

TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Ron Aldridge, Worshipful Master

FROM THE EAST



Brothers, I would hope by now the cheers of the New Year, and that savage pounding headache of the morning after, have finally dissipated, while the fond memories of Christmas remain.

I would like to give a special thank you to P.M. Art Gustafson for his stellar two years of leadership. I will not be able to fill your shoes

Brother but will try and lead NORTHWOOD ANCIENT-CRAFT 551 into the next year with zest and zeal.

I would also like to thank the Brothers that continually show up at our meetings, (like all brothers that are able should) for again electing me as your Worshipful Master for 2012. It would have been a much better experience for the new officers if our attendance would have been up. One of my main goals of the year is to be the first of 10 years of never having the same Master more than one year.

I would hope that the Brothers from 551 that have not shown up in quite some time will start attending meetings to help your lodge Brothers make it to that goal. If you need assistance in getting to a meeting, be it a business or social one, call me and I will do my best to help you get here. Do you not miss the camaraderie and fellowship? I kind of believe that if you put your mind to it, you will again be an active member of YOUR lodge and your attendance will gratefully be appreciated. Something in the past keeping you from lodge? If you have forgotten some of your ritual, we will be glad to assist you. (Some of us aren't getting any younger)

We have some very new Brothers that are showing a great love of the craft and they would like to meet you. If perhaps there is a personal reason, remember Brothers, the occurrences of yesterday cannot be changed, let's move forward towards a new tomorrow and a new beginning. Then we can all meet on the level.

This year the ladies night will be held in latter part of March or the first of April so hopefully weather will not be a hindrance. A new requirement for ladies night this year will be that you must have attended Two business meetings. If you have not met this attendance requirement, you will still be welcome to join us; however, you will

2012 LODGE OFFICERS



Front Row (L-R): Guy Shelton PM, Marshall - Anthony Chrzanowski, Junior Deacon - Mitchell Urbanski, Senior Deacon - Toma Ivanovic, Senior Stewart - James Sparks PM, Secretary. **Second Row (L-R):** Raymond Doyscher PM, Chaplain - Larry Bullock, Junior Warden - Ron Aldridge PM, Worshipful Master - John Kashner, Senior Warden - Missing from picture: Earl Van Cise PM, Tiler

be required to pay your own tab for all costs that you and your companion accumulate. Of course the dinner will be by reservation only as usual.

I will be proposing to the Brothers that attend business meetings that we start charging a nominal fee for the welcome back corn roast. The donation basket has been coming up short. (Be there to cast your vote).

I also hope to get our musicians back (even the one with the funny shoes) on our social nights and if we have any cribbage, euchre etc. players, we have some alleged experts here that are more than willing to see just how good you are. Of course there are always the usual fishing and B.S. stories that abound, and you are welcome to get in on them and tell your own. All while watching your favorite sports on our 60" TV and enjoying some refreshments.

Kudos to ROYAL OAK 464 on their 100 years as a Masonic lodge and never having had the same Worshipful Master twice.

S & F
Ron Aldridge W.M.

LODGE OFFICERS - 2012

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Ronald Aldridge, PM (248) 548-3905

SENIOR WARDEN

John Kashner (586) 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

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JUNIOR DEACON

Anthony Chrzanowski (248) 979-0078

SR. STEWARD

Toma Ivanovic (586) 757-0142

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

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Ronald Aldridge, PM (248) 548-3905

Elton Scott, PM (248) 545-4276

Fred Messser, PM (248) 321-8769

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LODGE WEB PAGE

www.nac551.com

Ron Aldridge P.M., Webmaster

TRESTLEBOARD

Raymond Doyscher, PM

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MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

Do You Know Your Masonic Brother

Most of us are familiar with the faces of our Brothers at Northwood Ancient Craft #551. Behind those adult faces, some scarred wrinkled and aged, are essentially the same person that has always been there. The building blocks of our personalities and values are learned at a very early age and many argue that our character is pretty much formed by the age of five.

If this is indeed the case, should we not be able to observe and recognize our Lodge acquaintances if we saw a photo of them in their childhood? Let us put this to a test. Do you recognize the following Brothers from their childhood photos? See the names on the page 3 of the Trestleboard.



Brother #1



Brother #2



Brother #3



Brother #4

HOSPITALER'S REPORT

Our new Senior Warden, John Kashner had one heck-of-a-back spasm episode during our December 15th Master Mason Degree. However, he later assured us that all was OK following a little TLC at home. He said that he appreciated our concerns. Don't scare us like that Bro. John.

Doris Sparks is dealing with severe back pain. She is getting some relief from hot packs. We are wishing her well and a quick recovery from her discomfort. Heal fast, Doris. We miss you.

MASONIC MOMENT

Masonic moments often happen when least expected. Brother Bill Peterson experienced such an occasion only one week after receiving his Entered Apprentice Degree in October of this year. Bill is a skilled carpenter and chimney sweep. While responding to a call for his services, Bill found himself approaching a home in Willis, Michigan that had a square and compasses proudly displayed on the front window. Being a brand-new member of the craft, Bill didn't quite know how to approach this home. So, remembering how he was instructed when beginning his first degree only a few days earlier, Bill gave three distinct knocks on the front door. As the Masonic homeowner, Brother Frank Smythe responded, he looked at Bill with an expression of curiosity. Bill was asked, "Did you knock?" Bill replied, "Yes!" Next question, "Did you knock three times?" Bill then answered with a big, broad smile, "I knocked three times and the door was opened." Brother Smythe then returned the grin and gave Bill a warm Masonic grip while inviting him in.

These two Brothers were strangers no more. When Bill told this story in the Lodge dining room we all laughed. We did so while recalling our own moments of experiencing the warmth of Masonic recognition.

A nice story Bill! Your Masonic journey of pleasant associations has only just begun.

MASONIC HUMOR

Two experienced Master Masons were enjoying a hot air balloon ride when suddenly a thick cloud formed between them and the ground. Being without instruments, after half an hour they realized that they were well and truly lost. A short time later they came across a gentleman below and exchanged pleasantries and found him to be a Mason. The Brothers in the balloon inquired of him as to their location. His reply, "About 200 feet up in a balloon." Just then a cloud ended their conversation. One turned to the other and said, "I bet he's secretary of his Lodge." "Why do you say that?", the other asked. "Because what he told us is absolutely true but in our present predicament is totally useless!"

Do You Know Your Masonic Brother?

#1 Elton Scott - #2 Freddie Messer
#3 Ron Aldridge - #4 Larry Galloway

LODGE ACTIVITIES

January 2012

1-05 Thur.	Potluck Dinner Regular Communication	6:00pm 7:00pm
1-12 Thurs.	Social & Budget Comm. Mtg.	7:00pm
1-19 Thurs.	Social - Child ID Training	7:00pm
1-23 Mon.	MM Degree @ Berkley Temple See Special Announcement #2	7:00pm
1-25, 26, 27	Child ID Program at Simond Elem. School See Special Announcement #1	
1-26 Thurs.	Ritual Practice and Social	7:00pm

February 2012

2-02 Thurs.	Potluck Dinner Regular Communication	6:00pm 7:00pm
2-09 Thurs.	Social and to be announced	7:00pm
2-16 Thurs.	Social and to be announced	7:00pm
2-23 Thurs.	Social and to be announced	7:00pm

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

****SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1**

CHILD ID PROGRAM ON JANUARY 25,26,27- WE NEED YOUR HELP- NAC Lodge will again participate in a child ID Program at Simond Elementary School, 30,000 Rose Ave in Madison Heights. (12-1/2 Mile and Dequindre) This program is really appreciated by the community and touches lots of hearts. W.M. Ron Aldridge has set this up and is calling for our help and support. Check our website for all of the details.

****SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2**

LET US SUPPORT OUR FELLOW LODGES WITH THEIR DEGREE WORK - An invitation has been extended to us to join Berkley Lodge #536 at their Temple at 7pm on Jan. 23rd to witness a Master Mason Degree. Our newest members will watch and the rest of us will help on the degree team. An important evening for them and us!

Also note: Royal Oak #464 has a FC DEGREE at 7pm on Jan. 17th and Eureka North Warren #594 has an EA degree at 7pm on January 30th. By attending degrees and supporting other lodges, we express the spirit of Masonry at its highest level.

****SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #3**


CUB SCOUT PINE WOOD DERBY -- January 28th Saturday, 9 am
Let us support our local Cub Scout Troop by attending one of their most spirited annual events. It will be held right here in our own Masonic Temple dining hall. In the past we have been able to initiate Masonic petition requests at these activities. Please see our website for the time.

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.

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