

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

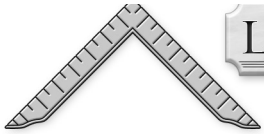


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LOOK TO THE EAST

Long Overdue

Nineteen-seventy-nine. Thirty-five years ago we saw the invention of the Sony Walkman personal music player, inline roller skates, and the general knowledge quiz game Trivial Pursuit. VisiCalc was released as the first electronic spreadsheet program, and the World Wide Web had not even been born yet. Jimmy Carter was the US President, and Margaret Thatcher was elected in May as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

In 1979 the Federal Minimum Wage was \$2.90. A gallon of gas was 63 cents. The average price of a new home was \$63,000 and a new car would set you back about \$6,000. The annual salary of the average American citizen was \$11,500. As you're reading my little history lesson, some of you may have already guessed why I am giving it. It has, in fact, been more than 35 years since our Lodge last raised its dues. Thirty-five years.

Currently, out of the \$49 that we pay each year in dues, only \$20 goes to our Lodge, the remaining \$29 is the Grand Lodge per capita dues. \$20 a year amounts to \$1.67 per month, or about five cents a day. And that \$20 a year does not buy much in today's economy. In fact, in discussing this issue with some of our Brothers, an interesting point was made: the sum total of our annual dues does not cover the rent we pay for our Lodge building; in fact, it does not even cover one third. So I looked a little closer at our Lodge's finances. Assuming every active member is paying their \$20 in dues, the total of that revenue will cover 31% of our annual rent payment. And that's just the rent... it only covers 16% of our annual base expenses (including the rent, taxes, insurance, and office supplies and equipment). That does not include our charitable contributions, or our scholarships; it does not include the flowers that we send to Brothers and their families during difficult times, or the pins and name badges, or any of the social events that we host. Sixteen percent.

I know this begins to sound like a dressing down or a sermon from the pulpit, but in discussing this subject over the past several months, I have been told time and again, by many different Brothers, that I am going to meet fierce resistance if I try to raise the dues in my year as Master. And perhaps it's true that I will not be loved by my Brethren if I do this, but it is something I feel we must do. And so, at the March Stated Communication, we will be reading a proposed change to our bylaws that, if accepted, will raise our annual dues. And this diatribe above is my attempt to make it clear why I believe we need to do this, to keep our Lodge relevant, and catch us up with the rest of the world. I think we should at least be able to pay the rent, don't you?

Some will argue (and have argued) that our Lodge does not need the money. It's true that our Lodge is extremely fortunate in that it was bequeathed a fairly sizable investment fund, which has enabled us to continue to operate and provide for the many programs and events we've had over the last 20+ years. And while we recognize that a dues increase will not, on its own, fund these programs, it will significantly reduce our dependence on that endowment and provide the opportunity to increase our cash reserves for capital investment and catastrophic expenses in the future (roof, HVAC, fire, flood, etc.). As a partial owner of the building, it is important to remember that if something happens to the building, it will be up to our Lodge (and the Scottish Rite, who is in a similar financial position) to fund the replacements, repairs, and whatever else may come due on our facility.

Now this next part may simply be review for most of you, but in the event that you have not read the Minnesota Masonic Code (a .PDF copy of it can be found on the Grand Lodge website), I will explain how this process works.

If this change passes, it will have been read and voted on by our Lodge three times. First, we must read the proposed change in open Lodge (which we will do in March) and make a motion to act on it. It must receive a majority vote of those present in order to continue. If it meets with approval, the Lodge Secretary will send it to the Grand Lodge for review and approval. Assuming it meets with their approval, upon return of the proposal, it must then be read at the next Stated Communication, and again must receive a majority vote. But no action is yet taken on it. It is to be laid over until a subsequent Stated Communication, where it will be read and voted on a final time. At least five days prior to this last reading, it must be published and delivered to every member for whom we have a mailing address. In the recent past, this has been done by including the proposed change in this newsletter. When it comes before the Lodge for the final vote, it must receive a 2/3 majority to be adopted.

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NEXT STATED MEETING

March 13th

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Meeting

...Long Overdue continued from page 1...

The intended proposal will be laid out as an incremental change. It would stage it over four years, with a \$10 raise in each of the first two years, and a \$15 raise in the second two years, bringing the total annual dues from \$20 to \$70. We are doing it in stages like this to help those on tight budgets to prepare and plan for the increase. But I want to be clear on one thing: I hope to not lose one single Brother over this. We, as your leadership team, understand that some may have trouble paying their dues after this increase; we understand that some struggle to pay it as it currently stands. And to those Brothers who have fallen on hard times or that live on very small, fixed incomes, I would say to you that your Lodge will help you, if you'll let us. We don't want you to demit or be dropped for non-payment, and there are things that we can do to make sure that doesn't happen. So if you need Brotherly relief, call us, write to us, email us; we want to help, and we truly do wish to continue to count you among our Brethren.

In closing, I ask you to consider this Fraternity, and what it means to you. Ask yourself: How do I value the experience of being a Mason? What am I getting for my five cents a day? Then stop for a moment and recall your first degree, your first coming to light and all that it has to offer, whether esoteric or overt. Think about the men and women you have met as a Mason, and those bonds of friendship, some of which will never be broken. Now put that nickel in your pocket. Is it enough?

I welcome your comments. Feel free to contact me in confidence at worshipfulmaster@ancientlandmark5.com

Respectfully,
Danny Baker
Worshipful Master



FROM THE WEST



Spring Is Here!

I was hoping that that headline would catch your attention. No this is not wishful thinking, and as much as we all want a reprieve from the weather (as I write this in mid-February) it is indeed truthful. What I am alluding to is the Spring ritual season that begins with our March Entered Apprentice degree on Thursday March 27th with dinner at 6pm and the degree starting promptly at 7pm. This night is just one part of the opening act of the Masonic journey these men are starting, and to see a room full of those that have come before them – it's powerful stuff. Once they make it through this first evening of being hoodwinked, lead, and obligated they will need congratulations, some contact between the degrees, and of course encouragement. Please consider coming down to support these men who start the evening as friends and end it as brothers.

I was, of course, contemplating the EA degree while I sat eating with my fellows at the February stated meeting dinner. It will be my first time in the East for the initial step of new brothers into our lodge. I found myself thinking of my own first degree, and the encouragement I received from brothers – including a few that are no longer with us. During dinner I witnessed two additional aspects of the craft and the journey that one takes. First, we had several candidates and interested men join us for dinner. Once they approached the secretary and were then introduced around they were never alone, sitting with new friends, being listened to and listening themselves, and being shown every courtesy that we have come to expect from our brothers.

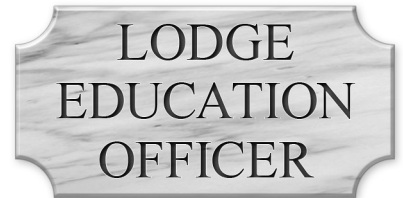
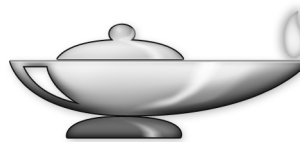


The second was Montgomery Lodge #258 joining us for dinner. As you are well aware, we share ritual space with several other lodges and bodies down at Plato building. For example, WM Baker, our Junior Steward, and myself, along with more than a dozen other brothers from various lodges were hosted by Macalester Lodge #290 on February 11th when PM Keith Reiersen lead a 4th School of Instruction down at Plato. This often means we cross paths with brothers who are doing their own work as we rehearse for ours. I had the opportunity to sit with the Junior and Senior Wardens from Montgomery and engage in a series of wide ranging conversations. It is casual events like these that lead to future good work together. The evening certainly brought our two lodges together and I hope we have a few more of these in the months to come.

These two acts, introducing candidates and new men to our institution, and breaking bread with those that already warmly endorse our endeavors highlight our devotion to Brotherly Love. I look forward to seeing everyone on March 27th for the Entered Apprentice degree and to sharing another meal with each of you.

Fraternally,

Jeremy L. Nienow,
SW Ancient Landmark Lodge #5



Classic Ancient Landmark

I like the word ancient as long as it is not being used to describe someone's age. I think if something is ancient it is lasting, durable and classic. In order for something to be considered "classic" it needs to be created of the highest quality and of enduring value. I'm a movie buff and I like "ancient" movies, such as Cleopatra. My kids think a classic movie has to be in black & white, such as Casablanca. Did you know Humphrey Bogart's character never did say "Play it again, Sam!"? But I'm wandering away from my original thought.

I also like the word landmark. When on a trip, familiar and new landmarks reassure me that I'm going in the right direction. The journey will be safe and lead me in the direction of my destination. As a pilot, when I flew someplace new, the landmarks/checkpoints were always a very welcome sight.

So as the LEO what can I say as a lesson to keep the thoughts above in mind? Our lodge, Ancient Landmark Lodge, is a classic. It has been around for 160 years, surviving depression, wars, bitter cold winters and much more. Why? Because the members saw something worth keeping. The members are more than friends. We acknowledge this by calling each other brother. As we journey through life passing our own landmarks we can find advice from our brothers. Ancient Landmark is not just a building or group of individuals meeting and enjoying each other's company. It is a living, growing and caring organization that was formed to do good for all. We call ourselves brothers and are willing to go beyond the realm of friendship to help one another in times of need. We are a caring family.

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Ancient Landmark is a classic because our organization has endured the hardships and difficulties of time itself and it is because of our brothers and their quality of character that we continue to endure. As we continue to grow and care, our organization will always remain true. That quality makes us invaluable to one another and endure the ravages of time.

Earl Wolford
Lodge Education Officer



LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, March 13th - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Monday, March 17th - Lodge Visit, St. John's Lodge

6:00pm Visit

Thursday, March 27th - Entered Apprentice Degree

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

Friday, March 28th - Montgomery Table Lodge

5:30pm - 9:00pm Dinner

Thursday, April 10th - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Thursday, April 24th - Fellowcraft Degree

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

Thursday, May 8th - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Saturday, June 7th - Master Mason Degree

8:30am Coffee & Donuts, 9:00am Degree

Thursday, June 12th - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sweetheart's Dinner

Last Sunday night 36 brothers and their significant others came together to celebrate our annual Sweethearts dinner. This year we were again at Mancini's in downtown St. Paul and we secured an excellent room with our own waitresses, fireplace, and chef on hand to see to our needs.

The food was good but the camaraderie was the real draw. We chatted, laughed, drank and ate - and as we slowly filtered away at the end of the night we remembered that special place that brotherly love holds in each of our hearts.

Thank you on behalf of our Worshipful Master for sharing your evening with me and my wife.

Jeremy Nienow, SW

Lodge Visit - St. John's Lodge

March 17th, 7:30pm
St. John's Lodge No. 1
113 S. Main Street (third floor)
Stillwater, MN 55082

I mentioned this event at the February Stated Communication, but at that time we had not picked the date. I personally have not yet been to St. John's Lodge, but I have heard repeatedly that it is a beautiful building and that they do excellent ritual work, so I must say, I am very much looking forward to this. If you have a Masonic Passport, bring it along. If you don't, I think Br Jerry has a few left for purchase at the AL5 office.

We would like to get a head count over to the Secretary at St. John's as soon as we can, so please head over to our website (<http://www.ancientlandmark5.com/rsvp.html>) and RSVP for this event (or call the Lodge office at (651) 222-2643, or email at rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com).

I hope to see you out there!

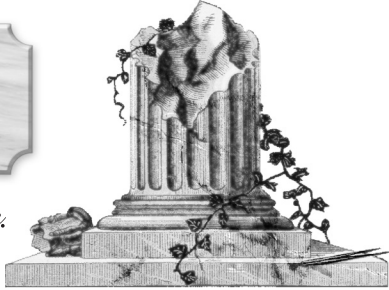
Danny Baker
Worshipful Master



"Let us not forget those who came before us and helped pave the way the way toward a brighter future."



LODGE of SORROW 2014



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Johnson, Lynn W	4/26/1924	11/18/1958	12/18/1958	1/20/1959	1/12/2014



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