

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE EAST

Dealing with “Nice Problems”

We’ve all heard people say, “Yup. That’s a real problem. Now deal with it.” Well, the “problems” we have been dealing with at Ancient Landmark are really nice ones. We had to make special arrangements in the Lodge room to handle ten candidates for the First Degree. Moreover, the degree ceremony was well attended with an adequate number of guides for the candidates. For the Second Degree, we’ll have to obtain special permission from Grand Lodge to have more than ten candidates participate in that ceremony. Wow!

At the Grand Lodge level, we just installed a new Grand Master, MWB John Cook, another warm and very competent man, as was his predecessor, MWB Thomas McCarthy. Your Principal Lodge Officers were present at Grand Lodge to witness this change of leadership. Moreover, our own Senior Warden, Drew Bjorklund, was installed as Grand Sword Bearer for the 2010-2011 year. I had the honor of escorting Brother Bjorklund into the meeting room as part of the ceremony. As I mentioned in my last article, MWB Cook will attend our September Stated Meeting. I encourage you to attend to meet and welcome this Brother to our Lodge.

As I attended the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in St. Cloud, I was reminded again of the breadth of our Brotherhood. While I met many Brothers whom I had met before, I also was fortunate to meet many other Masons for the first time and converse with them about their lives and about our Craft. Margaret and I had dinner at a St. Cloud restaurant before returning home, and I met a number of Brothers there as well. To me, it’s a wonderful feeling to recognize a brother outside of Lodge and to give and receive a warm handshake and a smile.

At the risk of sounding like a basketball coach (it is NCAA time as I’m writing this), we have to “press on” to maintain our momentum. Please plan to attend the Third Degree ceremony in June. It takes up most of one’s Saturday, but it’s well worth the effort. Please plan to attend at least one of the social activities planned for the summer, and please stay active during the second half of the year.

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd - Master



FROM THE WEST

I Finally Got Paid! Now What?

To our new Brethren – congratulations on achieving (weathering?) the second degree; you are now a Fellow Craft! What’s more – you are half-way through your journey through the degrees. “Wait a minute,” you are thinking... “How can we only be half-way through when there are three degrees?”

When you get to the Third Degree, you will see why I say this. The Third Degree is more than just a degree. And you HAVE heard the phrase about giving someone, “the third degree,” haven’t you? You are about to experience that next month. Anyway – on to the topic – the Fellow Craft Degree.

In my April article, I wrote about the wages we receive. In the second degree, you learned about the emblematic wages; the corn of nourishment, wine of refreshment and oil of joy. You are now registered as a Fellow Craft, entitling you to all of these elements as part of your emblematic wages. So what do the emblematic corn, wine and oil do for me? How do they manifest themselves to me? What do I have to do to get more? If they are mixed together, doesn’t this make for a, hmmm. What does it make?

These are worthy questions to investigate, whether you are a newly passed Brother or one who has been in the Craft for awhile. There are countless other questions that can be asked, and nebulous answers returned as before. Herein lies the “work” of the craft; this would be a good starting point for the Brethren to further their studies into our gentle fraternity. Where do you find out the answers? Well, there will be as many answers as there are people you ask, probably. But a search of Masonic texts would be in order, as written by Mackey, Claudy, Pike, or you might seek the advice of Brothers Art Lingo, our current LEO

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FROM THE SOUTH

A Call for Ideas

I would like to take a moment to once again mention the formation of a ritual group within the lodge. This group is open to any Master Mason with an interest in the ritual and degree work of Minnesota Masonry. We will be meeting on the first Thursday of every month at 7:15 pm. I hope you will consider joining us for some fellowship and study of the ritual.

I mention this group not as much to promote the venture, but as a means of broaching the subject of discussing new ideas. The ritual group came about by way of conversations between a few brothers of the Lodge, who realized they shared an interest in the ritual. After several discussions about how to turn this interest into an opportunity for fellowship and group study, the idea of the ritual group was devised.

While there is substantial interest in this new group, I know not everybody has a desire to learn the ritual. I would ask those of you who may not be interested in the ritual group, and even those of you who are, to start thinking about new ideas, opportunities and possibilities for increasing fellowship and participation among the brothers of our lodge, and then share those ideas with each other at the next dinner or event. Through the open discussion of ideas, we may be able to identify common interests, which could potentially lead to new social events, Lodge activities or even LEO programs.

As we learn in the first degree, Masonry unites men of every country, sect and opinion and facilitates true friendship among those who might otherwise have remained at a perpetual distance. I believe these bonds are often forgotten or overlooked. While we each come from different walks of life, we do share common experiences and interests. It is up to each of us to identify these commonalities and find ways to use them for the betterment of our Lodge.

Keith Reiersen
Junior Warden

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, May 13 - Stated Communication/Ladies Night
Dinner 6:00 PM Gavel 7:00 PM

Saturday, June 5 - Master Mason Degree
Time TBA

Thursday, June 10 - Stated Communication
Dinner 6:00 PM Gavel 7:00 PM



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Lynn Kuchera, is my cousin a dozen years my senior. He lives in the great state of California and has a wonderful family, including his first grandson. Each year Lynn and I arrange a motorcycle trip somewhere in the U.S. and meet for seven days of camaraderie and riding. Our last trip found us in the mountains of Colorado in Breckenridge. One evening after dinner while enjoying a bottle of wine, Lynn spots my Masonic ring and a conversation ensues. "Gee I knew your Dad was a Mason; when did you become one? Is it hard? I have often thought of becoming one." We all have been in that conversation with someone and usually know that the outcome will produce a petition out of nowhere to give to the now "candidate" to contemplate and, hopefully, someday submit.

This conversation though took a slightly unusual twist. "I have to tell you my best friend from back home is or is going to be like the Grand Pubah; in fact I think it could be for the U.S." I quickly assured him that it most likely was not for the U. S. but maybe a Local lodge. "No, no. He is some big muckity muck for sure" Our conversation soon turned to the ride of the day and other adventures for the future. We never did get back to the subject that wonderful week in September.

Last year Lynn and I were not able to make our annual trek of two wheels and seven days, you see Lynn was diagnosed with Melanoma and a new chapter to his life was beginning. One night I was sitting at home thinking about Lynn and our last trip. I was reminded of Lynn's Story of the Grand Pubah and that he was going to be in California for a national meeting in a few weeks. I thought, "I am going to find this guy." Lynn is originally from South Dakota, so I checked their Grand Lodge website and took a chance few Mason's would do. I sent a note to the Grand Master of South Dakota and asked if he by chance knew my cousin. "The Grand Pubah," as my cousin so aptly described was, in fact, the Current Grand Master of South Dakota at the time. We chatted by email and I told him of Lynn's new challenges. He promised he and Vi would soon visit Lynn and give him the support they could.

Okay--so where is this story going?

Well, I have just returned from Grand Lodge. It was an honor to see the last minutes of Newly Past Grand Master Tom McCarthy's reign, and, of course, the installation of our Most Worshipful Grand Master John Cook. But the true Masonic highlight for me was walking up to table number twelve (Doug Campbell does know all), never having met the Past Grand Master of South Dakota or his wife Vi. Vi

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(Lodge Education Officer), or Barnes Sharitt. Both are well read and can offer many sources for leisure (?) reading.

Before I close, I would like to offer some perspectives on our recent Grand Lodge meeting in Saint Cloud.

Grand Lodge is an annual meeting of all Masonic (Blue) Lodges in Minnesota. Each Lodge is to send its three principal officers to the gathering to represent their Lodge on issues that come before the entire session. This year the session was very well controlled, and the voting was limited to the election of the Grand Lodge officers and two resolutions. That is not the sum-total of the events, as there were plenty of reports and presentations on programs within the Masonic Institution which are of interest to one and all. Grand Lodge is extremely important for the health of the institution, where information is disseminated and issues are brought to the table. Constituent lodges need to be present in order to establish a quorum on voting, but there are even greater reasons to be involved; establishing bonds with Brethren whom you might not otherwise had a chance to meet and cementing the bonds with those whom you rarely see.

All Brethren are encouraged/welcomed to attend the Grand Lodge. Next year it will again be in Saint Cloud, but in 2012 it will be even easier for one and all to attend; it will be held in Maple Grove at the Northland Inn. Take a look at your Blackberries, pda's, Outlook calendars, and even those wall-hung paper calendars. Late March 2012 – don't plan anything, except to attend Grand Lodge.

Drew Bjorklund
Senior Warden



Secretary's Desk continued from page 2

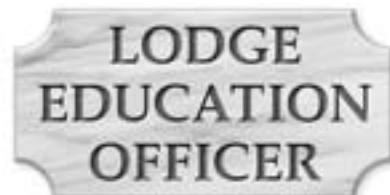
spotted me first, and obviously, the family resemblance must shine though. Without saying a word, she stood and hugged me; her husband Virgil did the same. Truly, it was as if very old friends were reacquainting themselves with each other. Stories were shared, and plans have been made. There was some conversation that just maybe we will get Lynn along the way to take his obligation. PGM Virgil Anderson and I have already committed to be there when that day comes.

Doug Kuchera
Secretary

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FAITH - HOPE - CHARITY

My Brothers, in the 3rd Section of the first degree lectures we learned of the form, supports, covering, furniture, ornaments, lights and jewels of a Lodge. I want to delve into the "covering" of a Lodge a bit. In the Lecture it is stated that the covering of a Lodge is no less than the clouded canopy or starry-decked Heaven, where all good Masons hope to at last arrive, by aid of the ladder which Jacob envisioned extending from earth to Heaven. It had principal rounds denominated FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY. We are told to have Faith in God, Hope of immortality, and Charity to all mankind. The greatest of these is said to be Charity. For Faith and Hope may be respectively lost to sight and fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave, through the boundless realms of eternity.

It is generally agreed that charity means love, but love in the Christian churches and society so often manifested itself in alms that charity in general terminology has the meaning of relief or assistance to the poor. These are distinctly Masonic tenets; we speak of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, which could be accurately expressed as Brotherly Charity, Relief and Truth. The theory is that the rich should love the poor, but few advocate the reverse. If Charity is considered virtuous, then it follows that it should be extended to all mankind. As Freemasons we should be kindly, tolerant, considerate and helpful toward all.

It is written in our Ancient Charges relating to aid, assistance, relief of distress and employment for traveling Masons. Our obligations have been extended to widows and orphans of Master Masons. It is so great an idea that it leads to discussions of one of the largest activities of our gentle Craft, financially and otherwise. We can see it in many titles: Masonic Service Association; Masonic Homes; Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada; Colleges, Masonic; Educational Funds and Foundations. This list doesn't include Rite Care Language Clinics or Shrine Hospitals for Children or York Rite Vision Funds.

As a fraternal organization we are and should be charitable as a group. It is individually important that charity be an attitude we carry with each of us for service to ourselves and to others around us. We were taught that if we found a member of the human family in a destitute situation, especially a Brother Mason, we should contribute to his relief as liberally as his necessities might be and as our ability permits. We cannot buy our way into Heaven, but Charity toward all is a good step on the way up Jacob's Ladder to that pinnacle we all hope to attain.

Submitted by
WBro. Art Lingo, L.E.O.

LODGE of SORROW 2010



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Howard Weiss	12/30/1915	03/02/1948	03/31/1948	04/24/1948	01/07/2010
John Magnuson	05/06/1924			12/01/1951	02/09/2010



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