

# TRESTLEBOARD

## Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

APRIL 2010

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Arthur Gustafson, Worshipful Master

## OFFICERS FOR 2010 INSTALLED



Front l-r: Jack Parkin; Mitchell Urbanski; Roy Prince; Guy Shelton; Jim Niks; Jim Sparks. Second l-r: Don House; WM Arthur Gustafson; Gerald Brown; Ray Doyscher. Missing Freddie Messer; James McPherson.

On Thursday, December 17, 2009, Worshipful Brother Arthur Gustafson P.M. was installed as Worshipful Master for the year 2010 along with line of officers in a private ceremony at the Royal Oak Masonic Temple.

Joining W.M. Gustafson this year are Don House P.M., Senior Warden; Gerald Brown, Junior Warden; Roy Prince, Senior Deacon; James Niks, Junior Deacon; James Sparks P.M., Secretary; James McPherson P.M., Treasurer; Raymond Doyscher P.M., Chaplain; Fred Messer P.M., Steward; Mitchell Urbanski, Steward; and Jack Parkin P.M., Tiler.

WM Gustafson looks forward to an active year of lodge work and the installing, passing and raising many new candidates for Masonry. The Brothers of the Lodge wish him well and pledge their support for his plans and his ideas.

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2010

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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

### SENIOR WARDEN

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

### JUNIOR WARDEN

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

### SECRETARY

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

### TREASURER

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

### CHAPLAIN

Ray Doyscher, PM ..... (248) 544-7443

### SENIOR DEACON

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

### JUNIOR DEACON

James Niks ..... (248) 656-2689

### STEWARD

Fred Messer, PM ..... (586) 978-8694

### STEWARD

Mitchell Urbanski

### MARSHALL

Guy Shelton, PM ..... (586) 939-0536

### TILER

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

### TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS

Ronald Aldridge, PM (2011) (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (2012) ..... (248) 545-4276

Donald Novak, PM (2010) .... (248) 541-5518

### DINNER RESERVATIONS

Gerald Brown, Jr. Warden ..... (586) 354-1940

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

Art Gustafson, W.M. .... (248) 941-3773

### 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

### April 2010

04-08 THU

04-15 THU

04-22 THU

04-29 THU

E.A. Degree (T)..... 7PM –

F.C. Degree Practice in Open Lodge – 7 pm

F.C. Degree Practice in Open Lodge 7 PM

E.A. proficiencies

Mason of the Year Dinner 6 PM

Honoring W.B. Raymond Doyscher P.M.

Tickets available from officers

### May 2010

05-06 THU

05-13 THU

05-18-19

05-20 THU

05-27 THU

Potluck Dinner (6PM) Business Meeting (7PM) (B)

F.C. Degree (T) 4 Brothers - 7 PM.

GRAND LODGE ANNUAL COMMUNICATION

NO MEETING – LODGE DARK

M.M. Degree Practice ( 1<sup>st</sup> Section) 7 PM

This will be in Open Lodge

### June 2010

06-03 THU

06-10 THU

06-17 THU

06-24 THU

Potluck Dinner – bring a dish and join us (6PM)

Business Meeting (B) 7 p.m.

M.M. DEGREE Practice ( 2<sup>nd</sup> Section) - 7PM

This will be in Open Lodge

F.C. DEGREE proficiencies in Open Lodge - 7PM

M.M. DEGREE (T) Lodge to Open at 6 PM

Meal at 8 PM followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Section

July 2010

LODGE DARK

## *Was Thomas Jefferson a Mason?*

As we all know, many of the men who founded this great nation or were influential in other ways in its formative years, were Masons. Many names are documented in Lodge records, which are still in existence. Some were known to be Masons, but Lodge records have been lost or destroyed. Others still are believed to, or thought to have been Masons but it cannot be proven. Thomas Jefferson is of the latter. Some Masonic books list him as a Mason while others make no mention to this.

Thomas Jefferson was of course a contemporary of George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. He knew both well and certainly would have associated with them. Being the brilliant man Jefferson was, and with his love for learning and knowledge, it is not too far-fetched to think he discussed Masonry with these two, or others.

Masonry, being Deistic in nature, was a belief Washington and Franklin espoused.

*(con't on page 2)*

# FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brothers:

By now, you have all been enjoying this unseasonable warm weather enabling us to work around the yard and enjoy our

Creator's gifts. Spring is officially here and we look forward to the upcoming summer ahead. Before we take that summer break, we do have work to do in the Lodge.



We now have four new Brothers who have sought the Light and joined our esteemed fraternity.

I am asking for your assistance by attending and participating in the degree work that lays ahead for these new Brothers. Even if you can only sit on the sidelines as these new Brothers make their way on their path ahead, this is truly important, not only to them, but the Lodge and the Craft. Recall the days of yesteryear when you made your way in search of Light and how memorable and fulfilling it was. We need you here.

In December during our regular communication, the Brothers present had the honor to nominate and select the Mason of the Year for 2009. The Brothers unanimously elected WB Ray Doyscher PM to receive this great honor. WB Ray's love and devotion to the Craft and to our Lodge rises above any superlatives that can be offered.

In addition to his work in our Lodge, WB Ray spends countless hours traveling the area to different Lodges spreading Brotherly Love, Friendship and Relief in his path. It is truly an honor for me to call him my Brother.

In recognition of WB Ray's achievement, the dinner will be held in his honor on April 29.

In closing, I offer a special heartfelt thank you to all who attended the Annual Corned Beef Dinner fundraiser last month. It was a tremendous success as usual. The food and friendship was superb. No event like this can possibly be undertaken without the dedication and hard work of those Brothers and their wives who devoted countless hours to the preparation, cooking and cleanup duties. From the bottom of my heart, a Masonic THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all.

Art Gustafson P.M.  
Worshipful Master

*(Thomas Jefferson (con't from page 2))*

With its freedom of thought and religious practice, Masonry would have been very appealing to Jefferson.

Clues to whether Jefferson was a Mason may be found in some of his letters, of which he wrote some 20,000, many of which still exist and have been published in recent years and separated by subject matter.

One of these letters was written to William Short on October 31, 1819. In this letter, Jefferson writes, "Virtue consists in 1. Prudence. 2. Temperance. 3. Fortitude. 4. Justice." This is exactly what we learn in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

In the Declaration of Independence, written by Jefferson, near the end are these words, "...with a firm reliance on Devine Providence..." These words are almost identical to what is found at the end of the Master Mason Degree.

In another letter, written to Thomas J. Smith, he writes, "Adore God, .....love your neighbor as yourself, and your country more than life. Be just; be true...." Again, very Masonic type thoughts.

If Thomas Jefferson was not a Mason in the flesh so to speak, he certainly was in spirit. Incidentally, Abraham Lincoln had a great respect for Masonry and wanted to join but never did; and Ronald Reagan was recognized by Masonic groups for exemplifying Masonic principles and had a great respect for the institution. This article was submitted to the Trestleboard by Bro. Mitchell Urbanski

# 2009 Mason of the Year Award



This award is presented annually to a Brother Mason who epitomizes the highest standard of friendship, fellowship, 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 dedication 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.

W.B. Ray was first selected as Mason of the Year in 2002. He was also selected as the District Mason of the Year then. He went on to be Worshipful Master of our Lodge in 2004 and again in 2006. In the meanwhile he has held other positions in our Lodge as well as being active in Scottish Rite Masons, Royal Arch Masons and the Shrine. In between these activities, he manages to visit other Lodges not only in our area, but all over the globe ( as you may have read in an earlier Trestleboard article). This year W.B. Ray not only received this great honor from our Lodge, but was again selected as District Mason of the Year....an unparalleled feat. This Brother truly has pure Masonic blood circulating throughout his system.

Congratulations Worshipful Brother Raymond Doyscher P.M., our Chaplain, from all of us at Northwood-Ancient Craft Lodge.

**Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge 551  
MASON OF THE YEAR 2009 DINNER**

**Honoring W.B. Raymond Doyscher Sr. P.M.**

**The Lodge is sponsoring a dinner to honor W.B. Ray  
Doyscher, our Mason of the Year for 2009.**

**Dinner is Thursday, April 29, 2010  
6:00 p.m.**

**Following dinner, there will be a special presentation of the  
Mason of the Year Award to W.B. Ray Doyscher P.M.**

**Brother Roy Prince will receive the Daniel Carter Beard  
Masonic Scouter Award**

**Following the awards, the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow  
Indian Dance Team will present the guests with thoroughly  
entertaining and spiritual adventure with their historic  
costumed Indian Dance presentation.**

**Royal Oak Masonic Lodge  
850 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights**

**Please contact Bro. James Sparks at 248-544-4613  
for reservations and tickets at your earliest convenience.  
This event is open to the public. Tickets are \$8 with  
proceeds donated to the Boy Scouts of America and  
its Order of the Arrow Dance Team**

## *Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award*

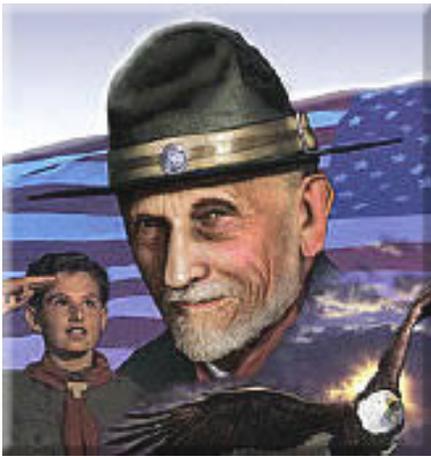


Bro. Roy Prince

Brother Roy Price will receive the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter award at the Mason of the Year Dinner scheduled for April 29, 2010 at the Masonic Temple.

Dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m. with awards to follow. After this, guests will adjourn to the Blue Room to witness the Boy Scouts Order of the Arrow Indian Dance Team perform. This moving and spiritual routine is an event not to be missed. The public is invited.

## *INTRODUCTION*



Daniel Carter Beard

Many Freemasons nationwide have been of great service to the Boy Scouts of America by supporting the development of Scouting units, serving as volunteers, and assisting their Masonic lodges in forming and sponsoring Scout units. The relationship between individual Masons and Scouting, which has existed since the founding of Scouting in America, has resulted in immeasurable benefits for both Freemasonry and Scouting.

At the June 2001 Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the Grand Master approved the creation of the Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award.

It was created with the approval of the Boy Scouts of America as a national Masonic Scouter award, and will be administered by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania as a service to all other regular Grand Lodges.

The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Scouter Award is an honor due to the countless Freemasons who practice the ideals of Freemasonry and act as role models to the young men who are part of one of our nation's most outstanding youth organizations. The Daniel Carter Beard Masonic Award not only supports the Masonic relationship through the man who brought Scouting to America, but proclaims the integrity of the Freemason who is honored by receiving the award.

## MASONIC CONNECTIONS TO THE BOY SCOUT PROGRAM

In the early 1900's, as editor of "Recreation" magazine, Daniel Carter Beard wrote a monthly article for youth. In 1905, he started the program promoting Boy Pioneering, called "The Sons of Daniel Boone". When he changed jobs a bit later, he changed the name of the organization to "Boy Pioneers of America" and was known as the Grand Master Woodcraftsman of the organization. At the same time in England, Lord Robert Baden Powell began passing along his pioneering and military skills that he learned through the British Military in a new program he called "Boy Scouts". In 1907, William Boyce, a Chicago publisher paid a visit to England and on a night where he needed assistance and directions, a young man wearing a neckerchief came to his aid, and when offered a tip for his assistance, he refused, stating that Boy Scouts do not take money for doing good deeds. This single act left such a deep impression on Boyce that he vowed to find out more about this program and to bring it to the USA. When the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910, the organizations (BSA and Boy Pioneers of America) were merged and Daniel Carter Beard served for thirty years as one of its original National Scout Commissioners. As brother Beard was a Freemason in a New York State lodge, a BSA award for Masons today is named in his honor.

Today the program has adapted to the times and merit badges such as "Computers" and "Cinematography" now join basic scout skills of Citizenship, First Aid and the like. Training in areas such as youth protection and safe activities are now stressed more than ever and the search for responsible trained leaders is as needed now as it ever was. As the values of our society decline, the number of men that live their lives by the rule and square (basically Masonic values) are harder to find – especially those with the character sufficient to put their values to work by making a difference in the community. Today, positions for Scouters are needed to be filled at about every level of the BSA, but each position differs in its roles and responsibilities. Today, here in Northridge District (the New Michigan Council area here where NAC #551 is located), a shortage of Unit Commissioners is currently experienced. The role of a Unit Commissioner only takes about two nights a month, yet finding good men to fill those roles is currently a challenge. The role of a Unit Commissioner is that as the District Representative of a unit, who assists the unit with its rechartering, conveys information from the District to the Unit and back, and serves as a friend to the unit, to encourage his units' leaders to get trained, etc. More information on that position is available from Brother Roy Prince, or via an Internet search. Bottom line, our community doesn't care how much you know until they know how much you care. There are many prospective Masons in the scout and scouter ranks that we need to reach out to. Brother Don Metzler reached out in this arena, and due to his efforts, a number of scouter masons have been raised in Oakland County lodges (I am one, and know others) and if we don't make the first step to serve with them in Scouting, they probably won't be serving with us in Masonry either. Brothers – look inside yourselves and see if you can find the spirit of Brother Daniel Carter Beard within. If we don't make a stand to steer the values of the next generation, other less worthy organizations will, and we won't like the outcome! The first Wednesday of the month is the Northridge District Commissioner's meeting – please let me know if you'd like to join me and I'll provide all details, and can even drive!

Fraternally Yours in Scouting and Masonry,

Brother Roy Prince

DONALD M. TRIVETT  
President

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