

Growth and Progress

Most Excellent Companion Dale G. Ray, Jr.
Chairman of the Board



In 2006, The Ohio Masonic Home and its subsidiary and affiliated corporations provided \$9 million in charitable work. Net assets increased \$19 million; \$31 million over the past two years. This is impressive! And it is testimony to the good works done by the Masonic fraternity. But we can do more. We should expand our mission. Freemasons serve all kinds of people. The Ohio Masonic Home

should be no different. We should be serving the whole community.

Masonic charity is not intended solely for consumption by our Brethren. Freemasons serve charities that benefit many people, including fellow Masons; but not exclusively. Shrine hospitals serve everybody that needs their services, from burn victims to children. Learning centers serve those with educational needs. The Special Olympics support participants who are not necessarily related to the Masonic fraternity. The Ohio Masonic Home should operate in the same way.

Steps were taken in 2006 to move in that direction. Masonic Retirement Village and Masonic Health Care were consolidated into one corporation on the Springfield campus. The Masonic Financial Assistance Corporation was formed to better provide financial aid to those in need. Masonic Senior Services came into its own, adding I-CARE service coordinators and reaching into all corners of the state.

These accomplishments make us a more vibrant and successful organization. We are serving more people, providing more charity and serving both Masons and non-Masons.

There is no standing still. We must grow and progress. ✧

For 33 years, Dale Ray Jr. has served Barberton High School as the boys basketball team's official scorekeeper. Over those 33 years, Dale estimates he has kept score for about 800 varsity basketball games. When you figure in the junior varsity games, for which he also scores, the number is closer to 1,600.

"It's a difficult job," Dale says. "I'm helping basketball officials make decisions during the game. But I enjoy it."

Dale appreciates the opportunity to serve his community and his former high school. "I went to Barberton High School," he said. "My children went to Barberton High School. My son (Dale III) played basketball at Barberton High School."

Dale's volunteer position is quite demanding. "I score all the games – home and away," he said. "The games take me all over northeast Ohio and as far away as Bingamton, N.Y. and Louisville, Ky."

His duties were acquired by happenstance. "I've always attended high school basketball games," he said. "I would sit in the stands and keep score for myself. Someone from the school noticed me doing it. When the prior scorekeeper retired, they asked me to do it."

Dale is happy to do it. "I love high school basketball," he said. "I plan to continue doing it as long as I can."