

ANCIENT LANDMARK LODGE NO. 5

Ancient Free and Accepted Masons



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FROM THE EAST

Nice Problems to Have

So many Lodges struggle to maintain their active membership and to garner new candidates. Their once prominent roles in the community are shrinking. I have heard of Lodges having a difficult time even having enough officers present to open.

I am very proud to say that our Lodge is different. We have a strong base of officers, active membership, and Brothers ready to step up to the plate when asked.

Having all these great attributes, though, does cause more than a bit of concern for our Junior Warden when the time comes for meal planning. We have seen some outstanding magic being done--at our meeting at the JJ Hill house, when less than 25 were anticipated and over 60 attended the event, and when our Third Degree in December with the Masters and Wardens again tested the bounds of our Junior Warden's ability to make 35 stretch to 60.

In one sense, these are nice problems to have, aren't they?

As this is being written, we are heading into two great events: the Grand Master's attending our stated meeting in February and our upcoming Valentine's Dinner. : Let's make our Junior Warden's job easier with better communication from your officers to you and your timely responses to our request for RSVP's, both for special events and stated meetings.

By the time this is published, those of you who attended the February stated meeting will have met Most Worshipful Brother Thomas McCarthy. Those of us who have met MWB McCarthy have already learned what a warm and personable man he is. You will have another opportunity to meet MWB McCarthy at a Joint Table Lodge being held on Friday,

March 19th. This Table Lodge is being sponsored by Ancient Landmark, Macalester, and Montgomery Lodges. More information about this event is printed in this newsletter.

We should have approximately ten candidates approved to go through the degrees this spring. Please welcome these new Brothers. Moreover, please volunteer to mentor them for their required prove-ups. Based on the interest we have seen thus far, this should be another good year for bringing new Brothers into our Craft.

See you in Lodge!

Allan Floyd

Worshipful Master



FROM THE WEST

Upon the Level

The week before last, our new Secretary – Brother Doug Kuchera – posed an end of the week challenge question to me, which got me to thinking about some recent readings that have crossed my desk.

While I have not directly answered Doug's probing questions, I have had a chance to develop some thoughts about brotherly love and our connectedness to one another. This article will probe what the words "upon the level" and "harmony being the strength and support..." mean, or perhaps, should mean to us as Masons.

We meet "upon the level", which means that we meet as equals, each of us with a goal of betterment of ourselves and of our Brothers. Outside of Lodge, we have our respective positions of influence and

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FROM THE SOUTH

The Greater Masonic Community

In just a few short weeks, Masons from every corner of the state, and many more from other parts of the world, will come together in St. Cloud for the 157th annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota. Once per year, the Grand Lodge meets to elect officers and conduct official business. In addition to these official duties, however, the Grand Lodge communication is also an opportunity for learning and fellowship among the Masons of Minnesota.

I had the opportunity last year to attend Grand Lodge, and I was amazed at both the level of commitment among the brothers of this state and the sense of real community shared by all members present. It didn't matter where someone was from or what they happen to do for a living; what was important was that each person in the room was a Mason. The group of men at Grand Lodge drove hours out of their way on a Friday morning to participate in this event, and the only reason for it was to learn how to improve themselves, their lodges, and Masonry as a whole.

One of the most rewarding parts of my own Masonic journey has been the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people, who, without Masonry, I would never have otherwise met. I am continually reminded, especially at events like Grand Lodge, the Masonic Fraternity extends beyond the borders of our lodge, town and even state. There is a greater

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NEXT STATED MEETING

March 11, 2010
Dinner 6:00 PM
Meeting at 7:00 PM



It's a Secret

About fifty years ago when I was twelve years old I noticed my dad was wearing a ring, which was strange because he seldom wore a ring. It was a gold band, like a wedding ring but different. It had an equilateral triangle with a weird squiggle etched inside the perimeter of the triangle. Scottish Rite Masons will recognize that he was wearing a ring of the 14o of the Scottish Rite.

I asked dad what it was and he said it was a secret. "What does it mean," I asked. He replied, "If I told you it wouldn't be a secret anymore, would it?" I was disappointed with the answer but he further explained that it had to do with his membership in the Scottish Rite and he was supposed to wear it to comply with the rules.

Many of us were curious about Freemasonry because our fathers and grandfathers were Masons; we could hardly wait to turn 21 so we could join. I grew up in California where you must be 21 to petition a Masonic Lodge, not 18 like here in Minnesota. But the answer, "It's a Secret," was very discouraging to me and I believe also to many other prospective Masons.

That was half a century ago and some Masons misunderstood the "secrets" of the Lodge; many still do. That misunderstanding is probably more destructive in the attitudes of Masons who believe that they are not permitted to speak about anything Masonic outside of Lodge, especially to their families.

It is difficult to understand that there many who don't really get what is a secret and what isn't. It is more difficult to accept that men relish keeping secrets in order to feel better than others, hoping they'll be envied by those who are not privy to the secrets.

The Mason who feels he cannot discuss his Masonry with his wife, son, grandson, or neighbor is doing our gentle fraternity a great disservice. The regulation that no man is asked to be a Mason, but that he must ask to become one, requires that someone must tell him something in order to establish the desire to become a Mason.

This doesn't mean there are no secrets in Freemasonry, because there are. They are reminders of when men had to meet and identify each other in secrecy to protect their very lives. These are our recognition symbols and words and they come from a time when men who would later establish "lodges" were on the run from the Inquisi-

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Combined Table Lodge

On Friday, March 19th, the lodges of the St. Paul Masonic Center will join forces to host the Third Annual St Paul Combined Table Lodge. This wonderful evening is the last official event of the Grand Master's term, and our opportunity to honor him for his extraordinary commitment to Minnesota Masonry over the last several years.

This is an open event, and significant others, friends, and prospective candidates are all welcome; however, tickets to the event are extremely limited, so if you are planning to attend, please buy your tickets early to ensure you get a spot. Tickets are \$20 and can only be purchased in advance from the lodge.

The evening will feature a Prime Rib dinner, guest speaker Charles Luman, Past Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota, as well as remarks from Most Worshipful Grand Master Thomas G. McCarthy.



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Masonic community out there, of which we, whether actively or not, are a part.

I would encourage each of you to get out there, explore the world of Freemasonry and become an active member of that greater Masonic community. For those who are able, this year's Grand Lodge communication is a great opportunity to do so. I will assure you, if nothing else, it will give you the chance to meet some of the finest people the State of Minnesota has to offer.

Keith Reierson
Junior Warden



tion and persecution of the Church.

The one secret that a man could have that could cost him his life and property was that he a material difference with the church of Rome. If he were just accused of being a heretic he would most likely be ruined if not killed and all his property would also be seized by the church. Unknown thousands went into permanent hiding. Others joined into groups to help each other both on the continent and in the Kingdom of England. The Old Charges of Masonry that define the assistance to be given a brother away from home clearly indicate that Freemasonry was one of these groups. The only way that they could successfully survive was as a secret society.

When revealing oneself could bring permanent damage to one's body and loss of his property, anybody can be expected to demand all the protection against betrayal that he can get. That is why our candidates for membership in the society are blindfolded until they take their obligations to keep their brothers' secrets. Only after that are they able to see the faces of the other men in the room.

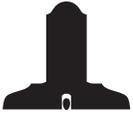
The risks these men had in their daily lives were as great in public as well as in Lodge rooms. To assist a brother on the run from torture and death, it was extremely necessary to have a system of words and signs that could be used to identify oneself and the other. An innocent sounding phrase to an outsider might convey enough information to the insider that he had made the correct contact. The signs and grips and gestures can be used without any words necessary, for mutual recognition and the promise of lodging, sustenance or guidance.

These catechisms, hand signals and grips may be no longer necessary but are preserved to lend credence to our history and the lessons of our allegories. Masons can be identified by the rings we wear, by the decals on our cars, by ball caps we wear, not to mention our dues cards. These words, signs and grips are just as essential to our fraternity as when society celebrates Veterans' Day, Memorial Day and Presidents' Day. The Masonic "secrets" help a fraternity remember men who took risks to gain personal freedoms which we believe all men are entitled to enjoy.

We don't need these secrets any longer; in fact, they have been revealed many times to those not entitled to them. You can go to most any public library and read books that reveal them. Why after many centuries haven't we changed them? They're like rites of remembrance, they add a certain cache to the stories and lessons we tell to our brethren.

Submitted by Art Lingo, LEO

Partially paraphrased from A Pilgrims Path by John J. Robinson



From the West continued from page 1

wealth, but within the Lodge, we are of the same influence and are “poor and penniless”. Of equal place in the Lodge, as it were.

We are admonished to give one another good and timely council, should we stray from the tenets of our institution. This might be what we say and do in our ritual, or it may be what we say in the course of conversation while we are preparing for our Lodge meeting. The goal is not to stifle us and our freedom of thought, but rather to instill in us lessons gleaned from the many books of wisdom which have accumulated over the ages.

Do you find, either within or outside of Lodge, Brothers that challenge your balance (patience)? Do they meet your understanding of Masonic behavior? Do you feel that they respect and live by the tenets of our institution?

Recent readings have given me a challenging insight; challenging that is, to all that I was taught as I grew up. We have been created by one beneficent God, who loves us without qualification. What challenges my understanding is the thought that as creations of the Great Architect, we assume God-like attributes and we are to act accordingly. Think about this for awhile – if we accept this premise, we are taking on quite a mantle. For thousands of years, God has been challenged by his wayward flock, and yet he loves us and accepts us for what we are. If we take on the mantle of being God’s creations with God-like attributes, are we able to accept the flaws of our Brethren and work to help them better craft themselves as more Masonic? Is there a possibility that the Great Architect has brought these Brothers before us to challenge our own capabilities to become better than ourselves? Do we actively work to help these Brethren to live by the principles of Masonry?

Listen closely to the words at the closing of Lodge. I look forward to meeting with you all again, upon the level, as we do so.

Fraternally yours,
Drew C. Bjorklund
Senior Warden



“Our Institution is said to be supported by Wisdom, Strength and Beauty”

Your attendance is strongly encouraged as Ancient Landmark Lodge #5 confers the Entered Apprentice Degree on Thursday, March 25th 2010. The Degree work begins at 7:00 PM with dinner at 6:00 PM. Join your Lodge as these men begin their Masonic journey.



Looking ahead

Thursday, March 18th

First Degree Floor rehearsal - 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 25th

Entered Apprentice Degree, dinner 6:00 PM

Thursday, April 8th

Stated Communication, dinner 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 17th

Ancient Landmark Bunco Night, time TBA

Thursday, April 22nd

Fellow Craft Degree, Dinner 6:00 PM

A day to GET CONNECTED with others
A day TO LEARN and think
about our principals
A day TO APPRECIATE the arts
and culture offered to us

Mozart's The Magic Flute

Sunday April 18th at 1:30 pm, the University of Minnesota school of Music is performing our departed Brother Mozart's, The Magic Flute. This opera has a magic concoction of singspiel, fairy-tale and Masonic ideology. 45 minutes prior to the performance, the director David Walsh will host a discussion about the opera in the lobby and you are welcomed to ask questions or listen to what is discussed.

Tickets are \$20 per person or \$10 if you are alumni, student or staff of the University. To order tickets you can either call 612-624-2345 or order online at opera.umn.edu for the performance. It is open seating.

Can I suggest that you make a special day of it by having lunch with others, either/or Mason's or other people of your life, before the performance?

If you have any questions, feel free to call WB Alan Peterson at 651-248-9926



Brethren

It's just been a few weeks into my duties and as write this, I am also in the middle of the Winter Carnival season and wearing another hat as President of the South Winds this year. I mention this as our Lodge has a long history of Brothers who have served in this great St Paul tradition, Doc, Dave T, Marv, Bill B , myself and currently Dave Griep. The Current South Wind is also a Mason, Tim Felton and a member of Mtizpah.

As many of you know history was made this year with the "crowning" of King Boreas Art Blakey. Besides being an all around good guy, Art is a Mason and a member of Perfect Ashlar #4, a Lodge with which we have been building new Traditions over the past few years. What a wonderful compliment to our great Fraternity to see these fine Brothers giving to the people of St. Paul.

As I have settled into the office of Secretary, I have found a couple things out. First off the phone doesn't really ring off the hook. With just moderate number of calls a week (including solicitors) I am shifting those virtual office hours to Monday through Friday 9-5. I also monitor the email during those same time parameters.

I have been currently meeting with officers, candidates, interested enquirer's and members by appointment and it has been working very well.

Speaking of Candidate's we have a large class coming up for spring degrees, starting March 25th. If you have been asked to be part of an investigation team please provide a timely completion of your appointment to that duty. We will also need many parts filled for the upcoming degree work, be ready to say yes when asked.

Doug Kuchera

Secretary

Ancient Landmark Lodge No.5

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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 | 3/2/1948 | 3/31/1948 | 04/24/1948 | 01/07/10 |



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