

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

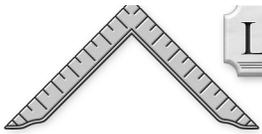


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LOOK TO THE EAST

Masonic Elevator Speech

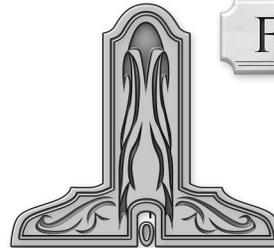
At our well attended March Stated Meeting we were paid a visit by Most Worshipful Brother Kymphus Muhammad, past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Minnesota as part of our LEO's excellent education program. Most Worshipful Brother Muhammad gave a presentation on the four cardinal virtues; temperance, fortitude, prudence, and justice as well as the importance of remembering to subdue our passions. For me personally, it's easy to forget these lessons in the course of daily life. The presentation left me feeling renewed and reminded of those crucial lessons.

Later that week, our Junior Warden and I attended the Grand Lodge Membership Seminar at the Heritage Center. The main speaker was Most Worshipful Brother Tony Telken, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota. The room was packed, and many ideas and experiences were exchanged regarding gaining membership and retention. A large portion of the conversations were regarding technology and social media. I have a few ideas on that front which I will be discussing with the Principal Officers and will provide an update down the road.

There was one topic of discussion during that seminar that every Freemason should give some thought to and that is our identity. If someone comes up to you and asks you what Freemasonry is, what is your response? Do you find yourself going blank, as if you know the answer in heart but can't find the words to express it? Try and come up with an answer in the form of something called an "Elevator Speech", that is, a sort of sales pitch that can be given within the duration of a typical elevator ride. Having an elevator speech that is clear and concise can motivate someone who is interested in Freemasonry to actually turn in a petition, and we all know our Fraternity needs petitions. Here is an example of an elevator speech given by MW Tony Telken: "Freemasonry is a society of men, with sound moral and spiritual values, trying to better themselves through the philosophical, fraternal, and charitable opportunities found within the Masonic organization."

Remember, there are very few secrets in our Fraternity. You should feel free to talk about Freemasonry openly with someone you think would be a good fit. According to the Masonic Code, turning in a petition must be the free and voluntary act of the petitioner, without improper solicitation. Note the word "improper". There is also proper solicitation. Invite them to a public Masonic event. Inform them that you think Freemasonry is something they would enjoy and benefit from. Offer to introduce them to a Lodge and provide them with a petition.

Johnnie Timm
Worshipful Master



FROM THE WEST

Brotherhood

Brotherhood, I see all kinds of people joining the lodge for one reason or another. I have seen some brothers join blue lodge just to be Shriners or to see how much recognition they can get. I have seen others that have joined just for titles and some who only join as it is a family tradition. There are many reasons a man may join but I have one main reason, brotherhood. It has been and will continue to be a great journey with all my brothers. The fellowship at dinners before meetings or the get together soon with wives/girlfriends, the occasional after lodge and friendly get together soon, and being there for each other, it's all great.

I have been blessed to have seen the brotherhood on too many first hand occasions and will guess that this will always be there, not just for me but for everyone. I know how much it has helped me and hope that I can be there for any of you when needed. Although my schedule is a busy and hectic one most of the time, if I can be there for someone I will always do my best for them.

...continued on page 2...

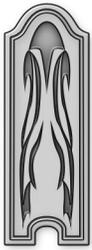


Brotherhood... cont. from page 1

I am proud to be in such a great organization that has done so much not only for our brothers but also the community. It's no secret that I am in the Shrine and am proudly for the reason of our hospitals and helping the kids. So I will leave you with this thought before I get to far off track, brotherhood, helping and being there for each other is the best way for improving ourselves and each other.

Fraternally,

Rique Beslin
Senior Warden, AL5



FROM THE SOUTH

Time Flies

It's Already Been a Year?

This April will be a special month for me as my youngest son Nathan will be having his first birthday. In reflecting upon the first year of his life, I am filled with wonderful memories – the smiles and laughs, the various stages he goes through as he gets older, the amazing mother that my wife has become, the way my older son Jack looks out for him - and I think of how the most important thing in my life is to be the best father and husband that I can be. The main reason I became involved in Masonry was to discover new ways to improve myself as a person, a father, a husband, and a member of my community, and I am convinced that Freemasonry, through its lessons, rituals, symbols, and brotherhood, has helped put me on a path to achieving these goals. Our fraternity has given me the tools to not only better myself, but to be a better father to my children, and I will hopefully be able to subtly shape the ashlar of my sons throughout their childhood and beyond.

Above all for my children, I want to leave the legacy of a man who tried to be the best man that he could be, a man that loved his wife and his children, a man who was good and true to his friends and those in need, and a man that worked hard to help others. Essentially, I want to be remembered as a good father, and a good Freemason, and I'm glad that those two pivotal pieces of my life help refine and sharpen each other.

I can't believe it's already been a year, but I'm excited to see what the future has in store for Nathan. Happy 1st Birthday Buddy!

Please mark your calendars for our Fellowcraft Degree on April 27th and show our new Brothers your support. Masonry is a progressive science, and I have learned that the more times I experience this wonderful degree, the more insight I walk away with.

Eric Froistad
Junior Warden, AL5

Upcoming Schedule

Thursday, Apr. 13th - Stated Communication

Thursday, Apr. 20th - Fellowcraft Rehearsal

Tuesday, Apr. 25th - Candidate Prove-up

Friday, Apr. 27th - Fellowcraft Degree

April Birthdays

Ralph Truax
Lawrence Lauber
Daniel Flicek
Todd Overmoen
E Gary Klein
Phil Desroches
Douglas Kuchera
Jason Gorski
Kenneth Thake
Jason Perez
Jeffrey Bauer
Chad Vandelugt
Raymond Hausch
Thomas Callies
Bradley Lash

New Grand Lodge Resolutions

General Regulations Amendment: Petitions and Background Checks

WHEREAS, the Ancient Constitutions require that a candidate for Masonry must be of good report; and

WHEREAS, in addition to thorough investigations, new technology allows additional resources to more thoroughly determine the character of Masonic petitioners; and

WHEREAS, a more detailed petition would do more to aid investigators and Lodges in their work; and

WHEREAS, electronic background checks would redouble that aid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that SECTION G14.01 of Article XIV Petitions shall be amended to read:



SECTION G14.01 A Lodge is authorized to receive five (5) types of petitions: For degrees; for affiliation; for plural membership; for reinstatement; for restoration. A petition for degrees must be accompanied by an amount not less than one-third (1/3) of the whole fee for degrees, including the full cost of a background check, at the time of election, and must be the free and voluntary act of the petitioner, without improper solicitation. It shall clearly express a belief and trust in God, a favorable opinion of Masonry, a promise, if accepted, to conform to the usages and customs of the Fraternity and the Constitution and General Regulations of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota. It shall state the place of his birth, the present residence, with street and number, if there is one, his present occupation and, if not self-employed, the name and business address of his employer and the specific nature of their business. It shall further state the length of his consecutive residence in this State and in the Jurisdiction of the Lodge to which the petition is addressed, whether ever rejected by any other Masonic Lodge anywhere and, if so, when and by what Lodge or Lodges, and the post office address thereof. It shall show the petitioner's age to be no less than eighteen (18) years. It shall be signed with the full name of the petitioner, and must be recommended by two Master Masons in good standing, at least one of which must be a member of the of the Lodge petitioned and the other may be a member in good standing of a Lodge recognized by this Grand Lodge. No petition can be legally received which does not contain all of the foregoing data. A background check shall be completed for each petitioner. The form of the background check shall be determined by the Board of Corporate Trustees and once determined shall be used for each petition within this jurisdiction. No petition may be voted on which does not have attached to it the results of a background check. In accordance with the basic principles and the Ancient Landmarks of Masonry, every petition for membership in a constituent Lodge of the Grand Lodge shall be received and acted on without regard to the race, color, creed or national origin of the petitioner.

General Regulations Amendment: Annual Grand Lodge Per Capita Increase

WHEREAS, the last increase in the Grand Lodge per capita was approved in 2004 and was in effect for the years 2005 through 2017. This increase brought the per capita payment to its present \$29.00 per member, and

WHEREAS, the total membership in Minnesota Constituent Lodges has continued to decline every year since 1960, now resulting in yearly declining revenue, and

WHEREAS, Grand Lodge program and operating expenses continue to increase every year due to inflation, and

WHEREAS, a responsible fiscal policy requires that the Grand Lodge operate within annual per capita revenue and earnings from the Reserve Fund; and not spend the principal of the Reserve Fund so that the Reserve Fund remains intact for future generations, and **WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Grand Lodge to continue to provide quality programs and services to its members and constituent lodges, including membership seminars, money management services, mentorship services, lodge educational materials, the Minnesota Mason and the e-Mason newsletter.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the dues payable for the year of 2018 by every member and reported to be in good standing by a lodge on its 2018 annual return, due at the Grand Lodge office on January 15, 2019, the amount of per capita remitted to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota shall be \$40.00; and That **SECTION G3.01** subsection (d), which now reads "From every member reported in good standing by a Lodge in its last Annual Return, Twenty-nine Dollars (\$29.00); except, however any member, who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has become a prisoner of war or has been declared missing in action, during said period or any part thereof. Refunds or adjustments of overpayment of per capita shall be permitted, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request. A refund can be requested by a Lodge, from the Grand Lodge, for per capita payments that were made for members who were stricken for non-payment of dues, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request." be replaced in its entirety with the following new SECTION G3.01 subsection (d): SECTION G3.01 (d) "From every member reported in good standing by a Lodge in its last Annual Return, Forty Dollars (\$40.00); except, however any member, who, being in the armed forces of the United States, has become a prisoner of war or has been declared missing in action, during said period or any part thereof. Refunds or adjustments of overpayment of per capita shall be permitted, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request. A refund can be requested by a Lodge, from the Grand Lodge, for per capita payments that were made for members who were stricken for non-payment of dues, but not to exceed two (2) years prior to the date of request."

LODGE of SORROW 2017



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Alvin Franklin Bohne	5/7/1925	4/18/1948	5/6/1948	5/27/1948	12/19/2016
Norman Espersen	12/3/1928			10/9/1956	1/4/2017



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