

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

John Kashner, Worshipful Master

FROM THE EAST

I would like to start by thanking the brothers of Northwood Ancient-Craft 551 for having the confidence to elect me as your Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Also, I would like to thank Past Master Ron Aldridge for the great job done in 2012. Brother Ron has provided strong leadership and guidance. THANKYOU. With all of the support and participation of our members, our installation was a huge success (we had 86 people in attendance). If we could have that kind of turn out at all of our activities, imagine what a force we would be to be reckoned with.

This year I would like to devote the second Thursday of every month to socialization, degree practice, and Masonic education. This could be an ideal time for the more experienced brothers to stop by and share their Masonic knowledge with our newer membership. The third and forth Thursdays will be held for degrees and special events.

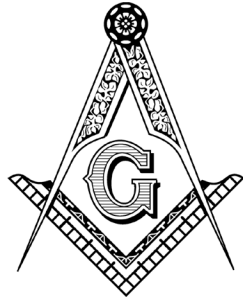
Our LADIES NIGHT will be held on February 14th. We will need to have your RSVP for you and your lady. Saturday March 16th we will be having our annual CORNED BEEF DINNER. Come out, bring the family and the friends to that event. Enjoy an evening of great food, great company, and the support of the lodge. Just a reminder, you can check the website for more details of events, dates, and times.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence therefore is not an act but a habit." (Aristotle)

On the level- John Kashner, WM

FROM THE SOUTH

Brothers, Greetings from the South! I hope everyone had a good Christmas and is ready for the New Year. We have a Fellowcraft in January, and an Entered



Apprentice in February. Please come out and support the Lodge, and let's make this a great year for Masonry.

WB Mark Stiles

FROM THE WEST

In December, the installation of new officer's took place. That evening began with a wonderful dinner served up by the hands of our new Worshipful Master, John Kashner, and his loving wife, Karen. Being true to his station, Mark Stiles, our Junior Warden, and his lovely wife, Maria, were also there to lend a hand in the food prep and table arrangements. They even let me help, as I was glad to assist. I really enjoyed myself, working alongside such a nice family. The food was delicious.

The ceremony was spot on. I have never seen our Lodge so full. Members of the Grand Lodge as well as member's of our own Lodge installed us. The installation team was lead in by none other than our very own Past Master, Brother Art Gustafson. I was very excited as I watched each Brother take their newly elected positions. The most memorable moment for me, was to watch Brother Guy Shelton take his position of Marshall for his fortieth year. What an achievement.

The installation ceremony closed with one great surprise. Brother Don House professed his love for Kathleen Mary Abourezk. In front of a room full of guests and Brother's, Don House stated, "I'm going to marry that girl." He is such a romantic.

The afterglow was a time of reflection. As we congratulated those whom either continued their roles in the lodge or took on new roles, we gave thanks to those who served. Brother Ron Aldridge served his Lodge for his second term as Worshipful Master. It was my pleasure to serve you as Junior Warden. I look forward to serving our new Worshipful Master, John Kashner as Senior Warden. To a New Year Brother's

Your Humble Servant in the West -
Senior Warden --- Larry Bullock

LODGE OFFICERS - 2013

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Raymond Doyscher, PM (248) 545-7443

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STEWARD

Simon McNeilly (734) 272-4590

STEWARD

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Guy Shelton, PM (586) 939-0536

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**SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1

Don't overlook one of our Lodge's most precious traditions, a potluck dinner before each Lodge Meeting. You can bring your lady to join us. The ladies can visit while Lodge is in session and then socialize with the guys again after Lodge. We call our ladies "The Ladies Auxiliary" and we appreciate their presence more than we can express. Our Pot Luck is a bring-a-dish to share dinner at 6pm before each Lodge business meeting on the 1st Thursday each month.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2

This year our LADIES-NIGHT-OUT will be celebrated on February 14th, Valentine's Day, at Farina's Banquet Hall located at 2485 Coolidge Rd. just south of Catalpa Rd. (11 1/2 Mile Rd.) at 7pm. It is because our ladies support us through out the year with all of our Masonic duties and events that we pay a special tribute to them on this occasion. And remember, your Lodge picks up the tab for this dinner. Reservations needed: Call John Kashner, or James Sparks before February 10th.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #3

Royal Oak Lodge #464 and Eureka North Warren Lodge #594 have posted degree dates. R.O. #464 has scheduled a Master Mason degree on January 22nd, and E.N.W. #594 will initiate an Entered Apprentice on January 21st and pass him to a Fellowcraft on Feb. 18th. Let us support them with our attendance.

**SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #4

Brethren, a second and third Lodge-of-Instruction will be given at our Temple by WB James Hecker (DDI). Eureka North Warren #594 will be host on Monday, Jan. 28th, 7 PM. Royal Oak #464 will be host on Tuesday, Feb. 26th, 7PM. We are told to bring our ritual books to each session. SEE YOU THERE!

EDUCATIONAL REPORT FROM THE SENIOR DEACON

A PILGRIM TO A HEAVENLY COUNTRY

"Now they desire a better country, that is heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city". Hebrews 11:16

When I read this passage from the Bible, that Great Light of Masonry, it occurred to me how Masonic it is. It brought to mind the Level from the Working Tools of the Fellowcraft Degree, and the Masonic Memorial Service.



We are all pilgrims to that undiscovered country- "a better country, that is heavenly" – which is the bourne of the pilgrimage.

A bourne is a terminating or ending of something such as a trip. This trip is our pilgrimage of life, which ends with our death, from which no traveler returns; for we are all born to die as we learn from the Apron Presentation in the entered Apprentice Degree.

The Masonic Memorial Service tells us of the alluring hope of a happy reunion in the Celestial City, whose builder and maker is God- "for He has prepared for them a city."

Submitted by Brother Mitchell Urbanski

LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2013



LODGE OF INSTRUCTION REVIEW

WB James Hecker (DDI) presided over a Lodge of Instruction in our Temple on November 29th. Many items pertaining to ritual, common courtesies, and historical precedents were reviewed. Listed here are a few of the instructional considerations discussed.

1. FLAG- When the flag is at the altar, the eagle cap should always face the East. (Our S.D. does this flawlessly.)

2. RESPECT TO THE CANDIDATE- The candidate's name should be used by all who address him during degree work.

3. CANDIDATE'S TRUST STATEMENT- When asked, "In whom do you put your trust?" any expression of "deity" from the candidate is to be accepted. This should be addressed with the initiate before degree work begins.

4. APOLIGIES- Officers reciting ritual during degrees should not apologize for mistakes or for verbal amnesia. The ritual should proceed as well as possible with no expressions of regret. (We've all experienced this.)

5. COIN REQUEST- When the secretary asks the candidate for a coin, there should be no sideline comments, (Smiles are OK.)

6. EYE CONTACT- During the degrees, each person addressing the candidate should look at him and not his conductor or the Senior Deacon.

7. ADDRESSES FROM THE EAST- It was suggested that the Working Tools and the Charge be given to the candidate from the East (up 3 steps). All other presentations may be given down on the "level".

8. SANCTITY OF THE MASTER-ALTER REGION- The vicinity between the East and the altar has traditionally been held as a no-pass zone. This is out of respect to the Lodge Master. It is not a blue book law but has long been held as a custom not to be violated outside of conducting candidates. The proper way for a brother to pass S to N or N to S is on the West side of the altar, not between the Master and the altar.

9. THE W.M.'S POWER- This answers a lot of questions. The Lodge Master has full decision-making power on all Lodge issues, procedures, and policies that are not spelled out in the blue book (The Michigan Masonic Manual). Only the Michigan Grand Master can over rule him. The blue book can be down loaded from Grand Lodge on the internet

OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CHARITY- 2012

Prepared by Bro.Simon John McNeilly

When I met M**** years ago, she was young and vibrant, full of life, graceful and cheerful. We shared a poetry night in Toledo when I lived in Flat Rock. She would read her own creations or even sing some times for the group.

I won't go into a whole biography, but she's had a hard life. Her mother couldn't handle raising a child, so she was given up at an early age into the foster system. She was raised in group homes and eventually wound up in a foster home where she stayed until adulthood. Her foster home was one that I as an outsider find a bit questionable, but she loves her foster parents and foster siblings to this day. They must have done something right as M is easily one of the best people I know.

M is one of those people in life who seem to be Job-like in their ability to attach bad things into their life. For example, after years of marriage and three wonderful boys, whom I will go into a bit later, her husband decided marriage was not for him, and off he went. M did her best to cope, raising the boys by herself with a suddenly absent role model, who only showed up on every other weekend, and being out of contact at all other times, such as emergencies. Which happen to her quite often.

Years of pain and headaches finally lead to her getting a diagnosis of CMI, Chiari Malformation, a condition which amounts to the cerebellum being the wrong size for the skull. I remember visiting her after they finally had a surgery for her, seeing the 'zipper' on the back of her skull where the surgeons took out bits to relieve the pressure and pain. It affects her to this day, where she has to use a cane and move slowly.

Then there is the hole in her heart and the minor strokes and transient ischemic attacks. And eventually she turned 30.

Her boys are 13, 9 and 7. They are bright and some of the most mannered kids it has been my fortune to know. When I lived close to her, I was trying to get them involved in Scouting, and that is still one of my goals. They are the sort of boys that will wind up being engineers and musicians, ones that will be noted in whatever they do. They derive their art and manners from their mother, who rules them with respect and love. They go to charter schools, for their specialties, in art and science, and M does her best to shuttle them around by herself.

She currently goes to school, when she can, trying to get a bachelors degree to work as a counselor. Her dream is to open her own foster care home, to pull girls off the streets and out of bad situations. Her interests range from abusive household to runaway children who are drawn into the dark world of sex trafficking. She works as a counselor when she can, trying to make a change in the lives of these girls, by pure example as well as art and poetry. Her health is a major hindrance to school and work as she has a hard time doing either from a hospital bed.

So, when I asked Brother Ron Aldrige if I could bring her to our Christmas party, it was a while into it before I realized he was interrogating me about her and her situation. He told me eventually that the idea has been discussed about helping others but helping our community too, those that we know. I brought her to the Christmas party and she got to meet many of our Brothers. I can't speak for them, but I feel they saw a bit of what I do in this woman, her joy of life and desire to bring peace into the world via her arts and crafts.

Thus it was with a great deal of pride that our lodge adopted her and her boys this past Christmas. We helped her with her car payment (I didn't mention the long litany of cars that have been stolen or have broken to unrepairability), gifts and clothing for the boys (a few toys and lots of school clothes) and groceries for her family. She was tearfully thankful and is very happy to know that people care enough to help out when things are going to hell.

We've made a direct move to make the lives of a few close to us better, Brothers. I want to do more in my life to make the world a better place, but one cannot fight against the tide. I thank you for being my Brothers. You make me feel like I have an army beside me, and with that we can move mountains.

2013 MASON OF THE YEAR



Congratulations to Brother Phil Morell for receiving our Lodge's most prestigious award, Mason-of-the-Year. This distinguished honor is given to a Lodge brother for dedication to our Masonic fraternity above and beyond the call of duty. Brother Phil, with the help of his wife Pat, have dedicated countless hours to our

Masonic Child ID Programs, fund raisers, and degree work. They also spend long hours supporting our dinners and social events. Thanks Brother Phil (and Pat) for all your service. Again, CONGRATULATIONS!

CELEBRATION OPPORTUNITY

Please remember that our beautiful Masonic Temple dining room is available for special occasion celebrations at a reasonable rental fee. The proceeds from rentals help fund the maintenance of the Temple. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are often available. Advanced reservations are necessary. Contact Ron Aldridge or Jim Sparks for further information

SICK AND DISTRESSED REPORT

Claude Turner- Hope you are feeling better.
Guy Shelton- Continue to heal and be well.
Don Novak- Hoping your latest back treatment is successful
Earl VanCise- We need your cheerfulness back with us.
Jim Nix- How come you didn't get a flu shot?
Anthony and Toma- Don't get too stressed out with your studies!

*Brothers, be sure to have someone contact our new Master, John Kashner if you have a health concern or need assistance from the Lodge brethren.

LODGE ACTIVITIES

January 2013

1-03 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner- bring a dish-to-share.	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
1-10 Thurs.	Fellowcraft Practice	7:00pm
1-17 Thurs.	Fellowcraft Degree	7:00pm
1-24 Thurs.	Budget Committee Meeting and Social	7:00pm
1-31 Thurs.	Entered Apprentice Practice	7:00pm

February 2013

2-07 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner-bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
2-14 Thurs.	LADIES-NIGHT-OUT Farina's Banquet Hall 2485 Coolidge Rd at Catalpa Rd(11 1/2 Mile)	7:00pm
2-21 Thurs.	Entered Apprentice Degree	7:00pm
2-26 Tues.	Lodge of Instruction hosted by RO #464	7:00pm
2-28 Thurs.	Social Evening	7:00pm

March 2013

3-07 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner-bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
3-14 Thurs.	To be announced	
3-16 Sat	SUPER STAR* CORN BEEF DINNER	3-7:00pm

Visit our website for more information and for possible date changes and updates - www.NAC551.com

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