



TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551
AUGUST 2008

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

Masons Thank Firefighters With Picnic Dinner

The Masons of Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 located in Madison Heights thanked their local firefighters again this year with their Fourth Annual Picnic In The Parking Lot. .

The Lodge hosts this annual picnic as a simple thank you gesture to the firefighters for their service to the community. These dedicated firefighters work long shifts, holidays and weekends to provide an unparalleled level of protection to the people of Madison Heights. They are always there ready to go at a moments notice no matter what the hour or occasion. This fact was borne out when the EMS crew in attendance left their dinner plates to take a medical emergency run.

Several years ago, the Lodge members decided that they wanted to do something special for the firefighters.....no obligation and no strings attached. The idea of having a simple picnic dinner and inviting the firefighters to join us was born. Many of our members reside in Madison Heights and this picnic provides both groups an opportunity to meet each other on a personal level..... something that might not happen in the normal course of events. Everyone also enjoyed having an opportunity to meet and converse with Mayor Ed Swanson, who was in attendance.

The firefighters are popular with all attendees and more especially the children. The firefighters brought some hats for the kids and gave them a tour of the equipment. Firefighter Powers then gave the kids some hands-on experience with a fire hose. Everyone was thrilled by the experience and commented not only on the firefighters' professionalism, but also how personable they all are.

During the course of the picnic, the Lodge was presented with a plaque from the Boy Scouts of America for its support of that organization.



Firefighting skills demonstrated

Later, musical entertainment was provided by Bros. Don House, Robert Munro, Gerald Brown and David Prince. MWB Leon Richardson and his wife, Carole, received a special serenade from the group. Great job all.



Madison Heights Firefighter Powers assisted Olivia Baeten



Happy Campers

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

August

08-21

Corn Roast – Picnic

5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Open
to all- bring family

September

09-04 Thu

Potluck Dinner 6 p.m.

Business 7 p.m. (B)

09-11 Thu

F.C. Practice 7 p.m.

Social Night to follow

09-18 Thu

F.C. Degree (T) 7:00 pm.

Officers (tux)

October

10-02 Thu

Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.

Business (B) 7:00 p.m.

10-09 Thu

E.A. Degree (T) 7:00 p.m.

10-16 Thu

M.M. Degree Practice 7:00 p.m.

Social to follow

10-20 Mon

Installation Practice 7:00 p.m.

Ray Doyscher

10-23 Thu

M.M. Degree (T) 6:30 p.m.

Break & Food before 2nd Section

10-30 Thu

Old Timers Dinner

T.B.A.

PLEASE NOTE:

**This schedule is tentative and subject to change.
Check the website www.nac551.com for the most
current calendar.**

FROM THE WEST...

The following is a brief synopsis of our recent Lodge activities.



Scottish Rite Bros. Ray Lemons and Dean Barr.

More Light in Masonry May 22, 2008

On May 29 the Lodge hosted guest speakers from the Scottish Rite who spoke about Further Light in Masonry. The Lodge was honored to have Ray Lemons and Dean Barr speak about the aspects and advantages of membership in the Scottish Rite 32 Degree Masonry. This was a very informative evening and we thank our distinguished guests for sharing their knowledge with our Brothers.

Bro. Ray Lemons is the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. He is also a 33 Degree Scottish Rite Mason with the MSA. He is currently the Orator for the Consistory and the Past Most Wise Master.

Bro. Dean Barr is currently the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. Dean is also a 33 Degree Scottish Rite Mason with the MSA and is Past Commander-in-Chief of the Consistory.



Bros. Don & Herman House, with friend at social night.

Social Night May 29,2008

Bro.Don House PM brought his brother and fellow

Mason and musician, Herman, and their friend along to entertain everyone with their musical talent. Bro. Phil Leese joined in the fun playing harmonica and guitar. A great night of music was enjoyed by all in attendance. We hope to do this again in the future and it is a "don't-miss" event.

Annual Picnic in the Parking Lot June 19,2008

This event is reported on the front page with additional photos on other pages.

For this issue of the Trestleboard, I am offering the following Masonic anecdote for your pleasure.

THE TEST - Author Unknown

Several years ago, the story is told of a Mason who always wore his Masonic ring and lapel pin when in public. On some occasions, he rode the bus from his home to the downtown area. On one such trip, when he sat down, he discovered the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change.

As he considered what to do, he thought to himself, "You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it." Then he thought, "Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter; who would worry about this little amount." Anyway, the transit company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. Accept it as a 'gift from God' and keep quiet.

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, "Here, you gave me too much change."

The driver with a smile replied, "I noticed your Masonic ring and lapel pin. I have been thinking lately about asking a Mason how to join. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. You passed the test. Can you tell me how to become a Mason?"

When the Mason stepped off the bus, he said a silent prayer "Oh God, Grand Architect of the Universe, I almost sold you and my beloved Masons out for a mere quarter."

Our actions are the only Masonic creed some will ever see. This is a really almost scary example of how people watch us as Masons and may put us to the test even without us realizing it! Always be diligent, whether it be at the theater, restaurant, grocery, service station or just driving in traffic. Remember, whether it be a lapel pin, a ring, or an emblem on the car, you carry the name of our great fraternity on your shoulders whenever you call yourself a Mason. You never can tell who might be watching!

Enjoy the summer and hope to see you in August at the Welcome Back Picnic and Corn Roast.

Jim McPherson, SW

District Mason of the Year Dinner – April 22, 2008

Each year our District recognizes one person as the District's Mason of the Year. This person is chosen from all of the Mason of the Year recipients in our District. The District Mason of the Year is that brother best exemplifying the spirit and sacrifice aspired to in Masonry. M.W.B. Leon Richardson, our District B.G.P. representative had the most difficult task of choosing one from many deserving candidates in our District including our Mason of the Year, Bro. Jim Sparks P.M.

Bro. Larry Gibson of the Centerline Lodge was selected as the District Mason of the Year. He is shown with M.W.B. Bob Trussell P.M., our D. D. I. and his Lodge Brother the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master, Don Carmen. Larry's wife, Sue, was present to share this special moment with him.



M.W.B. Bob Trussell, Bro. Larry Gibson and RW Dep. Grand Master Don Carmer



Bro. Larry Gibson and his wife Sue.



WM Ron Aldridge and Bro. Jim Sparks

Beacon Project 2008

As most of you know, the Beacon Project is a Masonic effort to support public education. We volunteer our time in local schools doing whatever we can to be useful. This project is spearheaded by Bro. Ray Doyscher P.M. and his wife Donna.

2008 marks the 7th year that the Masons have been pen pals with teacher Pat Hein's 4th grade class. Mrs. Hein's class once again hosted a tea party for the Masons on May 16th. According to Bro. Doyscher, the party was "a culmination of a lot of well focused effort on the part of the students learning to write a formal letter."

The event was well attended by Brothers and their wives from Northwood Ancient Craft, Royal Oak and Berkley lodges, including Bro. Fred Kaiser, the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Michigan.



MWB Fred Kaiser and Beacon Project Student



Bro. George Staten and Beacon Project Student



Welcome Back Picnic & Corn Roast

**THURSDAY,
AUGUST 21, 2008
5:00 P. M. – 8:00 P. M.**

HAVEN'T ATTENDED IN A WHILE...THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GET REACQUAINTED. BRING A FRIEND. BRING A PROSPECTIVE MASON.

THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT.

Hamburgers

Hot Dogs & the Trimmings

★ FRESH CORN ON THE COB

**MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE
850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE**

LODGE SCHOLARSHIP OAKLAND POLICE ACADEMY

On June 13, Senior Warden Jim McPherson attended the Oakland Community College Police Academy 94th Session Graduation Exercises to witness the presentation on our Lodge's Masonic Scholarship. This was the second year a scholarship has been presented.

Deborah Bayer, Director of Emergency Services at the Combined Regional Emergency Services Training Center, presented a \$1000 scholarship in the Lodge's name to Mr. Randall S. Schwarb. Mr. Schwarb was president of his Academy class. He is a "preservice" candidate which means that he was putting himself through the Academy in hope of finding a job in the law enforcement community after graduation. Mr. Schwarb is a resident of Royal Oak.



Pakland Police Academy graduate received his scholarship.

WELCOME NEW BROTHERS

The Lodge welcomes two new Entered Apprentices, Courtney Halmi and Jim Niks.

Bro. Courtney Halmi is a resident of Pleasant Ridge where he lives with his wife Louisa. Courtney is employed by the U.S. Army as a Quality Assurance Specialist.



Courtney is an ordained deacon and ordained elder at the Drayton Ave. Presbyterian Church in Ferndale. Courtney was introduced to Masonry by Bro. Larry Galloway PM.



Bro. Jim Niks is originally from Escanaba in Michigan's beautiful U.P. He now resides in Rochester Hills with his wife Sandra. Jim is the retired Deputy Chief of the Royal Oak Police Department. His wife, Sandra, is an engineer with General Motors.

Jim enjoys spending time with his dog, motorcycling, the stock market and discovering Masonry. Bro. Jim was introduced to Masonry by M.W.B. Leon Richardson, his frequent breakfast companion and fellow motorcycle aficionado

LODGE RECEIVES AWARD FROM SCOUTS



WM Ron Aldridge, Jim Sparks, Hanson Lee and Roy Prince.

Bro. Hanson Lee, a Mason from Troy Highlands Lodge, representing the Boy Scouts of America, attended our Annual Picnic in the Parking Lot. He and Bro. Roy Prince presented an appreciation award to Worshipful Master Ron Aldridge and Secretary Jim Sparks for the Lodge's support of the Boy Scouts. The Lodge made contributions to the Boy Scouts and to the Order of the Arrow Scout Indian Dancers as a token of support and appreciation after the Scouts appeared at our Mason of the Year Dinner honoring Jim Sparks P.M. The Scouts, accompanied by Bro. Roy Prince and his wife, delighted the audience with Indian-themed dances. The Scouts spend hours practicing the dances and appear at numerous functions to display their talents. Our contribution to the dance group assists them with travel expenses and their costumes.

More Picnic Pictures



Bro. Martin Tudor arrives



Chefs Todd Mitchell, Gerald Brown & Robert Munro



Three generations - Bro. Don Novak, son John and grandson Jack



Firefighters enjoy a Thank You Picnic Dinner



Helen Jones & Bro. Roy Doyscher



Happiness is Bro. Gerald Browns daughter.



Dick Wisely and daughter Beth Baeten



Cliff and Janet Dean and Norma Scott

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HERE!**

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