

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

JANUARY 2009

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

James McPherson, Worshipful Master

James McPherson Installed As Worshipful Master



Front L>R: Bob Munro, Jack Parkin, Jim Niks, Art Gustafson
Back L>R: Roy Prince, Don Novak, James McPherson, Jim Sparks, Gerald Brown

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009



Art Gustafson presents the new
Worshipful Master

On Saturday, December 13, 2008, Brother James W. McPherson was installed as Worshipful Master for the year 2009 along with his line of officers at a public ceremony at the Royal Oak Masonic Temple.

Joining W.M. McPherson this year are Arthur Gustafson P.M., Senior Warden; James Sparks P.M., Secretary; Earl VanCise P.M., Treasurer; Donald Novak P.M., Chaplain; Gerald Brown, Senior Deacon; James Niks, Junior Deacon; Robert Munro, Senior Steward; Roy Prince, Junior Steward; and Jack Parkin, Tiler.

Music for the ceremony was beautifully provided by Organist Marjorie Dunbar, Soloist Margaret Parkin and Violinist David Prince. Brother Earl Van Cise photographed the ceremony.

Bothers and guests enjoyed an After Glow with food and refreshment in the dining room following the Installation



W.M. James McPherson
and wife, Joie

LODGE OFFICERS - 2009

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

James McPherson (248) 588-1623

SENIOR WARDEN

Arthur Gustafson, PM (248) 941-3773

JUNIOR WARDEN

To Be Elected

SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM (248) 544-4613

TREASURER

Earl VanCise, PM (248) 288-3561

CHAPLAIN

Don Novak, PM (248) 541-5518

SENIOR DEACON

Gerald Brown (586) 354-1940

JUNIOR DEACON

James Niks (248) 656-2689

SR. STEWARD

Bob Munro, Sr. (586) 822-8023

JR. STEWARD

Roy Prince (248) 280-9225

STEWARD

James Diamond (248) 217-5921

STEWARD

Phil Leese (248) 543-2109

STEWARD

James Novak (248) 635-2598

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

Jr. Warden (248) 548-3905

Art Gustafson, Sr. Warden (248) 941-3773

James McPherson, W.M. (248) 588-1623

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

LODGE ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 2009

1-08	Thu	Potluck Dinner Business (B)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
1-15	Thu	Officers Meeting (C) Budget/Calendar	7:00 p.m.
1-22	Thu	M.M. Degree (T) Meal & Refreshment 2nd Section	Open 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.
1-29		District Lodge of Instruction (B) All Officers To Attend	7:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2009

2-05	Thu	Potluck Dinner Business (B)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
2-12	Thu	Ladies Night Dinner (B)	6:00 p.m.
2-19	Thu	Degree Practice Social Night to follow	7:00 p.m.
2-26	Thu	Mason of the Year Dinner Tickets \$8 Order of the Arrow Dance Group	6:30 p.m.

MARCH 2009

3-05	Thu	Potluck Dinner	6:00 p.m.
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VETERAN HONORED

Yearly, Northwood Ancient Craft recognizes those Brothers who have served their country in the several branches of the military. This is a relatively new effort and we continue to reach out to those who have not been recognized.

We are pleased to add the name of Brother Arthur R. Steffes, P.M. to the honor roll. Bro. Steffes served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1964.

To those Brothers out there that served (or are serving) their country, we would be happy to hear from you and include your information in our annual Fall issue. A picture in uniform would be outstanding. Thank you for your service.

From the East

Looking forward to 2009

What an honor to sit in the East of NAC 551! I thank the Brothers of our Lodge for entrusting such an important duty to my hands, and I am looking forward to serving. Also, many thanks to the Brothers, especially the Past Masters, that have created and support our Lodge. I will attempt to live up to the great job performed by our previous Masters.

My goal is to place a Lodge emphasis on learning the Ritual, history and spirit of the Masonic way. This is likely to include "short" practices in conjunction with other activities, such as our important "Social Nights," as well as "brief" presentations and discussions during our Business Meetings and Social Nights.... Stay tuned! Also, we will attempt several activities throughout the year that will be simply for fun, such as fishing trips, excursions, music and cards. Last year we had several visits/presentations by health care professionals. These proved to be very valuable and we will attempt to continue with these.

Weight Loss! Although not many of us are overweight ... there are a couple brothers with slightly stretched belts! We plan to provide these Brothers an opportunity to "fine-tune" their youthful figures with another weight-loss contest. Please watch for details.

Of great concern to our communities is the economy. You are all aware of the dreadful downturn we are all experiencing. Unemployment is soaring, homes are being lost, some families are uncertain about food and warmth. The year of 2009 may become one with the greatest need for charitably efforts in many years. Charity may be given in many forms, including prayer, donation of time, fund-raising efforts as well as donations. Please keep your eyes on the welfare of your community, family and friends.

Best Wishes in the New Year and I look forward to serving you as well as depending upon your help.

In Brotherhood ... Jim McPherson, W.M.



Outgoing Masters Message



Thank you my Brothers...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with our Lodge for their hard work and support during my year as Master of the Lodge. When I say everyone, I do mean everyone, my fraternal Brothers, their Ladies, or significant others, their families, and their guests as they attended, and helped with our different Lodge functions throughout the year.

Without your attendance during the year I would have never had the chance to meet you, or to share with you the wonderful fellowship which Masonry provides. It has been both a rewarding and interesting journey indeed, and one that I will cherish the memory of for many years to come.

During this past year, I have also learned that Masonry works in mysterious ways sometimes. As most of you are well aware, my personal life this past year has not been an easy time for me with the untimely death of my son Scott. Oddly enough, during those times when it seemed as though the

whole world was against me, I would fall back, regroup, and focus on Lodge duties, and with that focus and diversion from my own sorrow, I somehow made it through. I thank all of you for your concern, your understanding, your prayers, and for standing by me during that very difficult time in my life. I will never forget it, and I remain forever indebted to all of you for your kindness as a result.

As for my future plans, I will be around to assist our Lodge in any capacity that might help our Lodge to function and grow in years to come. However, please understand that I'm still mending from the heartache as well. As a result, I'm looking forward to some obligation free time for myself, so if I don't show up on a Lodge night or two, please don't worry about me, my best wishes are, and always will be, with my Brothers at Northwood-Ancient Craft Lodge.

On the level

Ron Aldridge, P.M.



W.M. James McPherson and wife, Joie
P.M. Ron Aldridge and wife, Beth



THE LADIES OF NAC 551

Front L>R: Margaret Parkin, Marjorie Dunbar, Jennifer Brown, Doris Sparks. Back L>R: Norma Scott, Kathy VanCise, Joie McPherson, Beth Aldridge, Susan Novak, Beth Prince



Bro. Gustafson presents the new Junior Deacon, James Niks.



Jim Sparks presents Senior Warden, Art Gustafson.



Acting Grand Master, Ray Doyscher



P.M. Jim Weir makes a presentation to the new W.M.



P.M. Ron sports his new Past Masters apron for Bro. Jim.



Bro. Gerald Brown installed as Senior Deacon.



Bro. Ilija Rapo, P.M. receives his 40 year certificate.

Widows Night Dinner



L>R: Guy Shelton and wife, Jack Parkin, Ray and Donna Doyscher and Ann Hamilton.



L>R: Doris Sparks, Glenda Nixon, Elton and Norma Scott and Connie McDougall.

Christmas Party



The Chief Elf trumpets in Santa's arrival.



Rachel McPherson waiting for Santa.



Jim Sparks grandsons, James & Steven, discuss their wishes with Santa.



Gerald Browns' son, Tyler visits with Santa and his elf.

Christmas Party



Ashley, Amy and Alli Atkinson with Santa



A job well done!
Santa (Bro. Earl) and Chief Elf (Bro. Ray)



Dick Wisely and grandson



Bob Munro and daughter, Catrina

Lodge Renovation

The Lodge Room of the Royal Oak Masonic Temple was built and decorated about twenty five years ago. The carpet was getting threadbare, the seats low and lumpy, the ceiling tiles droopy and the walls dingy. The Temple Board decided that a facelift was in order and voted to renovate the Lodge Room.

Bro. Bob Munro had talked with Bro. Don Novak and others about a new look. Being an architect, he made some conceptual drawings of a joint vision for a new, updated Lodge Room. Using this vision and keeping it within budgetary constraints, the Temple Board moved forward with the project over the summer.

This renovation was certainly a labor of love for all involved. There were many cracks in the floor, drywall repairs to be done, electrical problems, tear out of seating and carpeting to name a few. Bro. Art Gustafson was a real work horse on this project. Bro. Ron Aldridge labored with the repair of cracks. Bro. Phil Leese did all of the painting. Bros. Earl VanCise, Ray Doyscher and Martin Tudor also lended a hand with various aspects. Bro. Jim Sparks oversaw the entire project and kept everyone on schedule. Last, but not least, the project had help from several Brothers from Lodge 464.

Now complete this Fall, the Lodge Room has new carpeting, freshly painted walls, new ceiling tiles where needed, and plush new pew seating on the sidelines. The floor officers also have new comfortable seating. The crown jewel is our new stained glass insignia in the East thanks to Bro. Ron Aldridge and James Sparks.



Before the renovation



New look toward the East

2008 Mason of the Year Dinner

February 26, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.
Madison Heights Masonic Temple



Honoring



Donald Novak, P.M.

Northwood Ancient Craft Mason of the Year 2008

Following dinner there will be a special presentation by the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow Indian Dance group in the Lodge Room.

Tickets for the dinner are \$8 each with profits donated to the Boy Scouts. Even if you cannot attend, please consider making a donation to support our Scouts.

Tickets available from Lodge Officers. Reservations are necessary for menu planning.



Our new stained glass insignia
in the East.



The new lodge look.

DONALD M. TRIVETT
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