

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE EAST

“Reflections”

Now that we are entering the second portion of our program year, I've been reflecting a bit on the portion of the year already past with some wistfulness and a lot of pride.

Being somewhat of a perfectionist, I could worry about all of the little things I forgot to do or could have done better, and, to be honest, I've done a bit of that. However, I have an even stronger sense of pride in the things this Lodge has accomplished.

We have already received Grand Master Thomas McCarthy and were praised by members of other Lodges who visited that night about how well we handled the reception. We have had a number of successful social events which those in attendance indicated they greatly enjoyed. Even more importantly, we raised an outstanding group of Master Masons in our Spring Class. None of this could have been possible without the help of all of you.

I have already written several times about the momentum we've created and my wish to carry it forward throughout the remainder of the year. But I'd like for all of us to reflect back on the previous months and recall the great fellowship we've had, the great ritual we've had, and the great camaraderie we've had with other Lodges, and not just those who meet at the Masonic Center on Plato.

I've invited a friend to come for dinner at our September meeting to get to know what a great group of Brothers we have in our Lodge. I would strongly suggest that you consider inviting those friends whom you believe would make good Masons to visit us as well. I would also like to remind all of you to go out of your way to make these visitors feel welcome. The old axiom, “first impressions last the longest” definitely applies to our Lodge. We've obviously done a great job with this in the past, but I'd like to prompt all of us not to forget that we all were once “first-timers” at the Lodge.

See you in Lodge!
Allan Floyd, Master

FROM THE WEST

Looking for the Light and Sharing Its Meanings.

With a couple of meetings under our aprons this past month, we are in full swing with the fall class of candidates and our usual Lodge meeting schedule. The Lodge whole-heartedly welcomes our new Brethren into our Fraternity, and we truly look forward to working with you on your prove-ups and getting you started on your Masonic journey.

The next couple of months will skip by quickly for us all and we will look back at the past year and say, “What happened to the time?” It seems time really does fly when one is having fun. To our new Brothers – hang on and enjoy the ride. It just gets better as you continue your journey.

Tradition Prevailing... For the upcoming year, I am hoping to achieve two major goals; and with the assistance of the Brethren, I believe they are not only worthy, but attainable goals. Goal 1) I would like to open the channels of conversational communication with all of our Lodge Brothers. Goal 2) I would like to see AL 5 reach out into our constituent communities to provide help with local projects and/or events.

Goal #1: We have Brothers who have been initiated, passed, and raised, and for one reason or another, they have not been seen in Lodge for a long time. Or, they were once regular attendees, but for reasons we are not aware of, they are no longer attending, although they pay their dues regularly. There are some great stories awaiting us and new friendships to be mined.

Goal #2: On the day that this article is being written, I had a meeting with our Brother Barnes Sharitt, and he brought out a very salient point about the make-up of our Lodge; we are an *area* Lodge, not a neighborhood Lodge.

From the West continued on page 2



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Is Freemasonry a Charity?

Excerpted and paraphrased from
“Building Our Foundations through Masonic Education”
By Matthew T. Szramoski, 33o
Associate Director of Development, AASR-SJ

That Charity which relieves the necessities and distresses of man, and with open hand gives the suffering and destitute solace and comfort; and which forgives and utters merciful judgment upon the faults and shortcomings of others; believes them better than they seem, and teaches us to judge and to do unto others as we should wish them, and think it right for them to judge and to do unto us... - Albert Pike

We first learn about the importance of charity in the symbolic lodge where we are taught that as Masonic Brethren we should regard Charity as greater than Hope and Faith because it extends “beyond the grave”. In the Master Mason degree we are taught to be charitable to our fellow brethren, their widows and orphans. We should take the role of building our “living Temples” upon a strong foundation of Masonic Charity.

I am sure many of you have been asked by non-Masonic individuals, “Is Freemasonry is a charity?” and, “Is it a service organization?” The answer to both questions is “no.” Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that is philanthropic due to the teachings found in our ritual and philosophy.

Albert Pike said that “charity flows in all directions like the light.” In providing light on charity to all Masons we should emphasize several points:

- All charity should first come the heart.
- Charity is the responsibility of each Mason.
- Charity can be made through financial, volunteer, and other methods.
- All contributions are important.
- Why we give is as important as what we give.
- None of us know if we may one day need charitable assistance.
- We need to know our Lodge, Appendant Order and Grand Body charities and philanthropies.

Are our Brethren aware of the Almoner’s Fund? Do we explain the “why and how” of it? Do our Brethren know how to make a request for assistance if their situation requires it? Too often we ask for charitable support without really giving our brethren light (education) on why they should give. Each Brother should give what he thinks



FROM THE SOUTH

Second Degree

On Thursday, October 28th, we will be having our second Second Degree of the year. I hope each of you will make an extra effort to attend this degree. It is important that we have strong attendance at our degrees to support our candidates and the degree casts.

Now, I know degree nights can get kind of long, and it is easy to decide to attend the degree the next time it is presented; but for the current batch of candidates, this is the only chance they get to go through each degree. It is incumbent on each of us to ensure we turn out in droves to show our support. Think back to your own experience going through the degrees and then imagine how impressive it would have been to see the sidelines filled with people. This is the kind of support I hope to see at our upcoming degrees.

In addition to supporting our candidates, the Second Degree, in particular, contains a large amount of information that can take many, many viewings to fully comprehend. Every time I see this degree, I catch something I had previously missed and am able to learn something new. We each owe it to ourselves to take advantage of the opportunity to learn something new from the upcoming Second Degree and continue to improve ourselves in Masonry.

Keith Reiersen, Junior Warden



From the West continued from page 1

We have active members in Stillwater, Edina, Eagan, Roseville, Saint Paul, South Saint Paul, Fridley (of all places), and dozens of other communities. This presents a myriad of opportunities for AL 5 to reach-out and to help, aid and assist in worthy projects in our communities.

Resolve: I call upon each and every Brother, in the spirit of Brotherhood and Fraternity, to endeavor to start the engines of these two worthwhile efforts. On the one hand, it lets our Brothers know we care; and on the other hand, it displays the beauties of our charitable efforts.

Congratulations to our new Brothers and welcome to AL 5. Take care, One and All. Look to the East!

Fraternally yours,
Brother Drew Bjorklund, Senior Warden



L.E.O. continued

is appropriate for a common goal-to help a member in need. He will not know who is receiving aid, or why, but he will realize that his contribution is part of fulfilling part of his Masonic obligations.

Fraternally submitted,
Art Lingo, LEO

NEXT STATED MEETING

Awards Night at the October Stated Communication.

Thursday October 14, Ancient Landmark is holding its annual Awards Night. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the presentation of awards starts at 7:00 PM.

In addition to the tenure awards, Worshipful Master Allan Floyd will present the Hiram Award to Worshipful Brother Barnes Sharitt. The Hiram Award is presented to a brother as an earned tribute for outstanding service to Freemasonry. Make plans to attend this very special awards night.

RSVP no later than October 12th to the Lodge Secretary or to RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com

Ancient Landmark will confer the Fellow Craft Degree on Thursday, October 28, 2010. Dinner at 6:00 PM and the Work begins promptly at 7:00 PM.



Ancient Landmark's Bunco Night

Ancient Landmark #5 will hold our Fall Bunco Night on Saturday, Oct. 16

Starting at 6:00 p.m. Masons, their ladies and prospective Masons and their ladies are invited. If you've never participated before, here's your chance for a most enjoyable evening of fun, friendship, and great food. We will once again have a buffet supper catered by Tinucci's and, hopefully, delicious rum cake for dessert from our renowned "bakin' bunco babes".

Prizes, in the form of gift certificates, for high score, most buncos, last bunco, low score, and door prize, will be rewarded.

There will be a \$12.00 per person charge to defray the cost of the supper and prizes, but we guarantee you'll have lots of enjoyment for the cost!

Bunco is a great socializing game of chance which is easily learned by first-timers after a couple of practice rounds. There's no strategy involved here, only luck and fun.

Please plan on joining us in this growing tradition for our Lodge; call in your reservation to the lodge by Oct. 8th, and mark your calendar now!



Fall Harvest

This morning I was reading the Minnesota Mason's Old Tyler, when the "light" so-to-speak came on. The article was about a time long ago and how Masons help others in need in their community. It reminded me a few years back of my sister and brother-in-law's struggle with harvest.

My brother-in-law, Tim, is a large grain farmer in Veblen SD, just outside of Sisseton. The last I knew, he was farming over 1500 acres. I know some of his equipment is nearly as big as my house. The story I am about to share took place a few years before Tim's wife and my wife's sister Gail's passing as she battled cancer.

The fall harvest was due, and Gail was at one of her weakest points. Tim and Gail were traveling weekly to the Mayo for Clinical Trials. Their family was stressed, the crops were in field, and all were struggling with life and all of its complexities.

Somehow, the farmers of the area organized and created an old fashion harvest day for Tim & Gail. Tim's neighbors, friends, and others got together and brought all of his crops in on one day! I don't remember all the numbers, but there were multiple combines running in the fields--sometimes as many as five in one field. With multiple semi trucks lined up and filling and running to the elevators to unload, I heard numbers of 70-85 bushel yields. (That's per acre for us city folk) That this was done on Tim's farm is amazing, just by its sheer size. Also amazing is that it was done in one day, while they were 350 miles away, without their knowledge.

Someone was wise enough to "film" the event and everyone attending, including the picnic afterwards. Gail and Tim shared that video and its story at Christmas that year with everyone at the family gathering. There wasn't a dry eye in the place after watching what good people do for others. What a great gift also for each of us that will be never forgotten.

So what did the old Tyler's story remind me of? That this didn't get organized at a church or even the local Farmers Co-op, but at a Local Lodge. I am convinced. You see, Tim's dad was a Mason and Past Master of his Lodge. His mom is the Past Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star. It was done quietly, without fanfare, and was done in true spirit of Masonic Charity. Next time I see his Mom, I am going to ask, but I think like you, I already know the answer.

Doug Kuchera, Secretary
secretary@ancientlandmark5.com



LODGE of SORROW 2010



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Howard Weiss	12/30/1915	03/02/1948	03/31/1948	04/24/1948	01/07/2010
Sidney Pearce	03/11/1925	02/14/1976	03/15/1976	05/01/1976	01/09/2010
John Magnuson	05/06/1924	11/17/1951	11/24/1951	12/01/1951	02/09/2010
Wallace Graves	06/29/1931	01/31/1957	03/17/1958	05/21/1958	04/09/2010



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