

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE SOUTH

Turn The Lights Back On

It's easy for me to often draw parallels between my Masonic life and chosen avocation. This especially holds true the longer I practice both; advancing through the chairs as well as toward my academic tenure. I was particularly struck by this in September as I prepared to again teach a new class of college attendees – and join my brothers at stated meetings. In both situations I was preparing to turn the lights back on.

Preparation for the new academic year involves a few hours to pulling syllabi together, reflecting on what I had done the previous semester, and considering new best practices that I had hoped to bring into the classroom. Although college is a place of higher learning, there are always more base economic considerations to be had – this includes making sure that I am offering something that will keep filling the classroom – always striving for what we call in the industry, “retention and completion”. Essentially it means doing everything I can to get 40 students into every one of my five courses and keeping them coming back for more.

Collectively, teachers within the Minnesota State College and University system, or MnSCU as it is known, are contractually obligated to attend a series of professional development days or “Duty Days” the week before classes resume. For many of those that do not teach summer classes it is an opportunity to see colleagues again, get up to speed with new polices, and get back into the proper mindset for the semester.

Once classes begin again, there is the first few weeks hustle of course changes, copying, textbook mishaps, and orientation. Speaking from personal experience, there is nothing more gratifying than that first class period. Students come in awkward and hesitant – but intent on beginning anew. They usually leave relieved, excited, and bright eyed – the lights of learning again lit...at least until Thanksgiving break and those finals many, many weeks in their futures.

The similarities to Masonry abound.

For some of us, there have been a few summer ritual meetings and the occasional social function or officer meeting. Sitting in the South has meant never quite losing sight of my obligations and duties – but they are certainly farther off when we go Dark. As September came closer I started staring at my blue book and occasionally opening it, or brought it to the gym to start freshening up my roles in opening and closing as well as the Entered Apprentice degree – my own major parts in the Fellowcraft still well on the horizon and comfortably distant for the moment.

September brought the first stated meeting of the fall. As we trickled in ahead of dinner, many of us caught up on summer parades, family events, and changes in our jobs, etc. It was a well-attended dinner, with candidates, our District Rep., good food, and lots of content smiles. As we all put on our aprons and prepared for the meeting, the atmosphere was one of pleasant camaraderie. We did our work cheerfully, efficiently, and with a certain level of familiarity that comes from real pleasure among friends. I was especially moved by WB Bruce's LEO report, whose timely words sparked me to call us all to remember the events of 12 years ago, the anniversary of which had just passed the previous day.

As we move purposefully into the fall ritual cycle, I am looking forward to working with everyone - cast, brothers, and watchers from the sidelines - as we welcome a new group of brothers into the lodge. Just like my own students, they will come in with some trepidation, but leave with the light of knowledge lit – and hopefully ready to continue their Masonic journey.

May our time spent in doing so enrich our souls as much as it does our minds and bodies.

Fraternally,
Jeremy Nienow, JW

NEXT STATED MEETING

October 10th

6:00pm Dinner

7:00pm Meeting

CANADIAN VISITATION

O Canada! Reflections from a first time traveler

This past Labor Day I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Winnipeg for the biennial Ancient Landmark 3 & 5 Visitation. This was my first time being able to travel to Canada for this particular event, and I carpooled up with our Senior Warden, Danny Baker. In the end, the trip was worth every moment of the...flat...countryside on our way to the border and beyond (including almost running out of gas on the way home). By the end of the several days visitation, I had noted differences and similarities between our lodges and I want to share some of these with you. At the end of my article, is a charge for each of us – as we look to 2015 and, tradition prevailing, they travel here and I am sitting in the East.

First, a few differences. After being introduced to folks for a few moments, I immediately started piecing together some of the major ritual differences (I admit I asked a lot of questions). They have more overall officers in the line – including a Master of Ceremonies, as well as an immediate Past Master's chair, a role we often fill with the Marshal. They evidently have an appointed officer that sits next to the Junior Warden and does his work with the Tyler. Their Junior Warden has actual duties – specifically involved with the receiving of candidates. Most interesting was the opening of lodge. Business is only carried out at the Master Mason degree. If other degrees are present, they wait outside until the work of the night is done, then the lodge is opened on their degree and they are allowed to come in.

I was struck immediately by the center stage taken by the women of the lodge, specifically the widows. I have attended a few ladies night events here at AL5 – but I know few of the widows, and I don't necessarily see many womenfolk in the building on a regular basis. My wife is not exactly interested in most of our pursuits, so my perception might be a bit skewed – but it was a bit of a shock to discuss Masonic rituals and events with such well-versed members of the opposite sex.

Additionally, it was humbling to sit at dinner with two past Grand Masters flanking me, and the current Worshipful Master of the Lodge as well. Indeed in the last ten years, they have had three Grand Masters from AL3, and a flurry of other Grand Officers. I am not saying that the quality of our officers is such that we don't enter the Grand Line often – because we have had many fine members and several recently that have served in the Grand line – but it seems that AL3 is currently dominating the Manitoba scene.

This however, brings me to the last of my noted differences, and it speaks directly to the information in the last paragraph. There are far fewer brothers in Manitoba than in Minnesota.

In speaking with our brothers, I was informed that there were less than 2,500 – a fifth of our members. Additionally, the vast majority of the population of the Province as a whole lives in Winnipeg, so it's no wonder that AL3 is leading the charge.

None of these differences is noted out of pride, or derision – but simply to show that we do have some difference both in the work, and in the tenor, of our lodges. Happily, we have many similarities as well, and it is these that I want to focus on. Chief among these is the fact that our lodges are roughly the same size and are actively bringing in new, younger, brothers. I met several of these newly minted masons and each was energetic and dedicated to increasing the craft. Similarly, we come from all walks of life, including academia – it was rather satisfying to start what I hope is a long term fraternal correspondence with Brother Joseph Hatcher who is a Paleontologist and curator at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre. He and I have already shared some connections at the Science Museum that I know will yield fruit in the future. Two of Brother Joseph's co-workers at the Centre were also petitioning the Lodge the very day we toured his facility.

Finally, the best similarity we share is a strong desire for hospitality, friendship, and congeniality. I was made to feel welcome from the moment Danny and I made it to the hotel. Although our contingent was small this cycle, we were never in want of attention; we were toured and dined to our heart's content. I particularly enjoyed the Western Canada Aviation Museum.

Now for my charge to each of us: It was made clear by this year's visitation committee across the border – that the men and women of AL3 dearly want to see this long-standing tradition upheld. They did their part admirably and I know they expect the same in return. To that end I need the following from our membership:

- *I need brothers willing to sit on a committee, chaired by me, to plan the corresponding event for 2015. I want to start as soon as possible.*

- *I also need wives to come forward that are more in tune with the established women of our lodge – this is an area in which I am sorely in need of guidance. I know the contingent will have many, many women in it – and I want their experience to be on par with the men's.*

- *I need men and women who are familiar with the Twin Cities and have connections that we can use, to offer their time and talents to this effort.*

Some suggestions have already been put forth by Brothers and their wives that came North with Danny and I – and I welcome each of these. One suggestion was Segway tours around the St. Anthony falls area. I, for example, plan to use my own connections at Historic Fort Snelling to get us behind the scenes tours of the facility – and possibly the same at the Science Museum.

...continued on page 3...

Canadian Visitation... cont. from page 2

We need others that have connections in hospitality, hotels, entertainment, etc. to also step forth. I was told specifically by several individuals that the Mall of America looms large in their minds!

Brothers I am counting on you, don't let me, or this tradition, down. Contact me at Jeremy.Nienow@gmail.com or 651-295-3744 if you have the desire to join me in making the next visitation a memorable one.

Fraternally,

Jeremy Nienow, JW

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, October 10 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Meeting

Thursday, October 24 - FC Degree

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

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



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



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