

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

NOVEMBER 2009

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

James McPherson, Worshipful Master

HONORING OUR MILITARY

Special Forces Prayer



*Almighty GOD, Who art the Author of liberty
and the Champion of the oppressed, hear our prayer.*



*We, the men of Special Forces, acknowledge
our dependence upon Thee in the preservation of human freedom.*



*Go with us as we seek to defend the defenseless and to
free the enslaved.*



*May we ever remember that our nation, whose motto
is "In God We Trust", expects that we shall acquit
ourselves with honor, that we may never bring shame
upon our faith, our families, or our fellow men.*



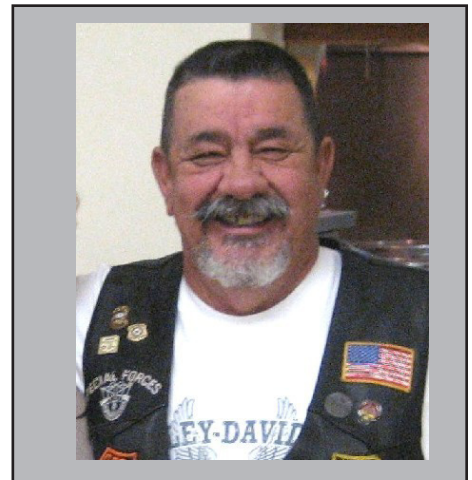
*Grant us wisdom from Thy mind, courage from Thine
heart, strength from Thine arm, and protection by Thine hand.*



*It is for Thee that we do battle, and to Thee belongs the
victor's crown.*



*For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever.
AMEN*



As we annually pay tribute and honor all of our country's servicemen, past present and future and especially those Brothers of our Lodge, the memory of our departed Brother Leon Richardson looms in our hearts. Bro. Leon was a Special Forces soldier in the Viet Nam War. A poem penned in 1961 by Special Forces Chaplain John Stevey of the 7th SFG (ABN) is reproduced here for your reflection.

God bless America and God bless our military personnel.

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

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) 280-4515

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

EDUCATION OFC.

Ray Doyscher, PM (248) 545-7443

TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge, PM (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

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James Sparks, PM

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LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

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TRESTLEBOARD

Don Novak, P.M., Editor

MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

LODGE ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER

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.
Catered. Reservations required. Open to public
Dress for Officers is tuxedos.

11-26 Thu 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 and
a dish to pass

12-10 Thu Installation Practice (C) 7:00 p.m.
Social Time to follow.

12-17 Thu Installation of Officers (T) 7:00 p.m.
followed by light refreshment
and snacks. Not open to public.

JANUARY

01-07 Thu Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.

01-14 Thu Officers Practice 7:00 p.m.
Audit the books and accounts
of the Lodge

01-21 Thu Degree Practice 7:00 p.m.
Social night to follow

01-28 Thu Officers Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Trestle Board to be mailed out

FEBRUARY

02-04 Thu Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting (B) 7:00 p.m.
Annual Report of Treasure and Secretary
and the books for the year 2009.

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

FROM THE EAST



Another Masonic year is coming to an end and soon we will have a wonderful new line of officers for Northwood Ancient Craft #551. I ask that all the Brothers of our Lodge confer their full support to the new Worshipful Master and his line of officers. The future of our Lodge, and indeed

all of Masonry, is both bright and challenging. For our Lodge, we need to find more new members in new and creative ways. For Masonry, we need to stick to our traditional values, perhaps also in new and creative ways.

The year has passed quickly and although we have many things to be proud of, there are also many more tasks that could be done. It has been a most rewarding year for me and I am most grateful to the Brothers of our Lodge for the opportunity to sit in the honored chair of the East. It is an experience for which I will ever be indebted. Thank You.

On The Level, Jim McPherson, WM

NEW B.G.P. REP

Bro. Dale Black P.M. of Royal Oak Lodge 464 was recently elected to the position of Board of General Purposed representative for our district to fill the vacancy left by the untimely passing of Bro. Leon Richardson P.M.



Bro. Dale is an excellent choice and will do an outstanding job as our representative. Best wishes in your new position Bro. Dale.

FROM THE WEST

On Thursday, November 5, 2009 the Brethren of Northwood Ancient Craft #551 elected for the eighty-first time, a Worshipful Master and a new line of officers for the ensuing Masonic Year. As this newly elected Worshipful Master, I am honored to have this task bestowed on me and look forward to the challenge ahead.

Other officers that were elected are Don House PM as Senior Warden; Gerald Brown as Junior Warden; James McPherson PM Treasurer; James Sparks PM as Secretary; and Jack Parkin PM as Tiler.

These officers were appointed: Roy Prince as Senior Deacon; James Niks as Junior Deacon; Ray Doyscher PM as Chaplin; Guy Shelton PM as Marshall and Mitchell Urbanski as Steward.

The newly elected officers and myself would like to invite all Master Masons to join us on Thursday, December 17th, at 7:00 PM, for Installation. (Light meal and refreshments to follow)

I would like to congratulate Worshipful Master James McPherson on the completion of his successful year, and welcome him to the Past Master rank. I look forward in working with Worshipful Brother Jim, as our newest elected Treasurer.

The officers and I give the Brethren of Northwood Ancient Craft an open invitation to join us next year and enjoy the friendship and brotherly love.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2010.

Respectfully,

Your Worshipful Master Elect

Arthur R. Gustafson, PM

The History of Free Masons In Royal Oak, Michigan

On a wintry evening in the year 1910 Masonic Bro. Dr. William Gass welcomed two distinguished local citizens into his Royal Oak home-office located on Washington Ave. between Fourth and Fifth Street. His visitors were his Masonic Brothers from Birmingham Lodge #44, Bro. Peter Backer (highway commissioner of Royal Oak Township) and Bro Charles Allen (president of the Royal Oak Village). As Dr. Gass escorted them into his parlor he poured each a cordial to warm their spirits from the cold outside air and they sat down to discuss Masonic fraternal affairs. Little could anyone have imagined where the discussion might lead. There was one very pressing problem, the difficulty that Royal Oak Village Masons had in getting to their Lodge located on Woodward Ave. at fifteen Mile Road. Royal Oak Lodge #464 secretary, W.B. Alvin Cook fondly recalls listening to the first elected Royal Oak Master, John C. Mow as he told stories of the 'early days' when travel to Lodge meant catching the Woodward Inter-urban rail service. At that time just getting to that service was difficult because roads were muddy, icy, or dusty through out the year. Horse-and-buggy or foot paths were the only way to the rail station and back home again. This problem was significant due to the heart felt attendance obligation that each Mason always has for his beloved Lodge.

As the ensuing conversation became more serious it was Bro. Backer who proposed the notion that Royal Oak Village needed its' own Masonic Lodge and Temple. The idea seemed interesting and the more it was discussed the more plausible it seemed. These three Masonic brethren now agreed that they must further investigate this possibility by interviewing other fraternal brothers. Dr. Gass recollected that just down the road from his Royal Oak home-office, less than a quarter mile away, on the SE corner of Fourth Ave. and Williams St., was an old school building, built in 1868, then called San Sara Hall. Conveniently, it was up for sale and though well aged it was a suitable size and location for a much desired fraternal meeting place.

The consideration of a local Royal Oak Masonic Lodge and Temple was met with enthusiasm by the local brethren. A few months later, in the Spring of 1910, a Masonic committee was assembled at

Dr. Gass' home-office for further relevant discussion. Finally, this same committee reassembled at the target building, San Sara Hall, where they finally agreed to raise the asking price of the building, some \$3,500, by selling 700 shares of stock for \$5 each to local brethren.. The recommendation of this committee was well received and San Sara Hall was purchased in the fall of 1910 and turned into the first Royal Oak Masonic Temple.

One year later, on May 11, 1911, dispensation was granted to form Royal Oak Lodge #464 which would then meet in the newly renovated but old building. The first Lodge meeting was held there only two days later. The new charter was late in coming and was granted on May 29, 1912. Still later, on July 25, 1912, Royal Oak Lodge #464 was constituted, dedicated and consecrated by Michigan's Grand Lodge. Royal Oak's first Masonic Temple was home to local brethren for the next 12 years and was also the first residence of Royal Oak Order of Eastern Star Chapter #392 and Royal Arch Masons Chapter #167. However, all was not perfect with these Masonic organizations now using this 44 year old structure. In fact, it was so rickety that during a Masonic Christmas party in 1915 the children had to be kept from romping around through the old upstairs school gymnasium because the floor weaved and squeaked too much. This tid-bit of information came to me courtesy of now deceased Royal Oak #464 Bro. Lloyd Watt who was at that party when he was five years old. In 1924 a new Royal Oak Masonic Temple building was erected at 412 S. Main St. between Fourth and Fifth Ave., exactly one block east of the home-office of Dr. Gass where the genesis of Royal Oak Lodge #464 began some 13 years earlier. The new dedication date was May 13, 1924. The ownership of this building was shared in a stock venture with the Royal Oak Order of Eastern Star #392. Eventually, Northwood Lodge #551 joined Lodge # 464, O.E.S. Chapter #392 and R.A.M. Chapter # 167 to form the Royal Oak Masonic Temple Corporation which has organized and transacted temple building activities ever since. (More to Come.....)

Compiled by Bro. Ray Doyscher PM

Annual Corn Roast

The Lodge held its Annual Welcome Back Corn Roast on August 20. Our chefs grilled up hotdogs and hamburgers while the kitchen crew prepared the feature item – fresh corn on the cob.



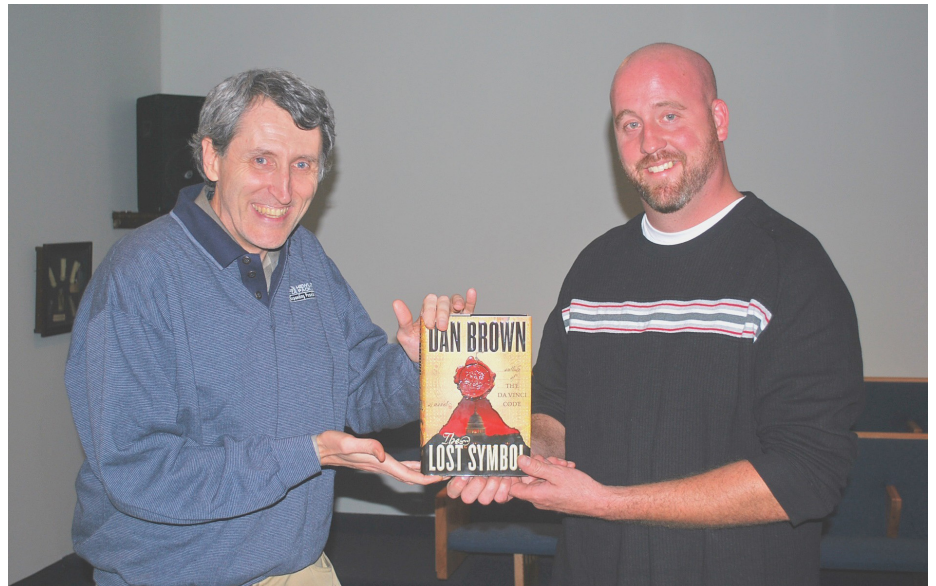
Bro. Ira Strickstein and son Larry enjoy the picnic.



Chefs Ray Doysher, Matthew Frederick and Gerald Brown man the grill.

Masonic Contest Winner

W.M. Jim McPherson recently proposed a friendly contest for non-Past Masters to take place at a Social Night in October. The participants were to memorize the Entered Apprentice Degree obligation and recite at the meeting. The Brother who did the best job was to receive a special prize. A group of Past Masters judged the two entrants, Bro. Roy Prince - our Senior Deacon for 2010 and Gerald Brown - our Junion Warden for 2010. Bro. Gerald pulled out a victory by a narrow margin and was awarded a copy of Dan Brown's new Masonic book - THE LOST SYMBOL.



L>R: Bros. Roy Prince and Gerald Brown

Lodge Rental Fees Lowered

The Temple Board recently voted to lower the hall rental fees in an effort to encourage more use and generate funds for the operating budget. A member may now rent the hall on available weekends for \$75 plus a refundable \$50 cleanup deposit and a \$10 non-refundable lock up fee. Events must terminate at midnight.

Non-members may rent the hall for a \$150 fee plus a \$50 clean up deposit and a \$30 non-refundable lockup security fee.

The hall will also be available for week day rental to anyone for a fee of \$20 per hour with a 3 hour minimum. A \$30 refundable cleanup deposit and a non-refundable lockup fee apply.

Contact Bro. Ron Aldridge at 248-548-3905 for rentals. A calendar is available on the website www.nac551.com which shows the current available dates and all details.

Grand Lodge Reception

On October 17, 2009, Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551 and our Worshipful Brother Richard Wisley P.M., the newly elected Grand Marshal of the Grand Lodge of Michigan hosted a reception for the Grand Lodge line of officers. The reception was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren. The well attended event featured dinner, refreshments and music provided by the Oakland Community College Jazz Band. Most Worshipful Grand Master Donald L. Carmen and his officers were in attendance.



W. Bro. Richard Wisley



MW Grand Master Donald L. Carmen and wife Angie.



W. Bro. Richard Wisley and the Brothers of NAC 551.



RW Senior Grand Warden
Fred Kaiser and wife Karen.



RW Junior Grand Warden
Dean Barr

HONOR OUR SERVICEMEN

Veterans Day November 11th

We honor our veterans and military personnel
and thank them for their service to the country.

U.S.A.F

John Beedle-Gee
James Niks



U.S. Army

Cliff Dean
Raymond Doyscher Jr.
Terry Drinkwine
Art Gustafson
Victor Koponen
James McPherson
Jack Parkin
Leon Richardson
Arthur R. Steffes
Martin Tudor
Richard Wisley



U.S.M.C.

Phillip Appledorn
Jason Ceaser
Oscar Chapman
John Clary
Mark Gerhard
Matthew Harwedel
Mark Jenkins
Robert Kendall
Brent Lilly
Earl Van Cise
Ryan White



U.S. Navy

James Diamond
Fred Earnshaw
Todd Mitchell
Robert Munro
John Walford



We would also like to recognize Brother Mike Mosuk who served in the Royal Canadian Army for his service as well as those other Brothers whose service affiliation we are not aware of. If you are not listed, we would happily include your name in our annual tribute. Please contact the Secretary with your information. A picture in uniform would be outatanding.



Happy Birthday Marines
November 10, 1775 - November 10, 2009

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