

# TRESTLEBOARD

## Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 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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## ***National Treasure.....???***

Well maybe this wasn't quite like the recent movie featuring Nicholas Cage as archeologist Benjamin Franklin Gates hunting for the treasure hidden by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin during the Revolutionary War, The movie featured secret codes, National monuments and a strong back story featuring the Knights Templar and the Freemasons.

This adventure did however feature Freemasons, Masonic symbols and treasures located right here in Royal Oak. It was not some secret horde of riches hidden by Bro. George Washington, , but rather, was comprised of a ton of people's unwanted and discarded personal treasures....in other words..... their trash. Our protagonist was none other than veteran garage sale guru, Bro. Ray Doyscher who has been on his own treasure hunt for many months now gathering a vast array of items for the Almost Annual Masonic Benefit Garage Sale held August 1st and 2nd at the Doyscher domicile. If you are an early riser living in Royal Oak, you may have seen the familiar yellow pickup slowly patrolling the streets of Royal Oak under the cover of darkness on the appointed trash pickup days with the driver scouring the discarded items at the curb for any hidden "treasures" that would turn trash into Masonic cash.

Bro. Ray and his wife, Donna, have graciously and unselfishly hosted this event for the last several years. The proceeds of the sale have been directed to charities, scholarships, orphans in Afghanistan and a Brother's needy son. This year the Brothers of Royal Oak Lodge 464 joined in the venture donating articles for sale and volunteering their time at the event.

Bro. Ray was so successful in his ventures this year that he literally collected more items...furniture, lamps, bikes, cabinets and everything else including the kitchen sink ....than he had room to store in the Doyscher garage and yard and was forced to rent a storage unit for the overflow!! However all his efforts reaped benefits for the Lodges with more than \$1700



**Bro. Ray Doyscher assists Treasurer Bro. Earl Van Cise as he counts the proceeds from a very successful day of sales.**

raised during the two days.

Many Brothers answered the call to assist with this event including NAC 551 Brothers WM Jim McPherson, Don House, Earl Van Cise, Elton Scott, Jim Sparks, Ron Aldridge, Phil Leese, George Staten, Jim Niks and Royal Oak 464 Brothers Jerry Christie, Charlie Kyle, Charlie and Sally Yego and David and Nicole Blair. Thanks goes out to all Masons who contributed items for this event, came over and bought items and helped in other ways. Of course the BIGGEST thank you goes out to Brother Ray Doyscher and his wife Donna for again making this Masonic venture a reality. The value of time and effort this dynamic duo contributed is just immeasurable.

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2009

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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

### SENIOR WARDEN

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

### JUNIOR WARDEN

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

### SECRETARY

James Sparks, PM ..... (248) 544-4613

### TREASURER

Earl VanCise, PM ..... (248) 288-3561

### CHAPLAIN

Don Novak, PM ..... (248) 541-5518

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Gerald Brown ..... (586) 354-1940

### JUNIOR DEACON

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Bob Munro, Sr. .... (586) 822-8023

### JR. STEWARD

Roy Prince ..... (248) 280-4515

### STEWARD

James Diamond ..... (248) 217-5921

### STEWARD

Phil Leese ..... (248) 543-2109

### STEWARD

James Novak ..... (248) 635-2598

### MARSHALL

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### TILER

Jack Parkin, PM ..... (248) 589-1692

### EDUCATION OFC.

Ray Doyscher, PM ..... (248) 545-7443

## TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

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

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

## DINNER RESERVATIONS

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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

Ron Aldridge P.M., Webmaster

## TRESTLEBOARD

Don Novak, P.M., Editor

## MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

# LODGE ACTIVITIES

## AUGUST

8-20 Thu

Welcome Back Picnic 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
& Corn Roast - Public Welcome

## SEPTEMBER

09-03 Thu

Potluck Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Business (B) 7:00 p.m.  
Officers moving up in position

09-10 Thu

Social Night with music 7:00 p.m.  
Bring instruments

09-17 Thu

E.A. Degree rehearsal (C) 7:00 p.m.

09-24 Thu

Social Night (C) EA Obligation 7:00 p.m.  
Contest ...no P.M's to enter. Prize to best ritualist

## OCTOBER

10-01 Thu

Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish. 6:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

10-08 Thu

Masonic Education Class (C) 7:00 p.m.  
Social Night to follow

10-15 Thu

Social Night with Cards (C) 7:00 p.m.  
Pinochle - Cribbage

10-17 Sat

Grand Lodge Reception hosted by  
MW Grand Marshal Dick Wisley & NAC 551.  
Ukrainian Cultural Center 26601 Ryan, Warren.  
Details & time TBA. Open to the Masonic family

10-22 Thu

Installation Practice (C) 7:00 p.m.

10-29 Thu

Old Timers & Awards Dinner 6:30 p.m.  
Call J.W. for reservations

## NOVEMBER

11-05 Thu

Potluck Dinner. Bring a Dish 6:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

11-12 Thu

Widows Memorial Practice (C) 7:00 p.m.  
Social Night to follow

11-19 Thu

Widows Night Memorial Dinner (T)  
Memorial Service to follow 6:30 p.m.

11-26 Thu

Catered. Reservations required. Open to public  
HAPPY TRANKSGIVING

## DECEMBER

12-03 Thu

Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish 6:00 p.m.  
Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

12-06 Sat

Annual Children's Christmas Party  
Santa Claus visitation 2:00 p.m.  
Open to public. Food Provided.  
Bring a \$5 gift per child

12-10 Thu

Installation Practice (C) 7:00 p.m.  
Social Time to follow.

12-17 Thu

Installation of Officers (T) TBA  
Not open to public. Light meal & refreshments  
to follow.

Dates and times are subject to change. Check website for up to date info.  
www.nac551.com

# FROM THE EAST



Jim McPherson. W.M.

**Annual Dues:** This past year, and for a number of previous years, each dues paying member of our Lodge was sent a dues bill for \$69.50. When collected, these payments were applied in the following manner: 1) \$50 stayed at the Brother's Blue Lodge, 2) \$12.50 was sent to the Grand Lodge as our "per capita" payment, 3) \$3 was sent to the Masonic Home, 4) \$2 was sent to the Masonic Library, 5) \$1 was sent to the Washington Memorial and 5) \$1 was sent for Juvenile Diabetes. The last increase in the Grand Lodge's portion (per capita) was in 1993.

The last few decades have seen the number of dues paying Masons in Michigan shrink substantially. The total number of men in the organization has shrunk steadily after the great influx of members after WWII. Many members still remaining from 1950s and 1960s now have Life Membership and are no longer required to pay dues. The economy has been poor and interest/investment returns have drastically dropped. The Grand Lodge has not realized income great enough to cover expenses for many years. For 2007-2008 the Grand Lodge collected \$326,215 from "per capita" revenue to cover the Grand Lodge's operations cost of \$1,900,000. That left a short-fall (deficit) of approximately \$1.6 million. This short fall was covered from the Grand

Lodge's Reserve Fund, which is now down to approximately \$11 million. Faced with this problem, the Grand Lodge has continued to trim its budget, however, the deficit remains seriously large. Income from "per capita" needs to be increased to sustain the Grand Lodge as we know it. The last increase approved was in 1993 in the amount of \$5.

This year's Annual Communication saw multiple Amendments proposed to address the increasingly ominous budget problem. Discussions were very emotional and focused upon the ability of members to pay more, especially in these difficult economic times. After much discussion, a compromise was proposed to increase "per capita" dues by \$6.25 in each of the next FOUR years, for a total increase at the end of the FOUR years to total \$25. This results in the PER CAPITA portion of our dues to increase from this year's amount of \$12.50 to \$37.50 at the end of the four years. This means that IF none of the other portions of our dues increase (the portions that go to our Blue Lodge, Masonic Home, Masonic Library, Washington Memorial and Juvenile Diabetes) our total annual dues will be \$94.50. This compromise was passed, the effective date is being determined.

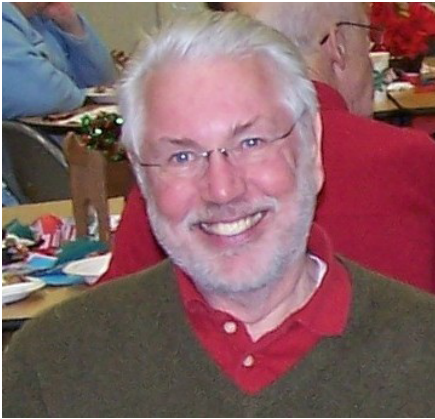
While none of us wants to pay more, it is important we weigh the value of our membership to ourselves, family and community. Our fraternity is built upon a set of values, the acceptance of a God (Faith), instilling a positive belief in the future of mankind (HOPE), and sacrifice for those less fortunate than ourselves (CHARITY). I humbly ask for your support of this dues increase, your continued membership and support of our Lodge and Michigan's Grand Lodge is deeply appreciated.

## ***Social Night***

The Social Night of September 24th will feature a contest of non-Past Masters competing to perform the best reciting (without the Book) of the Entered Apprentice Obligation. Those wishing to compete should contact Jim McPherson for more details.



# ***Richard Wisley***



**Worshipful Grand Marshal  
Richard Wisley**

Richard Wisley was elected to the position of Worshipful Grand Marshal in the Michigan line of Grand Lodge Officers at the Annual Grand Lodge Communication in Grand Rapids this past June. Congratulations Richard! This places Richard in the first of seven stations which ultimately may lead him to the position of Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Richard and his wife, Elaine, recently attended the Masonic Pathways Family Picnic in Alma. They met Bro. Don Kazuk and his wife, June. Bro. Don and his wife are the only Northwood Ancient Craft residents at the Pathways community.

Bro. Don sends his greetings to all of his brothers here at NAC 551.

Bro. Richard and our Lodge will host a reception for the Grand Lodge line on Saturday, October 17, 2009. The event will be held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan in Warren. This event will be open to the Masonic family and friends. It will feature dinner and live big band music and dancing. Social hour starts at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person and reservations are necessary. Please RSVP to Bro. Larry Galloway, 14 Cambridge, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069 or at 248-398-7537 to confirm your reservations by October 5, 2009



**Bros. Don Kazuk  
and Richard Wisley**

## ***New Master Mason***

We are very proud to announce our newest Master Mason, Andrew Martinez. Andrew completed his Third Degree on June 18, 2009, with Brother Art Gustafson standing in as Worshipful Master, Brother Larry Galloway sitting in the West as Senior Warden and Brother Don House in his regular chair in the South as Junior Warden. Brother Gerald Brown was Senior Deacon and also presented the Working Tools. Brother Jim Niks performed the duties of Junior Deacon while Brother Guy Sheldon kept everyone on the right path as Marshall. Brother John Walford was the Chaplin. Brother Ray Doyscher administered the Fellowcraft proficiency prior to the degree and the Bible Presentation after the degree was completed. Also, thank you to all of the other Brothers present that participated in various roles or provided support from the sidelines.



**Bro. Andrew Martinez**

# Chili Cookoff

We had an enjoyable Social Night on May 28th. The main event for the evening was a "Chili Cook-off". Contestants were Ron Aldridge, Don House and Gerald Brown. Each contestant prepared their best pot of chili. Those of us in attendance enjoyed sampling each cook's dish. All three prepared different and delicious versions of their chili and in a very close vote, Gerald Brown was the winner. As a reward he was presented with a CD by Howie Damron containing several of his Masonic



Bro. Don House  
thinks he has a winner



Bro. Ron Aldridge  
prepares his brew



Ken Truett strums a tune with cookoff  
winner Gerald Brown.

songs. We also enjoyed an evening of cards and music. Thank you everyone for a very enjoyable evening.

## OCC Police Academy Graduation:



Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard  
delivers the keynote address to the graduates.

The 96th Session of the OCC Basic Police Training program graduated on June 12th at the Royal Oak Campus. W.M. Jim McPherson and Bro. Don Novak represented Northwood Ancient Craft at the ceremony. Graduate Benjamin Umanos received various class awards, as well as the NAC 551

Masonic Scholarship. Benjamin also received an academic award for the highest academic achievement.

The college and Police Academy Director Tillman were very generous in their recognition of our scholarship program. Our brothers were seated with O.C.C. Board of Trustees Chairperson Shirley Bryant and her husband. Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard gave the keynote speech to the graduates. A reception was held after the graduation and Benjamin Umanos thanked the Lodge for its investment in his career.



Scholarship recipient  
Benjamin Umanos.



## ***Brother Leon Richardson r.i.p.***

We lost a very good friend and Masonic Brother on June 12th. Leon Richardson died of a heart attack after many years of heart-felt giving to the fraternity he loved and the many friends he met. Hundreds of Masons from all over the state filled the funeral home to pay their respects to our dearly departed Brother's family. Leon was an honorary member of our Lodge and our representative on the Board of General Purposes. Leon will be greatly missed. Our prayers are with his family.



Brother Leon Richardson  
at our Lodge in 2008.



WB Bob Trussel (L) and WB Leon Richardson (R)  
present a U.S. flag flown by our troops in Mosul, Iraq  
to outgoing MWGM Michael Jungel for his support  
of the troops and veterans.

## ***ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC June 25, 2009***

We held our Annual Spring Picnic honoring our Madison Heights Firefighters on June 25th. Hamburgers and Hotdogs were cooked on our grill and a buffet was served for our guests after Don House said Grace. We had a reasonably good turn out and good help on the grill, setup, kitchen and cleanup. Special thanks to Donna Doyscher and Doris Sparks for their valuable support and suggestions. Also, special thanks to Beth Aldridge for the wonderful baked beans (and once again I was the lucky one that got to clean the dish used for cooking the baked beans). The kids were great, we had a great time with Sean-Eryk Koponen (Brother Ryan's 8 year-old boy is awesome and helped us with the cleanup activities). The Madison Heights Fire Department sent a team with their equipment, which was greatly enjoyed between the rain drops by the children.



(F) Colin (Wisley) Baeton, Sean-Eryk  
Koponen & Rachael Baeton. (B) Katie  
(Wright) Richardson, her son Eli and  
M.H.F.D. Sgt. Brockman.



The kitchen crew - Bros. Ron Aldridge,  
Fred Messer and Don House.



Firefighter Brazen and Sgt.  
Scott Brockman

## ***W.B. Larry Galloway***

W.B. Larry Galloway, P.M., 32 Degree, MSA, was recently elected Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Children's Learning Center. Congratulations Brother Larry, the children will surely benefit by your leadership.



# **Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 ANNUAL FALL CORN ROAST Thursday, August 20, 2009 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

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