

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

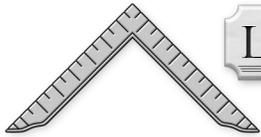


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LOOK TO THE EAST

State of the Lodge

I was down at the Lodge just the other day and happened upon a folder of old Masonic documents, which I believe came to us from the family of a deceased brother. As I was looking through some of these documents, I took special notice of a flyer from the Lodge's 125th anniversary dinner, which occurred in 1979. Inside this flyer was a short synopsis of how our Lodge came into existence; a brief overview of its founding members, including Charles Fillmore, brother of U.S. President Millard Fillmore (who interestingly enough, was at one point in his political career, a member of the Anti-Masonic Party); and a fascinating overview of the membership changes, every 25 years, from the Lodge's founding in 1854 to its 125th anniversary in 1979:

- 1879 – 326 members
- 1904 – 493 members
- 1929 – 1,229 members
- 1954 – 1,156 members
- 1979 – 672 members

This document really got me thinking about how much has changed, both with Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 and the world, throughout the years. This then led me to consider the current state of the Lodge when compared to other Lodges in the state and perhaps more interestingly, when compared to its previous self throughout the ages.

It has been 158 years since our Lodge was first chartered. Think of how much the world has changed in that time. In 1854, the year our Lodge was founded, cholera was discovered to be a waterborne virus during an outbreak in London, Louis Vuitton and the Republican Party were first formed, Oscar Wilde and John Phillips Sousa were born, and Minnesota was still four years away from becoming a state. We've gone from sending telegraphs to sending text messages, and from writing letters to writing emails. There is no question that times and technologies have drastically changed since our Lodge began. We have, however, continued to function for 158 consecutive years in spite of nine major wars, thirty-three periods of economic recession (including the Great Depression), and countless other challenges.

Through the years, Ancient Landmark 5 has seen its share of ups and downs, yet we continue to be an active Lodge and active Masons. Those who came before us worked hard for Masonry and for the Lodge, and in the end they left their mark by building a firm foundation on which we can continue to improve.

When compared to other Lodges in the state, we are doing pretty well. This isn't meant to disparage other Lodges or brag about our successes; it is simply pointing out the fact that many other Lodges in the state are struggling to find new members and the financial resources needed to continue working in Masonry. We should count ourselves lucky to have new members who are eager to get involved, and to have the financial resources to operate the Lodge. However, we are not so secure in our financial or membership positions as to enable us to kick back and relax.

In 2010, our Lodge saw net positive growth for the first time since I became a Mason. Unfortunately, in 2011, we did not achieve this same feat. While a small decline in membership is certainly not something to cause great alarm, it is important that members are aware of the fact and understand how important getting new members and, more importantly, keeping new members, is to the vitality of the Lodge.

Our financial position also took a downward turn in 2011. We have enough money to continue to run the Lodge, but our investments have been hit hard with the instability in the economy and fluctuations in the markets. To help stabilize our financial position, we will be cutting back some expenses this year and reducing subsidies for some events. I understand this is not ideal, but it is a necessary step in order to protect the long-term financial viability of the Lodge.

We all must continue to work hard to ensure our success both in the present and in the future. For like those Brothers who came before us, we should leave our mark on the Lodge through continuous improvement and pass on a firm foundation to the future generations of Masons.

Keith Reiersen
Master

LOOKING AHEAD

Masonic Traveler Award

Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 has created a new award called the Masonic Traveler Award. The Masonic Traveler award was created in order to encourage our members to visit other Lodges. The award will be presented to the member of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 who visits the most Lodges in 2012 (from Jan 1st until Awards Night on Oct 11th). The number of Lodge visits will be determined by the total number of journey ledger entries (or stamps) in the member's Masonic passport. In order to keep the competition fair and friendly, one must visit at least two different Lodges to qualify. Masonic passports can be purchased from the Lodge Secretary for \$10.

Rosslyn Chapel Educational Event

Date: Thursday, 02/23/12

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: St Paul Masonic Center

Join us as WB Todd Jovonovich presents a special, behind-the-scenes look at one of Scotland's most unusual sites, Rosslyn Chapel.

2012 Lodge Calendar

(all events are at the St Paul Masonic Center unless specifically stated otherwise)

Thursday, February 2nd - 6:45pm Lodge Bowling Night

Thursday, February 9th -6:00pm Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 11th -6:00pm Valentine Dinner (at Lost Spur)

Saturday, February 18th - 8:00am Habitat for Humanity (Newport)

Thursday, February 23rd -6:30pm Rosslyn Chapel Presentation

Thursday, March 8th - 6:00pm Stated Meeting

Thursday, March 22nd -6:00pm First Degree

Saturday, March 31st - 6:00pm Bunco

Thursday, April 12th - 6:00pm Stated Meeting & Ladies Night

Friday, April 13th - Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Saturday, April 14th -Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Thursday, April 26th -6:00pm Second Degree

Thursday, May 10th - 6:00pm Stated Meeting

Saturday, June 9th - 9:00am Third Degree

Thursday, June 14th -6:00pm Stated Meeting

ABOUT CHARITIES

On December 23, 2011 it was the 40th anniversary of the National Cancer Act. President Richard Nixon signed this historic bill into law at the White House on December 23, 1971.

It was President Nixon who called for a national initiative to fight cancer during his State of the Union Address earlier that year. The law not only increased investments in cancer research, but it also established the National Cancer Advisory Board and the President's Cancer Panel as well as special budget authorities for the National Cancer Institute.

We've made significant progress against cancer during the past 40 years, but we still have a long way to go until cancer has the cures:

People are living longer- the number of cancer survivors living in the U.S. has increased from 3 million in 1971 (1.5% of U.S. population) to approximately 12 million today (4% of U.S. population).

More than 1.5 million Americans are expected to be diagnosed with cancer this year, and the NIH estimates the overall cost of cancer is \$260 billion annually.

Today, two-thirds of patients survive five years or longer after their cancer diagnosis, compared to only half of patients forty years ago.

As we ponder the benefits of this historic event we need to also remember that the Masonic Cancer Center has been researching cancer research and cures since 1955.

In the upcoming year, please consider donations to the Masonic Cancer Center and help us continue so that we can build on the progress we have made in the past 56 years.

Visit <http://mnmasoniccharities.org/content/online-donations> and make an end of year donation today designated to the Cancer Center OR send your donation directly to Ancient Landmark Lodge #5 designated to the Cancer Center and your donation will be forwarded.

Fraternally, W. Bro. Alan Peterson

LINCOLN CHAPTER

Winterfest is once again at Giants Ridge in Biwabik, Mn. Some of the events planned for Winterfest are; broomball, Friday night, all day Pot Luck Saturday, video games and Movie night, with a special First Knights activity.

We hope to see the DeMoley family there.

LODGE INSTALLATION 2012



Ancient Landmark Lodge #5 Officers for 2012

Front row: - Sr. Steward - Bro. Johnnie Timm, Sr. Deacon - Bro. Jeremy Nienow, Sr. Warden - Bro. Joe Amos, Worshipful Master - W. Bro. Keith Reiersen - Jr. Warden - Bro. Daniel Baker, Jr. Deacon - Bro. Terry Malberg, Jr. Steward - Bro. Rique Beslan.

Back row: Chaplin - W. Bro. Drew Bjorklund, L.E.O. - W. Bro. Bruce Sherman, Treasurer - W. Bro. Alan Peterson, Secretary - Bro. Doug Kuchera, Tyler - John Korpa, Marshal - W. Bro. Loren Davis.



Some delicious cake to finish the day



Mrs. and Mr. Worshipful Master, Karen Kremer and Keith Reiersen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce a volunteer opportunity for interested brothers. In the hope of spreading the cement of brotherly love and charity, we have made arrangements to provide a day of service with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. We will be working to restore a home that will go to a family in need in Newport, MN. All needed tools are provided for use on site. All volunteers should dress appropriately for the weather, including close-toed shoes. The majority of the work should be inside, but the home might not be fully heated. Dress in layers! As this project will not be initial construction, but rather refurbishing, we will be limited to 13 available slots, but if you have an interest and the time, please come out and help represent the Lodge.

Date: Saturday, February 18th 2012

Location: 1533 Blue Stem Lane Newport, MN 55055

Time: 8:30 am-4p.m. (volunteers will be expected to arrive around 8:20 to park and get signed in.)

* Interested volunteers will need to contact the Outreach committee in order to make arrangements for volunteering. Brothers unable to make it to January's communication should contact Brother John Byrnes by e-mail: jebyrnes@gmail.com, or by phone at 651 387 6760. Lunch will not be provided, so please pack your own.

Bowling night Thursday, February 2nd at West Side Lanes (www.westsidelanesmn.com)

1625 S. Robert Street, West Saint Paul

Meet at the lodge lot at 6:40pm to carpool or Join us at the alley at 7:00pm Please R.S.V.P. so we can reserve enough lanes

\$3 for shoes, \$3.50/game



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THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Old Dogs

A few weeks back, our then Master-Elect had called together his incoming Officers. Our meeting in the Preparation Room just somehow felt fitting for this event. The year's "business plan" was reviewed. It included some old stand-bys, but also some very new ideas. As timelines and leadership directions were laid out, the conversation somehow drifted to WB Loren Davis' age. If I recall, there were a few jabs about his advancing years, and, of course, Loren reacted to them in good humor. Brother Danny Baker then made a quick observation that he, in fact, was just a bit older than Loren, and maybe felt a need to somehow rescue him from the badgering. Now I am looking at both of these guys, quietly thinking, "I was probably out of college before either of them even went into high school." So the inevitable question that I knew was about to come up was, "How old are you?" Yup. I had them all beat, and it now put me in the "old guy" category at that meeting. I saw wheels turning in those heads, and more than one was thinking, "Heck that guy's older than my Dad." I retreated into the corner as the meeting resumed back on course, my mind now drifting away in thought and reflection. I recall thinking that my own father couldn't have been much older than Keith when he was Master of his Lodge over fifty years ago. Those guys were all young men back then--leaders in their fields and communities. The "Heyday of Masonry," I have heard it called. That thought somehow made me realize that our own Lodge is turning a new corner. The talent and enthusiasm at that table was incredible. It was at that moment I realized that the future of the Lodge is already here. It has begun. I get to be part of it, even if it's just for while. Just maybe I will even learn a couple of new tricks along the way.

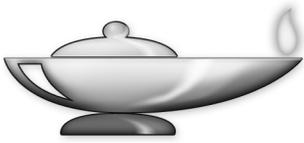
Doug Kuchera, Secretary

NEXT STATED MEETING

February 9, 2012

Dinner - 6:00 PM

Meeting - 7:00 PM



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Brothers,

Our Worshipful Master has laid out a very aggressive plan for the L.E.O. this year which I'm very happy to see. In short;

1. We will continue to have our usual LEO reports at our stated meetings, time permitting of course.
2. The Worshipful Master would like to encourage as much participation from all Lodge Brothers in the LEO reports. So if you have a subject or area of interest you would like to share with your Lodge Brothers, please feel free to discuss this with the Worshipful Master or LEO.
3. The Worshipful Master would like to see greater participation in the Grand Lodge Masonic Light Award Program. This is a type of Masonic correspondence course sponsored by the Grand Lodge. It is a very aggressive program, and you will gain a sound basic knowledge of Freemasonry on completion of the course. More on this program to come.
4. The Worshipful Master would like to see the return of the "Moths". This was a Lodge study group that met after Lodge meetings to engage in Masonic discussion. The group was so named because moths are drawn to the light. We won't talk about what happens to the moths after that. Safe to say, none of us got our wings toasted.

There appears to be something here for everyone and every interest. If you have any interest in any or all of these areas, please see the Lodge LEO for more information on how to get engaged in the program of your desire. This year is looking very good from a Masonic Education viewpoint. Don't miss out; be a part of the continuing light of Freemasonry.

Who was the First to be Initiated into Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 –

OK, I'm something of a history buff and enjoy researching information on just about any subject. I was recently looking through the history book of the first 50 years of Ancient Landmark Lodge and came across this bit of information. As recorded in the Golden Jubilee of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5, 1854 – 1904;

Dr. Samuel Willey

The first initiate of Ancient Landmark Lodge was born in Boston in 1828. He was the son of a successful merchant and shipowner. While yet a small boy his father died after which the family removed to Cleveland, Ohio. After receiving a thorough English and classical education, Bro. Willey took up the study of medicine at the Cleveland Medical College, from which he graduated in 1849. He then received an appointment as an assistant physician in the Ohio Lunatic Asylum, remaining there until his departure for St. Paul in 1852 where he at once commenced the active duties of

his profession in partnership with Dr. Brisbane. In 1855 he married a daughter of John R Irvine of this city, by whom he had one son. In 1857 the doctor gave up the practice of his profession, which from the first was large and lucrative, and accepted a position as cashier in the banking house of Irvine, Stone & McCormick – a position which he held but a short time, as personal inclinations, coupled with the desire of old patients, took him back into the walks of professional life, which he afterwards never relinquished until illness absolutely required it, and then, too, often his sick room was his consulting room. With Dr. Willey his practice and patients were the all-engrossing care of his life. He rarely came into contact with anyone but his patients and his professional brethren, and rarely did he identify himself with any matter not bearing directly on his profession. For many years it can be truly said that Dr. Willey led his profession in this state, and his reputation was even a national one.

Bro. Willey was the first to receive the degrees in Ancient Landmark Lodge; he was initiated January 19, 1854, (just 15 days after Ancient Landmark received its charter), passed February 9 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, February 16. He was elected Senior Warden the following June and that was the only office he ever held in the lodge.

He died at Bayfield WI., November 21, 1872. The remains were brought to St. Paul to be interred in Oakland cemetery.



Worshipful Brother Alan Peterson giving good council to our new Worshipful Master at the Installation.

LODGE of SORROW 2012

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



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