

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO.5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

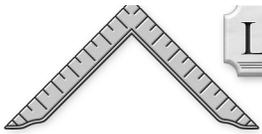


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Volume 15, Number 4
May 2017



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LOOK TO THE EAST

Recent Events

The 2017 Grand Lodge Annual Communication was held in St. Cloud this year in early April, where two impactful resolutions were presented for a vote. The first resolution was to require that all petitioners submit to a background check. After carefully considering the details of this resolution along with the input I received from our membership, I voted against the resolution. Ultimately, the resolution failed to pass by a small margin. The second was a resolution to raise the annual per capita rate to \$40.00 which is an increase of \$11.00. I voted in favor of this resolution and it passed. Our statewide membership has decreased by approximately 500 members. I also saw that Grand Lodge costs had decreased in many areas yet there was still a considerable deficit. I should also note that the money spent on the new Masonic Heritage Center came from a completely separate fund and could not be considered as a factor in making this decision. The increase will be effective 2018. I'd like to remind you if paying your annual dues is an issue you should reach out to us. We were also introduced to the new and improved Grand Lodge website which went live in April. It is now much more appealing to non-members while still providing the resources we have grown accustomed to. The website is www.mn-masons.org.

We have already sent preliminary attendance numbers to our Brethren in Winnipeg for the Canadian Visitation over Labor Day weekend but it is not too late to hop on board. Now is the time to make your decision on whether or not you plan to attend and to make the necessary preparations. If you have not already informed us but wish to attend please contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

In April we prepared a meal and served the homeless at Our Saviour's Housing in Minneapolis. Thank you to Brothers Carlos Scott and Steven Scharff for coordinating the event. We will be doing another community service project this year and will inform you of the details once they're set. Also stay tuned for some fun social activities over the summer.

Johnnie Timm
Worshipful Master



FROM THE WEST

Behind the Scenes

Much to the dismay of our newsletter editor, I keep trying to think of something to write for our newsletter. I usually come up late with a random thought and in my rambling, a not-so-great paragraph or two. Then it comes to mind that we have so much going on that we don't all see what's happening behind the scenes and all the brothers that don't get a thank you for their hard work. With all that we do and with what has to be done to get the Lodge to run smoothly, it takes more people than is seen at times. Just as an example, we have our MTA reps that are going to extra meetings to keep the building working and cleaned. We have our trustees who keep our finances in check with the treasurer; most know that the stewards get everything ready for our meals and there are also brothers that step in and cook occasionally. Additionally, our brother that does the great job of getting this newsletter together and reminding the principal officers that our articles are due (quite often several times a month). Lastly, we have our brothers that organize community service and our Canadian visitation committees. So from the south, I would like to thank all the brothers who step up to help keep our lodge running smoothly.

Rique Beslin
Senior Warden





LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Meaning of Masonry

The solemn ceremony should never in any lodge be considered as the most important part of a Freemason's work, even though it is always a thing of importance to initiate new members into the order. Instruction and charity are the chief work of Freemason, initiations are only secondary to these.

The day of his initiation must ever be an important epoch to a Freemason and lead to a serious self-examination.

The thought that in one evening he has become closely united with many thousands of unknown men is of itself important, even if the initiated member should not be able to appreciate the real spirit of the order. On his initiation, the candidate must place himself unreservedly in the hands of the proper office appointed to conduct him and submit himself to every proof that is demanded from him and make no objection to any of the ceremonies he must go through but answer every question truly and fully. When he arrives in the assembly of the brethren he is asked again, and for the last time if it his wish is to be initiated.

In the moment when he is about to receive the first degree, every freedom is permitted to him either to go forward in the ceremony or return from whence he came; for we must admit that to enter upon an unknown undertaking is a dangerous thing. He who is in earnest will here prove that he holds it to be unworthy of a man not to complete any undertaking which he has commenced after mature deliberation.

If he does so the assembled brethren cheerfully and unanimously pronounce him worthy and he is made a partaker of the Light. The solemn obligation taken by the candidate and the sacred and mysterious manner in which the sacred numbers are communicated have always been respected by every faithful brother.

Fraternally,

James Beavers
Lodge Education Officer

Upcoming Schedule

Thursday, May 11th - Stated Communication

Thursday, May 18th - Master Mason Degree Rehearsal 1

Thursday, May 25th - Master Mason Degree Rehearsal 2

Saturday, June 3rd - Master Mason Degree

April Birthdays

Jeff Ansel

May Birthdays

Gene Schultz
Tim Godfrey
Mark Reiersen
Danny Baker
David Pettis
Marvin Wolf
John Winslow
Richard Neafus
Keith Reiersen
Ian Cumming
Russell Starksen
Zeeshan Hafiz
Sampson Rolan

Our Saviour's Housing





The Travelling Sword

On March 25th Brother Carlos Scott along with 8 other Brothers including Junior Grand Steward WB Dayton Berg travelled to Faribault Lodge #9 to capture a beautiful sword. It was obtained by Brother Scott proving up on the Third Degree. He did an excellent job! The sword now resides at our Lodge and will be displayed at every Communication until another Lodge captures it. Come and see it before it's taken away!

Hiram Award

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota Hiram Award is a singular, once in a lifetime recognition, presented to a Brother as an earned tribute for outstanding service to Freemasonry.

I am proud to announce that in recognition of his dedication to the welfare and advancement of our Honorable Fraternity and the Brethren, as well as the promotion of the tenets and precepts inculcated by Freemasonry's good works, Worshipful Brother Todd Henderson has been selected to receive this prestigious Hiram Award.

A presentation ceremony is being planned for the second half of the year, and details will be communicated once determined. Should you see Worshipful Brother Todd, please give him the hearty congratulations that are due to him.

Memorial Day

Originally called Decoration Day, a day of remembrance, was established in May of 1868, 3 years after the end of the Civil War. The head of the Grand Army of the Republic declared that this day would be May 30th and celebrated by decorating the graves of the dead soldiers with flowers.

The first large observance was held at Arlington National Cemetery. After a number of speeches, service members and children made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves as they recited prayers and sang hymns.

By the end of the 1800's, "Memorial Day" celebrations were happening all over the Nation on May 30th. After WWI, the celebrations were expanded to include all service personnel from any war. Memorial Day as we know it today was declared a National Holiday by Congress and signed by President Nixon in 1971. That same act is what moved the day of remembrance to the last Monday in May.

Gen. Logan's (according to my research online, Logan was a Master Mason from Illinois, having been raised in Mitchell Lodge No. 85 in Pinckneyville, Illinois) order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 are as poignant today as they must have been hundreds of years ago: "with the choicest flowers of springtime, We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. ... Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic."

To ensure that America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act," creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission's charter is to "Encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity."

All Americans are encouraged to pause at 3PM local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

Thank You and may the Supreme Architect of the Universe forever be your guiding light, in this life and the next. We would also like to take a moment to acknowledge the families of all the service members for the sacrifices that they make on a daily basis while their loved ones are off defending our freedoms here at home.

To those whom have paid the ultimate sacrifice, Thank You and may you rest well. We have it from here.

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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