

TRESTLEBOARD

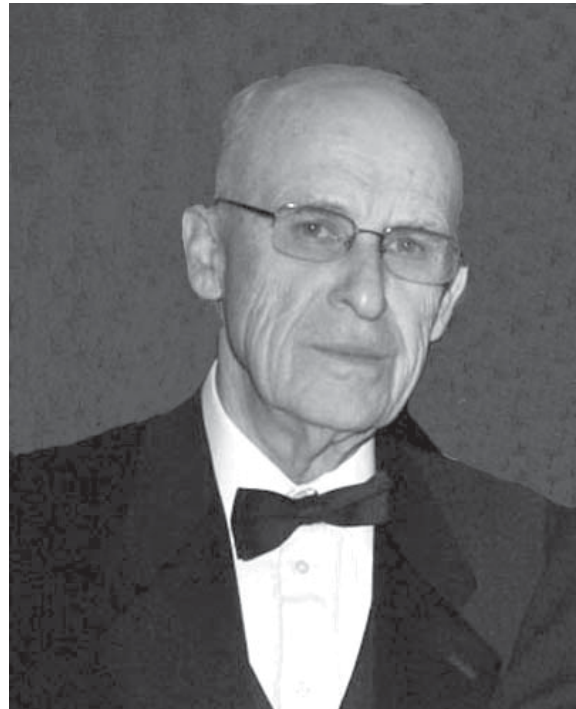
Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

Mason of the Year

This award is presented annually to a Brother Mason who epitomizes the highest standard of friendship, fellowship, brotherly love and service to the Craft. The man receiving this award has demonstrated a willingness to serve, not only his individual Lodge, but Masonry in general through his conduct and actions during the preceding year. His dedication and service to his Lodge, and the fraternity in general, should stand as an example of conduct to be emulated by his Lodge Brothers, and the general Masonic



community at large as well. This man stands out among his peers at almost every level in life, and thus is truly deserving of these accolades which we have chosen to bestow upon him. As a Lodge of Masonry, through this award, we honor the recipient as a valued member of our Lodge and as an intricate and integral part of its continued success in the future.

It goes without saying that the "Mason of the Year" award is, without a doubt, one of the highest honors any Mason, in any Lodge, can ever receive.

**Congratulations Brother Jim Sparks, P.M.
Lodge Secretary**

From all of us at Northwood-Ancient Craft Lodge #551

LODGE OFFICERS - 2008

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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

February

02-28 Thu

6:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Mason of the Year Dinner

Dinner

Madison Heights Temple

Call J.W. for reservations

Event open to families - \$8

March

03-06 Thu

6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Potluck - Bring Dish

Business (B)

03-13 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Social Night

Cards, Music, Refreshment

03-17 Mon

4 - 7 p.m.

Annual Corned Beef

Fund Raiser Dinner

Public Invited - \$8.00

O.E.S. Bake Sale

03-20 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Social Night w/Speaker

Dr. Monteufol, Chiropractor

Weight Loss & Cleansing

Bring a friend

03-27 Thu

7:00 p.m.

E.A. Practice followed by

Social Night

April

04-03

6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Potluck - Bring Dish

Business (B)

04-10 Thu

7:00 p.m.

E.A. Degree

Subject to Change

04-17 Thu

7:00 p.m.

Social Night

Guest Speker T.B.A.

04-24 Thu

7:00 p.m.

F.C. Practice

Social Night to follow

May

05-01 Thu

6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Potluck

Business (B)

05--08 Thu

7:00 p.m.

F.C. Degree (T) - tentative

05/15 Thu

7:00 p.m.

MM Practice

Social Night to follow

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

Brothers of Team 08,

It seems that during our tenure we will be having several new brothers joining our great fraternity. This means that we will need to be practicing our degree ritual with more tenacityboth in the lodge and in our homes! It is such a thrill to watch the faces of new brothers as they proceed through the degrees. I would hope that one or more of our newer brothers are studying the working tools in at least one of the degrees and another possibly the apron presentation. If you are practicing and would like to participate in the degree work of our new brothers, please let me know. Our social nights are progressing along with some great attendance. The presentation by Dr. Simonian about eye disease was very well received by both our brothers, their wives and guests. No doubt that our in-house musicians have a lot to do with our success also.

There are more doctors scheduled in the future to speak on our social nights. If any Brother wishes to have a particular type of doctor or another subject matter discussed, please contact me or one of the Officers and we will try and accommodate your request..

I'm still planning our fishing trips and our trip to the Casino in Ste. Saint Marie. Please let me know if you are planning on participating. It takes a couple of months to arrange for the bus and tours.

Don't forget our upcoming Mason of the Year dinner in honor of Jim Sparks. Check our website www.nac551.com for more details about this and our Annual Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser on March 17.

Let's not forget, there is no "I" in TEAM.

Ron Aldridge, W.M.

FROM THE WEST

Brothers,

Winter in Michigan! This year we have had unseasonably warm winter days but also some unusually cold days as well. Outside we see the beauty of the bright sun on the fresh snow, cardinals searching for food in the company of the little chickadees, squirrels begging for handouts, children with cherry-red cheeks and adults scraping the ice off the windshields of their cars. Those poor souls in Florida are MISSING ALL THE FUN!

Our Lodge is alive and well. The change in meeting nights to Thursdays has provided us with many more opportunities for Social Nights, and we are using them well.

A slow but steadily growing group of members with music skills are coming together and providing some much appreciated entertainment. Ryan Koponen, Robert Munro, Phil Leese, Gerald Brown and Roy Prince are "banding" together. On Valentine's Day Roy Prince brought his two sons (Ben and David) in for a "jam" session. Roy and Phil joined in with Ben and David for a most enjoyable evening. Roy's boys are fine young men with some wonderful musical talent. Dave played many Celtic favorites, then moved on to movie theme songs and other traditional selections. Earl VanCise is actively shopping for a new banjo and promises to revive his picking talents. We are calling for any members with an interest in music to come forward and join the group. We still need some percussion instruments. Wind instruments and/or keyboards are welcome too. There is a rumor one of the holdout members plays a trombone. If you have any questions about this group please contact Phil Leese or Robert Munro.

(continued on Page 4)

Plan On Attending Our Annual Corned Beef Dinner Fundraiser

Entertainment Planned • Eastern Star Fundraiser Bake Sale

Tickets: \$8.00 at the door

Proceeds to charity.



FROM THE WEST (continued from Page 3)

Our Master (Ron Aldridge) and Phil Leese instituted a "Biggest Loser" contest at a Social Night at the end of January. Members were able to weigh-in for a contest to see who can loose the most weight by the final weigh-in during the month of April. Everyone enjoyed the excitement at the weigh-in and there was much joking and comparison of numbers. Good Luck to All. Incidentally, our Master has announced that HE will WIN the contest.

(continued on page 5)



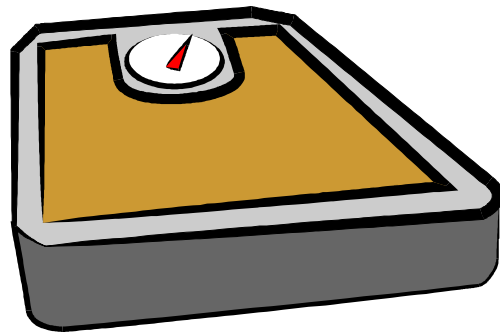
Bro. Bob Munro



Bro. Phil Leese



Bro. Earl checking the numbers



W.M. Ron promising victory



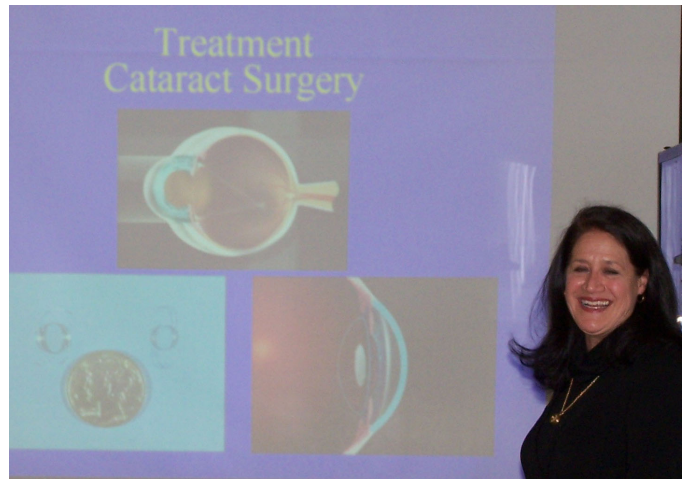
Bro. Ryan at the "Weigh-In"

FROM THE WEST *(continued from Page 4)*

At the January 31st Social Night, our Master arranged for a terrific guest speaker on Diseases of the Eye. Dr. Sidney Simonian provided our members with a visual presentation of the biology of the eye and prudent disease prevention practices. This we hope was beneficial to all Lodge members and guests in attendance. It was great to have M.W.B. Fred Kaiser and his wife, Karen, in attendance.

Ron Aldridge asked for input from the brothers concerning other guest speakers or topics beneficial to our membership. If you have an idea or guest speaker in mind, please contact him.

Together in Masonry;
Jim McPherson, SW



Dr. Simonian;s presentation



Brothers enjoy a social night following the Doctor's Presentation



Bros. Fred, Jack & John, listen to the Doctor



Bro. Earl telling war stories



M.W.B. Fred Kaiser and his wife confer with Bros. Earl and Richard

Spot Light

W.B. Jack Parkin

Brother Jack Parkin is a Detroit native, growing up on the West side in the Fenkel and Myers area. Jack graduated from Cooley High in 1946 and started working for the Sanders Company (our favorite hot fudge).

In 1950, Jack was drafted and began his military service with the U.S. Army at Ft. Hood, Texas. He later was stationed in West Germany. While on leave in 1951 he married his girlfriend from Sanders, Margaret. She had been Jack's supervisor there. After the service, Jack returned to the Sanders Company working at the Highland Park factory and driving the delivery truck. He retired from Sanders in the 1980's.

Jack's father was a Mason at the Oriental Lodge in Detroit and also a member the Scottish Rite and the Commandry. Jack became interested in Masonry in the mid-fifties and was raised in 1956 in the Oriental Lodge in the Detroit Masonic Temple. Jack progressed through the chairs and was Worshipful Master of the Oriental Lodge in 1967. Jack is



also a 32 Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a member of both the Moslem Shrine and the Past Masters Unit.

Brother Jack was acquainted with N.A.C. 551 Brothers John Walford and Clint Johnson through their church. In the 1970s, Jack left the Detroit lodge and transferred to

Northwood Ancient Craft.

Brother Jack has fond memories of Masonry in the earlier times. He recalls having to learn the ritual work from the one letter key with his father's assistance. Jack marched on several occasions with the Shriners down Cass Avenue in Detroit from the Masonic Temple to the Boblo Boat for ceremonies. He recalls throngs of people watching the parades replete with pipes and drums and the Clown Corps. Jack still loves the camaraderie of Masonry and the many friends he has made. When weather permits, he enjoys golf with Brothers Jim Weir and Cliff Dean. He also enjoys the degree work and the Social nights especially when the cribbage board comes out. . Jack currently serves as Tyler of the Lodge.

Jack and Margaret have a son and daughter and two grandchildren. Margaret is a member of the Order of Eastern Star and the Daughters of the Nile. She is also a talented singer and choir member at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

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MILITARY and VETERANS UPDATE

In previous issues of the Trestleboard, we honored those Brothers of the Lodge who are military veterans as well as those presently serving. We continue to discover more Brothers who need to be recognized.

U.S. Navy Veteran
Perry Shelton P.M. Loyalty Lodge
WW II Pacific Theater of Ops

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

ATTENTION OUTDOORSMEN

Be sure to catch Brother Terry Drinkwine's new column about hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities appearing in every Thursday's edition of the DAILY TRIBUNE newspaper.

Daily Tribune Page 5B

Catalogs fight cabin fever

■ Goodies, gadgets always interesting for outdoors enthusiasts.

So far, I've received catalogs from most of the major sporting goods suppliers including Cabela's, Orvis and LL Bean to mention just a few, each one bringing old and new items into my living room - Cabela's offers a bamboo fly rod priced under \$600. I

I have amassed quite a nice collection of books on trout fishing and am amazed at how much I can learn by reading and re-reading books I have had on my shelf for years. The other day I noticed a book written by

Terry Drinkwine
COLUMNIST
Dave Hughes titled simply

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