

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

2008 OFFICERS INSTALLED

Our new Worshipful Master, Brother Ron Aldridge, was installed with his officer line at a ceremony held on December 8, 2007 at the Madison Heights Masonic Temple. Brother Raymond Doyscher, P.M., presided as the Most Worshipful Acting Grand Master assisted by the Installation Team of Brothers James Sparks, P.M.,

John Walford, P.M., Elton Scott, P.M., James Weir, P.M., Ryan Koponen, P.M., Don Novak, P.M., and Martin Tudor.

Music was provided by Margaret Parkin and Marjorie Dunbar. Brother Earl VanCise, P.M., photographed the event. An afterglow reception was held following the installation ceremony.



L>R: Earl VanCise - Treasurer, Gerald Brown - Steward, Jack Parkin - Tiler, Phil Leese - Sr. Steward, James Novak - Jr. Deacon, James McPherson - Sr. Warden, Don Novak - Chaplain, Ron Aldridge - Worshipful Master, Fred Messer - Jr. Warden, Brent Lilly - Sr. Deacon, Roy Prince - Steward, James Sparks - Secretary, James Diamond - Steward. Not pictured: Guy Shelton - Marshall and Robert Munro - Steward.

LODGE OFFICERS - 2008

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Ronald Aldridge (248) 548-3905

SENIOR WARDEN

James McPherson (248) 588-1623

JUNIOR WARDEN

Fred Messer, PM (248) 689-4889

SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM (248) 544-4613

TREASURER

Earl VanCise, PM (248) 288-3561

CHAPLAIN

Don Novak, PM (248) 541-5518

SENIOR DEACON

Brent Lilly (248) 645-7251

JUNIOR DEACON

James Novak (248) 565-6417

SR. STEWARD

Phil Leese (248) 543-2109

JR. STEWARD

Roy Prince (248) 280-9225

STEWARD

Bob Munro (586) 822-8023

STEWARD

Gerald Brown (586) 354-1940

STEWARD

James Diamond (248) 217-5921

MARSHALL

Guy Shelton, PM (586) 939-0536

TILER

Jack Parkin, PM (248) 589-1692

TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge (2007) (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (2008) (248) 545-4276

Donald Novak, PM (2009) (248) 541-5518

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Fred Messer, PM, Jr. Warden (248) 689-4889

James McPherson, Sr Warden (248) 588-1623

Ronald Aldridge, W. Master . (248) 548-3905

LODGE SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM

848 Venoy Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 544-4613

LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

2008 LODGE ACTIVITIES

January

01-03 Thu

6:00 p.m.

Potluck

7:00 p.m.

Business (B)

01-10 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Lodge of Instruction (B)

7:00 p.m.

E.A. Degree

01-17 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Officers Meeting

2008 Budget...Social

Night to follow. (C)

01-24 Thu

7:00 p.m.

E.A. Practice

Social Night to follow (C)

01-31 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Dr. Simonian Eye Disease

Bring a friend -Social

February

02-07 Thu

6:00 p.m.

Potluck

7:00 p.m.

Business (B)

02-14 Thu

7:00 p.m.

F.C. Practice

Social Night to follow (C)

02-21 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Ladies Night Dinner

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

RESERVATIONS A MUST

Clawson Steak House

Members & ladies only

02-28 Thu

6:00 p.m.

Mason of the Year Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Dinner

Madison Heights Temple

Call J.W. for reservations

Event open to families

March

03-06 Thu

6:00 p.m.

Potluck - Bring Dish

7:00 p.m.

Business (B)

03-13 Thu

7:00 p.m.

E.A. Degree (T)

Tentative....may change

03-17 Mon

4 - 7 p.m.

Annual Corned Beef

Fund Raiser Dinner

Public Invited

PLEASE NOTE:

Times and events may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Check the website www.nac551.com for the most current calendar.

FROM THE EAST...

N.A.C. 551 Team 2008

It is with great pleasure that I have become the team leader for the coming year and hope we can gain many new and exciting adventures along with new brothers for our Lodge while keeping up with our ritual. I hope that I will be able to live up to the standards of the great Worshipful Masters that have come before me in this outstanding lodge.

One of my goals is to involve our relatively new Master Masons in the ritual work and positions of the Lodge. I hope that you ALL are willing to become actively involved in some phase of the Lodge functions. We have apron presentations, working tools, degree proficiencies as well as important Committee work. Please let me know if you are interested. I would like to include some degree work practice into our social nights for those that are interested.

We will also be using the long form for closings on occasion for our new members that have not seen it along with the long way of changing degrees. It really only takes a few more minutes and it looks and sounds very Masonic.

I also have some fishing excursions for Muskie and Bass on Lake St. Clair planned for the upcoming summer along with another trip to the Detroit Temple. How about a weekend trip to the casino in Sault St. Marie. Why the Soo? Well if you don't like to gamble there is great amount of Michigan history that is there and most is free. Yes.... this could be for the entire family if this is what the members want. How about a trip on the Algoma train in the Canadian Soo? Do you have any other ideas? Please let us know how to make the Lodge serve you. How about a family hot dog and hamburger dinner for the family and friends on a couple of our social nights? I almost think we owe them for allowing us to be Mason's. Don't you?

For those of us that May need it, we will have a weight loss challenge with a monetary gain for the winner. Are you up too it? I am!

Well Brothers I don't want to take up the whole Trestleboard so until the next one.

Sincerely & Fraternally

Ron Aldridge W.M.

MILITARY and VETERANS UPDATE

In our last issue of the Trestleboard, we honored those Brothers of the Lodge who are military veterans as well as those presently serving. We have discovered several more Brothers who need to be recognized.

U.S.Army Veterans
Terry Drinkwine
Arthur Gustofson, P.M.
Richard Wisely, P.M.

U.S.M.C. currently serving
CWO 2 Robert J. Kendall Jr.
Posted at Edwards AFB in CA
Semper Fi Brother !

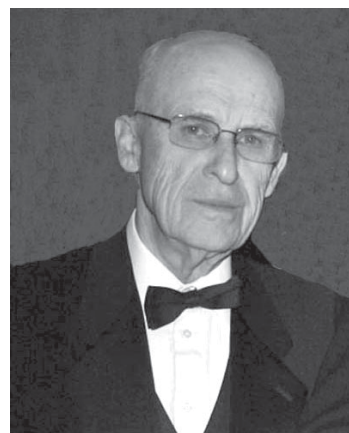
We would like to honor any other Brother that has served the Country that we are not aware of. Please contact the Secretary.

2007 MASON OF THE YEAR DINNER

Thursday Feb. 28, 2008
6:30 p.m.

Madison Heights Masonic Temple

Honoring



JAMES M. SPARKS, P.M.

Northwood Ancient Craft
Mason of the Year for 2007

This event is open to the public
Tickets are \$8.00. Proceeds to charity .
RSVP J. W. Fred Messer 248-689-4889

What Freemasonry means to me"

By The Reverend Dr. Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993) , Methodist minister, author, and 33rd Degree Mason

I recently received a letter in which the writer asked: "Why are you a Freemason?" The question caused me to think and reaffirm my feelings about Masonry. At first I thought about my own forebears. My grandfather was a Mason for 50 years, my father for 50 years, and I have been a Mason for 60 years. This means that my tie with Freemasonry extends back to 1869 when my grandfather joined the Masons. My feelings on my first entrance into a Masonic Lodge are very clear in memory. I was a young man and it was a great thrill to kneel before the altar of the Lodge to become a Freemason. This must have been the same feeling my father and grandfather experienced before me. And it must also have been identical to the one that many great leaders of America and the world felt as they became Masons. Prominent among this select group are George Washington, Harry Truman, and 12 other Presidents as well as countless statesmen and benefactors of humanity. So I found myself thinking: "What does Freemasonry mean to me?"

Of course Masons say that Freemasonry actually begins in each individual Mason's heart. I take this to mean a response to brotherhood and the highest ideals. I recall the story of a man who came to me once and said: "I see that you are a Freemason. So am I."

As we talked, he told me of an experience he had years ago. It seems that he joined the Masonic Fraternity shortly after he became 21 years old. When he was stationed in the military, he decided to attend various Lodge meetings. On his first visit to a Lodge in a strange city, he was a bit nervous. One thought was constantly in his mind; could he pass the examination to show that he was a Mason? As the committee was carefully examining his credentials, one of the members looked him

squarely in the eye and said: "Obviously you know the Ritual, so you can enter our Lodge as a Brother Mason. But I have one more question. Where were you made a Mason?" With that he told the young visitor to think about it because when he knew the answer the examiner would not have to hear it. He would see it in his eyes.

My friend told me that after a couple of minutes a big smile came to his face and he looked at the examiner, who said: "That's right, in your heart." "Through Masonic teachings, good men practice love and charity. As a Fraternity they spend millions of dollars..." Freemasonry is not a religion though, in my experience, Masons have predominately been religious men and, for the most part, of the Christian faith. Through Freemasonry, however, I have had opportunity to break bread with good men of other than my own Christian faith. Freemasonry does not promote any one religious creed. All Masons believe in the Deity without reservation. However, Masonry makes no demands as to how a member thinks of the Great Architect of the Universe. Freemasonry is, for all its members, a supplement to good living which has enhanced the lives of millions who have entered its doors. Though it is not a religion, as such, it supplements faith in God the Creator. It is supporting of morality and virtue.

Freemasonry has no dogma or theology. It offers no sacraments. It teaches that it is important for every man to have a religion of his own choice and to be faithful to it in thought and action. As a result, men of different religions meet in fellowship and brotherhood under the fatherhood of God. I think that a good Mason is made even more faithful to the tenets of his faith by his membership in the Lodge.

Freemasonry is much more than a social organization. Through

Masonic teachings, good men practice love and charity. As a Fraternity they spend millions of dollars to support hospitals, childhood language disorders clinics, and research into problems that plague man's physical and mental being. Whenever I visit a Masonic hospital, of which there are many, my eyes fill with tears. As I see a youngster, who could not walk, now able to get from one end of the corridor to the other with the aid of an artificial leg, I am thrilled. For a young person to have the opportunity to become whole and productive is to me exciting and wonderful. And this opportunity is given at no cost to his or her family or the state. Living is beautiful but sometimes life can be harsh and cruel.

Whenever or wherever people are in need Masons are there to help. From large undertakings to the smallest of needs, Masons are always there, caring and serving. I have always been interested as to why Masons devote so much time to their Fraternity. A good answer to this question came from a Grand Master who once told me that he enjoys his involvement because it gives him another dimension to living.

The same answer is echoed by Brethren as they meet in Lodge rooms from one end of our Country to the other and around the world. Many of my best friends, associates, and fellow Christians are Freemasons and good churchmen as well. In my travels at home and abroad a goodly number of Freemasons notice my Masonic ring, which I always wear. With pride they say: "I, too, am a Freemason." To me, Freemasonry is one form of dedication to God and service to humanity. I too was a Freemason in my heart and so I will remain. I am proud of my involvement. I am proud to walk in fraternal fellowship with my Brethren



Don Novak delivers the Lodge donation of \$1,000 to Daily Tribune publisher Wayne Oehmke for the "Give-A-Christmas Fund", which is used to assist local charity groups with their mission.



Don Novak, Past Master, his wife Susan Novak and the new Worshipful Master Ronald Aldridge and his wife Beth.



Santa (Bro. Earl VanCise) and Bro. Jim McPherson's grandkids, Genevieve, Jarred, Rachel and William.



Santa (Bro. Earl VanCise) and Santa's Helper (Bro. Ray Doyscher) giving a present to Bro. Ryan Koponen's son, Shawn Eric.

DONALD M. TRIVETT
President

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SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

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Below are samples of our ads. Please support our Brothers and Friends of the Lodge who advertise here.

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