

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO.5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

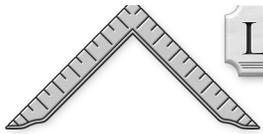


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### LOOK TO THE EAST

## Greetings

Worshipful Brothers and Brothers,

Season's Greetings to everyone. I hope that you had a truly festive and restive holidays with friends and family. For those that were able to attend the Installation of Officers on January 3rd, thank you for coming and I hope to humbly live up to the expectations that everyone has for the upcoming year. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made the day possible, especially our installing Master and Marshal, who worked tirelessly to make it a truly special occasion. I am reminded when we do public events, time and time again, that each of us is the face of Masonry.

I know we are going to have a wonderful 2015. The year is filled with a great number of events, both ritual and social, and I want to take the opportunity in my first newsletter article to discuss a few of them.

First are our Stated Communications. These are still on the second Thursday of each month, with dinner at 6pm and the Lodge meeting starting just after 7pm. Come as you can; I certainly will not think ill of you for coming in the clothes of your various avocations - as long as you have your apron on as your outermost garment - you will be welcome. Our January Stated Meeting is the, now annual, Chili Cook-off and Potluck. Our immediate Past Master and current Marshal, will be officiating once again. Jumping forward in the calendar, our September meeting is our annual Awards Night. This will be a great chance to reconnect after we are dark for the summer, and support all of our Brothers that will be honored that evening. October will again be our Ladies Night, and I hope to have a similarly well-attended event to the one WB Todd put on in 2014.

In the spirit of increasing our social time together, I have decided to place on the calendar a series of Brothers and 'Brothers and Others' card and game nights throughout the upcoming year.

We will have food and card/game playing starting at 6pm till 7pm. At 7pm we will head into the large lodge room to do some practice ritual work (since many of us are in brand new roles) for just a bit - and then we are going to be watching some Monty Python on the Big Screen! We will have similar social nights, for both Brothers as well as some "Brothers and Others" (read significant others and prospects) in February, April, June, and October.

Last, but certainly not least, will be our Canadian Visitation. I, and my committee, have been planning the upcoming event and communicating with our Brethren in Canada. We will be staging the event at the Radisson Blu - located at the Mall of America. This is a wonderful departure point for events around the Twin Cities - as well as providing first class shopping for those interested. We plan to do a tour of Historic Fort Snelling, the newly named Masonic Hospital, a baseball game - and much more! We will likely be having the banquet at Mancinni's for those that do not get a chance to come for our annual Sweetheart's Dinner (which we will again have there this year and will be on Sunday, Feb. 15th).

Okay - I have deluged you with enough information for now. I will be continuing WB Danny's excellent email blasts - so look for more of those in the coming weeks. I look forward to serving you this year, and I hope to see you in, and out, of the lodge.

Jeremy Nienow  
Worshipful Master

### NEXT STATED MEETING

## January 8th

Dinner (Chili Cook-Off!): 6:00PM

Meeting: 7:00PM





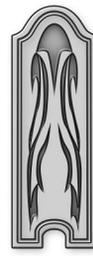
## FROM THE WEST

While I technically have yet to be installed as I write this, I am looking forward to honor of sitting in that visually brilliant, yet notoriously uncomfortable chair in an official capacity. Beyond that, I am looking forward to the upcoming year. Our Master for this year has already hit the ground running. From finding volunteers for some of the hardest to fill offices to having social events on the calendar to already planning for the Canadian visitation, our newest brother to take on leading this lodge is doing so with great vigor. I find myself excited to see what else is in store for AL5 in 2015.

As natural as it is to be forward-looking at the beginning of a year, I would like to take some of this column to take a look back at the previous year. Our most immediate Past Master did a wonderful job ushering in his goals for the past year. His email "Messages from the Worshipful Master" kept everyone abreast of events of the lodge. This consistent contact informed the body of the lodge that may not be able to attend every meeting and made these affairs successful and well-attended. He pledged to read a section of the Masonic code at every stated meeting, and to my recollection made good on that pledge. One of the most impressive aspects of his tenure may not have been obvious to all. As most people know, being Master comes with much responsibility and pressure, but Danny was able to maintain a sense of humor making the entire year fun for those supporting him. While there are numerous other noteworthy factors that made Danny's term successful, I can think of none that is a bigger feat than making the experience enjoyable for all. Thanks, Danny!

I have yet to come up with any grandiose plans for my year as second-in-command, and this is how it should be. I plan to live up to the high bar that Ancient Landmark has set for ritual work, perform those duties the Master deems I am worthy to have delegated to me, and try to get my newsletter articles in on time. Other than that, this year should be spent assisting the WM in instituting his agenda. Last year was Danny's time to implement his personal touches. This year Jeremy's to leave his fingerprint on our lodge.

Terry Mallberg  
Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

I hope you are all finding success in adhering to your new year's resolutions so far. If you are faltering in that task, I pray that you find the resolve to pick up your tools and execute your designs. Don't worry, it's only January.

For me, 2014 was the most blessed year of my relatively short Masonic career so far. I have had the privilege of conducting candidates, giving lectures both at our Lodge and others, and repeatedly hearing the lessons taught within our ritual. I heard these lessons, but have I applied them to my daily life? All the implements of Masonry have been presented to me, but have I properly applied those working tools to the rough ashlar that is my character? I have tried, but fell short on many occasions. I would bet that some of you when reflecting on this question would produce the same answer. It is a good thing to ask yourself this question. Truth is something we Masons revere.

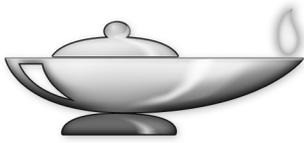
It is understandably difficult for a poor, blind candidate to retain what is taught in the degrees, which is why it is important for a Master Mason to come back and witness them again, and again, and again. It isn't much different than a tradesman being required to recertify themselves in their craft. You don't have to scratch very far under the surface of our symbolism to find the lessons concealed underneath.

For 2015 I am resolving to better apply the lessons of Freemasonry to my daily life. I'm going to be a little geeky here and quote Winston Zeddemore from Ghostbusters: "We have the tools, and we have the talent!" That's my challenge to myself, but I am also going to challenge you, the brethren of Ancient Landmark Lodge #5 to recertify yourselves; to remind yourselves of the lessons taught in our ritual by attending at least one, if not all of our degrees this year. Won't you sit with me in the south?

I, along with our Stewards will be working to provide you with dinner and refreshments prior to our meetings and degrees. Aside from our Chili Cook Off held in January and a few other exceptions, our dinners have always been catered by Magnolia's and they have all been excellent. We will continue to use Magnolia's, but I would also like to see some home-cooked meals as well. Our kitchen seems a little quiet. If any of you would like to display your culinary talents by volunteering to cook for us, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Johnnie Timm  
Junior Warden





## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

### Why I Became A Mason

Brothers, I have been asked by our new Master to be his LEO. Please forgive him, he does not know what he has done!!

You may ask, as I did, why I might have been chosen. I do not have the depth of knowledge or experience in Freemasonry that many other of the Lodge Brothers have, I have not been a Mason for all that many years, nor have I served in the Lodge Officer line as of yet. While I am conscious of these shortcomings I submit to each of you that I profoundly believe in the great mission of Freemasonry and I am proud to be a Freemason.

I gave a great deal of thought as to which of the many thousands of subjects that I might offer for a LEO presentation, from the history, symbolism, our charity and community involvement, etc. What I think might be most fitting for my first presentation would be a more personal topic: Why I became a Mason.

No one in my family was ever a Freemason. I did not know any of the persons that I looked up to when growing up as Masons, though some of them may have been (and as I later found out, some of them were Masons). I have never really been a “joiner” and had very few memberships, and those only professional ones.

Some years ago I had a neighbor that was involved in Masonry and appendant organizations and he proudly displayed the badges on the back of his car. We were only casual acquaintances and I asked him about the organizations in passing. This fellow responded with great enthusiasm about Masonry and seemed very pleased with his association. Unfortunately I did not ask further.

My wife and I became involved in a non-profit association that helped families fund the education of their children. We actively worked with this group and grew to know and associate with other members for quite some time. We continue to work with this group to this day, my wife is a Board member and I offer legal services.

The non-profit came to a crisis where it appeared the leadership may have misused some of the funds that were raised by the group. I was the main person to raise the issue and push for full disclosure by the governing persons. The Board resigned and the group had to reorganize and go on without them.

In the course of this work with the non-profit I came to know and respect a gentleman for his work ethic, his humor, his thoughtfulness and wisdom. After the small organizational crisis this fellow suggested that a man of my character might be interested in Masonry. Mind you he did not ask me to join, as I know that might offend some of you that adhere to the old prohibition against solicitation. The suggestion planted the seed and I started to think, “I admire and believe this fellow to be good and honest, and share many of the values that I believe. It may be nice to join a group that adheres to upright values and similar views.” I had only a vague knowledge of Freemasonry at that time. I took it upon myself to learn more of this group before I would ask to join.

Many of you know what is out in the public domain with regard to Freemasonry, from the conspiracy theories to the outright rants of the mentally ill!!! Sifting out the chaff though one begins to see that many outstanding persons from many countries and through many periods in history saw the value of Freemasonry and were part of this association, from Presidents and Kings, leaders of industry and commerce, as well as many leaders of the local community. If Isaac Newton was a member, why would I not think the association was something worthwhile for me and my time! The only real question was ‘Will these people allow me to join them?’

My petition to the Lodge was filled out, signed, and accepted. My journey was beginning, but I was confused and overwhelmed by the degrees. Too much symbolism and arcane language left me with so many questions!! What did all this mean? What was all this about? I thought of the group more as a fraternal organization and really did not understand the true mission of Freemasonry in shaping good men into great men. From those questions I began my search for Masonic truth.

Good men into great men is not the standard phrase, “We help make good men better.” Freemasonry means something different to each that come to it, and each takes from it as they put into it. I was so impressed with the character and charity of my fellow lodge members that I have made an effort to learn more of the “mysteries” of Masonry. The more I learned of the craft and its history, teachings, charity, and the core principals, the more I have come to respect the organization and the more proud I am to be a part of it.

*...continued on page 4*

...LEO continued from page 3.

I discovered that some of the great men that I worked under in the past were Masons, not only Masons but a past Grand Master and a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason!!! I did not know this until after I joined the craft myself. It made me reflect that if I had known this sooner I may have begun my journey in Masonry decades before.

Why did I become a Master Mason? I received a little information that suggested I might find this a good and fulfilling group. Someone took the time to learn a little about me, enough to conclude that I was of good character, and to plant a seed. That seed germinated and grew into where I petitioned a Lodge. What Lodge? Why of course the Lodge to which my friend belonged!

With my new enthusiasm for Masonry I bought an old gold ring with the Square and Compass and wore it proudly. I was happy when an acquaintance noticed the ring and asked about Masonry, and as the fellow was of good character I was happy to plant a "seed". I am also happy to report that the seed took root and that person petitioned the Lodge and is now a Master Mason. What Lodge did he join? My Lodge, of course!

If you are proud of Masonry I suggest that you proudly display a Masonic symbol, be it a simple ring or pin. Take notice of your fellow man and if you find one of character and uprightness take the time to plant a seed. You may be helping send this fellow down a very rewarding path. Our own journeys are rewarding, but it is equally rewarding to bring worthy companions on the journey with us.

I owe much to the fellow that planted my Masonic "seed".

Ronald R. Bradley  
Lodge Education Officer

## Master Mason Degree



...continued on page 5



## THE SECRETARY'S DESK

### Back in the Saddle Again

Well, let's see now.....

I've come through the chairs and am now a Past Master of my Lodge; I've been secretary of the Lodge for four years immediately following my term as Lodge Master. Took a couple years off and spent two wonderful years as Lodge LEO. I think that was the best position I held in Lodge. And now I'm back in the position of Secretary again. I think when our Worshipful Master asked if I would consider the position, even though I played hard-to-get I was really excited to be back helping my Lodge doing what I seem to do well. Many say that "as the Secretary goes so goes the Lodge". I have a real problem with that. The Secretary of the Lodge is not the leader, he is the Lodge administrator and one of his primary responsibilities is to support the Lodge Leadership and provide them with the information they need to effectively lead the Lodge. The Secretary makes sure the "business" of the Lodge is taken care of and is directed by and reports to the Lodge Leadership. This will be my goal in the coming year.

Thinking about my experience as Secretary last time, I only have one request of my Brothers. One of the most difficult jobs the Secretary has to do is administer the investigations of our candidates. Everyone knows it take three Lodge Brothers to investigate a single candidate. If we have ten candidates we need thirty Lodge Brothers to do the investigations. That being said everyone who is a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 is a potential investigator. These investigations need to get done as soon as possible upon receipt of the paperwork. The candidates have been informed they will be receiving a call from the investigators to arrange an appointment to do the interview. They are expecting a call. If you are selected to be an investigator, please tend to that important responsibility as soon as possible and return the paperwork to the office so the process can continue.

I hope you will all give me a chance to get oriented to the responsibilities of Lodge Secretary once again. It's going to take a little time to get my feet back on the ground. Your understanding and support will be much appreciated. Oh, and just so you know my ability to take minutes hasn't improved at all. Look at it this way, the reading of the minutes will be a high point in the lodge meeting, no doubt at my expense.

Sincerely,  
Bruce L. Sherman  
Secretary

...MM Degree, continued from page 4.

On Saturday we raised four excellent young men to the sublime degree of a Master Mason! The degree team did an outstanding job. We had a visitor from Plymouth Lodge No. 160 - their outgoing Master, Worshipful Brother Matt Lachner. Worshipful Brother Matt had great things to say about our Lodge and the ritual work we had done. He also presented each of our newly admitted Brothers, as well as Worshipful Brother Danny Baker, with the gift of a Masonic coffee mug. I believe everyone involved had a good time and enjoyed some excellent fellowship.

## January Stated Communication and Chili Cook-Off

We will once again be doing a chili cook-off and potluck for dinner at this meeting, so get out your best chili recipes! And if you don't cook, just come down and taste and judge the entries. And if you don't cook and you don't like chili, well come down for the fellowship and enjoy the meeting anyway! For this meeting we will be opening the 2015 Lodge of Sorrows as well as voting on the 2015 budget.

## Upcoming Events

### Jan 3rd - Public Installation of Officers

Breakfast 9AM  
Installation 10AM

### Jan 8th - Stated Meeting

Chili Cook-off 6PM  
Meeting 7PM

### Jan 22nd - Brother's Card, Ritual, and Movie Night

Food and Cards 6PM  
Ritual Practice and Monty Python Movie 7PM

### Feb 12th - Stated Meeting

Dinner 6PM  
Meeting with focus on "Rusty Masons" 7PM

### Feb 15th - Sweethearts Dinner at Mancinni's

Appetizers 5PM  
Dinner 6PM

### Feb 26th - Brothers and Others Card, Dinner, and Movie Night

Food and Cards 6PM  
Casablanca 7PM

## LODGE ANTECEDENTS

### George Washington

George Washington, 1st President (1789-1797), has a Masonic history so rich a Short Talk Bulletin (Vol.10, No.2, February 1932) was necessary for a bare outline. Washington was initiated, passed and raised in "The Lodge at Fredricksburg, Va.," (now No.4 on the Virginia Register) on November 4, 1752, March 3, and August 4, 1753. He was made an honorary member of Alexandria Lodge No.39, June 24, 1784. When his Lodge gave up its Charter under the Provincial Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania to accept one from the Grand Lodge of Virginia and become No.22, April 28, 1788, Washington was named as Charter Worshipful Master, and was re-elected Master December 20, 1788. He was made and Honorary Member of Holland Lodge No. 8, New York, 1789.



His Masonic activities and visits were many; his letters to and about Lodges and Masons fills a volume. He was the only President ever to be Master of his Lodge during his incumbency. The cornerstone of the United States Capital was laid by Washington, with Masonic ceremonies, on September 18, 1793, at the request of Maryland's Grand Master pro tem.

He died December 14, 1799, and was buried with full



Masonic honors by Alexandria Lodge No.22, on December 18th. The Lodge later changed its name to Alexandria Washington Lodge No.22. To his memory and fame the Masons of the United States are erecting the mightiest stone monument ever raised to honor any man. Built without metal, to endure as long as granite shall last; this memorial stands on Shooter's Hill, just outside the city of Alexandria, Va.

George Washington Masonic Memorial  
<http://www.gwmemorial.org/>

# LODGE of SORROW 2015

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



Name

Birth

Initiated

Passed

Raised

Celestial Lodge



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