

A Report to the Masonic Hall Association members

Just before St. John's Day as the Masonic Year comes to a close, and new officers take over, it is a good time for the Masonic Hall Association (MHA) to provide a report to members of its activities for 2010.

MHA activities for 2010 include some projects completed and others not. The most significant that is not completed is the sidewalk in front of the Lodge Hall. It was expected this would happen as a grant was awarded to the Borough of Waymart for the sidewalk replacement. As it turned out, Pennsylvania did not fund the promised grant to Waymart through Wayne County, so a contract was not advertised and awarded. The MHA was planning to coordinate with the borough's contractor(s) and to make whatever adjustments were needed to the front porch/concrete deck and install a ramp and elevator or stair chair. The Board had determined it was most beneficial to install a ramp from the street to the side porch. An elevator or stair chair would then be installed inside for the benefit of members of the lodge and Eastern Star to get to the second floor.

Roof replacement plans were made and the Lodge's initial contribution was \$15,000 to the MHA as part of a plan to replace the roof when that must be done. The roof is about 25 years old and there is a strong desire to avoid a crisis of "the roof must be replaced and no funds available." The monies were placed in CD's to earn whatever is possible in the current interest climate but still have funds available when needed.

Regular hall maintenance and upkeep has been on going with volunteer efforts for the most part. A strength of the organization is the willingness of members to do whatever they can. Sometimes "the floor," to cite an illustration, does not get cleaned as often as desirable but the organization does the best it can to maintain a balance between costs and needs.

The MHA is financially much stronger than it had been a few years ago with a balance of \$7,408.74 on November 30. The winter chicken barbecue proceeds for the last two years, are again going to the MHA after a period of time when they were used for charitable purposes. This, along with the insulation project that reduced heating costs just over 50 percent, have been important in reducing operational costs. The other sources of income continue to be hall rentals and hoagie sales to meet expenses.

The MHA will change in 2011, as the Lodge has elected two new trustees. Potentially two new board members may be elected at the annual meeting in January. Planned leadership changes are a positive event in the life of organizations and lead to introduction of new ideas and actions. The outgoing trustees, Rocky Edwards and Wendell Hunt, will support the new MHA in any way possible.

Wendell Hunt, President MHA