



# TRESTLEBOARD

## Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

MARCH - JUNE, 2016

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850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

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John Kashner, Worshipful Master

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### FROM THE EAST

Greetings Brothers,

Well here we are in February 2016 and we have hit the ground running.

- Having had a Robert Burns celebration dinner in January, all in attendance had a great time.
- Looking forward to the Murder Mystery dinner on the 27th of February.
- In March, the annual Corned Beef dinner on the 17th.
- Mason of the Year dinner on March 24th.
- April brings the Ladies Night on the 28th.



The Honors / Awards night on the 12th of May, with Grand Lodge the 23rd and 24th.

Don't forget our great tradition of the monthly Potluck. All are great opportunities for fellowship. Please check the website for more information about degrees, practices, music nights and other chances to get together.

On the level

John Kashner, WM

### **CELEBRATION OPPORTUNITY**

Remember that our beautiful Masonic Temple Dining Room is available for special 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 reservation are necessary. Contact WB Donald House for further information. (248) 277-1629

### FROM THE WEST

Go West, Young man" -- a statement made in centuries past, so like the prospectors of old, I followed suit and took on the chair which sets the day. Little did I know at the first business meeting of the year, I would not only be installed to my new office, but also get the chance to immediately move from a seat in the West into the East, as our WM was under the weather that evening. This humbling experience brought to the forefront of my mind the importance to always study and review our ritual. Knowing the parts for your current position is a good start, but also knowing the parts ahead and behind you are also important, as you never know when you will need to fill in for an ailing brother. The learning process starts with the mind, but as the mind learns it well and embraces the concepts, it moves to the heart. You then begin to embody and live the parts your mind encompasses. From there, it moves to your hands, as you begin to apply the principles you have learned and espoused. You learn to love what you serve. Service to God is done by serving your fellow man, and you always feel great when you help others! As attitude determines altitude, we can progress by working together to make this world a better place -- starting with ourselves. When you hear mention of someone who is a "pillar of the community", think of the symbolism from the FC degree and deeper understanding of our masonic mission will enlighten your mind! As the Bible contains parables teaching lessons at multiple levels, more light in Masonry can also be obtained through our study of the great lights of Masonry and the dedicated learning of our ritual. Life's big picture I envision as a puzzle with 1000 pieces where they all look the same and it is a daunting task to put it together. However, as we persevere and make progress putting it together, we begin to see that big picture and what it contains. May greater light in Masonry guide your efforts in gaining a deeper understanding of your big picture view of life -- keep studying your ritual! ....Words from the West...

Roy Prince, SW

## LODGE OFFICERS - 2016

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## MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

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Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

## LODGE ACTIVITIES

### March 2016

3- 3	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner – Bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
3-10	Thurs.	Letter writing to our Legislators	7:00pm
3-17	Thurs.	Corn Beef Dinner	4:30-7:30pm
3-24	Thurs.	Mason of the Year Dinner	7:00pm
3-31	Thurs.	TBA – check website	

### April 2016

4- 7	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner – Bring a dish-to share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
4-14	Thurs.	TBA – check the website	
4-21	Thurs.	TBA – check the website	
4-28	Thurs.	Ladies Night Out	
		– check the website for upcoming details	

### May 2016

5- 5	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner – Bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
5-12	Thurs.	Honors and Award Night	7:00pm
5-19	Thurs.	TBA – check the website	
5-23-24	Mon.-Tues.	Grand Lodge Annual Communication	
		- Grand Traverse Resort	

### June 2016

6- 2	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner – Bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
6-9	Thurs.	TBA – check website	

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

## MASONIC HUMOR



## URGENT DUES REMINDER

Many members have not paid their yearly dues obligation. Please send in your payment now. If a financial problem exists inform the Lodge Secretary because special consideration is always available, and your lodge thanks you.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1

### **LEGISLATIVE LETTER WRITING SESSION**

Michigan lodges and temples continue to struggle and close as a result of their huge property tax burden. However, the good news is that there might be some relief in sight. MWB Robert Conley of Grand Lodge informs us that "The property tax legislation continues to move through the necessary legislative process. Please contact your legislator to support SB 732 and HB5325. This is vitally important to our future and we need your assistance by contacting your legislators. They will be impacted by your call."

At our March 10th meeting we will have a letter writing session to our legislators. The idea was proposed by Bro. Aric Piercey SD. He and Bro. Simon McNeilly JW will have a sample letter prepared for us to look at as a reference. Names of State Legislators will be available. Personal letters sent to our legislators can be very influential, especially if they are received in large numbers. Good idea Bro. Aric.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2

### **\*\*\*CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER \*\*\***

It is true, we proudly accept the reputation and honor of putting out the finest **ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORN BEEF DINNER** this side of the Mississippi. Our success comes from a "secret" ingredient revealed to us from another local service fraternity, the K of C. And, yes we do keep our "secret" ingredient secret. Enjoy our culinary work-of-wonder on **MARCH 17TH, 4-7 pm. \$10 tickets at the door.**

- Invite family and friends for extra FUN!
- Brethren, help will be needed with cooking, setup, serving, and clean-up. To offer help call the WM or Jim Sparks.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #3

Remember to watch for 3 more **SPRING SPECIAL ACTIVITIES** coming up that you won't want to miss. Look for more information coming at Lodge meetings or on the Website. Your presence will help make the event special for all.

1. MASON OF THE YEAR DINNER  
– March 24th
2. LADIES NIGHT OUT – April 28th
3. HONORS AND AWARDS EVENING  
– May 12th

## SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #4

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

## SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #5

Help us to solve a problem that all lodges face. The second section of our MM Degree (the Hiram Abif Play) is probably our most important work and yet most lodges cannot fill all 24 parts needed. Now with the addition of Centerline Lodge # 550 in our temple to help, we should be able to put together the best Degree Team ever. Join us for the next Degree Team practice at our Temple. You'll be glad you did.

## **MASONIC HISTORY/QUIZ**

For what composition is Bro. Francis J. Bellamy famous? He was a member of Little Falls Masonic Lodge #181 in Upstate New York. Born in 1855, in Mt. Morris, NY and educated at Rochester University, Bellamy followed in his father's footsteps as a minister. He preached in Baptist churches in New York and Boston. Eventually he accepted a position as a writer and editor for a very popular family magazine called the Youth's Companion. In that capacity and with a fervent patriotic spirit, Bellamy promoted a national program to have a United States flag in every public school. This effort was so successful that in the year 1891, 25,000 schools acquired flags. Congress followed by passing a resolution to have a nation-wide flag ceremony held at all public schools on a special day. President Benjamin Harrison then endorsed the plan by declaring Columbus Day in October 1892, as a day to honor our nation's flag. However, there was a key element for the school children in this special flag program. During the time of flag raising, the children would salute with a hand held over their heart. Then, while in that position, the children would recite a patriotic verse. Bellamy asked President Harrison to write the words for this verse but that request was denied. Bellamy had to compose the children's flag ritual himself.

In 1955, the Little Falls Order of Eastern Star erected a tablet in Bellamy's home town of Oriskany, in New York, thus immortalizing Bellamy for his now famous school children's patriotic composition.

Question: For what composition is Bro. Francis J. Bellamy famous?

*Answer on page 4*

## **SICK AND DISTRESSED REPORT**

Our WM, John Kashner, continues to improve in mobility through therapy. WM John, because you are always cheerful we hardly realize that you are temporarily disabled.



# 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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MASONIC QUIZ ANSWER:  
(You knew it: the "PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE" ---  
but did you know it was written to be  
recited by school children?)

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## NORTHWOOD ANCIENT CRAFT #551

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