

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO.5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE SOUTH

Meeting a Student, and Finding a Brother

I discussed in my last newsletter article the fact that I teach Anthropology at Inver Hills Community College and that Masonry has had an unerring, positive impact on my teaching – including giving a deeper appreciation to many of the things I teach. I often speak of my Lodge and Brothers in terms of community, culture, and identity and try to use Masonry as an example from time to time in several of my classes as part of the fabric of our society. Teaching at Inver Hills can be a monumental task as full time instructors must teach five classes each semester. With upwards of 40 students in each class, that means 150 to 200 new or nearly new faces look to me for instruction each Spring and Fall.

Inevitably, a few of those faces belong to young men who are interested in the Fraternity. Typically, they come up to me after one class or another and ask me if I really am a Mason. When I answer in the affirmative, they typically ask how they can become a Brother as well. At this point, my standard answer is that Masonry has a series of tenets to which its members must first adhere – and that if they are truly interested, they should come and talk to me during my office hours.

For many, this is the last time I hear from them about the issue. This is true not just of young men that are initially curious about Masonry, but of many students who have a pressing question that they want to discuss or have answered by me – and when I tell them to arrange a time to talk to me during my office hours – they often do not make the effort. Perhaps this is my own form of a “first test” to examine the sincerity of purpose for all my students, not just those interested in Masonry.

However, some do want to talk, and I typically speak to them about what the Masonic Code refers to as the ‘Ancient Landmarks’: ideals relating to belief in the Supreme Architect of the Universe and the importance of

charity, relief, and truth to oneself and to the institutions of our Country. One does not need to discuss the rituals or other secrets of our Fraternity to impart some of its wonder and tradition. I then ask them some general questions similar to those any man would be asked during a character investigation and we usually talk about where the young man is in his life. Here, I have a bit of insight, since they are often my students: I know how he is doing in my class; how often he participates; how his grades are; etc. – and we often end up talking about just how busy their lives really are. In nearly every instance thus far, I have counseled the young man to continue to consider joining the Fraternity, but to temper this interest with the understanding that the Brotherhood is not going anywhere. The Code states that candidates should be of a “mature age” and although I often do not doubt the maturity of my students in these instances, still the tempo of their lives has always commanded caution.

Imagine my surprise when, after a lecture in late February, one of my students who had been waiting patiently to talk to me after class was ended, started by shaking my hand, and immediately used the grip of an Entered Apprentice. I looked at him and just said, “Really?” He nodded and said that he had just done the work the previous week. I smiled and congratulated him and said that I was becoming increasingly “familiar” with his next degree, and that he should not hesitate to talk to me if he needed help with his prove up.

I know that for him, it meant making one more connection with an instructor that hopefully he enjoys learning from. For me, however, it was surprising just how

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NEXT STATED MEETING

May 9th
6:00pm Dinner
7:00pm Meeting



THE SECRETARY'S DESK

This article should be arriving in Early May. I invite you all to the June 8th presentation of my favorite degree, the third Degree of Masonry, the Master Mason Degree. I would like to tell you why it's my favorite.

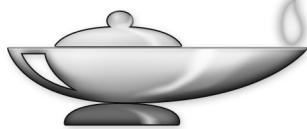
To continue a theme that I started with my last article, I am a member of the front end of Baby Boom. The Baby Boom experience can be characterized by some key trends. As we grew up through adolescence, our parents exhibited tremendous mobility moving both geographically and socially upward as the middle class expanded. The G.I. bill supplied the money for our WWII parents to buy homes, get education and find better jobs. Not only did our parents have a car, by the time the Baby Boom generation reached college age, most families had two cars, one for the parents and another for the kids. This mobility was broadening and educational but it also brought with it a weakening of the sense of community as extended families and life long neighbors were left behind or moved themselves.

Another characteristic of the Baby Boom was a rejection of many of the cultural norms that provide the cement for communities to thrive and grow; we were a very skeptical generation. Church attendance plummeted, as did eventually membership. The pillars of Community life; marriage, children, and other long-term commitments (home ownership, Church membership and fraternal memberships) were delayed from 5 – 10 years or not established at all. Masonic membership also plummeted. When the Baby Boomers eventually discovered the value of families and community many of the institutions that provided that community were weakened.

I came late to discover the benefits of Masonry due to the nomadic nature of my career. However, I was very taken by the obligations in the Third Degree. I wanted to not only learn them but to live and teach them. I volunteered to mentor new candidates in the degrees and I especially enjoyed mentoring the Third degree. As I have explained to the candidates, the obligations that a Mason places himself under are not cultish commands with hard black and white rules. They are guidelines for a way to improve ourselves, and our community. I found I very much prefer to live and serve in a community that works to fulfill those obligations.

Please join us on June 8th as the new candidates take these same obligations that you have and enjoy thinking about them through the ritual.

Jerry Jacobsen
Secretary



LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER

Take Time to Enjoy Life

A couple of years ago, I decided to spend the New Year holiday with my sister. We had been estranged for a few years, so I thought I would start the New Year out by trying to mend fences with her. I traveled to her home and threw a fabulous New Year's party with family and friends. My sister and I cooked, laughed, shared stories from our childhood, and just enjoyed each other's company. I was so glad I had decided to go visit her because my sister and I had more fun than we've had in years.

Two weeks later, I received a call that my sister was found unresponsive and ultimately she passed away that same day. I was totally devastated. There were so many things we hadn't done and hadn't said to each other. From this heartbreaking situation, it taught me some valuable lessons.

The most valuable lesson I learned was that you should always take the time to enjoy life. My sister was always working and caring for her family. She rarely took time to really enjoy life. Her life was working and taking care of her family. I vowed that from that day forward, I would never take life for granted. I would always take the time to smell the flowers, pet the dog and give my children and grandchildren lots of love and laughter.

This was a story I had heard about not so long ago. It is one that most of us can relate to in our own lives. We spend so much time worrying about the future we often miss what is happening right in front of us. Our children are growing up right in front of our eyes and we wonder where the time has gone. We are so connected to the world with our cell phones and computers we never seem to have any time for ourselves. Cell phones keep us in touch 24/7. Computers allow us to work no matter where we are. The pace of our lives is so fast we miss most of what is happening right in front of us. We simply don't take the time to really enjoy the finer things in our lives, the things that really matter.

We need to learn how to slow down and turn off. We need to realize that this is OK. The world isn't going to pass us by if we're not connected 24/7. It will still be there for us when we connect again.

Our Lodge room is very much a place where we can disconnect with the outside world and enjoy the peace of the moment. I asked a Brother once why he comes to Lodge.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can One Person Actually Make a Difference?

The answer is yes, one person can make a huge difference! *And that person is a Brother among us. Was the difference made a Masonic secret?*

The Masonic population peaked, nationally, following the end of World War II as the economy was beginning to grow. My own lodge, Shekinah No. 171, was enjoying the trend. I transferred my Fargo, ND Masonic membership to my new lodge upon moving to St. Paul's West Side in 1951. I began my membership in Shekinah Lodge in 1962, but did not really become active due to employment conditions, until being appointed Junior Steward in 1967. Shekinah Lodge had recently purchased and renovated a defunct old theater building on South Smith Avenue; just a few blocks from the Smith Avenue High Bridge. It became a very nice and comfortable lodge. We housed three renters, our Chapter of the Eastern Star, an Amaranth Chapter, and Summit Lodge. By the time of my activity in the officer line, the Masonic population was rapidly and alarmingly decreasing in our lodge as well as nationally.

To add salt to this wound, the Minnesota Legislature, feeling its own pinch, decided to increase the taxes on those charitable organizations owning real estate property. Our annual taxes tripled, from \$3,000 to \$9,000 annually, a real deathblow to these organizations. Of course, our revenues, as well as our renters', correspondingly decreased. Money making activities became necessary to survive. We were forced to raise our rents to make ends meet, but in doing so, we lost two of our renters and were on the cusp of financial ruin.

Within our office line was a newcomer to the lodge, a Brother John Winslow, who had been raised a few short years earlier. The increase in our taxes irritated Brother John to the point of his venting his disgust personally to the Minnesota Legislature. He began to spend many hours at the Capitol, so many that he became the butt of joking by his Brothers... "He spends so much time there that they gave him his own key to the Capitol," "his name was added to the legislative roll and business won't start until Brother John is present," and as he attended all committee meetings, "they won't open until he makes his appearance," "John is the keynote speaker at all meetings."

John did attend plenty of those meetings and made his presence known. He must have used up his vacation time, and probably a fair amount of his allotted sick time.

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DUE NOTICE

65 Years!

On Thursday, May 9, 2013, Ancient Landmark #5 will be honoring Worshipful Brother Al Bohne for 65 years of devotion to the Craft. Please join us at the Stated Communication to say a big Thank You for the many years of hard work that Al has given as a Master Mason.

Bowling

On Thursday, May 23rd, we will be gathering at Ran-Ham Bowling Center below The Nook (490 South Hamline Avenue) in St. Paul at 7pm to throw a couple games of bowling. Those interested in carpooling should meet at the Lodge at 6pm.

Special Communication - FC Prove-Up

There will be a special communication of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5 on Tuesday, June 4th at 6:30pm for the purpose of proving up our new Brothers on the Fellowcraft degree. The Lodge will be opened on the second degree promptly at 6:30pm and closed immediately following the prove-up exam. No refreshments will be served. Contact the Lodge Secretary (secretary@ancientlandmark5.com) with any questions.

Master Mason's Degree

Please note that we will be raising our newest members on Saturday, June 8, 2013. Coffee and doughnuts to be provided at 8:00 a.m. with the gavel falling at 9:00 a.m. Please come and show our newest Master Masons your full support. There are still parts available in the cast, but they're filling up fast. Contact WM Joe Amos at worshipfulmaster@ancientlandmark5.com.

Saints Game

We are again planning a great evening of baseball and brats at Midway Stadium to watch the St. Paul Saints take on the Fargo-Moorhead Redhawks on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. Come join us with our neighbors at MacAlester Lodge for tailgating and a 7:05 p.m. first pitch! Cost is \$20 per ticket. RSVP through the Lodge website or contacting the Lodge office.

From the South... cont. from page 1

much it meant. I was amazed at the transformation that the student underwent before my eyes – the transition from well meaning student, to Brother, and all that that entails. I will very likely never look at this young man in the same way again. I could tell during our conversation that he was eager to continue his work in Masonry – almost the same sense of excitement and anxiety you see when a student thinks they have done well on their first exam but are not quite sure. I would like to think that my brief mentions of Masonry had some small part in his joining, although I know that not to be the case since he would have had to petition before he was ever my student, at any rate, it certainly made my Monday afternoon better to end a class looking out a sea of students and finding among them a newly minted Brother.

Since this initial meeting, the student has already used his Masonic experience in one of his papers for me. I request of my entire Introduction to Anthropology class that they write a paper about a sub-culture to which they belong, how this group sets itself apart from other organizations, their clothes, difference in language, their behaviors, etc. He wrote about his first degree night, the fact that his father was a Mason, and how he had spent many hours as a youngster going to pancake breakfasts, picking up trash as part of a highway restoration project for his Dad's lodge, etc. He was careful not to disclose too much information, as his Entered Apprentice's obligation is clearly still fresh in his mind, however, it was clear from his paper his sense of pride – and the fact that now he too was a part of something that his father clearly cherished and how that brought them closer together.

To bring this story to a close, I mentioned this young man and his Lodge to WB Keith Reierson when we were at lunch on the second day of Grand Lodge this past month. He told me that he was pretty sure of the lodge to which the young man belongs, and together we set off to find their contingent. It didn't take long for us to find their LEO and when I asked him about this candidate he immediately knew him, his father, and their connection to the Lodge. We parted on good terms with the hope that a few of us will venture down to their Lodge in the near future and maybe a few of you can meet this young man in the flesh. In the words of our outgoing Grand Master, "Masonry should be a Big Tent" and I hope this story has perhaps encouraged you to open a flap and step inside.

Fraternally,

Jeremy Nienow
Junior Warden



ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the News

A number of Brothers from Ancient Landmark #5 attended the 160th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and watched a wonderful event. MWB Brian Beermann passed the mantle of leadership to MWB Dave Olson. We also had our most recent Past Master WB Keith Reierson recognized for all of his hard work with the Ritual by being appointed as our newest Custodian of the Work. WB Keith is now the Custodian of the Metroeast. When you see him next, congratulate him, and don't forget to ask for help with the work!

Schools of Instruction

There are a number of Schools of Instruction taking place throughout the Metroeast area. If you're interested in the Ritual work, would like to sharpen your skills or just want to see excellent work performed, come to one of the following Schools hosted by the Lodges:

- 06/19 – 1st School (south), Montgomery #258
- 07/11 – 1st School (north), Mora #223
- 09/13 – 2nd School (south), St Johns #1
- 09/20 – 2nd School (north), Helios #273
- 11/08 – 4th School (all), Garnet #166

The schools for 2013 will begin with a light dinner at 6:00 p.m., with instruction to follow at 6:45 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday, May 9 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

Thursday, May 23 - Bowling Night

7:00pm at Ran-Ham Bowling Center
(490 Hamline Ave S, St. Paul)

Tuesday, June 4 - Special Communication

6:30pm Fellowcraft Prove-Up Exam

Saturday, June 8 - Master Mason Degree

8:00am Coffee & Donuts, 9:00am Degree

Wednesday, June 12 - St. Paul Saints Game

5:30pm Tailgating, 7:05pm First Pitch

Thursday, June 13 - Stated Meeting

6:00pm Dinner, 7:00pm Degree

LEO... cont. from page 2

He told me he likes to come to Lodge and just sit there quietly and remember all the friends he has made and the times they shared over the years he has been a Mason. He told me there is a peace in Lodge that you can't find anywhere else that seems to be refreshing. When he leaves the Lodge room he feels much more at peace with himself, much more alive, much more content with the world.

Each of us should make it a point in our next lodge meeting to take just a few short moments to quietly remember a peaceful experience we once had in Lodge, perhaps with another Brother. Let that experience and Freemasonry envelop you and give you warmth and comfort. Let it reenergize you to face our fast-paced frantic and out of control world again.

Have you been to Lodge lately? Maybe it's time.

Fraternally,

Bruce L. Sherman, PM
LEO



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Letters... cont. from page 3

Brother John did manage to gain the attention of two influential legislators, and through their efforts, the tax increase on our organizations was greatly reduced.

Was this tax reduction a Masonic secret? Absolutely not!! It just simply wasn't made public; we were not formally informed, it just happened without fanfare. Brother John was never mentioned; his efforts never recognized, not even known, except by his lodge and the Minnesota Legislature. I am privy to a letter from State Senator Conrad Vega to Brother John, and is as follows:

July 11, 1985

Mr. John Winslow, Dear John: I am enclosing for review a section of the Omnibus Tax Bill that was passed by the late legislative special session and signed into law by Governor Perpich.

Section 5, Subdivision 4 includes new language that reclassifies real property owned by charitable organizations, including Masonic lodges, into class 3 for purposes of property assessment. What this means is that the Shekinah Lodge will be assessed at only 21% of market value with no maximum. Prior to this, the Lodge would have been assessed at 28% of the first \$60,000 of the market value, and 43% of the excess over \$60,000. This should result in a substantial real estate tax cut for every Masonic Lodge in the state. This reclassification will be of great benefit for you. I am proud to have had a part in it, and so should you also.

Sincerely, (signed) Conrad M. Vega, State Senator.

This tax reduction also affected other charitable organizations besides Masonic Lodges, such as the Elks, the Moos, the Knights of Columbus, etc. and any religious charitable orders owning property / with conditions.

Worshipful Brother Winslow is now a member of Ancient Landmark Lodge No. 5.

Brother Winslow went on to become Shekinah's Master four times, but he did have a real great Senior Warden each term.

Respectfully submitted,

Alvin Bohne, PM

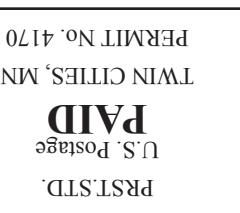


LODGE of SORROW 2013

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			06/21/1966	01/24/2013



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