

# **TRESTLEBOARD**

## **Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551**

MARCH 2009

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850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

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James McPherson, Worshipful Master

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## ***Boy Scout Indian Dancers***

### ***Entertain Mason Of The Year Guests***



The annual Mason of the Year Dinner was held on February 26 honoring the 2008 Mason of the Year, Brother Don Novak, P.M. A sumptuous meal was prepared featuring Bro. Jim Sparks' famous roast pork. After the introductions and presentations, everyone adjourned to the blue room where the Boy Scout Order of the Arrow Lodge 162 Indian Dancers Chapter 162, under leadership of Bros. Roy Prince and Hanson Lee, had prepared a special presentation.

The Order of the Arrow group, attired in authentic looking Native American regalia, presented a series of Indian dances based on different Tribes, their legends and cultures. There were explanations for each. The athleticism and exuberance of the dancers was amazing. Each dance, done in the dark, was accompanied by music and drumming and accentuated by a light show. The performance was enjoyed by all and well received.

Each year, the Mason of the Year is allowed to donate the proceeds of the dinner to be donated to a charitable organization of his choice. This year, Bro. Don Novak decided that the proceeds from the dinner would be donated to the Boy Scouts of America and the Order of the Arrow Chapter.

Mason of the Year from Lodge 464, Jerry Christie P.M., was in attendance along with Bro. Dale Black P.M., a previous Mason of the Year, and his wife. Grand Lodge was represented by Bro. Leon Richardson, our B.G.P representative.

The meal was prepared under the direction of Junior Warden Don House, with assistance from Jim and Doris Sparks, Ray and Donna Doyscher, Elton Scott, Art Gustafson and Fred Messer. A big THANK YOU to these folks. Without their never ending dedication and constant assistance, it's hard to imagine any event taking place at the Lodge.

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2009

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

James McPherson ..... (248) 588-1623

### SENIOR WARDEN

Arthur Gustafson, PM ..... (248) 941-3773

### JUNIOR WARDEN

Don House ..... (248) 689-5543

### 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

Don House, Jr. Warden ..... (248) 689-5543

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](http://www.nac551.com)

## MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
(248) 588-3394

# LODGE ACTIVITIES

## MARCH 2009

3-05	Thu	Potluck Dinner Business (B)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
3-12	Thu	F.C. Degree (T) Practice if no candidate	7 p.m.
3-16	Mon	Corned Beef Dinner	4 p.m.-7 p.m.
3-19	Thu	E.A. Degree Rehearsal Officers needed (C)	
3-26	Thu	E.A. Degree Officers (T)	
3-30	Mon	District School of Instruction MM Degree Instruction at E.N.W. Lodge	7:00 p.m.
3-31	Tue	District Board of General Purposes Meeting Hosted by R.O. 464	

## APRIL 2009

4-02	Thu	Potluck Dinner Business Meeting (B)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
4-09	Thu	FC Degree Rehearsal (C)	7:00 p.m.
4-16	Thu	FC Degree Conferral Officers (T)	
4-23	Thu	SURPRISE !!!!	
4-25	Sat	Tentative tour of Masonic Temple downtown Details to follow	
4-30	Thu	Guest Speaker, Dr. Sidney Simonian, a noted ophthalmologist speaks on eye disease. This event is open to the public. Invite a friend.	

## MAY

5-07	Thu	Pot Luck Dinner Business Meeting (B)	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
5-14	Thu	M.M. Degree Conferral, Open Lodge Meal break and presentations Second Section with Degree Team	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:30 p.m.

Dates and times are subject to change. Check website for up to date info.  
[www.nac551.com](http://www.nac551.com)

# ***FROM THE EAST***

2009 has begun

It is amazing how quickly time flies. Already two months have passed in our new year. We recently held the annual Ladies Night Dinner at the Clawson Steakhouse. It was a very enjoyable evening, in large part due to the support we received from Don Novak, Don House and Jim Sparks ... thank you.

I have appointed Ray Doyscher to be our Lodge Education Officer. Ray's duties will be to work with me to plan and conduct various educational activities focusing on educating new members and sharing historical Masonic stories and values with our members. Many thanks to Brother Ray for accepting what I hope will become a very important role in our Lodge.

We need help in two areas, new memberships and the Degree Team. New members entering our ranks of brotherhood on a regular basis is critical for our Lodge to remain healthy and vibrant. New members bring a fresh store of energy and ideas for our Lodge to build upon. They also bring us new skills and current knowledge of the world around us. Without doubt, new members also bring us new dues to help our Lodge reach our goals.

Our Degree Team needs some new members. Some of you are current members of our team and travel to different Lodges in our area for the Second Part of the Master Mason

Degree. Participation may not always be convenient, but it is always rewarding. New members of the Team will be asked to learn a small part, usually under the supervision of someone experienced with the Team. A few years ago we had a strong team. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll and we need your help. If interested, please contact me or Jim Sparks.

Our Mason of the Year for 2009 is Brother Donald Novak. There is an invisible group of Masons that are often unseen. Their activities are often taking place at their homes, businesses or elsewhere to ensure the strength and continuation of our Lodge through their unselfish and unrelenting efforts. Don Novak is the epitome, the ideal expression, of this group of Masons. Don, like so many others, is always there; to help, to support and to extol what he believes to be right. Don is our Lodge Chaplin this year for the second year in a row. He has the huge duty of being the Editor of our "Trestleboard" publication. Don was one of our Brothers who helped to establish our endowment scholarship for police and fire training at OCC "CREST". In the past Don has also been active at our Spring Picnic and Fall Corn Roast. Over the years Don has cooked 597 hamburgers and 317 hotdogs! Don, we are all very proud and honored to have you here as a member of our Lodge.

For now, I remain like you .... Hopeful Spring will come soon.

Jim McPherson, WM

## ***From the South***

I have been out of the Lodge for about seven years due to illness in my family. I am back now and ready to work hard for OUR Lodge. There are many members whom I've never met. I want to know why those of you whom I've not had the pleasure of meeting are not attending. I know many of you live close by and if there is anything hindering you from participating in the Lodge I want you to know that I will offer any assistance to make your participation easier. Be it a ride or a reminder of an event or any other assistance you might need.

Our Lodge needs your help to make us prosper with new candidates, more family member participation and countless opportunities to meet interesting and new people who, in many instances, become life long friends. We have a wonderful Lodge with many talented people and we need to bring everyone together so that we can learn about the many aspects of our membership and community. If you are not motivated to do this for yourselves or have personal family reasons, such as my own during the many years, I was unable to attend, know that

I am here as resource for you and I am willing to help in whatever way I can. The active members of the Lodge are also willing and eager to help and have many talents and resources available to them. Don't make the mistake I made and think that you are alone. We are all brothers.

I had the opportunity to meet Past Master Alan Lawton recently and found him, his wife and family to be very friendly, warm, interesting and kind people. I'd love to see Past Master Alan Lawton and his wonderful wife active in our Lodge again just as I would love to see you and your wife or significant others active. Our meeting doesn't have to be by chance, we have a wonderful facility and we have weekly scheduled activities listed in the Treasel Board.

Thanks for reading and I HOPE TO SEE YOU. If you need my assistance or the assistance of the Lodge, please contact me at 248-227-1629.

Brother Donald House, P.M.  
Junior Warden





# 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 and brotherly love. 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 dedica-

tion 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 Don Novak, P.M. Chaplain  
From all of us at Northwood-Ancient Craft Lodge 551.***



# Mason of the Year Dinner

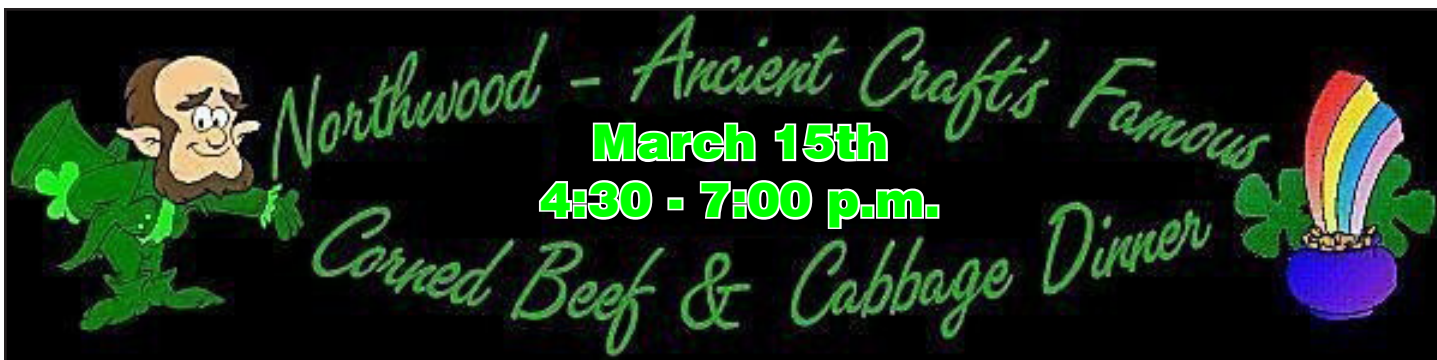


Don Novak and family.



Bro. John Beedle-Gee and wife Pam along with Bro. Jerry Christie





For corned beef that melts in your mouth  
you must come and try our secret recipe.

*There is none finer than our FAMOUS Corned Beef with all the trimmings.*

Come early as this has been a sell-out for years.

For reservations please call:

Jim Sparks @ 248-544-4613    Jim McPherson @ 248-588-1623    Don House @ 248-689-5543

## ***DETROIT MASONIC TEMPLE TOUR SATURDAY, APRIL 25 2009***

The Lodge is TENTATIVELY planning a tour of the Detroit Masonic Temple, the world's largest. It is an architectural marvel. This tour is open to any Mason and other member of the public.

We did this several years ago and all who went gave glowing reviews of the experience. Don't miss this opportunity to see the Temple before it falls on hard times and is lost.

Contact Bro. Don Novak if you are interested in participating. If not enough interest is shown to warrant the trip, the tour will be scraped.

Bro. Don can be contacted at 248-541-5518 or by email at the following [donnovak123@att.net](mailto:donnovak123@att.net)



## • Brother Howie Damron •

Information from St. Patrick's Lodge #4, Johnstown, N.Y.

And Valley of Ocala Orient of Fla. Scottish Rite Freemasonry

Brother Howie Damron is one of the best things that have happened to Freemasonry in recent times. He is a 32 Degree Scottish Rite Mason from Ohio. His love of the Craft can be heard through the lyrics in his songs. The words to his songs have touched the hearts of Masons from New York to California and Florida to Alaska. His "Masonic Pride Tour" is in big demand throughout the country and he has made personal performances at many Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite functions. His CDs are a "must-have" for any Mason. His love for Freemasonry and the outdoors is evident in all of his songs. He appears on many hunting and fishing shows on National TV and his new album is being enthusiastically received by Brothers all over the world. He has received request to translate some of his songs to foreign languages for the brethren of other countries.

Masons have been spreading the word about Howie Damron and sales of his albums have been brisk. The Brethren are so excited about his motivating music that they are ordering extra albums from his web site so that they may share them with their friends and relatives. He really loves our fraternity and he loves sharing it and motivating others. One song in particular to check out is "The Masonic Ring" on his "Hiram's Call" CD

**Bro. Howie writes on the Ocala (Fla) Scottish Rite website:**

"To my Brother Master Masons:

Not for fame or fortune have I undertaken this very important mission to promote Freemasonry and attempt to restore the precious light that our forefathers shown so brightly through their own pride and creativity. I began my quest after self-examination and realizing I was being selfish for not sharing the very heart of the craft, its 'Teachings and Wisdom' with the young me that so desperately need them for their own directions.

I pray these songs will inspire and motivate my Brothers to simply start sharing and talking about Freemasonry. I would like to ask all of you to Email me and Proudly give your name and contact info telling me you will join me with this very important mission. at [www.buckeyewild.com](http://www.buckeyewild.com). I am a little fish in a very big pond but I am a member of a Brotherhood that is big as a whale and its time to surface. Let's be about our DUTIES with pride."

On the internet, check [www.ocalasr.com](http://www.ocalasr.com) and "knock" on the door. Then scroll down to the link for "The Masonic Ring" to listen to the song.. This man is a true brother of the craft in every sense of the word.

DONALD M. TRIVETT  
President

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## **SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS**

Ad space is now available on the Trestleboard. You may purchase a business card size for \$50 for one year ( 6 issues) or a large ad for \$100 for one year (6 issues).

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

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