

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

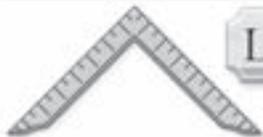


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LOOK TO THE EAST

March Madness and April Fools

At this moment, what I am about to say is timely, but when this is published it will be old news. I recently had the honor and privilege to raise five new Brothers to AL 5. Truth be known, I actually “raised” about twelve Brothers at the One Day to Masonry event on the 15th of January, five of which were our very own Brothers. Our newly raised are: Br. Nick Retzlaff, Br. Ronald Bradley, Br. Louis Stewart, Br. Danny Bickham and Br. Burt Rovner. Each of them expressed that they were quite impressed with the proceedings and that they are proud to be a member of our Lodge. Please seek our new Brothers out at our upcoming meetings and share your experiences with them, so that they might learn about you and our culture here at AL 5. Learn about their experiences and what they do and introduce them to other Brothers so that they may feel welcomed into our Lodge.

Brothers Ron, Nick, Louis, Danny and Burt – WELCOME TO ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE #5! May your experiences within the Lodge be rewarding to you and to the Lodge as well.

Now to more timely subjects; we are now entering the month of March, when our spring class of candidates begins their journey through the degrees. The degree team for the First Degree is under construction and promises to be a stellar class of lecturers, guides and leaders. The support of all of our Brethren is requested – if you haven’t been to Lodge lately, you really owe it to yourself and to the candidates to be with us, to observe and to congratulate them as they take their first big step in the Craft. The First Degree is to be held on the 24th of March. Please let us know by phone or by the Lodge RSVP address that you will be with us (rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com). We hope to see you there.

On another March note – our Stated Meeting of 10 March will be Ladies Night. These events are a highlight and tend to have a larger assemblage of people, notwith-

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FROM THE WEST

First Impressions

On March 24, we will be presenting our first, First Degree of the New Year. It looks like we are going to have a nice group of candidates for the spring degrees, and I’m hoping we can get a good turnout for the First Degree and show our support for these men as they are initiated into our fraternity.

While all the degrees are meaningful and important, the Entered Apprentice degree is arguably the most important of the degrees, as it is the candidate’s first experience in Masonry, and provides a lasting impression of our craft. As a strong and active Lodge, it is my hope that we can impart a sense of our Lodge’s vitality and leave a great first impression in the minds of our candidates, by filling the sidelines with Brothers for the degree. Doing so will help demonstrate to our newly admitted Brothers the importance of this degree, and our desire to support them in their Masonic journey.

Furthermore, I would urge you to seek out and meet our new candidates and make every effort to help them feel welcome and comfortable at our Lodge. I remember my first time down to a Lodge meeting was incredibly intimidating. Everyone else seemed to know each other, and since I didn’t know anyone, I pretty much just stood there feeling awkward for the first few minutes. Fortunately, someone took pity on me and started introducing me around, and pretty soon I was feeling much more at ease. We mustn’t forget that although we may know the other Brothers present, a new candidate or Brother may not, and could feel left out if not introduced and included in our conversations.

With that, I shall proceed to close. I look forward to seeing you all at our next stated meeting, and more especially at the First Degree on March 24th.

Fraternally,
Keith Reiersen
Senior Warden





FROM THE SOUTH

To Travel into Foreign Countries

For the past several years, I've had the good fortune to have been involved in the Ambassador Committee. "Committee" may be too formal a title for it. It was really

just one or two of us (mostly Brother Keith Reiersen) that wanted to visit other Lodges. It grew into something a little more, but the desire to travel was the same. For my part, I just wanted to meet other Masons and get to know them better and to share in the common bond that brings us all together.

My basic assumption was that Masons the world over are pretty much the same: we all share the same commitment to seeking further light and making ourselves better. While I found that this basic assumption is true, I also found that we, as Masons, are also very different. Our Lodges have different strengths and weaknesses. We have different kinds of buildings that we hold our Stated Communications in (some are historic, some are modern). We emphasize different aspects of our work (some promote ritual, some promote fellowship). Even the particular day of the month on which we meet can result in interesting twists: we visited one Lodge that only holds Stated Communications on evenings of the full moon. Sometimes even Lodges that occupy the same building can give you a vastly different experience.

I've met a good number of Masons through these Lodge visitations and learned quite a bit about other Lodges. But I've also learned a great deal about myself and my own Lodge in the process. We have a lot to be proud of at Ancient Landmark #5, but we could also do some things better. To each of you who have the opportunity to visit another Lodge, I highly recommend you take it. Join the Ambassador Committee and help organize a visit. Make connections with some of our Brethren around the state. Even if there are no visitations planned, go on your own. I think you'll find that the reward will be well worth the time and effort.

Joe Amos
Junior Warden



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LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

The Sublime Degree

Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.
Lodge Education Officer

(The data below is from WB Ed Halpaus' weekly column "Mehr Licht! More Light!" for January 24, 2011. WB Ed is the Grand Lodge Educational Officer and publishes this column on a weekly basis. The book, "Freemasons' Guide and Compendium", by Bernard E. Jones, is published in a reprint edition by Cumberland House, Nashville, TN. It is available for \$19.77 or less from Amazon.com. This book is highly recommended by your LEO for your understanding of the philosophy and history of the Craft. – Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.)

Below is something you're likely to find interesting. There has long been a friendly debate about the terms, Sublime Degree of a Master Mason, and Sublime Degree of Master Mason. The following does not settle the discussion, but it does provide some useful knowledge of the degree, and also something to think about. It comes from "Freemasons' Guide and Compendium;" a very good book to have for Masonic learning.

The Sublime Degree of a Master Mason

It is believed that the phrase "the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason" first occurs, in the year 1754, in a certificate drawn up by the Grand Lodge of Ireland, relating to a lodge at Lurgan, No. 134, Irish constitution, and that it was used by another Irish lodge, that of the Royal Scots, No. 11, in 1762.

In England the phrase was used in 1767 by the Lodge of Friendship No. 6, but did not come into general use in lodges under the Premier Grand Lodge until near the end of the eighteenth century; but where we do find it, there we also find as a rule evidence of the 'Antients' influence. In 1760 Thomas Dunckerley, as Master of a lodge held aboard the Vanguard, signed a certificate (the original is in Quebec, a photograph of it in Grand Lodge Library) to the effect that a Fellow Craft "having sustasin'd with Strength, Firmness, and Courage, the most Painful Forks, and Severest Tryalls, we gave unto him the most Sublime Degree of Master."

In Bristol in 1768 a lodge, founded and erased all within the twelve months, gloried in the name of the Sun Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, No. 421, and in the July of its short life its minutes refer to the Sublime of a Master Mason, and, in the month following, to the Sublime degree of a Royal Arch Mason. The St John's Lodge of Henley-in-Arden, which had a few years of existence beginning in 1791, at one time called the Master Mason's Degree 'honourable,' or 'respectable.'

LEO continued on page 5

St. Paul Masonic Center Facility Rentals

On behalf of the Masonic Temple Association of St. Paul, I welcome you to our facility, the home of nineteen Masonic-related organizations.

We invite you to consider our facility as a possible site for your next Masonic-related function.

Chris Buck, MTA President

The following rooms are available for one-time or monthly rental:

Dining Room, 4002 Square Feet

Including chairs, tables, elevated head table, conversational area with living room-style furniture. Seating for 125 people.

Large Lodge Room

3283 Square Feet Plus Choir Loft Plus 1292 Square Foot Stage
Variety of lighting formats. Large set of full-size theatrical backdrops. Public address system with excellent loudspeaker system. New carpet to be installed in first half of 2011.
Suitable for all larger scale degree work gatherings.

Small Lodge Room

1032 Square Feet Suitable for smaller lodge gatherings with permanent perimeter seating.

Kitchen

Available at no additional charge with the rental of any of the above spaces. Includes all eating and serving utensils, full sets of dinnerware, automatic ice machine, commercial-grade refrigerator, freezer, grill, oven, coffee-makers and dishwasher.

Office space

Available on the 2nd floor for monthly rental.

Parking is available in our parking lot adjacent to the Center, both sides of Plato Blvd. after 5:00 PM, across the street at El Toro Restaurant, on the east side in the State of Minnesota Transportation Dept. lot, and on the south side in the lot next to our building.

Discounted prices are always available to Masons and Masonic-concordant bodies!

See building manager, PGM Jerry Rhodes, for more information.

Masonic Temple Association of St. Paul
200 Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55125
651-222-3479
www.mtaonplato.org

standing the fact that wives and partners are in attendance with us. Dinner will be at 6:00 PM, Lodge at 7:00 PM, at which time the Ladies will have their presentation. Please see the article in this newsletter which highlights this event.

AL 5 is in the process of working on planning the upcoming Table Lodge, to be held on 1 April at the Saint Paul Masonic Center. This is when we bid a fond farewell to our Most Worshipful Brother John Cook, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. MWB John has done a stellar job with his governance of the Grand Lodge this year and is as engaging and down-to-earth as any Mason could hope to be. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to meet with our Grand Master in person. Please look for the announcements for this glorious event in upcoming publications.

The Annual Grand Lodge Communication occurs over the weekend of 8 and 9 April. The Principal Officers (Master, Senior and Junior Wardens) are our voting representatives at this important event. All Brothers are encouraged to attend, whether in the Lodge Line or not, to see what the Communication is about and to meet the movers and shakers of the Craft. Look for more information in the MN Mason or you can log in on the Grand Lodge website for registration information.

Take care Brothers. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Fraternally yours,
Drew Bjorklund, WM



LINCOLN CHAPTER

Lincoln Chapter of DeMoley installed their new Master Councilor, Jim Hayward. Jim is going to work on getting old members more involved in the Chapter as well as bringing in new members. We are looking forward to this term and hope to bring a new enthusiasm to the chapter.

Fraternally
WH Rique Beslin Jr



THE SECRETARY'S DESK

It was just about this time a dozen years ago when I was sitting down with my Dad and helping him with the mundane task of mail and bills. Parkinson's had ravaged his body, making it difficult for even walking, let alone opening mail and writing out checks. The disease had taken away the active man that taught me many things, including the finer points of pheasant hunting and fly fishing. Ah, but the mind was sharp as a tack. He could tell you within a few thousand dollars his portfolios' values at any given time. As we were going through that pile of mail, I came across a letter from his Royal Arch Lodge back in Mountain Home. It was a letter to the membership to advise that they may need to close the Lodge as they were in debt and without much hope. They had included a balance sheet for the Lodge. It wasn't all that bad; yes they needed an influx of cash to get things rolling again and to clear their debt, but over all, not bad. I gave the documents to my Dad and asked, "what do you think?" We looked at each other trying to come up with a solution to help them out. Dad looked me and said, "you know your Mom would never have approved of what we are thinking. Are you ok with it?" I laughed and my response was quick: "Hell, Dad you know that when you die I will just take what's left and waste it on some fancy shotgun and a trip somewhere to use it." We both agreed that sending a check to the Lodge just might be a better use of the dollars. I had to write it out, and he signed the best he could. He dictated a letter to me which challenged that Lodge to look to the future and move forward. Dad was far from careless when it came to money. Over years he had accumulated a worthwhile estate and set up a much needed trust to care for my sister. This was just one more thing he could do to help others. My dad didn't see Thanksgiving that year, passing just a few days before his favorite holiday.

The other day I was cleaning out some of my old tax records and came across several lost items I had been searching for years. One was a sympathy card and letter from the Past High Priest of RAM #24 with his condolences. In it, to my surprise, was my Dad's Life Membership card. They had granted it to him for his service and financial support. That letter also included a statement that probably started my journey into Masonry. "Doug I am not clear if you are a Brother Mason. If you are not, you should be!" The other letter was from his good friend Sam who I discovered just a couple years ago was the Past Grand High Priest of Idaho.

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So far as Scotland is concerned, we learn that in the eighteenth century the Third Degree was usually denominated the "High Degree of a Master Mason," but in Lodge Holyrood House, according to R. S. Lindsay's history of the lodge, the degree had among its various designations, between 1776 and 1778, the "Honourable Degree," the "High and Honourable Degree," the "Noble and Honourable Degree," the "Stupendous Degree" (of a Master Mason).

Reference has just been made to a 'respectable' degree. More than one lodge applied to the Third Degree, as also to Master Masons, that old-fashioned adjective, so peculiarly Masonic, so commonly misunderstood. The Candidate is early advised to dedicate himself to such pursuits as may enable him to be 'respectable' in life—that is, he should so comport himself as to earn the esteem and regard of those who 'look upon' him, that being the original meaning of the word 'respect' and the meaning borne by it at the time when the word 'respectable' was brought into the ritual.



NEXT STATED MEETING

Ladies Night – 10 March

Brothers – please invite your wife/partner/better half to the upcoming Ladies Night at AL 5. The program will actually be a hands-on class (as in school), so the women are asked to prepare for this. Our very own Heather Tibbles-Vassilev will teach the art of self defense. Suggested attire for the attendees is comfortable clothes (but not sweats) and shoes. Heels are not recommended, although stocking feet would be fine if tennis shoes do not coordinate with the Gucci work-out clothes that your lady wears.

Dinner is at 6:00 PM. The Brothers will depart for the lodge room at 7:00 PM, and the ladies will remain in the dining room for the class. Dinner is catered, and the cost is \$8.00 per person. Please RSVP at rsvp@ancientlandmark5.com.



Save the date...

...of Friday April 1 2011 for the joint table Lodge honoring, Most Worshipful Grand Master John Cook.

Social hour will begin at 530 pm with Dinner at 630 pm. Tickets will be \$25.00 and will be of limited quantity.

In his letter he spoke of my Dad's ritual work that few ever matched. I was so proud of him just reading those again and now knowing what it all really meant. I couldn't help but grin from ear to ear, though, when I read my final missing treasure. It was the last birthday card he had given me. In it he had scratched out, "here is a check. I hope its enough to buy a cleaning rod for that fancy shotgun you want". Well that check was for a bit more than a cleaning rod. In fact, it was enough for me to order a fine custom side by side built to my specifications. It is hard not to think of Dad when I enter the field or when I come to Lodge.

Doug Kuchera
Lodge Secretary



Entered Apprentice Degree

Brethren, please join us for the presentation of the Entered Apprentice Degree on Thursday March 24, 2011. The officers and lecturers have worked hard to make this night something the candidates will remember forever. Please be a part of those memories.

Dinner 6:00 PM Gavel 7:00 PM



Scholarships 2011

Ancient Landmark is again please to be able to offer several scholarships to individuals seeking to continue their secondary and post secondary education. Please send your request for consideration in writing to the Lodge secretary no later than March 15th 2011.



Brethren, we have learned from the latest grand Lodge reports that we need to report on two Brothers that have passed onto the Celestial Lodge.

Life Member Brother William Proetz was born on October 3,1913. Initiated 1/15/57; Passed 2/19/57 and Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on March 9,1957 and past into the Celestial Lodge January 19,2009.

Brother Robert Theirs was born on August 29,1928, Initiated 12/20/51; Passed 02/21/52 and Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on March 22,1952 and past to the Celestial Lodge December 11,2010

LODGE of SORROW 2011



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

Name	Birth	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Celestial Lodge
Isadore Kanevsky	11/21/1920	4/2/1958	5/1/1958	5/21/1958	2/3/2011

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