

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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### FROM THE EAST



Okay, I am sitting at my computer trying to write an article for the newsletter. The first deadline has already passed and I am getting close to the “real” deadline. Why is it such a struggle to find things to write about for the article? It’s just one article a month for 10 months of the year. I could go into the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and write about something I find interesting in there. But that seems more suited to our LEO Barnes. I could also write about how March is the month of Spring and of beginnings but it seems like I have done it before. (I looked back at March of 2004 and strangely enough I did NOT write about Spring – it must have been last year).

I think I know at least a part of the answer of why writing for the newsletter can be trying. As I have mentioned before, we write about 5 weeks ahead of when the newsletter is published. So for the March newsletter which you are now reading I am writing before the February Stated Communication. So I figure one reason it is difficult is that I have to think like it is a month later then it is. Or, as the business people say, engage in proactive thinking. Most of us, especially me, are better at reacting then “pro-acting”. My day job is 90% reacting to customer issues. But reacting in the newsletter is difficult because if I was reacting to some current event, by the time it got into the newsletter it could be almost two months old.

So I think this month I will write about a certain Masonic memory of mine.

It was a Thursday back in September of 1997. I showed up to Lodge for the very first time. I knew only one person in the room, my father in law Joy Nelson and he was busy. I sat at a table with a bunch of people I had never met before. Most them did know each other so I sat there and listened to their banter. Some guys in tuxedos would come up to the table and introduce themselves. Hands would be shaken and then they would move on.

The group I was with was ushered into the small lodge room and Madison Overmoen was there. He told us to put on those

pants we all know so well. As we were getting dressed we talked about what we were about to go through. Of course we didn’t learn very much from Madison. The group of us was lead into a much smaller room and then blind folded. One by one we were lead out of that room in darkness. I remember a firm grip on my left hand leading me, where I didn’t know, but I trusted him. Of course this was the night I was initiated into the Lodge and the firm grip I felt turned out to be Joy’s. It was night I can barely remember and will never forget. I bet most of you have very similar memories of the night you were initiated.

Later this month we will be making those same memories for a handful of men. Come down to Lodge on Thursday March 26th to welcome our newest Brothers.

And don’t forget, March is the month of Spring, the time of rebirth...

See you in Lodge  
Loren



### FROM THE WEST

#### MOVING ON



For those of you who attended, you already know that 2009 has started off well. Our closed officer installation was well attended, including attendees from Grand Lodge as well as from other Lodges in the area.

By the time you read this, our Valentine’s Dinner will be history, and I trust will have been a memorable evening.

There is one change—because our original plan to attend the St. Paul Saints game would occur very close to our Third Degree Ceremony, your officers have decided to move the date to August. The remaining events I mentioned in my last article remain unchanged.

We will be planning to attend meetings at other Lodges during the year. Those of you who did this last year remember how warmly received we were by our Brothers in those other Lodges.

*continued on page 2...*

## *From the West...continued from page 2*

Let me remind you that our First Degree ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2009. Please plan to attend to welcome our newest Brothers into the Craft.

To state the painfully obvious, our economy is hurting badly. Your officers will be trying to get the biggest bang for our dollars as is possible this year. I would appreciate it very much if you could forward suggestions for inexpensive social gatherings that would enable all of us to get together during these difficult times.

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd  
Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

### Motivated Membership

To constituents of any organization, membership means many things and between members, different things. For those members who are active, there are probably several elements about being a member that pique their interest. Those that are not active probably joined with good intentions of being active, but for one reason or another, the thrill of joining dwindled away.

Our Craft is just as vulnerable as any other institution to eroded aspirations of its members, but it doesn't have to be. All anyone has to do is think about the benefits of being a Mason and visualize themselves engaging in its several activities. This visualization process may have to be revisited every so often, as the distractions of our everyday world tend to weigh heavily on our spirits. Being motivated takes a bit of work even for the most motivated people and most of them will say that in spite of the energy it takes to BE motivated, there is an enormous energy that is infused in one who reaches out and gets involved. Speaking as one who is moderately motivated, I can attest that I have received much more energy from my activities in Masonry, than I have expended.

Perhaps you have been a motivated member of an organization and maybe ran up against someone who blew you off or maybe a task you were to perform did not measure up either to your standards or that of someone else. Suddenly, "the thrill is gone", as the singer lamented, and your attendance began to fall off. Then, maybe you asked yourself, "well, what is in this for me, really?" This is the point at which a bit of inner energy is needed to kick-start your need to be a part of the whole.

So what has this to do with the price of eggs in Biloxi, or the tea in China? No much, really, but here is my point...

Masonry has grown to the point that it is due to the dedication

## NEXT STATED MEETING

### March 12th



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of so many Brothers throughout history both notable and not so notable who ran up against untold obstacles and skepticism, but yet they kept on working with in the Craft because they felt it was right. Masonry IS the great institution it is because of the motivation of many, many Brothers who take up the challenge of the Degree work, who come to the meetings for camaraderie, who accept the tasks of being "in the line", who want to be involved.

You might ask - so what is in it for me? What is in it for a future candidate that you might prod to join our most excellent Craft? Let me count the ways...

1. Friendship and fellowship
2. Intellectual growth and enlightenment
3. Leadership development
4. Connectivity to generations past
5. Groundwork for connectivity to future generations
6. Social events
7. Making a difference in someone's life through charity
8. Wearing really cool stuff and carrying staffs
9. Helping like-minded Brothers to be better
10. Learning from like-minded Brothers to be better
11. Learn of different philosophies from many cultures
12. Great dinners and donuts
13. Evenings out with a great bunch of guys

Seriously folks, a strong and active constituency is crucial to the health of any organization and more especially of ours. I urge you to bring your strengths and motivation to each and every meeting and share that energy with your friends whom you feel would be good candidates to be Masons.

Bless one and all.

Drew C. Bjorklund  
Junior Warden





# LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

## Ancients and Moderns: Differences and Similarities

Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.  
September 3, 2001

The differences between the Ancients and Moderns are rooted in the middle of the eighteenth century as the Grand Lodge began to make its presence felt and as the customs of the country began to change. While this paper does not go into detail on the root of the differences, enough of the differences are described so that the reader can gain an appreciation of the impact upon Masonry, as it is known today in the Untied States.

First is the difference in terminology. Consider that in 1717 the Grand Lodge, as we know it today, did not exist then. It was formed by four London lodges, and did not seek to extend its influence on the larger scale. The degrees at that time were not well defined; the Master Mason’s degree was not formalized until 1731. The Book of Constitutions came into being in 1723. Records were not well kept. Many things were handled in an ad hoc manner, even the meeting times and places of meeting for lodges were not constant. The Grand Masters and many of the Grand Officers, in this period were English aristocrats, e.g. they held title, in the Modern Grand Lodge. Though the Ancients kept to this practice in the position of the Grand Master, the other Grand Officers did not have aristocratic titles. In the Grand Lodge of the Ancients, day-to-day responsibility for the activities of the Grand Lodge was vested in the Deputy Grand Master, who was not titled and who could hold the office for successive years.

Secondly, the term “Ancient” probably came about as the changes in Masonry evolved, resulting in a large part from conservative reaction to the rapidly changing degrees. Its first appearance came in 1726 in a London newspaper indicating approval of the old and disparagement of the new. Couched in flowery language it read, “There will be several lectures on Ancient Masonry, \*\*\* shewing that the Innovations have been introduced by the Doctor (John T. Desaguliers) and some of the Moderns.” and

announced a meeting of the Antediluvian Masons. When referring to a Grand Lodge, the term “Ancient” does not appear until 1751 when it refers to an organization of “Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons According to the Old Institutions”. Later the Ancients referred to themselves as “the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, according to the Old Institutions”. It referred to the Grand Lodge (whose title was: “the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, under the Constitution of England”) as “Modern”, it was a term that the Moderns did not refute, and even used themselves.

One of the early influences in the Ancients was Laurence Dermott, who, in 1756, wrote the Ahiman Rezon, or Book of Constitutions of the Ancients. In 1757 he showed that he had been Master of Lodge No. 26 in Ireland in 1746 and had held both offices of Deacon, and Warden there. He was also a Royal Arch Mason in 1746. He was prominent in the Ancients for over 35 years. In 1757 the Grand Lodge forbid the Ancient lodges to admit any visitors other than Ancient Masons. One of the first actions of the Ancients was to recognize the Grand Lodge of Ireland in 1758. Coupled with the migration of many Irish to England in this period, this form a magnet for growth. In 1760 there were 86 lodges, and a Provincial Grand Master was appointed in Nova Scotia, and in 1761, a lodge was warranted in Philadelphia.

The growth of the Ancient influence in American lodges was very pronounced. The Ancients replaced the Moderns in many of the American provincial Grand Lodges, so that by the time the independent American Grand Lodges were formed after the Revolutionary War, 55% of the Grand Lodges claimed Ancient lineage.

State	Name	1st Lodge (Modern)	1st Lodge (Ancient)	GL %age (Modern)	GL %age (Ancient)
Massachusetts	AF&AM	1733	1756 (Scotland)	50	50
Georgia	F&AM	1735	1784	50	50
So. Carolina	AFM	1735-36	1764	25	75
New Hampshire	F&AM	1736	1780	50	50
Virginia	AF&AM	1741	1755	50	50
Pennsylvania	F&AM	1749-50	1758		100
Rhode Island	F&AM	1749		100	
Maryland	AF&AM	1750	1766		100
Connecticut	AF&AM	1750	1781	65	35
New York	F&AM	1753	1776	50	50
No. Carolina	AF&AM	1754	1766	90	10
New Jersey	F&AM	1761	1767	50	50
Delaware	AF&AM	1765	1769 (?)		100

*Ancients and Moderns... to be continued in our next newsletter; explaining more of the differences between the two lodges and what led to their consolidation...*

# LODGE of SORROW 2009



*And we shall become immortal by our deeds which will live on after us.*

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Russell James Schwab	11/22/1924	1/09/1953	2/06/1953	2/20/1953	2/10/2009

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