

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



Online: [www.ancientlandmark5.com](http://www.ancientlandmark5.com)  
Email: [lodge@ancientlandmark5.com](mailto:lodge@ancientlandmark5.com)

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### LOOK TO THE EAST

## Master For A Quarter

It has been a quarter of a year since I was first given the honor of serving our Lodge as its Master. At the beginning of the year, there was no shortage of Past Masters retelling stories as a warning of things to avoid and ways to keep my sanity for my year. Certainly, this bit of new-guy hazing succeeded in making my wife nervous that I had not filled her in on how much was expected of her and the effect this term would have on our family. It even made me a little nervous that I may have taken on more responsibilities than I was aware or prepared to undertake.

This concern, however, was unfounded. For as much as any sitting Master would like to fancy himself as the keystone in the function of the Lodge, he is really just a single cog in the well-oiled machine of our Lodge's day-to-day happenings. Not only are there numerous Brothers who take on a portion of the Lodge's duties, but there is no shortage of individuals willing to take on more during times of need.

Recently, I was required to go on a business trip with very little notice that overlapped a planned Lodge event. As I informed other Brothers involved with the event of my change in schedule, I did not receive so much as a good hearted hard time about the short notice sudden change. Instead, I was given reassurance that it was not a problem and the event would continue without a hitch. In short, I have been pleasantly surprised at just how much we do live up to the Masonic values inculcated in our degrees.

Another common thread of advice I received at installation was to not let criticism or comments of "in my year we did it differently" get to me. Maybe it is because we are just starting down the road of degree work, but I have yet to receive anything other than well-meaning suggestions.

The one piece of advice that I did not even register with me, because I honestly did not think it would be an issue in our Lodge, was not to let event attendance or participation in Lodge events get you down. I don't know if I just did not pay attention before or only participated in well-attended events in years past, but I always thought everything we did had plenty of Brothers supporting it. In the years that I have been a Mason, there has seemingly been a constant desire from the body of the Lodge to have more chances for fellowship. Now that I am planning many of those events, I have been surprised at how few people have attended. Hopefully that is because we are just embarking upon the degree season. I have been told this is when our Lodge really comes out in numbers and shows our support to our candidates and newly admitted Brothers. Please continue this tradition again this year.

The final common warning I received was that of the paradoxical impression of how time would pass during my year as Master. So far nothing has felt like a grind that would make the time seemingly stop, nor have we had any "back office" problems. On the contrary, we are running smoothly and it seems like these first three months have passed in the blink of an eye. With the continued help of everyone in the Lodge, I am confident that the rest of the year will continue at this pace. Thank you, Brothers!

Terry Mallberg  
Worshipful Master  
Ancient Landmark #5 AF & AM

## Upcoming Schedule

**Thursday, Mar. 24th** - Entered Apprentice Degree

**Thursday, Mar. 31st** - Volunteer Night

**Thursday, Apr. 14th** - Stated Communication

**Thursday, Apr. 21st** - Entered Apprentice Prove-up

**Thursday, Apr. 28th** - Fellowcraft Degree





## FROM THE WEST

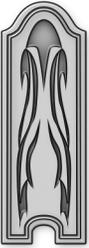
### Community Service Report

On March 5th and 6th, members of our Lodge participated in the Sponsor a Room Program at the Emma Norton Residence in St. Paul. The Emma Norton Residence provides dormitory living for homeless women working to transition into permanent housing and self-sufficiency in a safe and sober environment. As part of the program volunteers clean, paint, and decorate a room in order to provide some comfort for someone who needs it.

We arrived Saturday morning. Four of us were able to quickly prepare surfaces and paint the walls. On Sunday there were seven of us, and we set to work refinishing shelves, drawers, doors, as well as decorating. Those who were in charge of obtaining the decorations really went above and beyond. We were able to provide a new mirror, bedding, clothes hamper, curtains, a tablecloth, new bathrobe, and a loaded gift basket. At the end of the day the room looked fresh and much more inviting than when we arrived. We all felt good about what we had done and I'm sure the resident living there was pleased as well. You can see an "after" picture by visiting our Lodge's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/160710290689613/>.

This project was a great baby step in getting our Lodge thinking about community service, and it will definitely be something we will be doing again next year. It was easy to organize, did not require a lot of volunteers, was relatively easy work, and it was for a great cause. I want to thank the following people for their help in organizing, purchasing materials, and performing the work: Terry Mallberg, Maria Mallberg, Alan Peterson, Jane Peterson, Art Lingo, Jan Lingo, Zeeshan Hafiz, and Erik Jokinen. Thanks so much for your assistance!

Johnnie Timm  
Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

### Participating in Your Lodge

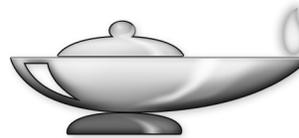
The degree cycle has begun and spring is in the air. Time is getting shorter and more precious as we are all getting busier. Just remember, as this year passes, to take pause and be thankful for what we have in our lives, including family, friends, and our fellow brothers in the Lodge.

As I am writing this I'm sitting in the sound booth and listening to the degree performance being presented below, and I can't help but feel that it's not necessarily what you do but rather what you attempt to do, what you strive to do. I am most certainly not the best at what I do, but I attempt to do my best in whatever I may be doing, and that is something we should all strive for: to attempt to do your best.

Doing your best in any endeavor makes you a better person, a better husband, a better brother. I know in my future endeavors as a Mason, I will strive to be a better person not only for myself, but others I am around.

Please enjoy your spring and with the season of new life beginning, I hope we can all strive to better ourselves and better each other.

Rique Beslin  
Junior Warden



LODGE  
EDUCATION  
OFFICER

### Ballot Secrecy

Has a Mason the right to announce how he has cast his ballot for a candidate?

The secrecy of the ballot is as essential to its perfection as its unanimity or its independence. If the vote were to be given voice, it is possible and likely that the improper influences of fear or interest would sometimes be exerted, and timid members would be induced to vote contrary to the dictates of their reason and conscience. Hence, to secure secrecy and protect the purity of choice, it has been wisely established that not only the vote be taken by ballot, but that there shall be no subsequent discussion on the subject.

Not only has no member a right to inquire how his fellows have voted, but he may not explain his own vote. The reason of this is evident: if one member has a right to rise in his place and announce that he deposited a white ball, then every other member has the same right. In a Lodge of ten members where an application has been rejected by one black ball, if five members state that they did not deposit it, the inference is clear that one of the five remaining members has done so, and the secrecy of the ballot is destroyed.

At the rejection, having been announced from the Worshipful Master, the Lodge should at once proceed to other business, and it is the sacred duty of the presiding officer peremptory and to promptly check any discussion on the subject.

James Beavers  
Lodge Education Officer

# Beyond the Five Points of Fellowship

## The Duties of Brotherhood

It is common to be asked by a non-Mason, "What benefit(s) do you receive from being a Mason?" There are many aspects and benefits of Freemasonry that might have enticed one to join.

Some join because they are interested in learning deep truths and acquiring a philosophy of life. Others are attracted to the opportunity to become associated with worthy community projects and obtain leadership skills. Some join in order to network and build relationships. Some join because their father or a respected relative or mentor was a member. There are some who join because they believe Masonry gives them access to secrets and mystic knowledge unavailable to non-members. There are many reasons that are personal to each of us.

The most valuable benefit secured by being a Freemason in my judgment is the opportunity to develop deep and abiding friendships. In Masonry we use the term Brotherhood.

Our Brotherhood is sacred. Our Brotherhood is meaningful. Our Brotherhood is sincere. Our Brotherhood is significant. The sole basis of our Order rests on the quality of our Brotherhood. If there is no true Brotherhood, there is no substance to our Fraternity.

The word – Brother - is used often, but what does it mean? How is Brotherly Love displayed? What does the Brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God look like?

Brotherhood should not be looked at simply as a noun. In the context of our Fraternity, Brotherhood, I argue, is a verb. It is an action word. It denotes responsibility. Deeds are required when that word is evoked. If I call you my Brother you should expect something from me as though a contract were written out detailing the way we are to interact one with another.

### **To serve, to pray, to keep the secrets of, to support and to council.**

The Five Points of Fellowship gives us a hint of the DEPTH we must go to properly demonstrate the degree of our Fraternal and Brotherly relations. I argue however, that we can go deeper still. Commitment to the Brotherhood demands it. Love of the Brotherhood compels it.

The title of this paper is, **Beyond the Five Points of Fellowship: The Duties of Brotherhood.**

The duties of Brotherhood are many. I can't go over all of them in this short period of time, but will discuss what I consider some of the most important.

## **Remove grief from your Brother.**

How do we respond when we hear news of our Brothers? If we learn that a Brother is drowning in debt; or may lose his home; or is on the verge of getting a divorce; or is suffering under an unfortunate life condition - what is our response? As a band of Brothers, what do we do?

One could respond, he never told me! He was too prideful and kept the news to himself! My response is, when you saw him last, did you take the time to notice his change? Did you ask him, how are you doing? How is your family? How is your health? Did you tell him if he needed you that you'd be there for him? Do we create an environment welcoming enough that a Brother feels comfortable emoting and sharing with us?

We must begin to look for discomfort in our Brothers. We must begin to study our Brothers so as to learn more about them. Can you be a Brother to someone you don't know? Do we know the story of those whom we call our Brothers? Do you know the names of our Brothers children or the name of his spouse? It's hard to care for a widow or orphan that you have no connection with or knowledge of.

It is difficult to remove grief from a Brother we have no relations with outside of the boring Lodge meetings we attend monthly. We must become comfortable with look at our Brothers in the face. Why? Because we are a mirror image of our Brother. That is the depth we should be striving for; to know our Brothers so well that we can tell something is not right just by looking at them. We should come to the point that we don't have to ask what is wrong with our Brother we can tell by his disposition, demeanor and voice and once we discern that there is a need we unhesitatingly begin the process of offering relief.

## **Shield Your Brother.**

We have a duty to alleviate the condition of our Brother and we also have a duty to shield our Brother. Shield him from what - from ridicule and humiliation.

We don't want our Brother to embarrass himself so we shield him. We protect him from shame. We allow no one to see his faults, even from other Brothers. If our Brother does something wrong we cover for him. We protect him from harm. We don't allow him to affect another Brother, but we keep his secrets.

We protect his reputation. We shield his honor. We cover for him.

*continued on page 4...*

### *...Beyond the Five Points from page 3*

If someone comes to us with unflattering stories about our Brother, we shouldn't indulge in conversation about it behind our Brother's back. Even if the story being shared is true, we should say ... I don't know that about the Brother, but let's go talk to him about this together. Cover your Brother. Force the person who has something unfavorable to say about another to say it while the other Brother is present – why? So that the story doesn't go any further. You just covered your Brother. You just stopped a rumor from spreading.

If the person saying unflattering things about your Brother doesn't want to do the right thing by bringing it to the Brother himself – then you should warn your Brother of what you heard. *So as to give him good and timely warning that he may ward off all approaching danger.*

If you have to, admonish your Brother. Get help for your Brother. Group love on the Brother – have an intervention if you must, but shield your Brother from others.

#### **Stop the spread of rumors and suspicion of your Brother.**

You want to stop rumors because rumors lead to suspicion and Scripture warns us against being suspicious of a Brother. (note: Quran 49:12)

Suspicion leads to distrust and when distrust grows it breaks down the strength of the Brotherhood. Suspicion is a stepping stone to back-biting and gossip. Back-biting is not Brotherly. Back-biting is committed whenever you say something ugly about another Brother. If what we say is true, it's back-biting. If what we repeat is false, it's slander. Both are un-Brotherly acts.

#### **Give of your resources to help and serve your Brother.**

You are not required to baby or coddle a Brother or to enable him. The Brother must make an effort to do for himself. However, when he does all that he can do for himself and is still in need – what do we do?

We have a duty to offer up our resources to help. It may be money that is needed, if so and you have it to offer - give it. But cash isn't always the answer. Maybe all you have to do is offer up the connections you've made over the years or make a call or two on behalf of your Brother. There may be times when your reputation alone is like currency and all it takes is for you to say to your Brother, call so and so or go to this address and tell them that I sent you and the problem is resolved.

We have a duty to help and serve our Brother and when we can we should do it without embarrassing our Brother in the process.

#### **Do not envy your Brother.**

You may think to yourself, envy my Brother – of course not. I ask you, do you think Cain intended to envy his Brother? Envy happens innocently.

How do you avoid envy? Do not look to what another Brother has and desire it for yourself. Be happy for your Brother.

#### **Do not hold a grudge against your Brother.**

Grudges turn to enmity. Enmity is a deep seated dislike for a person. Enmity will cause you to look at your Brother as an opponent. If that happens, you will not come to your Brother's aid during his time of need.

We must value our Brotherhood because if we don't have Brotherhood, Free Masonry isn't worth the letter's it is spelled with. If we don't have Brotherhood, we don't have anything.

#### **Don't take advantage of your Brother.**

Now that you know that your Brother will be there for you and shield you from your faults – you mustn't abuse the trust and support of your Brother.

Do not make your Brother - who has gone out on a limb for you with his reputation and resources – look like a fool. Do not double cross him, mislead him or disappear on him.

#### **Do not fail your Brother.**

If you make a promise, keep it. If you fail to do so, apologize and make up for it.

#### **Do not lie to your Brother.**

When my Brother tells me something, I should be able to take it to the bank. It should be as good as gold.

#### **Do not hold your Brother in contempt.**

Contempt: 1) a feeling that someone or something is not worthy of any respect or approval. 2) The feeling or attitude of regarding someone or something as inferior, base, or worthless; scorn

*continued on page 5...*

...Beyond the Five Points from page 4

Do not hold your Brother in contempt. Contempt doesn't happen overnight; it is cultivated and nurtured. It results from unresolved conflict or disagreement. We should strive to have peaceful relations with our Brothers. We must have patience with each other and take the time necessary to work through our conflicts and leave each other on good terms.

### Develop love for your Brother.

This we must begin to do now! Love leads to allegiance and loyalty. Love is the jewel that binds us together. Love of the Brotherhood allows us to build as a Jurisdiction. Without love we can not collate as a Mid-West Region and we certainly will not be able to unite as a confederation of Prince Hall Masons worldwide.

### In Summary

In the forward of a book written by Iman Al-Ghazali, it is said that *"the contract of Brotherhood is a bond between two persons, like the contract of marriage between two spouses. For just as marriage gives rise to certain duties which must be fulfilled when it is entered into, so does the contract of Brotherhood confer upon your Brother certain rights."*

As Brothers we remove grief from each other, shield each other, and give of our resources to aid and support each other. We stop the spread of rumors and do not back bite one other. We don't envy each other, hold grudges of another or take advantage of each other. We do not lie to one another, fail each other, hold our Brother in contempt or show enmity toward each other. We grow to love each other.

I'm not a perfect man. I have not always been successful living up to the duties that I now espouse. My understanding of life and the dynamics of friendship are increasing and as I come to know better, I strive to do better. I am not preaching to you, I'm just advising those who would listen and reminding myself of the value of Brotherhood.

May Brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us.

Fraternally submitted,

RWB Kymphus Muhammad, DGM  
MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Minnesota

## Announcements

**YES IT'S**

**BBQ**

**TIME AGAIN**

**FUN - FOOD - FELLOWSHIP**



**A fantastic Masonic BBQ meal of grilled ribs and chicken with all the sides, cooked for us this year by our own**

**Jerry Oliver, 33° SGIG**



**Wednesday  
April 20, 2016 6:00 PM**

Saint Paul Masonic Center  
200 Plato Blvd. East  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107

Free guest tickets are available from your lodge Double Eagle representative or RSVP Bruce Sherman 651-222-2676 Scottish Rite members pay only \$10.00 for their own dinner. All attendees **MUST** have a reservation

*This event is for men only*

## A Masonic Retreat

Sponsored by

Minnesota Chapter No.1 Royal Arch Masons

September 24th & 25th, 2016

Minnesota Chapter No. 1 presents a weekend of fellowship and workshops for **all Masons** covering various topics, i.e., Masonic teachings, Masonic esoterica, Kabbalah, ritual, Rosicrucians, etc. High-lighted by a Saturday evening talk by Tim Hogan, "Gnostic Mysteries of Masonry", please join us to enjoy education, fellowship and a journey into the hidden and not so hidden mysteries of Masonry, how we can live from their teachings in our lives and carry them into the world. This retreat will be held on September 24th and 25th at Camp St. Croix in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Visit <http://www.mnyorkrite1.org/> for more information.

# LODGE of SORROW 2016



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Robert A Bardwell	12/13/1925	5/7/1953	11/19/1953	12/3/1953	2/8/2016
Edwin Smith	9/25/1924	10/6/1960	11/3/1960	12/1/1960	2/15/2016



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 A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota  
 200 Plato Boulevard East  
 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107-1618