

# ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

## Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

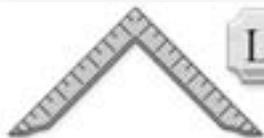


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### LOOK TO THE EAST

#### On Brotherhood and Brothers

##### *Brotherhood*

At the time of this writing, we are just about ready to have our first Stated Meeting for the second half of our Lodge year and yet we have already started off the period with a bang. We have just hosted our Brothers and significant others from AL #3 in Winnipeg for the bi-annual Visitation between our two Lodges. Festivities commenced on Friday evening when the Canadians arrived by bus, and concluded on Monday morning when we bid our fond farewells. The turn-out was really quite remarkable throughout the event, with over 70 people registered for the weekend's festivities and over 85 people at the Saturday evening banquet.

On Saturday, 3 September, we held a Special Communication with the Brothers of AL #3, the first such meeting between our respective Lodges in many years. In the meeting we shared the commonalities of our ritual, and then MWB Ted Jones (Winnipeg) explained some of the differences between our "American" ritual and the "Canadian" ritual. After all was said and done, the Brothers agreed that the meeting was not a "meeting" as much as it was a sharing of cultures.

"Island Night" on Sunday evening, was a big hit with one and all; the evening featured beach pictures, "island" music, exotic hors d'oeuvres, the transferring of the traveling plaque, singing of the obligatory "Auld Lang Syne", and of course, lots of laughter and hugs.

There were tears and a bit of sorrow at the parting of our good friends from Winnipeg, but always in the back of our minds is the next gathering, which will occur in Winnipeg in 2013. Be on the look-out for information on this in the next year or two and make it a date; Labor Day weekend, 2013, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Be there, or be out of plumb.

##### *Brothers*

Those of you who receive notices from the Lodge by email know of the appeal that was sent out to the membership of a Brother-in-need. One of our Brothers, who was ret-

Look to the East continued on page 3



### FROM THE WEST

#### The Relaxing Characteristics of Lodge

I'm sure you all know by now that I'm a bit of a golfer. During the summer months, while others are working on their yard or enjoying a weekend away at the cabin, I am down at the golf course. I typically play somewhere between 54 and 72 holes per week, and while I'm certainly not good, I can usually hold my own on the course.

Unfortunately, over the last couple of weeks I have hit a pretty serious slump in my golf game. Where I would normally be shooting in the low 80's, my average score in the last week has been a whopping 94. Needless to say, things haven't been going so well for me on the golf course. Golf is funny like that (not funny in the humorous sense, just funny like odd). Some days I go out and can do no wrong on the course, and other days I just can't catch a break.

Knowing that the game of golf is full of ups and downs, I'm not generally one to get terribly bent out of shape if I happen to have a bad round here and there, but I have to admit that I was angry, frustrated and just plain defeated after my rounds this past weekend. In fact, it was so bad, that as I was leaving the course, there was a moment when I was seriously considering giving up on the game all together.

Fortunately, that was the same day as our Canadian Visitation joint lodge meeting. I was pretty wound up when I arrived at the Lodge, but by the time I got into the Lodge room and started to tie on my apron, my anger and frustration had begun to recede. For me, those few minutes just before the gavel drops on a Lodge meeting are an interesting mix of excitement and calm. There is always a flurry of last minute items needing to be discussed to ensure we are ready to proceed; yet at the same time, my mind begins to unwind and prepare for the up-coming work.

In general, I find Lodge to be an incredibly relaxing activity. It is a place where I can go to escape the every day frustrations of life. In Lodge I don't have to worry about work, school, or the always dreaded "to do" lists. I can just go in, focus on my portion of the ritual, and enjoy the experi-

From the West continued on page 4.



## FROM THE SOUTH

### Challenges

I once knew a fellow who couldn't resist a challenge, no matter how large. Hank (not his real name) and I were both Marines serving aboard a ship and were three months into a seven-month "cruise." We hadn't seen a port in almost a month and were bored out of our minds. I came upon Hank and a few others one day on the mess decks going through the motions of eating their chow. I joined them and off-handedly suggested that they try the condiments to spice up the fare (the Navy had helpfully placed large bottles of soy sauce, Tabasco, and little yellow peppers on every table). One of my mess mates remarked that all the condiments combined wouldn't make the food any better. Suddenly I tasted a challenge. I looked directly at Hank and said, "Nobody could consume all of those condiments without throwing up, not even for \$100."

Ten minutes later, we were in the cavernous sleeping quarters we shared with 200 other Marines. Somehow the soy, Tabasco, and peppers had followed us. I quickly rounded up contributions and a large crowd of stir-crazy jarheads. Meanwhile Hank formed his plan: he would drink the Tabasco first, then eat the peppers and finally wash it all down with the soy sauce. Hank poured the Tabasco into a large cup and then it dawned on him what he was about to do. He balked. He stared down into the cup as if he were looking into the abyss. He looked around for a way out but found only the crowd cheering him on. So Hank started drinking.

After gulping half of the Tabasco, Hank jerked the cup down. He was gasping for air and had a wild look about him like he didn't know where he was anymore. Tears flowed down his bright red face. He was whipped and he knew it. Sensing defeat, the mob roared louder. Instead of quitting, Hank slowly grabbed the cup, gritted his teeth, and fought the cup up to his mouth.

At some point, all of us undertake a part in our ritual work, whether it's for a prove-up, a lecture or as a line officer. But sometimes we forget how hard it is to memorize something, especially when we first started out. As we begin a new degree cycle this fall, the need for mentors is great. Even if you don't see yourself as a ritualist, you can help by being there for our newest Brothers. At the moment of truth, Hank would've backed out of his silly dare. No amount of money would've been enough. What kept him going was the crowd. While I doubt our newest candidates will compare their prove-ups to a tall glass of Tabasco, they will certainly appreciate you being there to encourage them. And that could make all the difference.

Joe Amos, Junior Warden



## LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Barnes A. Sharitt, Jr.

The accompanying article was published by WB Ed Halpaus on Apr. 1, 2011 in his column "Old LEO Letters and Talks." WB Ed is the Junior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge AF&AM of Minnesota. It is with his permission that this column is printed below. I had the pleasure of toiling in the Masonic fields with MWB Rod Larson. It is with thankfulness and pleasure that the following article is shared with you.

"Every now and again a question comes up regarding ritual and where it came from. Recently it came up again and as a result I went looking for a paper written quite a while ago by our late Brother, M.W. Brother Rod Larson. Rod was a very good Masonic Student and consequently he was quite knowledgeable about things Masonic. He was deeply involved with Masonic Education through his Lodge and the Grand Lodge. I always enjoyed visiting with him, and I always learned something because of my associations with him. He wasn't a young man when he died, but he did die too young in my opinion. Many of us wish he was still around. He was the kind of man anyone was happy to meet and get to know.

He wrote some fine articles on Masonry, and he was kind enough to share a few with me, (I wish I had more,) and one of them I published for him in T.F.S. back in February of 2005 – it's on the ritual of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, I'm certain you will enjoy reading it again – or for the first time. – Ed

"Masonry is worth investigation by the scientific mind; but if it contains nothing more than is expressed in the catechism of the day, if that is all there is in the system, it is not worth the attention of thinking men." A.T.C. Pierson, PGM of Minnesota

### *Origins of the Minnesota Ritual*

by M.W. Brother Rod Larson, PGM

In Minnesota until recent times we had the two handwritten copies of the ritual as presented to the Grand Lodge annual communication in 1863. A friend who had been chairman of the board of custodians told me that he had one of the copies when he was the chair and he trashed it when he was done. Duane Anderson told me that he had the other copy, but it could not be found when he died. Here is a paper that I wrote concerning "our ritual."

### *Background*

The Minnesota ritual is of the form termed "The Preston-Webb Work." William Preston (1742-1818), an Englishman, devoted much of his Masonic life to the study and perfection of the Masonic lectures. Preston "invented" nothing new ... he just took what existed and wrote it down into

an organized fashion. However, his works were too long for most Masons

Thomas Smith Webb (1771-1819), an American, took Preston's lectures and added memorization aids, like the Master's Carpet. But he also shortened the work, somewhat.

In 1841 the Grand Lodge of Alabama had called for a General Masonic Conference (which was held in March, 1842) in order to come up with a "uniform work." This meeting became known as the Baltimore Convention.

John Barney was the most preeminent student of Preston-Webb, and worked as the "Lecturing Master" for the GL of Vermont. He later moved to Ohio, and was named Grand Lecturer of Ohio. The Baltimore Convention turned out a set of work called the Trestle-Board (or the Baltimore Work) which Barney used in his lectures in New York, Ohio, Michigan, Vermont, Connecticut, etc. [Ron Blaisdell, PM, MPS-Life Capital of Strict Observance No. 66 Grand Lodge F&AM of Michigan (<http://www.gl-mi.org/>)]

#### *The Conservators*

Rob Morris, PGM of Kentucky, disagreed with the product of the Baltimore Convention and tried to remove the Trestle-Board as a "fraud" and have Grand Lodges revert to his lectures.

Rob Morris created a group he called the Conservators whose purpose was to disseminate what he considered to be the "True" form of the Preston-Webb work. It was scheduled to exist from 1860 to 1865. The Conservators were assigned in each jurisdiction and were authorized, by Morris, to sell their services to lodges for the purpose of teaching the Morris form of the Preston-Webb work. To assist the Conservators, Rob Morris had produced a unique ritual cipher which was contained in two books, called the Mnemonics and the Spelling Book.

There was much opposition to the Conservators attempts to introduce a uniform ritual in the United States, including Minnesota, and the subject was discussed at the Conference of Grand Masters.

#### *Early Attitude about Uniformity in Minnesota*

When the Grand Lodge of Minnesota was formed; each lodge was free to use whatever ritual the members were familiar with. This practice was approved by the Grand Lodge. In 1861, A.T.C. Pierson's 6th year as Grand Master, he addressed the Grand Lodge on this issue, saying:

"... too little attention is paid in our lodges and by our members, to 'The Charges of a Free Mason'"

"Learning the Lectures does not make a Mason any more than committing to memory the whole bible would make a practical Christian, without acts. It is practical Masonry and Masons that we want, men that live Masonry ... Brethren, in all the years that I have been honored with this high position, by your partiality, I have not sought to have my name associated with any Ritual, but have sought

incident to appeal for help, finally succumbed to the pressures of legal action and requested assistance from the Lodge. The appeal was not only considered to be worthy, but urgent as well, and many of our Brothers responded with cash, checks, and pledges of support. As of this writing, we raised over \$1,500, and may receive additional funds as time goes on. The Brothers that responded indicated that they took their Masonic obligations very seriously; some are unemployed, and others were close to the same predicament as our needy Brother. None-the-less, they felt that they wanted to help---that they NEEDED to help; and help they did.

On behalf of our Brother-in-need, and as Master of our venerable Lodge, I want to thank all of the Brothers for contributing to the Almoner's Fund – Brother in need. I am proud of all of you, and our Brother is so very grateful for your support!

Take care my Brothers. We have had a great year to date and we have even more work yet to do. We hope to see you in Lodge!

Fraternally yours,

Drew C. Bjorklund, Master

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### **Bunco Night – 15 October 2011**

One of the favorite events of the Fall is our Bunco Night at the Lodge. Hosted by the Lodge and conducted by a new-un-named Bunco Babe and her side-kick, Bunco Bob, this event is always a highlight and provides one and all a chance to meet socially, as opposed to ritually.

We will begin the evening at 6:00 PM with a wonderful catered dinner. The "action" will commence around 7:00 PM when the first bell will toll. Watch-out for the fuzzy dice as it is tossed from one end of the room to the other as the lucky players yell, "BUNCO".

The evening will feature the always anticipated line of desserts at "half-time" and at the end of it all will be the award of prizes. Since Bunco is NOT a game of skill, everyone has a chance at the prizes. Prizes are awarded to the high score, the low score, the most Bunco's and the last Bunco. Bad jokes, while garnering a few chuckles, maybe, will win little more than groan with a possible glance to the ceiling.

All are welcome. Guests are especially welcome. Bring your significant other and perhaps consider bringing a potential candidate for membership in the Lodge. This is a GREAT way to meet our Lodge family and to introduce them to Masonry.

The cost is: \$12.00 Please be sure to RSVP for the event. You may RSVP in two ways:

- email: [RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com](mailto:RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com)
- Phone: 651-222-2643

IMPORTANT NOTE: State who you are, that you are making a reservation for (how many people), and that your reservation is for the "Bunco Night on 15 October".

See you all then!



The 4th Annual Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 Golf Tournament was held on August 13 at Lost Spur Golf Course in Eagan. In a scramble format, the winning team posted a score of four under par (30) for the nine-hole tournament. Lunch was served after the match at Lost Spur. Pictured is the winning team of WM Drew Bjorklund, Bro. Rique Beslin, Barb "Shooter" Meisner, and PM Art Lingo.



*L.E.O. continued from page 3*

to inculcate the true teachings of our mystic association, to generate in the minds of the Brethren a love for the Order, . . . Whether the words 'Doors or Gates,' 'Fords or Passes,' 'In or At,' 'Of or The,' were used, has not troubled me." [Proceedings of the 1861 Annual Communication]

#### *Minnesota Takes a Stand Against the Conservators*

In August 1861 M.W.G.M. Pierson issued a circular to all the lodges warning them against the "Conservators of Symbolic Masonry." He asserted that they were violating the Ancient Landmarks, infringing upon the sovereignty of the Grand Lodges, and attempting to subvert the principles of Masonry.

In the report of the committee assigned to consider the issue it was stated: "Forms of words may differ." "Resolved, That the lodges in this State are hereby prohibited from receiving the Masonic Work, Ritual, or Lectures, from any other than the constituted authorities of this jurisdiction."

Later in this annual communication a resolution was passed establishing a Committee on Ritual, to consist of five members who would report back at the next annual communication.

*LEO Continued next month.*

Minnesota Masons agree to a standard Ritual

## Hiram Award Presentation

### 13 October 2011

In March of this year, the Master commissioned a group of past Hiram Award recipients to review the aspects of the Hiram Award and to prepare a list of Brothers that they deemed worthy of this distinction. In May the committee assembled with the Master to share their thoughts and to present names of our Lodge Brothers whom they felt should be considered for the award. While there was no black smoke billowing out of the Lodge office during the voting, the committee did go through several rounds of voting to narrow-down to the final worthy Brother, the one who should receive the award.

Past Master and current Treasurer Alan Peterson was the ultimate choice of the committee and has been alerted to this decision. He is humbled and is probably still shaking his head, even though he was notified in early August of the decision. WB Alan will be presented with the Hiram Award in Lodge on the 13th of October. The event will be "open"; WB Alan will invite several family members, and the membership is encouraged to bring their significant other to the event.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. The presentation will take place at the end of dinner and a time for dessert and fellowship will follow the presentation.

Please RSVP to the Lodge, NLT 3 October of your intent to attend this dinner meeting. You may RSVP in the following manner:

- email: [RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com](mailto:RSVP@ancientlandmark5.com)
- Phone: 651-222-2643

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** State who you are, that you are making a reservation for (how many people), and that your reservation is for the "Hiram Award Night on 13 October". See you all then!



*From the West continued from page 1.*

ence-- How wonderfully refreshing. It certainly worked this past weekend to help pull me from my golf-induced funk, and now I can hardly wait for the next stated meeting, so I can get an hour's worth of respite from the frantic pace of life that Fall inevitably brings.

Fraternally,  
Keith Reiersen, Senior Warden

## DUE NOTICE

Annual Dues Notices will be arriving shortly. Please take moment when you receive it to write your check and mail it in as soon as possible.

## **Ancient Landmark Lodge is having its first Sporting Clay Shoot.**

**Friday October 7th at 3 pm.**

Yes it's more than just a great reason to leave work early on Friday.

It will be held at the area's premier shooting club, The Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club in Prior Lake. The Horse and Hunt Club is one of the nation's leading sporting clays clubs, only the second such course established in the nation back in 1986. It has been host to multiple national events and now you have the opportunity to be a guest shooter for your Lodge.

We will be shooting a fifty round clays course in groups of three or four depending on our number that sign up for this event. Afterwards we will retire to Triggers for their manly signature burger that only Triggers can provide. The cost of the event will be \$30 which will include your Sporting Clays round and dinner. You will need two boxes of shells trap load or similar lighter load, ear protection and a shotgun capable of firing two rounds without reloading. Guns will be available for rent on limited bases for \$10 each. (please advise if rental is necessary when reserving your spot)

If you have never shot sporting clays, think of it as a golf round with guns and you get to blow things up. Its great fun, an amazing challenge for both the seasoned shooter and the occasional, "Hey I should do that," guy.

Reservations are on a first come bases and are required!!! No Later than Oct 5th. A confirmation of your Reservation will be sent.

You may reserve by calling the Lodge office or by sending an email to the lodge.

Payment will be collected on the day of the shoot payable to your Lodge.

For directions and more information on the club follow the link below;

[www.horseandhunt.com](http://www.horseandhunt.com)

Doug Kuchera, Secretary

651-222-2643

[secretary@ancientlandmark5..com](mailto:secretary@ancientlandmark5..com)

## **NEXT STATED MEETING**

### **Stated Communciation**

Thursday, October 13, 2011  
Dinner at 6:00, Meeting at 7:00

### **Entered Apprentice Degree**

Thursday, October 27, 2011  
Dinner at 6:00, Meeting at 7:00



### **Let Your Wishes Be Known**

I receive today in the mail a little sticker that simply states, "remove from mailing list--deceased." Wow! That hit home for me. Although I never met him, this man's life means more to me than that note and the message it bore.

I quickly find that this Brother had answered a higher roll call back in February. What saddens me, though, is not just his passing, but that we had no knowledge of it. I find his Obit, and it contains no information about his Masonic ties. We can't send flowers or a simple card of heartfelt condolences. Why? We just didn't know.

This Brother was a 60+ year member and was current on his dues. I know of many a Brother who continues to pay dues, not just because of his obligations, but because he wishes to have Masonic Rites preformed at his passing. Although this Brotherhood came about through a merger of his bygone Lodge, he was a most important member of ours. Maybe the family felt disconnected from us because we weren't his original Lodge. Just maybe he felt that way too. If we leave any Brother believing this is not his Lodge, shame on us. Speak to us today so we may reach out to you personally.

Just maybe this grieving family expected us to somehow know of his passing and to be there for them. We were not. Also could it be that family resides in a different state and feels there was nothing that we could do. We know that not to be true. If I recall correctly, since being Secretary we have preformed three Rites as courtesies to Lodges for departed Brothers from other states.

Brothers, this is a plea to each of you. Please let your wishes be known--not just to your spouse, but to your children and your Masonic Brothers. Let family and Brothers know where your apron is stored. Show your family your membership card, let them know where you keep it and tell them once again how proud you are to be a Mason. Make sure they know not only the name of your Lodge, but most importantly, how to find the Lodge's phone number and to make that call when you answer yours.

Doug Kuchera, Secretary

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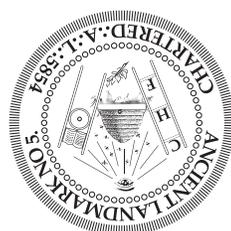
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# LODGE of SORROW 2011



*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
James Bramer	9/12/1918	9/17/1946	10/1/1946	10/25/1946	2/12/2011
David Eckstrom	9/13/1938	10/3/1967	11/7/1967	12/9/1967	7/15/2011



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