

# TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Donald Novak, Worshipful Master

## *Honor Our Servicemen*

### VETERANS DAY NOVEMBER 11

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



**U.S.A.F**  
John Beedle-Gee



**U.S. Navy**  
James Diamond  
Fred Earnshaw  
Robert Munro  
John Walford



Cpl. Earl Van Cise,  
U.S.M.C.....1956



**U.S. Army**  
Cliff Dean  
Raymond Doyscher Jr.  
Victor Koponen  
James McPherson  
Jack Parkin  
Leon Richardson  
George Staten  
Martin Tudor



**U.S.M.C.**  
Phillip Appledorn  
Jason Ceaser  
Oscar Chapman  
John Clary  
Mark Gerhard  
Matthew Harwedel  
Mark Jenkins  
Brent Lilly  
Earl Van Cise  
Ryan White

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.



Lt. James McPherson,  
U.S. Army ....1969

*Happy Birthday Marines*

November 10, 1775 – November 10, 2007

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2007

### WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Donald Novak ..... (248) 541-5518

### SENIOR WARDEN

Ronald Aldridge ..... (248) 548-3905

### JUNIOR WARDEN

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

### SECRETARY

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

### TREASURER

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

### CHAPLAIN

Ryan Koponen, PM ..... (248) 647-0237

### SENIOR DEACON

Brent Lilly ..... (248) 645-7251

### JUNIOR DEACON

James Novak ..... (248) 565-6417

### STEWARD

Scott Hudson ..... (248) 546-3403

### STEWARD

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

### MARSHALL

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

### 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 (2009) ..... (248) 541-5518

## DINNER RESERVATIONS

James McPherson, Jr. Warden . (248) 588-1623

Ronald Aldridge, Sr Warden . (248) 548-3905

Donald Novak, W. Master ..... (248) 541-5518

## 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

## MASTER MASON DEGREE Saturday, Nov. 3, 2007 12 noon

Berkley, Northwood and Royal Oak Lodges will have a combined Master Mason Degree Day

Lodge will open at 12:00 Noon. A catered meal (\$8) will be served at 5:30 p.m. Reservations a must.

Contact: 464 - Chris Boyer 248-885-3336

464 - Gerald Christie 248-435-3017

551 - Jim McPherson 248-588-1623

Second Section of MM Degree by South Oakland Degree Team at 6:30 p.m.

Lets make this a special event for our new Brothers and have a HUGE turnout

Masonic Temple • 850 Horace Brown Dr. • Madison Heights, MI 48071

## 2007 LODGE ACTIVITIES

### November

11-1 Thu	6:00 pm	Potluck
	7:00 pm	<b>Business ( B )</b> Election of Officers

11-03 Sat	<b>12:00 Noon</b>	<b>Combined M.M. Degree</b>
		Open Lodge 12:00 noon. Catered meal (\$8) at 5:30. Second section 6:30 p.m. See announcement (T)

11-08 Thu	7:00 pm	Masonic Education Class
		Social following

11-15 Thu	7:00 pm	Short Widows Memorial Practice followed by Social Night
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11-22 Thu		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
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11-29 Thu	6:00 pm	Widow's Night Memorial Dinner
		Memorial following (B) All welcome

### December

12-02 Sat	2:00 pm	Annual Kids Christmas Party
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12-06 Thu	6:00 pm	Potluck
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Business (B)</b>

12-08 Sat.	<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Lodge 551 Installation</b> Ofcs. (tux)
		Appetizers and refreshment to follow

12-13 Thu	7:00 pm	Social Night
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## 2008 LODGE ACTIVITIES

### January

01-03 Thu	6:00 pm	Potluck 6:00 p.m.
	7:00 pm	<b>Business (B)</b>

01-10 Thu	7:00 pm	Officers Meeting/Budget (C)
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# ***ANNUAL CORN ROAST***



**Happy picnickers!**



**Chef Gerald Brown**



**Phil Leese and Jack Parkin**



**Jim Novak**



**Robert Munro entertains**



**Joyce and George Staten**

# WHY I SOUGHT THE LIGHT

Brothers,

I wanted to tell you why I sought the Light of Masonry. I am 38 years old, married and have 4 children. I go to work in a job I love. I have family and friends. I go on vacation once a year and have a good time. I live in a modest home. I enjoy playing guitar and music. I love a good book and still like to play with Lego's.

For 38 years I have lived. As I have gotten older I started to think about who I am, what I am, and where I am going as a man. I have thought to myself, is this all there is to being? Is there anything more? Am I all that I can be? These thoughts have been growing in my mind.

I joined another fraternal organization 2 years ago thinking that I would be meeting new friends. I paid my dues and I participate in many of its functions. This was fun and I enjoy giving my time in support in what it does for its various charities. But I soon discovered that this particular fraternity is most interested in is sitting at the bar and drinking. This still left a void in me.

As I mentioned I love to read. I noticed a book at Barnes and Noble one day, Free Masonry for Dummies. I started reading it in the store and found that I could not put it down. It made me search out more information on Free Masonry every where I could find. I realized that this was an organization that I wanted to be a part of. Something inside me was telling me that this group could possibly help answer the above mentioned questions in my life.

In the course of doing my job I had to go to a local Kinko's for copy services. I dealt many time with a very pleasant man by the name of Roland Knightstep. He was always friendly and nice, more so than other employees at this facility. Every time that I was at this store he was always this way. One day I noticed that he wore a Masonic ring on his right hand. Of course most of you know what happens now. I asked him about his ring, after he told me he was a Mason, I asked him, "So how does one become a Mason"? That was all it took.

I had started the process of following the path to find the Light of Masonry. I was awed, yes Brothers awed, by the degrees and their meanings. I truly love the lessons that I have learned and the examples of my fellow Brothers who have been Masons longer than me. Masonry is filling that void in me that I feel and is answering my questions that I have posed to myself. I wish I had joined earlier in my life.

The reasons I am telling you these things Brothers is that we have taken an oath to always help a fellow Brother in need. Brothers I believe that I and other new Masons are in need. We are in need of examples of **good** men and how they live and relate to one another. Where would one get these examples? I believe that I and other new Masons would see these examples at the Lodge, in meetings and Social Nights and our other functions. Brothers, we have a prestigious history in the world. Look at our past, look at who have been members. Look back at the Brothers who you have learned from in the past who are not with us any longer. Pass on their examples that they have given to you and pass them onto us, your new Brothers who are thirsting for your experience.

I know that you read the Trestle Board and hear the Leadership of our Lodge ask for you to attend meetings and functions. I too ask Brothers for you to come to the meetings and functions. Remember back to when you were raised to Master Mason and what it felt like. I still have that feeling in my soul of when I was raised just about 8 months ago. Come and fill our Rituals with your knowledge and experience, come to our Social Nights so that we can share in our Brotherhood. Come to our business meetings and help tell our leadership what and where we want our lodge to go. But most of all come teach us, your New Brothers, how to be better men and Masons.

Fraternally ....Your Brother, Robert Munro

# WELCOME NEW BROTHERS

As you read this article, four new Brothers await their Master Mason Degree scheduled for Saturday, November 3. These Brothers were recently initiated and passed in September and October.

## PHILLIP APPLIEDORN

Brother Phil is a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a native of Grand Rapids and is 23 years old. He is currently stationed at Selfridge ANG Base, where he is a heavy equipment mechanic. His great grandfather was a Mason.

## JASON CEASER

Brother Jason is a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a native of New York and attended school in Virginia. He is 28 years old. He is married and is the father of three children and resides in Chesterfield Twp. He is currently stationed at Selfridge ANG Base and is assigned to Logistics. Brother Jason's uncle and cousin are both Masons.

## MATTHEW HARWEDEL

Brother Matthew is a Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a native of Ohio and is 29 years old. He is married and has one child and resides in Mt. Clemens. After school in Ohio, Matt joined the U.S. Marines. He is currently stationed at Selfridge ANG Base and is a heavy equipment mechanic. Matt's father is a mason in a lodge in Ohio,

## TODD MITCHELL

Brother Todd is the son of Brother James Diamond. He is 19 years old and attended school in Clawson where he resides. Brother Todd is a mechanic at Bayliss Tire Co. Brother Todd and his dad, James, join the group of Lodge 551 father-son teams.



## FROM THE EAST...

As Autumn hosts Mother Nature's spectacular color show and we await the first frost on the pumpkin, my year in the East enters its Fall season and draws to a close. It has passed too quickly.

It has been a GREAT year for the Lodge with exciting events, new Brothers on board and significant and positive changes for the Lodge with more on the horizon.

I would like to thank all of my Officers for their support and assistance during the year. I am convinced we all share feelings of great accomplishment and satisfaction. This is Brotherhood in its truest sense.

I would also like to thank all of the Brothers AND their ladies for the time and effort given to the Lodge and to the Craft.

This is an abbreviated message to make room for a letter from one of our newer members. Please give it your attention.

On the Level  
Don Novak, WM

## FROM THE WEST...

Hello Brothers,

This new Trestle board comes at perfect time to thank Bro. Ray Doyscher P.M. and his beautiful wife Donna for their tireless effort in putting on our 3<sup>rd</sup>. annual Charity garage sale. Brother Ray has been collecting treasures for several months now for this sale and I must say it was a huge success. He has even involved two neighbors into using half of their garages as storage for these unique items as his own two car garage just isn't big enough to hold all of these family heirlooms. His resident mouse even had to take up temporary quarters elsewhere, as there wasn't room for him. From Tonka toys to original and immaculate Oak roll top desks Ray unselfishly accumulated it all.

For the Brothers that don't know about 551's annual charity garage sale, 100% of the proceeds go to charity. The first year we sent hundreds of pounds of school and sanitary supplies to an orphanage of 260 children in Afghanistan. The second year the proceeds were used to enhance our Oakland Community College endowment fund which gives scholarships to new police and fire cadets on alternating years. This year's donations in the amount of \$1475 are going to the son of one of our Brothers. The recipient, at the age of 40 and with a 16 year old daughter, has become totally disabled due to an inoperable spinal cord tumor and requires 24 hour care and special equipment that is not always covered by insurance. GREAT work Ray and Donna.

For those that don't know, when there is an unexpected change in the schedule in the Trestle board, the change is made on your website. We cannot send out a notice of the changes to all of the members nor personally call each and every member. Have you visited your website lately? [www.nac551.com](http://www.nac551.com)

Sincerely and Fraternally,  
Ron Aldridge S.W.

## FROM THE SOUTH...

Brothers,

Summer has passed into an unusually warm Fall and snow still seems so distant. Amazing how quickly our Lodge's Masonic year is passing. And how exciting it is to see new Brothers join our Lodge.

Early this month several members of our Lodge took a tour of the Masonic Temple in Detroit. We were joined by several members of Lodge 464 in a fantastic visit. Our members on this tour were Roy Prince and his son, Bob

Monroe, Jim Diamond with two of his younger children and Todd Mitchell. Our conductor was great. He explained much of the rich history and architecture of the temple. We saw the unfinished auditorium on the top floor, huge dining areas, gymnasiums, drill room, pool and of course many of the splendid Lodge rooms. He also explained that the architectures, out of a concession of humility to their trade, intentionally included some "imperfections." The stairwells have a railing, which includes the Masonic emblem in the vertical supports for the handrails. A "few" of the emblems were installed upside-down. For years the curators of the temple have been searching to find them. They have found two or three.

Some sources on the internet have said the Detroit Masonic Temple is haunted. "This huge edifice was built in 1912 especially for the Masons. The building has over 1,000 rooms, many secret passages, and secret floor compartments. The builder, a gentleman named George D. Mason, was said to have gone broke financing the building, and having lost all his money (and his wife, who left him shortly after filing bankruptcy) became despondent and he jumped off the roof to his death. Night watchmen have seen his transparent form at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the roof. Also, one of the roof doors will always be open, sometimes only moments after the watchman has locked it. Many other unusual sightings have occurred there, including unnatural cold spots and shadows moving in the third floor hallway behind the Drill Hall, various footsteps, the sound of doors slamming in locked, unoccupied rooms, and feelings of being "watched" or being "unwanted". Many night watchmen have quit on the spot after having an experience with a ghost, and others refuse to even enter certain rooms."

Whether the Temple is haunted or at peace, I cannot say. Our visit was rather peaceful.


Together in Masonry;  
Jim McPherson, JW



# 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.

**CARPENTRY PLUS BY PHIL**  
**I'M SMALL BUT THE PRICE IS TOO  
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PHIL LEESE  
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866 645 7251 Toll Free  
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