

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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LOOK TO THE EAST

Are We There Yet?

Those of us who have kids have been bludgeoned with this refrain from our children when traveling more than five minutes from the home. We perhaps were guilty of this when WE were young and impatient. Our parents probably smile each time we pack our kids up for a trip. Are we getting our just rewards for past indiscretions?

Are we there yet?, I ask. We, as Masons, are all on a journey to find light in Masonry; to become infused with the tenets of Masonry and to carry this into the world. With this article, I am asking the question on another level. Actually, I am asking this at the quarter-point of my year as Master of the Lodge to see if we are achieving any of the goals and objectives that I charted before I took my oath of office. Where are we heading, you might ask, then we can see if progress is being made. Okay – here it is...

The Goals and Plan – update:

* The 2011 goals called for attendance at our meetings to be 45 to 50 members. Not quite there yet. How do we get there? Call a Brother and bring him to Lodge.

* We stated we would raise 15 to 20 Masons this year. Thus far, we have raised five Brothers and have a class of six that we are bringing through the degrees. Good start – we are well on the way to achieving this goal.

* Getting more of the members involved in the Lodge events, degree work, mentoring, fundraising, etc. Thus far we seem to be doing well, and we have Brothers coming forward asking to get involved. We have a LEO committee, which is engaging many of the Brothers in research and presentation of papers. We also have a new membership enrichment committee, headed by Jason Crespino and Dave Roussopolous, and it is moving along nicely.

* We have a new scholarship this year for worthy ROTC candidates at the University of St. Thomas. The requirements for this scholarship are that the candidate exhibit a strong balance between body, mind and spirit. The administration of the ROTC program is REALLY very excited about this.

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FROM THE WEST

Brotherhood

As I prepare to set out to work at the Grand Master's combined table lodge this evening, I wanted to quickly share with you some thoughts about Masonic Brotherhood and teamwork. I have had the opportunity to work on a five-lodge committee to help plan tonight's event. While we have definitely had our share of challenges, I have found the experience as a whole to be a wonderful example of fraternity and brotherhood.

I went into this task knowing each of the other members on the committee, but over the last several months, I have been able to foster very good relationships with several of the other members. These men are no longer just my Brothers, but good friends, whom I have come to rely upon for counsel and support.

The moral of my story is that Masonry often presents us with opportunities to get involved that may appear on the surface to be a lot of work with little payoff, but I can assure you that working with Brothers has a lifelong payoff of friendship and brotherhood. Working together on Masonic events, ritual, or projects gives us more of a chance to really get to know each other and build strong and long lasting bonds, which can never be broken.

So, when the opportunity to work together as Brothers is offered to you, I certainly hope you will seriously consider participating. The benefits might not be instantly clear, but the relationships you build along the way will be more than worth the effort.

Keither Reierson
Senior Warden





FROM THE SOUTH

Masonic Light?

I come across interesting bits of information every so often. The facts range from bizarre to mundane, but they always make me think and sometimes they challenge my beliefs about the world. Consider these facts: Reno, Nevada is actually farther west than Los Angeles, California. Calvin Coolidge is the only U.S. President born on the 4th of July, but three Presidents, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Monroe, died on Independence Day. Adams and Jefferson actually died on the same day: July 4, 1826. In Omyakon, Russia, the record high temperature for the month of January is 2 degrees Fahrenheit. That's the record high folks...the warmest it's ever been there in recorded history for the entire month. The daily mean January temperature for the same locale is 51 degrees below zero. What important event took place in the American colonies on September 5th, 1752? Nothing: the day never existed. When the British Empire switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, it was necessary to skip ahead 11 days to bring the realm into line with everyone else using the calendar. Thus, Wednesday September 2nd, 1752 was followed by Thursday September 14th, 1752. Although the words to the "Star-Spangled Banner" came from a poem by Francis Scott Key, the music itself came from a British song called "To Anacreon in Heaven". The shapes of our numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) came from Arabic and are formally called, not surprisingly, Arabic numerals. Interestingly, modern Arabic uses numbers it borrowed from scripts in India. Finally, our dear letter G, the seventh letter of the Latin alphabet, was reported by Plutarch to have been invented by a Roman named Spurius Carvilius Ruga, who supposedly wanted to distinguish the different sounds then represented by the Latin letter C. How accurate was Plutarch? The modern English equivalent of the word spurious means "not authentic or true". Who can say?

The reason I bring these random, unconnected bits of trivia up is because I'm always amazed by what I pick up without really doing anything. The true amazement, however, comes from what I learn from even a small increase in effort. This is especially true of the effort I expend in coming to Lodge. I always learn something new every time I hear a lecture or watch some part of the ritual or even engage a fellow Brother in conversation. The lessons our Craft tries to impart are numerous and difficult to grasp at a single setting and our brethren have a vast array of experiences to share. It's much better to come back again and again. So come on down and, as, Tom Bodett used to say, "We'll leave the light on for you."

Joe Amos
Junior Warden



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

This the conclusion of WB Ed Halpaus' article from the April issue. This month we read correspondence between our two esteemed Brothers, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin.

(The data below is from WB Ed Halpaus' weekly column "Mehr Licht! More Light!" for February 24, 2011. WB Ed is the Grand Lodge Educational Officer and publishes this column on a weekly basis. While Washington's Birthday is past, it may be profitable for us to consider once again the impact of these two eminent brothers. – Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.)

Rather than write something new about him here, (as if one could,) I would like to share something with you that I have in a rare book. [2] These are letters from Brother Benjamin Franklin to Brother George Washington and Brother Washington's letter in return to Brother Franklin.

These letters demonstrate the affection these two Masons had for each other, as well as the patriotism both had for their country. The United States owes a lot to these two men, and as Masons we can all be proud of all they did for freedom.

To: George Washington from Benjamin Franklin. Philadelphia, 16 September, 1789.

"Dear Sir;

My malady renders my sitting up to write rather painful to me; but I cannot let my son-in-law, Mr. Bache, part for New York, without congratulating you by him on the recovery of your health, so precious to us all, and on the growing strength of our new government under your administration. For my own personal ease, I should have died two years ago; though those years have been spent in excruciating pain, I am pleased that I have lived them, since they have brought me to see our present situation. I am now finishing my eighty-fourth year, and probably with it my career in this life; but in whatever state of existence I am placed in hereafter, if I retain any memory of what has passed here, I shall with it retain the esteem, respect, and affection, with which I have long been, my dear friend, yours most sincerely.

B. Franklin."

From George Washington to Benjamin Franklin. New York, 23 September, 1789.

"Dear Sir,

The affectionate congratulations on the recovery of my health, and the warm expressions of personal friendship, which were contained in your letter of the 16th instant, claim my gratitude. And the consideration, that it was written when

you were afflicted with a painful malady, greatly increases my obligation for it.

Would to God, my dear Sir, that I could congratulate you upon the removal of that excruciating pain, under which you labor, and that your existence might close with as much ease to yourself, as its continuance has been beneficial to our country and useful to mankind; or, if the united wishes of a free people, joined with the earnest prayers of every friend to science and humanity, could relieve the body from pains or infirmities, that you could claim an exemption on this score. But this cannot be, and you have within yourself the only resource to which we can confidently apply for relief, a philosophic mind.

If to be venerated for benevolence, if to be admired for talents, if to be esteemed for patriotism, if to be beloved for philanthropy, can gratify the human mind, you must have the pleasing consolation to know, that you have not lived in vain. And I flatter myself that it will not be ranked among the least grateful occurrences of your life to be assured, that, so long as I retain my memory, you will be recollected with respect, veneration, and affection by your sincere friend,

George Washington.”

[1] A Daily Advancement in Masonic Knowledge, Published by the Masonic Book Club. P.O. Box 1563 Bloomington, IL 61702-1563

[2] The Works of Franklin, Vol. X by Jared Sparks

CANADIAN LODGE VISITATION

Starting in 1956, our Ancient Landmark Lodge #5 and Ancient Landmark Lodge #3 of Winnipeg, have met every other year, sharing stories, brotherly love and friendship. The tradition will continue this year with the Visitation of a busload of AL 3 Lodge members, accompanied by their significant others.

Worshipful Master Drew and the Visitation Committee, invite all AL 5 members and THEIR significant other, to a weekend of fun, good food, great hospitality and wonderful friendships. The event is scheduled for Labor Day weekend, when the Canadians will disembark at our Visitation venue, the Crowne Plaza Hotel, on Friday September 2nd. From that moment on until early the morning of Monday the 5th, we will have time to get to know our Brethren from Canada, and get to know one another, as we take part in sporting events, tours of our fair community, and share meals together.

Mark your calendars for the Labor Day weekend. We can all but promise that you will have a great time, learn something about our neighbors to the north, and make new friendships that will last a lifetime.

Remember – YOU ARE ALL INVITED. Let no one hold back. We will ensure there is room for everyone!



“Just Cause”

More than just a few years ago--when my children were quite young—we, as parents decided that it would be good to establish some values about giving to others. It was the Holiday Season, and as our children were the only two grandchildren on both sides of the family, it would not be ridiculous to say they were overindulged a bit. My wife and I decided we would “adopt a family” to help someone else have a better little better Holiday Season.

A charity was contacted, and soon our family was selected for us. Interestingly enough, this family included a single mom, a boy about our son’s age, and a little girl, also in the same age bracket. The charity gave us the Mom’s and the kids’ first names, and their wish lists. We made it a family event. Each child shopped for gifts for the other child. It was amazing watching our children select with care gifts you would have thought were going to their best friends. Linda and I found things for the mother that were also helpful to us at the time, Back then, gift cards for food didn’t exist, so you carefully planned out the meal and purchased it the day of delivery. That holiday was pretty remarkable. The children enjoyed the adventure of helping others and hopefully learning a small lesson besides. I remember that Holiday morning as my own children sat among the cornucopia of gifts, when my youngest asked, “Do you think they liked their presents?” Well, we would probably never know, but all had a good hunch they did.

Later that week, we were watching the news when a tragic story about a family on the west side whose home had burned .One of the children was severely burned; the other had lost his life, As they showed the scene of fire, you could see the remnants of Christmas gifts strewn about the yard by the Fire Department. Just then, we spotted the Tiny Tikes toy my daughter had so carefully picked out for her “adopted sister” The more we looked and took inventory, the more we knew without asking this was our family. The emotions we felt that day and for the weeks that followed were heart-wrenching. We quietly behind-the-scenes helped this family by raising some money and getting it into their hands anonymously.

I think each of us that year received one of the greatest gifts we ever could have received, although the event

Secretary’s Desk continued on page 4

was accompanied by tragedy. It gave us all a tradition that continues to this day. Nowadays, our adoption process is handled in my office. It's a great team building experience to see it all come together. It's really fun to see my conference room table filled with gifts and the gang getting together to wrap and laugh and enjoy the goodwill it brings.

Ok good story, but now the question you are asking is where is he going with this?

As your Secretary, I have the great fortune to meet most of our candidates long before you hear their names. The one common thread I hear over and over from candidates is, "I want to be a Mason to help others." Next, comes the question, "What is the Lodge doing in the community for others?" It always makes me pause and think, "What are we really doing?" I explain our scholarship program, Women's shelter, Boy Scouts, and a few other donations we make. I always go on and explain the Masonic Charities and The Cancer Center, at which point I am universally asked about the Shrine's Children's Hospital. As I hand a petition to the candidate, his question always continues to loom with me. Yes, we probably do write out a few more checks than most, but the question is still there. What could we as Mason give in talent and time to our community as a Lodge? How can we help others, and could we, the Brothers of Ancient Landmark, have a "just cause" to support and work towards?

Doug Kuchera

Secretary

secretary@ancientlandmark5.com



NEXT STATED MEETING

Thursday May 12, 2011

Dinner at 6:00 PM

Sound of the gavel at 7:00 PM

Looking Ahead

Master Mason's Degree - Saturday June 4, 2011

June Stated Communication - Thursday June 9, 2011

BBQ at Boots and Ron Larson's - Saturday July 9,
2011

* We don't have a new member orientation program yet. But there is time yet

* We just instituted and conducted our first degree roundtable with our Spring class. This went well, and will continue through the Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees.

* There is a critical need for a new Lodge directory. It would really be splendid to get the names of significant others and maybe even photos of the members. There is an opportunity here for some Brothers to get involved.

* We are mentoring candidates in a fashion, but not in a fully developed program. Again – there are plenty of opportunities here for Brothers to help organize the materials and to work with the new Brothers.

* We could really benefit by having a structured Communications Committee, one that would make sure we are getting the word out about events and opportunities within the Lodge. They would ensure that our events are adequately documented and this shared with the Grand Lodge PR committee for publication in the Minnesota Mason and/or on the Grand Lodge website.

Are we there yet? Nope. Be patient, Worshipful Master. Progress is being made and the craft is working well together, thanks to the officers of the Line and, also, thanks to the membership at large.

Take care, Brothers. To those who are engaged - thanks for your efforts. To those on the sidelines, maybe mulling over what they might do – jump in and get involved. There are many and varied opportunities for your involvement, and your skills are just what the Master ordered.

Fraternally yours,

Drew C. Bjorklund

Master



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Dear Masonic Lodge Members,

We are writing on behalf of Huron District of Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America. Huron District is sponsored solely by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota to specifically serve the inner city youth of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Huron District provides access to scouting programs for low income, at-risk, and socially challenged families. Through these programs, we work to bring families together to teach leadership skills and promote healthy parent-child relationships through safe, constructive activities.

Currently, Huron District serves more than 1600 youth in grades second to twelfth. Through these programs we provide the opportunity for all children regardless of circumstance or need to participate in scouting programs. We are asking for your help in order to provide these children with the opportunity to attend Base Camp for a day; attend day camp at our local Council Camps including Sterns, Phillippe and Rum River Scout Reservations; or to attend a week of resident camp. These are opportunities and experiences that will help these children build a sense of community and belonging that many are unable to experience at home.

“Friends of Scouting” is our annual campaign which enables us to impact the lives of inner city children. The Friends of Scouting campaign not only sustains our services to current Scouts through schools and parks, but also allows us to extend the Scouting program to youth that have not yet had the opportunity to join. We are asking for your help to ensure that this important program continues to serve the needs of inner-city youth.

Please consider making a gift of \$50, \$100, \$225 or more, to help support one Scout during 2011. A committee of Master Masons headed by Tom Ewing and Rich Dohrmann work with our Council Staff to support this partnership of Masons and Scouts. All gifts received from you or your Lodge by June 1, 2011 will be matched by the Minnesota Masonic Charities. I have enclosed a pledge form for your convenience. Please feel free to call me at 763-231-7237 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and God Bless.

If paying by check please make payable to the order of Northern Star Council.

Yours in Scouting,

Rich Dohrmann
Friends of Scouting Chair
Northern Star Council, BA

Cheryl Miller
Huron District Executive
Northern Star Council, BSA

Brethren of Ancient Landmark, if you would like to contribute please get your check to the Lodge by May 24th. Ancient Landmark will match donations up to \$500 cumulative. The Grand Lodge will then match the total donation. What a great way to make a small contribution large with matching funds.

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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