to maintain contact with our widows. At that time, the total numbered over 45 widows. Each assigned brother was required to maintain contact with his assigned widow weekly, and to report regularly in open Lodge on how she was doing. That might be all well and good in small country lodge communities where brothers might run across their assigned widows at the grocery store or the gas station on a weekly basis. But in Louisville, contacting a woman who is not your wife, mother or sister every week could be considered Stalking! When I told my wife about the requirement, she exclaimed something to the effect of, "Good Lord! I don't want them calling me every week!"

Considering the requirement to be at least impractical, if not unattainable, nonetheless during Brother Freeman's year as Master we did what we could to improve our contact with and expand our commitment to our widows. In addition to our regular Christmas and Holiday Season program and gift to our widows, as well as our tradition of presenting them with a Masonic Family Bible when they first became widows if requested to perform a Masonic Funeral Service for their deceased husband (our brother), we worked hard at updating our contact information since much of it had become unreliable during the COVID pandemic and thereafter when face to face contact with them upon our in-person delivery of our Christmas gifts to them was replaced by mailing gift cards.

Freeman also sent them all invitations to one of our fifth Thursday Family Nights, which he had dubbed "Widows Night" in their honor. It included dinner and

the presentation of a certificate to attendees that signified the willingness of Suburban Lodge members to try to do what we could to be of service to them should they ever find themselves destitute, distressed and in need of help. Afterwards, Freeman mailed the certificates to those widows who did not attend the dinner.

This year's Master, Henry L. "Hank" Buckwalter, also has set a goal for Suburban Lodge No. 740 to achieve the Grand Master's Lodge of Excellence Award during his term. Fortunately, the Widows Initiative requirements for the award during the Grand Master's term of 2024 – 2025 have been amended so that a lodge may follow the old requirements, "or a variation that may work for your particular Lodge." As a result of the task now allowing for some variation from the requirement of "weekly contact" between one brother and one widow, Master Buckwalter has appointed a Special Committee for Lodge Widows to maintain contact during the year with our widows. This Special Committee consists of our Junior Past Master, Steve Freeman, Senior Warden, Ron Adcock, Junior Steward, Paul Ballinger, Brother Jim Deweese, and myself, Secretary and Past Master, Tom Mercer, as Chairman.

Our Committee has divided among ourselves all Lodge widows. Our objectives include making contact with each widow on our respective lists at least four (4) to eight (8) times during the year to check on their well-being and to invite and remind them that they and family members or a friend are welcome to attend each of our four (4) fifth Thursday Family Nights during the year (for 2025—January 30, May 29, July 31 and October 30). Since our newsletter, Our Corner, will now be published on our website instead of mailed, we will also contact our widows whenever a new newsletter is published, hopefully four (4) times per year.

Members of our Special Committee will report at least monthly in Lodge meetings on any pertinent information pertaining to our Lodge widows, and we request that any brother with news of note regarding any of our Lodge widows to please pass that along to one of our Special Committeemen to help keep us informed in the event that any action on our part may be required. As we know, our Masonic Lodge embraces not only the obligations we owe to one another as brothers of the Craft. It also embraces our members' families, more especially their widows and orphans. We hope and believe that our new Widows Initiative will help assure we meet our obligations. ✧

# He Wore the Apron: Richard Gatling



American inventor Dr. Richard Jordan Gatling was a medical doctor and holder of 48 patents. He is best remembered for inventing a revolving battery gun, firing 1200 shots per minute.

He worked as a fisherman, court clerk, teacher, and storekeeper, later founding the Gatling Gun Company in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1862. The hand-cranked Gatling gun was declared obsolete by the United States Army in 1911.

In 1877, he wrote: "It occurred to me that if I could invent a machine—a gun—which could by its rapidity of fire, enable one man to do as much battle duty as a hundred, that it would, to a large extent supersede the necessity of large armies, and consequently, exposure to battle and disease be greatly diminished."

Gatling was elected as the first president of the American Association of Inventors and Manufacturers in 1891, serving for six years. ♦

Member  
Centre Lodge No. 23, Indianapolis

Source: Hamill, John et al.. *Freemasonry: A Celebration of the Craft*. JG Press 1998.

## MAY 2025




SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				 1	2	3
4	 5	6	7	8	9	 10
11	12	 13	14	 15	16	 17
18	 19	20	21	22	23	 24
25	26	27	28	29	30	 31

## JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	 2	3	4	 5	6	 7
8	9	 10	11	12	13	 14
15	 16	17	18	<b>NO LODGE MEETING</b> 19	20	 21
22	23	24	25	26	27	 28
29	30					

## JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	 3	4	 5
6	 7	 8	9	10	11	 12
13	14	15	16	 17	18	 19
20	 21	22	23	24	25	 26
27	28	29	30	31		

-  Lodge Meeting . . . . . 7:30pm
-  Hall Association . . . . . 5:30pm
-  Social Club . . . . . 7:00pm

-  Fish Fry . . . . . 10:00am-5:00pm
-  DeMolay . . . . . 7:00pm