

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO.5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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### LOOK TO THE EAST

#### Listen To Understand

I read a quote the other day that really got me thinking:

"The biggest communication problem is that we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply."

I do not know who the author was, but I read it and I had to agree. Good listening is an art. One that very few people, myself included, can truly claim to have mastered. To listen effectively, one must keep an open mind and be willing to have it changed. It requires a measure of empathy for the speaker's circumstances, and a presence of mind to focus not just on the words being spoken, but on their meaning and intent. But these skills are not as simple to master as they may seem.

I think that as our lives grow ever busier and as we are surrounded by distractions and seduced by the instant gratification of telecommunication, it becomes increasingly easier to tune things out and apply filters to what we see and hear. Those filters are often designed to shape what we hear into what we want to hear, or to ignore that which isn't relevant to us. "What's in it for me?" or "How does this affect my situation?" are the subliminal questions we seem to want answered at every turn. We need to learn to focus on what is being said to us and ask different questions.

Perhaps my own shortcoming as a listener is why the ritual continues to impress me so, because I have been unable or unwilling to fully listen to the lectures and absorb their meaning at any given sitting, and so each and every time I hear them I glean something new.

I hope in this past year, serving our Lodge as Master, that I have been a good listener. I have certainly tried to be fair and judicious. Many have been willing to whisper good counsel in my ear, and I have done my best to accept that counsel and learn and grow from it. It has been a humbling and rewarding experience. I've learned much about our Lodge and our Brethren, and even more about myself.

There have been so many who have contributed along the way, that I would feel remiss if I did not at least recognize a debt of gratitude that I may never be able to fully repay. Brothers who have guided me, and chided me; others who have been willing, time and again, to stand in and help out; and still others who have filled the gaps begotten by my weaknesses or have encouraged and nurtured me toward my strengths. It has truly been a team effort, and we are fortunate to have a strong team in place as the Lodge moves forward.

So I thank you all for having given me the opportunity to serve you and our great Fraternity, and for all the help along the way. And I implore you to please extend the same respect and courtesy to our new Master as you have to me. May you all be as blessed in the coming days as I have been this past year.

In closing, I will leave you with a blessing. If you were at our Officer Installation in January, you may recall this from the speech I delivered. It just seems appropriate to repeat it now:

#### I wish you enough.

I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.  
I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.  
I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.  
I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much larger.  
I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.  
I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.  
I wish you enough hellos to get you through the final goodbye.

Danny Baker  
Worshipful Master

### NEXT STATED MEETING

**Thursday, December 11th**

Annual Meeting and Officer Elections

Dinner: 6:00PM

Meeting: 7:00PM





## FROM THE WEST

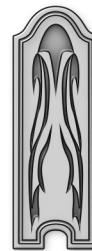
### Broadening the Pyramid

Recently I have placed a great deal of thought into exactly how many people it takes, and just how much work goes into, keeping our Blue Lodge running smoothly. My reasons for this have not been borne out of logistical curiosity, but from the simple fact that, tradition prevailing, it will be my duty to appoint a number of positions in the lodge for the coming year. The December stated meeting is our annual election meeting. As is tradition within our Bylaws, we will be electing for the coming year, seven positions: Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, a Trustee, and a Masonic Temple Association Representative. Following this will be Ancient Landmark's Installation on Saturday, January 3rd, 2015 starting at 9am with breakfast and then the ceremonies get underway at 10am. Worshipful Brothers Bruce Sherman and Loren Davis will act as Installing Master and Marshal respectively. As an interesting aside, January 3rd is the 161 anniversary of the founding of Ancient Landmark on January 3rd, 1854.

Beyond the above elected positions there are a myriad of others that are appointed by the Worshipful Master. The elected positions are integral to the smooth operation of our lodge, as I have seen over the past several years, however, the appointed positions are no less valuable and represent the future Principal Officers of the lodge. Assembling this team has been my number one concern the past several months (followed closely behind by our 2015 budget - which I will discuss generally at the Installation and in detail at the January Stated meeting). I have spent many evenings in conversation with Brothers seeking their advice and soliciting their inclusion. It has been a harder task than I could have realized. We are all deeply involved with our avocations, friends, and families outside of lodge. Commitments were given after serious consideration and I am pleased to say that I have completed the task I set for myself. Be that as it may, it has lead me to realization that it takes the entire lodge membership to keep us all moving forward. Beyond the line officers and trustees, etc. there is our wonderful newsletter editor, heads of committees, mentors for incoming candidates, participants in our excellent ritual work, leaders and hosts of social events, and then of course our wives and significant others that are just as committed to our lodge's happiness as we are ourselves. This group of brothers and others represents the base of the pyramid upon which our work is placed. The health and prosperity of our lodge rests on theirs, and our, shoulders. Each step that I have taken along the progressive line toward the East has given me a further appreciation of just how broad our pyramid truly is.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has served this year and has agreed to do so in 2015. There will be several new faces sitting in chairs around the lodge that have never held an office before. This has given some of our long time serving brothers (who are typically Past Masters) the opportunity to just come to lodge and enjoy our company (and probably give us a word or three of "encouragement"). To this end, if you as a newly minted Brother or perhaps as a long time member, are interested in serving the lodge in the coming year - please step forward and talk to me or Terry or Johnnie. We are always looking for more hands in the work ahead - and an increase to Ancient Landmark's base. Have a happy and safe Holidays and I look forward to seeing you at the open installation on January 3rd.

Jeremy Nienow  
Senior Warden



## FROM THE SOUTH

### No Solicitors

I have a confession to make. I have performed investigations for numerous candidates—giving my recommendation on his character after spending an hour or so speaking with him. I have been the top line signer for a few then-candidates who wandered into the lodge of their own accord, and I happened to be there to speak to them and fill the role of the person who brought them into the lodge. I have not, however, actually been responsible for bringing a friend or even an acquaintance into the Lodge or even giving him a petition.

Soon after joining a lodge, as various Brothers offer their insights of what it means to be a Mason, a new Brother will inevitably hear something akin to "we do not solicit membership." To drive home this message one of the more popular Masonic bumper stickers states in texting lingo "ASK 1 2 B 1" with Masonic symbols around it. This simple message reinforces the idea that the onus for an initial introduction to Masonry lies squarely on the shoulders of the perspective candidate. Even the cryptic nature of only indirectly referencing our fraternity reinforces the notion that speaking openly about any aspects of Masonry to the uninitiated is not allowed. These implications combined with the uncertainty about what parts of our secret society are truly secret leads many to be leery about sharing their experiences with friends and family.

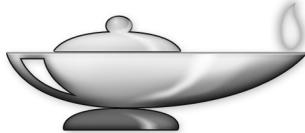
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## No Solicitors... cont. from page 2

While the original idea of not harassing or coercing potential candidates into joining our brotherhood is sound, it does not preclude presenting an individual's impressions and leaving the decision to sign a petition to his own free will and accord. We have group events that are open to the public with the intent of introducing Masonry to those who might be interested, so it should not be obvious that this is acceptable. Not knowing exactly what is acceptable, however, does limit what a cautious individual will share on his own.

Recently, I made the conscious decision to no longer dodge the subject of why I leave work early or am not available for social gatherings on Thursdays. After saying I have a Freemasons meeting, I have witnessed reactions that range from "where do you guys keep the grail?" to "You build stone structures pro bono?" After the initial use of humor to mask their surprise and discomfort in their own ignorance on the subject, curiosity has emerged. Since then I have had several conversations with true interest about learning more. I have a feeling that 2015 will be the year that I bring my first petitioner before Lodge. I hope those of you who have held back from talking to your friends about Masonry also make the decision to be more open.

Terry Mallberg  
Junior Warden



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Now is the time of the year when I stand outside and enjoy the drop in temperature. Then it hits me...this is the time of the year when summer is leaving and the short season of autumn comes and is replaced with the long season of winter. I'm never ready for winter and I've spent many years walking through them bundled up with layers of fabric, wool, leather, down or whatever else will protect me and keep me looking fashionable. Sunshine is a lot easier to shovel off the driveway than several inches of wet snow, and even cars protest when the surrounding air is cold. If I really hated winter I would leave for the warmth of the south, but the protest is a tradition that I must do to accept the changing of the season. Along with the protest is also the remembrance of all the recently passed good times. You know, balancing the scale of protest and acceptance, Yin and Yang, etc. So, I let go of summer and welcome winter.

Earl Wolford  
Lodge Educational Officer



## THE SECRETARY'S DESK

I am writing my last communication as Secretary in the Newsletter with joy and sadness. The sadness is that I cannot stand for reelection due to personal circumstances that would prevent me from completing the 2015 Term. My wife will finish her career at MNSCU in December and is searching for opportunities on the East coast. She being a very high achiever, I have every confidence she will succeed in the search.

The joy is the experience I have had. The opportunity that you, the Brethren of Ancient Landmark Lodge No 5, provided for me to serve as Lodge Secretary was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. You have shown so much brotherly affection by patiently enduring my inaudible speaking voice, dyslexic writing, incredibly poor spelling, and disorganized management for the last two years.

I served the Lodge under two Worshipful Masters, WB Joe Amos, and WM Danny, who exemplified the Principles of Masonry in their affection for the Lodge, dedication to the Ritual, and service to the craft. They made my duty to "observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure" an easy and enjoyable one.

My journey in Masonry was accelerated by the opportunities that being Secretary provided to meet and learn from so many of the brothers. From working with candidates, newly raised Master Masons, long tenured Master Masons, Officers, and Past Masters of Ancient Landmark Lodge No 5, I learned the many ways that Masonry helps us become better men.

While I thank all of the Brothers who guided my journey, I feel I must single out the previous two Secretaries, Brother Doug Kuchera, and WB Bruce Sherman, whose patient support and gentle tutelage made both the Secretary's experience and my continued Masonic journey so fulfilling.

Fraternally,  
Jerry Jacobsen  
Secretary

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Installation of Officers**  
Saturday, January 3rd

**January Stated Communication**  
Thursday, January 8th



## TREASURER'S REPORT

This Treasurer's report is really what has happened with the "Cuz" since I left the Secretary position and my monthly column.

Unfortunately a year ago February I made a trip westward to be part of his daughter Carmen's Memorial service. The pancreatic cancer took her so quickly. If you recall we had our bucket cruise the year before; we laughed, we cried, but the moment I still remember most was the evening before dinner on that cruise when we were all sitting around having an adult beverage. I had made some goofy comment. Carmen looked at me and her eyes said it all: "Oh my god you're as goofy as my dad..." a moment I will cherish all my life. She knew her dad would be ok and that life would go on and somehow I would find a lot of comfort in that.

So what's with her dad the "Cuz"? If you recall he is battling stage three melanoma. Last year while I was at Mayo for a procedure, I got caught up reading an article about a new treatment for melanoma that was in clinical trials at both Mayo and UCLA. As I read this article I found it interesting that the test group of 100 had just a few promising results, so much so that the trial drug was continued beyond its original testing for this small group. I thought about the Cuz and contacted him the next day about the article. Surprisingly, it was the drug he was in clinical for and that his was extended. Long story short he confronted his doctors at UCLA about the article and it was about him! Yes the Cuz has now become the "lab rat" providing a great breakthrough in melanoma treatment. His feeling is that given all he has taken throughout his life he will hopefully give back something that will be lead to the successes of treating melanoma in the future.

Well a lot has happened since then. A year ago last fall, we enjoyed 22 days of Italy and Greece with him. Although they joined us for only 10 of the days, he did great keeping up with the pace and enjoying all that was to see and experience. He had just completed a procedure before the trip and he was in a bit of discomfort. I was again inspired and learned what it truly means to never give up. This September I traveled west to see the now "Lab Rat Cuz." He had a rough summer, couple strokes, including an air lift out of Grey Eagle without much promise. Also a whole list of things you really don't want to know. I kind of figured this could be my last trip west, maybe it was really to say goodbye one final time. I have to admit I was surprised once again at how well he was coping. Yes his age is showing. The need of rest comes frequently. While visiting he asked if I would take his motorcycle out for a spin as it had not seen the light of day for almost a year. I agreed that his BMW "cop bike" (looks just like the ones the CHPs ride) needs some exercise.

A few moments from his house it hit me; we will never ride together again. Upon returning he asked me what I thought of it and how it was running. It was then he said those words no rider buddy ever wants to hear: "I am going to sell her, if you know anyone back east that wants the best BMW has to offer let me know". The message was sealed. Later that evening he shared one of his finest from his wine cellar. He had but a taste and let both his wife and I enjoy by far one of his most prize wines. We spoke of its legs, its color, hint of pepper, wondering what the unidentifiable fruit was. Abruptly the conversation shifted, "you know tomorrow I want you to take my 997 out. It's a shame that it's just sitting in the garage and it also needs a run." For you non-Porsche folk a 997 is a Carrera, and his being a C4S is a little different than mine with 4 wheel drive. Now my heart sunk. Sure I introduced him to this affliction years ago by letting him drive mine, but never in all these years since had we ever drove each other cars and here he is offering his garage queen to me. I assured him that I would, but only if he would join and we drove over to see one of our old motorcycle buddies Uncle Don. Phone calls were made and a time was set. Last time I saw Don his Parkinson's had taken its toll, I assumed I would see him wheel chair bound and just getting by. I was about to be enlightened again. Taking any Porsche along the back roads from Ventura to Fillmore would be a dream but this 997 wanted to run and it did, with my help of course. As always (and maybe it's just an excuse to drive a little longer), it is tough to find Uncle Don's ranch, it being well hidden by all those dang avocado trees that he makes a fortune off of every season. As we pull up, low and behold there is Don STANDING outside waiting for us, he walks us in with a smooth gait to his garage just to share his latest updates on his Enfield. He is still riding, but only on the ranch. Don comes from old Southern Calif racing stock and always has wonderful stories to share of his youth. The friends of his youth today have large racing companies now using their names. Don became a rancher like his father before him after some very interesting government work. I don't ever recall seeing Parkinson's in remission, but his was and it is a sign of hope for all that face it. For me even more so as it does run in my family as they say. What a trip, the drive back that day was reflection not just in all the life changes I have seen, but more importantly of the roads and journeys traveled together. Some would find such a reflection full of sadness of what once was, for me it was the joys of lives that have been touched along the road in this great journey.

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Brothers, it's been a pleasure to serve as your Treasurer and Secretary over the past seven years. So many great friends, life experiences, but again it's time for new directions as I continue to travel to the east. Thank you for sharing your confidence in me; it's been a true joy.

Doug Kuchera  
Treasurer



## November Stated Communication

Our November meeting was both productive and entertaining. Our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother James Christensen joined us for dinner and Lodge. He was received with Grand Honors, along with Area Deputy WB Scott Rich and Grand Marshal and Metro East Custodian WB Keith Reierson. Our LEO, WB Earl Wolford, gave two short presentations, both very informative. And we passed the hat for contributions toward two very worthy causes.

The first was for our own Brother Erik Starksen, whose home and property was damaged by fire. Everyone was able to make it to safety, including the family dog, but Erik and his family lost most of their belongings.

The second was for Women's Advocates. This is a charity that provides a safe place where battered women and their children can escape domestic violence. You may recall that last year we collected money for this same charity and our plan is the same this year: the Lodge will match the monies collected from the Brethren and then apply to the MN Masonic Charities to match that. Then the proceeds will be used to buy Target gift cards for these women to help them with their Christmas shopping.



MWB James Christensen visited AL5 for our November Stated Communication.

## Big Tent Master Mason Degree

On Saturday, November 15th, the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, partnering with the Minnesota Shriners, held the Third Annual Big Tent Master Mason Degree and Shrine Ceremonial. Ancient Landmark Lodge raised a new Master Mason at this event, Brother Jason Bardwell, who also ended up being the primary candidate for the Master Mason Degree. There are a few pictures on our Lodge website.



Our newest Master Mason, Jason Bardwell, is on the far right. Jason was the primary candidate for the degree.

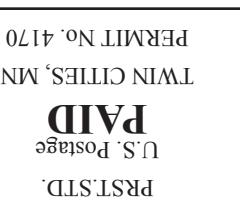


# LODGE of SORROW 2014

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



Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
William Struve	10/25/1922	10/3/1968	11/7/1968	3/6/1969	5/24/2014
Oscar Loeffler	10/26/1923	9/19/1974	10/24/1974	11/30/1974	9/25/2014



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