

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

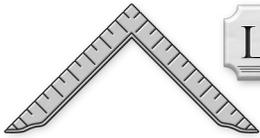


Online: www.ancientlandmark5.com
Email: lodg@ancientlandmark5.com

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LOOK TO THE EAST

An Accounting

As you read this, we will already have conferred the Fellowcraft Degree and will be making preparations for the Master Mason Degree in December. Time surely passes by much too quickly! It seems to me that I put on the top hat for the first time only a little while ago.

As we finish out the calendar year, there are several events to take note of. In a few weeks we will be hosting our annual Awards Night, where we will be celebrating those Brothers who have reached milestones. Bro. Mike Doyle will also be taking on the responsibility of preparing one of his outstanding meals for the evening. Bro. Mike is the reigning Ancient Landmark #5 chili champion and I have no doubt that the meal he plans for the evening will be excellent. As I had mentioned before, another of our events coming up will be the Master Mason's Degree on Saturday, December 7th. We had five candidates come through the Entered Apprentice Degree in September. This is a superb number and they would love to see the lodge come out in force to support them for their Third Degree. We all remember what an experience it was for us. Finally, we also have our Annual Meeting coming up on Thursday, December 12th, where we will elect a slate of Principal Officers to govern our lodge for the next year. This is also one of the most important meetings of the year and I would encourage you to mark your calendars for that date!

When we approach the end of things, it seems natural to reflect back; to take account of things. I suppose the natural approach for me would be to reflect back over the past year as Master of the lodge, but in reality my journey to this point began a lot further back, when I first entered the line.

At the beginning of this journey, I honestly never saw myself as being the Worshipful Master of Ancient Landmark No. 5. When I became the Senior Steward about six years ago, I had a rather short-sighted view of things. This is an easy thing to do when one begins long journeys. At the time I only had one child and what I must have reasoned was a vast amount of free time on my hands. What do people who have a vast amount of free time on their hands do?

They find a way to occupy themselves. Some scientist said something about nature abhorring a vacuum. For me, that meant going to law school, having two more children, getting involved in the Scottish Rite and the York Rite and doing a few other things. Oh, and I also held down a job (even two jobs for a while).

Progressing through the chairs of the lodge is supposed to involve a gradual increase in responsibilities. This has certainly been the case for me, both for my own lodge duties and my life in general. One of the most important lessons I've had to learn during this time is how to juggle. I've had to juggle child-care responsibilities, lodge duties, work, and the busy schedule of my family. This has not been easy, but I have managed to keep all the balls in the air. At least I think I have. Sometimes what that has meant is that I have not been able to give my full attention to everything or everyone that has asked for it. This is not usually a good feeling to have, knowing full well that something is getting the bare minimum of attention, but it also brings me to three other important lessons I have learned in progressing through the chairs.

The first lesson is getting used to the feeling that something isn't getting done completely. I'm something of a perfectionist, so it has been especially difficult for me to let go of something unfinished (or finished imperfectly) to take up another task that needs attention. The second lesson dovetails directly with the first: learning to prioritize. When lots of things have demanded my attention at once, I've had to learn to make decisions on what was really important. This is not as easy as it seems. Our own Masonic education provides a sort of guide to this, but in reality, it isn't always as cut and dried as putting family first, then work, then the lodge. Some family activities are less important than others.

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NEXT STATED MEETING

November 14th

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Meeting



LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, November 14 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Saturday, December 7 - MM Degree

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

Thursday, December 12 - Annual Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Saturday, January 4 - Installation of Officers

9:00am Open installation

Thursday, January 9 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

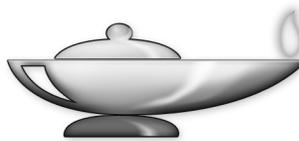
From the East... cont. from page 1

Work is work, but I've learned that you can balance your profession with everything else with a little bit of practice. It can be done.

The last lesson that I've had to learn in progressing through the chairs is probably the most important: learning to ask for help. This would seem like a no-brainer, but stubborn pride always seems to get in the way. I find that I constantly delude myself into thinking that I can do it all by myself. After many years of trying that silly route, I've learned most emphatically that I cannot. We each of us travel the road of life on our own, unique journeys. But we do not travel alone. At times we travel with our parents guiding us along. We have friends and, later, our own families to help us through the rough spots. As a Freemason, this lesson is taught early and often. Indeed, the ideas of Brotherly Love and Relief are central to our Entered Apprentice Degree. We simply cannot master our prove-ups without the help of our Brethren. When one of our Brothers experiences difficulties, we are reminded to provide relief. The really important part of this is often overlooked, however: learning to ask. When I'm swamped with responsibilities, I've had to learn to put my pride aside and reach out my hand. When I have to leave a task unfinished, I've had to look to others to help finish it. It's a hard thing to do sometimes, but you cannot do everything on your own. This one thing is how I've managed to juggle and to prioritize.

Finally, I'm reminded of a lesson I learned a long time ago: saying thank you. I owe a great deal of gratitude to all of you who have helped me out along the way. I could not have done it without you. It has been a great feeling of accomplishment for me that I've been able to serve my lodge throughout the years and I want to say thank you to all who made it possible. To my wife, my friends, my family and, most importantly, my fellow Masons: thank you.

Joe Amos, Worshipful Master



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Masonic Etiquette

I'm not really sure when the following was written, there are some parts of it that seem a bit dated, but never the less after my temporary lapse of memory in the last stated meeting and the observation of the conduct of others in lodge I felt it appropriate to present a few excerpts from this "Short Talk Bulletin" for my LEO report in this edition of our lodge newsletter. I do not suggest we cannot enjoy ourselves in lodge but there is a certain conduct we are all expected to uphold in our lodge meetings and degree conferrals. If this article only serves to bring our responsibility for our conduct in Lodge to the forefront of our minds once again, then it has served its purpose. So please, take notice and govern yourselves accordingly.

Masonic Etiquette

by R.W. Alfonso Serrano

Aurora Grata-Day Star Lodge No. 647, New York

The Masonic Fraternity exists in today world as the oldest existing fraternity in the world. It shares the fraternal stage with many other different and similar organizations such as the Loyal Order of The Moose, The Elks, The Knights of Columbus to name a few. The one thing that sets us apart from most if not all of these organizations is our Ritual and our tradition both written and spoken. One of the most important aspects of our traditional history is our Masonic Etiquette.

Masonic Etiquette belongs to the empire of good manners, together with certain concepts peculiar to Freemasonry. We all should practice etiquette because of its power to help maintain harmony. It is a form of courtesy to the individual members and a manifestation of respect to the Craft. Harmony is the first law of the Lodge and the Worshipful Master of his Brethren demands it when he declares the Lodge open.

The dictionary defines Etiquette as follows: "The forms and practices prescribed by social convention or by authority, or, the established rule of procedure and ceremony in a court or in any official or other body". I am a believer in our standard works and lectures, our constitution and our etiquette. This sets us apart from other organizations. I know that many of us have seen members act un-Masonically toward another Brother. That is because we are human and as humans we will constantly make mistakes. Still we must strive to build our temples and seek perfection. One avenue that can be used to achieve this goal is through respect or etiquette.

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LEO... cont. from page 2

Remember to subdue your passions and improve yourself in Masonry is probably the most difficult tasks as Masons we are obligated to perform. I particularly direct this essay to my newly raised Brethren, the most un-nerving thing for me to see is a Past Master or Past Grand Lodge Officer address the Worshipful Master while he remains seated and not on the sign of fidelity. How can we fault our newly raised Masons who see this un-courteous behavior and repeat the same thinking that it is the norm. To the newly raised Brother should you make this mistake and are corrected by another Brother do not be distracted by his zeal for this Brother practices Masonic Etiquette. Brother Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "if good manners were lost, it would be necessary for the next gentleman to rediscover them". This applies in full force to Masonic Etiquette; without it our Fraternity would be impossible.

Where a group of Masons act as a unit, as in a Lodge Communication, etiquette takes the form of proper decorum. Loud talk, restless moving about, laughter, smoking, flippancy, irreverence toward the Worshipful Master and other constituted officers of the Lodge, passing between the Altar and the East, omission of the sign of fidelity, giving no heed to the business at hand, improper entering and leaving. No man needs to consult a book of etiquette in order to accept the fact that such indecorous behavior is dangerous to the harmony of the Lodge. It is in such an atmosphere that ill will and hard feelings, not to mention the more serious menace of splits and feuds, are most likely to take root to the great danger of the Craft. A worshipful Master who permits the intrusion of such indecorum is not faithful to the duties of his office.

The following are what I consider some of the important rule of etiquette, which you should commit to memory Addressing the Chair or Worshipful Master: The rules of order in Freemasonry do not permit discussion, during a communication, among the Brethren. The Brother who has anything to say to the Lodge, whether it be to enter discussion or to make or second a motion, must rise to his feet, give the sign, wait to be recognized by the Master, speak directly to the Master. He must also remain on the sign of Fidelity until seated.

Altar: No Brother shall pass between the Altar and the East while the Lodge is at Labor, except when required to do so by ritualistic performance. The Great Lights are the particular responsibility of the Worshipful Master; no Brother should ever obscure his view of them.

Apron: When wearing clothing that would conceal the apron, always wear the apron on the outside of the garment, except when wearing a formal cut-away (tails). A Grand Lodge Officer should always wear the apron of his office.

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A Masonic Poem (reprinted from MasonicWorld.com)

I am Ready for My Last Degree

An old man lay sick in the Masonic State Home
His face was as white as the White Sea foam.
His eyes were dim; his hair was gray.
His back was bent with the toils of the way.
He unflatteringly spoke, and I heard him say,
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've come to the end of that level of time
That leads us all on to that Grand Lodge sublime.
From whose sacred form none ever returns.
More light in Masonry there I shall learn
By an altar where light ever more burns
I'm ready for my last degree.

With the apprentice's gauge I divided my time
And this I have found amidst life's' great turmoil:
Time for work, for worship and rest from my toil
My wages are due in corn, wine and oil-
I'm ready for my last degree.

Each day from life's quarries I've hewn out a stone,
With the gavel I've shaped them each one alone
And shipped them alone beyond that bright strand
To build me a house in that bright better land.
A spiritual house not made by hands-
I'm ready for my last degree.

I've squared each stone by the virtue square
And plumbed them all true as I shipped them there.
With the compass, I've measured the Master's Designs
And kept in the due bounds with his points and his lines
My blueprints are folded-I've answered his signs
I'm ready for my last degree.

A few moments later the old man was dead
And I fancy I could see his soul as it fled
Upward and onward to that great door where he gave his
alarm
And a voice did implore
The old man made answer with these words once more:
I'm ready for my last degree.

That night in a lodge free from strife and from storm
He took his last Degree-his last in due form
So may I live as to build day by day
A spiritual house in that land far away
So when I meet my Grand Master I can say,
I'm ready for my last degree.



MASONIC PRESIDENTS

Fifteen Presidents of the United States were members of the craft, and this series will highlight the Masonic journey of these fifteen leaders. However, rather than starting with our most famous Masonic President, George Washington, we will begin with a man who is lesser known, yet no less important. (from Masonic Short Talk Bulletin Vol. XI, No. 7)

JAMES MONROE

James Monroe, 5th President of the U.S. (1817-1824) and the last founding father to serve as President, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia April 28, 1752.

The original records of Williamsburg Lodge No.6, Williamsburg, Va., show (November 6, 1775) that he was "recommended as a fit person to be admitted a member of this lodge and the motion recorded. On November 9, 1775, he was "preferred, received and balloted for; passed and accepted and entered an apprentice.: The curious reader will note that he was not quite seventeen years and six months old at this time!

His dues were paid through October 1780, but no record shows as to when he was raised. Tradition states that he received the Master's Degree in a Military Lodge during the revolution, and also credits him membership in Kilwinning Cross Lodge No.2, Port Royal, Va. Little is known of his Masonic life. He visited Cumberland Lodge No.8, at a meeting especially called to receive him in Nashville, Tennessee, June 8, 1819. He died in New York, July 4, 1831.

DUE NOTICE

Masonic History Event

Early Minnesota Masonic History and pioneers will be remembered at a special event at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple (2011 Dupont Ave S., Minneapolis) on Saturday November 9th from 1:30-3:30PM.

Highlighted will be the stories of several notable Minnesota Freemasons such as ATC Pierson, Moses Sherburne and a Brother Frederick Beever. There will also be short talks pertaining to the history of the first three lodges in Minnesota and their involvement in the formative days of Minnesota's Grand Lodge.

This event will be suitable for the entire family so please spread the word and plan on bringing the family for a nice cordial gathering.

LEO... cont. from page 3

Not only to pay proper respect to the Lodge or Grand Lodge, but also as a means to identify the office he holds or the highest office held, except when filling an office in the advancing line of Lodge Officers. At Masonic memorial Services, all Lodge Officers and Brethren, regardless of advancing line of Lodge Officers. At Masonic memorial Services, all Lodge Officers and Brethren, regardless of station shall be clothed in white aprons.

Ballot: The Grand Lodge Constitutions make discussion of the ballot a Masonic Offense. Except for the Holy Bible, the ballot is the most sacred thing in the Lodge. Every Mason owes to his Lodge the duty of protecting it against poor material, and every Mason owes to every petitioner a fair ballot, which is the only protection a petitioner has against unfair discrimination and unreasonable prejudice.

Discussion in Lodge: Many Lodge proposals are decided by ballot because the business of Masonry is so democratically managed. The discussion of such proposals and business in Lodge has a large importance and must be safeguarded lest it be corrupted into argument or degenerate into a conflict of personalities; in other word, discussion also has its etiquette. Etiquette for the Fraternity is set forth with great weight and feeling in the old charges found in our constitutions. Regulations governing discussion in Grand Lodge are prescribed in the Rules of Order, printed with the Constitutions; regulations for discussion in Lodge are imbedded here and there in the Constitutions, are stated in Lodge By-laws, and elsewhere. They all belong to a prescribed mode of conduct defined as Masonic Etiquette, especially in our discussions. There are three great prohibitions in all Masonic discussions: All sectarian discussion, all argument or statement pro or con as to the merits of politics, of any given religion or theological creed, of racial questions, of private business, or of any other non-Masonic subject by which men are divided into classes, feuds, schisms, or are opposed on sectarian issues, is at all times forbidden. It is strictly forbidden to discuss a petitioner (other than to read his petition and indicate whether the report of the investigating Committee is favorable or unfavorable), and for a Mason to reveal how he has voted, or in any way to seek to persuade members to vote one way or another. All offensive personal remarks, all expressions of bitterness or ill will and all or any slurs upon the Lodge or its Officers, Grand Lodge or its Officers, and the Fraternity itself, and all flippant, unseemly, or discourteous remarks addressed to the Lodge or to its officers, are condemned alike by the principals of common courtesy and etiquette and by the disciplinary laws of the Craft.

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The newest Entered Apprentices of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5

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In reading this paper, I am reminded of my year as Master of the Lodge when we would all gather around the altar on the level and I would have a few closing words. At the close of one meeting I read an essay written by an unknown author. The title, "What I Saw When You Thought I Wasn't Looking". I sincerely hope some if not all of what you have read here will help bring to mind our individual responsibilities for our conduct in Lodge. Once again I am not suggesting that we all need to be so stoic in lodge that we cannot enjoy the experience but we must at all times be mindful of our conduct. I can assure you there are others watching, some who may be new to our Fraternity and who may not know the difference.

Fraternally,

Bruce Sherman
LEO

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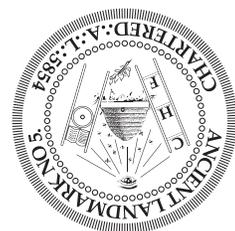


LODGE of SORROW 2013



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Joseph Ditschler	04/29/1934	04/19/1966	05/17/1966	06/21/1966	01/24/2013
Robert Foot	11/04/1938	01/28/1971	02/25/1971	03/25/1971	06/11/2013
Robert Beuc	09/28/1935	11/14/1956	01/16/1957	02/20/1957	06/13/2013
Donald Spaeth	12/05/1919	03/19/1959	04/19/1959	05/07/1959	06/25/2013
Christopher Buck	08/10/1949	01/22/1996	06/29/1997	09/29/1997	07/01/2013
Thomas Connelly	03/01/1932	09/22/1969	10/27/1969	11/22/1969	08/12/2013
Herman H. Laufer	10/29/1918	07/29/1942	08/20/1942	09/17/1942	09/24/2013



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 A.F. & A.M. of Minnesota
 200 Plato Boulevard East
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