

# TRESTLEBOARD

## Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2012

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850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

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Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

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### FROM THE EAST

Brothers of team 2012.

It has been a great year I believe for the team. We have passed new Brothers and there is a waiting list for more young and energetic Brothers to bring on new ideas and ideals to 551. We have also the privilege of having Brothers transfer into our lodge, and I accept them with excitement.

I have had help from many of the Brothers doing degrees and the parts that are special to them. Which is all part of team work.

Our lodge set a record for N.A.C. 551 in the child ID program, having processed 350 + children this year with one more to go. And thank you for all that worked them.

It is with heartfelt thanks to the Brothers for allowing me to be the Worshipful Master for 2012. It has been my pleasure Brothers.

Sincerely & Fraternally, Ronald C. Aldridge, WM



### FROM THE WEST

Brothers-- It's getting to December 15<sup>th</sup> and our public installation. Hoping all of you will be able to attend. I've heard it said that people that have seen an installation have been moved to seek out membership. We are planning a dinner (6pm) the installation (7pm). With an afterglow to follow. Remember this is open to your family and friends so please bring them.

RSVP to me at [jdkashner@wowway.com](mailto:jdkashner@wowway.com) or leave a message at 248-548-7457 for reservations. Please indicate if your wife/guest will also be in attendance that will be helpful.

Fraternally From the West- John Kashner

### FROM THE SOUTH

What makes a man a Mason? His obligation. On October 9, I along with a few brother's of NAC 551 went to listen to Lt. Colonel Mark Gerhard speak about masonry in the military.

He told many stories of how masonry had helped him in one way or another during his tours abroad, but one story he told really hit me hard while at the same time filling me with pride.

During his tours, Brother Mark kept in contact with the brothers' of his lodge. While in Afghanistan, he told our brothers' of NAC 551 about the difficult plight the children



had to endure, especially those that were orphans. The children of the orphanage had nothing more than just the clothes on their backs and were fed nothing more than just one bowl of rice a day. Brother Mark was asked what supplies were needed to help the children. Brother Mark responded by saying, anything you can send would be greatly appreciated.

Upon receiving this news, it did not take long for the brothers' of NAC 551 to spring into action. Dental supplies, back packs, school supplies, flip flops and yes even stuffed animals were gathered through the generosity of many. The sum of one thousand pounds of supplies was acquired.

The next step was to find a way to get the supplies to Brother Mark to dispense. The cost of shipping so much to a foreign country is very expensive. How were the brothers' of NAC 551 going to raise the money? Well leave it to the brothers' of NAC 551 to come up with a great idea. Let us have a garage sale. I for one was not aware that the annual garage sale held every year originated to raise money to ship all the supplies they had obtained, to Brother Mark and his undertakings there in Afghanistan.

I could feel the pride that brother Mark showed towards his fellow lodge member's, as he told this story. His story and the actions taken by my fellow lodge member's moved me... One statement made, one inquiry made, many children's lives changed. I very much enjoyed that evening, for not only brother Marks' stories, but also more importantly, the huge undertaking and accomplishments made by many masons, at the request of one mason.

Yours from the South, Larry Bullock, JW

## **LODGE OFFICERS - 2012**

### **WORSHIPFUL MASTER**

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

### **SENIOR WARDEN**

John Kashner ..... (248) 548-7457

### **JUNIOR WARDEN**

Larry Bullock ..... (586) 757-0142

### **SECRETARY**

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

### **TREASURER**

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

### **CHAPLAIN**

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

### **SENIOR DEACON**

Mitchell Urbanski ..... (586) 978-8694

### **JUNIOR DEACON**

Anthony Chrzanowski ..... (248) 979-0078

### **SR. STEWARD**

Toma Ivanovic ..... (586) 222-6663

### **STEWARD**

Bill Peterson ..... (248) 224-0647

### **STEWARD**

Simon McNeilly ..... (734) 272-4590

### **MARSHALL**

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

### **TILER**

Earl Van Cise, PM ..... (248) 288-3561

## **TEMPLE BOARD MEMBERS**

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

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

Fred Messser, PM ..... (248) 321-8759

## **LODGE SECRETARY**

James Sparks, PM

848 Venoy Madison Heights, MI 48071-6002

(248) 544-4613

email: jsparks848@comcast.net

## **LODGE WEB PAGE**

www.nac551.com

Ron Aldridge P.M., Webmaster

## **TRESTLEBOARD**

Raymond Doyscher, PM

(248) 545-7443

email: rwdoyischer@sbcglobal.net

## **MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE**

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1**

Don't overlook one of our Lodge's most precious traditions- a "family style" potluck dinner before each Lodge Meeting. Our ladies meet and socialize with each other 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, 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2**

Our November 15<sup>th</sup> Awards and Memorial Service Evening will be extra special. We will have a dinner honoring the presentation of 2 life member pins, 3 fifty year pins, 2 forty year pins, and 4 twenty-five year pins. This will be followed by a formal memorial service honoring and remembering our Lodge brothers who passed away this last year. Don't miss this most memorable evening.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #3**

Our DDI (District Director of Instruction) James Hecker PM has sent a summons to NAC Lodge #551 and to Royal Oak Lodge #464 to attend an instructional meeting at our Temple at 7pm on Thursday November 29<sup>th</sup>. Attendance is mandatory (within reason) for all officers and highly encouraged for all lodge members. These sessions are educational and extremely interesting.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #4**

This year's installation of officers will be open to the public. Bring friends, neighbors, relatives, and acquaintances... (oh, sorry!). Bring all who might be interested. WB Richard Wisely will be the master of ceremonies and Brother John Kashner will be installed as our new Worshipful Master. Other officers will advance in the "officer line". It is a heart-warming tradition to witness this very distinctive, and impressive ceremony.

## **\*\*SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #5**

**\*\*\*\*\* IT IS CHRISTMAS PARTY TIME AGAIN!!!\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER 2ND \*\*\*\*\***

For you and your family. Please plan to be a part of the party. We will supply – beverages, baked chicken, hot dogs, chips, and----- some fun and entertainment. Santa is even making an early trip to visit us!!

1. 1:30pm -- Lunch. Bring a dish-to-share for the table.
2. Bring a \$5 gift for each child. (We will reimburse you- thanks for shopping for us!) Wrap each gift and put child's name on it for Santa's gift bag.
3. Make reservation by NOVEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> to Ray Doyscher 248-545-7443 or rwdoyischer@sbcglobal.net.

## **WITH GREAT SADNESS**

Northwood Ancient Craft Lodge members express their grief and sadness with news of the passing of Royal Oak's Worshipful Master, Charles P. Kyle III on October 10, 2012. May he rest in peace.

# 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 of 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 farfetched to think he may have discussed Masonry with these two or others.

Masonry, being Deistic in nature, was a belief Washington and Franklin espoused. 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 Divine Providence..." These words are almost identical to what is found at the end of the Master Mason Degree. In another letter, written to Thomas Jefferson Smith on February 21, 1825 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.

Submitted by Brother Mitchell Urbanski

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

October 2012

10-18 Thurs.	Master Mason Degree Practice	7:00pm
10-24 Wed.	Child ID - (Union Hall across from Temple)	4-8 pm
10-25 Thurs.	Master Mason Degree	7:00pm

November 2012

11-01 Thurs	Potluck Dinner-bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
	Regular Communication	7:00pm
	Election of Officers	
11-08 Thurs.	EA Degree	7:00pm
11-15 Thurs.	Widows Dinner/Awards Night	
11-22 Thurs.	Happy Thanksgiving-no meeting	
11-29 Thurs.	Lodge of Instruction-	7:00pm

All encouraged to attend, Officers  
required to attend

December 2012

12-02 Sun.	Christmas Party-see Announcement	2:00pm
12-06 Thurs.	Regular Communication	7:00pm
12-15 Sat.	Installation of Officers- Open to all	
	Check Website	

Visit our website for more information and for possible  
date changes and updates - [www.NAC551.com](http://www.NAC551.com)

## DO YOU KNOW YOUR MASONIC BROTHER? (Series #3)

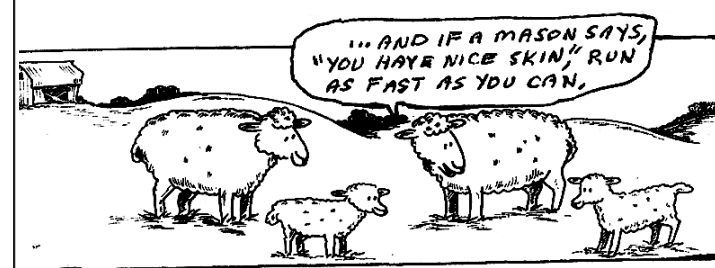
Most of us are familiar with the faces of our Brothers in Lodge. However, would we recognize them from childhood photos? Let us put this to a test. Clues to the mystery Bro's identity---



1. If he ever misses a Masonic meeting it is only because he is attending some other Masonic meeting elsewhere.
2. When seeing him face-to-face it appears that something is in his eye. This is because his grandchildren put an apple in there.
3. When he goes deer hunting he has to endure the embarrassment of admitting that his lovely wife is a better shot than is he.

Who is this Mystery Guy? See hidden answer on page 4

## MASONIC HUMOR






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 248.644.7038 facsimile  
 john@abbottscorp.com



## NORTHWOOD ANCIENT CRAFT #551

848 VENOY

MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071