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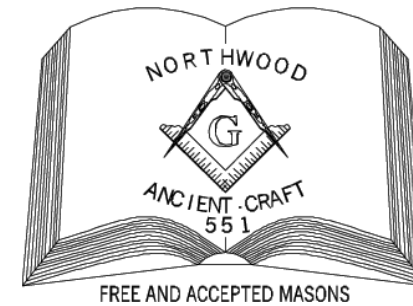
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TRESTLEBOARD

Northwood Ancient-Craft No. 551

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER, 2015

850 HORACE BROWN DRIVE • MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071

Mark Stiles, Worshipful Master

A WORD FROM THE EAST

Hello brothers! I hope everyone has been having a good summer, with lots of fun activities and time with family and friends. If you didn't make it to the Corn Roast, you missed some great fellowship with the largest number of attendees I can remember in quite a few years. Thanks to everyone who helped out, either with shopping, cooking, clean up, etc. The annual garage sale, to benefit the temple board, will be held August 28, 29, and 30 at WB Ray's house. We will need assistance in taking items from the temple to Ray's on Thursday 8/27 to set up, helping with the sale on the 3 days, and the clean up on Monday 8/31. Please contact Ray with your name and when you can help. Also, if you have items to donate and need help to get them to Ray's place, let Ray, myself, or one of the lodge officers know and we will make any necessary arrangements.



We will be having a lodge Open House in October. The Most Worshipful Grand Master has requested all lodges in the state to have an open house on Saturday, 10/17, to help get Masonry out to the general public. We will be holding ours jointly with Royal Oak 464 from 1-5 pm at the temple. We have received a number of good suggestions from brothers on how to organize things, but we will need assistance to help spruce up the temple ahead of time and also to be on hand for the open house.

Last, be sure to check the lodge calendar for last-minute changes to activities. I try to keep our webmaster, WB Jim McPherson, informed of changes as they occur and he does an excellent job in keeping the online calendar current.

Faternally,

Mark Stiles
 Worshipful Master

FROM THE SOUTH

A couple of weeks ago, I was privileged to attend a Warden's training seminar in Grand Rapids, and my eyes were opened to many aspects of masonry which we currently overlook. Some covered process and procedure topics focused on perfect world application and outcomes of some of the activities in which we currently engage. As we live in the real world, the reality of our current situation tends to be somewhere in the bell curve middle of that spectrum of optimal application and deployment of masonic principles. One message in particular that jumped out at me is the question "Am I my brother's keeper?". At occasional lodge meetings, the question is sometimes asked "Where is Brother Ray?", to which the answer is often replied "I dunno, it wasn't my turn to watch him!". All kidding around aside, the fact was pointed out that when strong bonds of friendship and brotherhood are shared and experienced, lodge activity of our members is much higher. The focal point then shifted to road blocks to the previous point, where family, time and health concerns get in the way of lodge activity. For the family and time conflicts, we can simply be supportive, understanding and willing to work with our brothers to the best those various situations will allow. However, some of our aging brothers, for health reasons, may not be comfortable driving at night, or may be on a fixed income where gas costs are a hardship on their attendance. In those cases, we need to mobilize our forces to identify brothers that could use a ride to lodge and work to provide those where possible! Granted, 95% of our brothers in that situation will be too proud to admit such in their lives and may make up other excuses as to why they will miss lodge. However, if we strive to deliver a strong program and strengthen the ties of brotherhood to where our brothers will make excuses to come (and NOT excuses to miss), we can lose ourselves in service to our brothers and provide some needed rides to lodge. The good shepherd relates a story where the shepherd of a flock of 100 will leave the 99 to go out and search

(Continued on page 3)

LODGE OFFICERS - 2013

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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JUNIOR WARDEN

Roy Prince (248) 280-4515

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STEWARD

Geoffery Pelton (586) 286-7779

STEWARD

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TILER

Donald House, PM (248) 227-1629

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LODGE WEB PAGE

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MADISON HEIGHTS MASONIC TEMPLE

850 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

(248) 588-3394

until he finds and returns the one lost sheep. As our lodge is a composite of all its members, it's not complete without each of us present to support each other and strengthen the lodge. As the various pillars of masonry support the walls of the temple, so must the pillars of our lodge support each other in that spiritual building, better preparing us for our eventual membership in the Celestial Lodge. May the Almighty Architect of the Universe support us all in these efforts.

Fraternally Yours,

Roy Prince

Junior Warden

OUR CORN ROAST WAS OUTSTANDING



Bro. Terry Troutt PM holds little Henry Gott as WM James Farrand (Lodge 464) and WM Mark Stiles (Lodge 551) hands the charity gift check to Henry's parents to help support Henry's treatment and recovery.

To all who contributed to our Madison Heights Temple Annual August Corn Roast by either working or by joining us for dinner, a big giant THANK YOU. This event was another celebration of what the spirit of Masonry is all about. We had wonderful attendance and support from not only our own families but were graced by visits from brethren in Eureka-North Warren, Trelum, Troy Highland, and Centerline Lodges. Lodges #464 and #551 benefited from the dinner donations. God must have shined his good-will upon us on that day. Again, thanks to all. Bro. Ray

SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #1

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! Our Temple Board will be sponsoring a fundraiser SUNDAY BREAKFAST at our wonderful Temple to help with our building expenses. We can sit at home drinking warmed-up coffee while staring at a depressing newspaper or we can bring our families to a bright, cheerful place and have a warm, delicious breakfast served to us with smiles of sunshine. More information will be announced about our next date and

time. Plan to invite friends, neighbors, etc. to join us then. See you there. I'll toast you with a cup of fresh brewed hot coffee and a Masonic grip.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY ANNOUNCEMENT #2

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 #3

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. The formation of a Degree Team of players from several local lodges will solve that problem. Join us for the next Degree Team practice at our Temple. You'll be glad you did.

MASONIC QUIZ

Who said this? He was a Hollywood actor and comic. You know him by his stage name. He belonged to Mitchell Lodge # 605 in Philadelphia.

"Horse sense is what a horse has which is what keeps him from betting on people."

"I never drink anything stronger than gin before breakfast."

"I never drink water because I'm afraid it will be come habit forming."

"Once, during prohibition, I was forced to live on nothing but food and water."

"Women are like elephants, nice to look at but I wouldn't want to own one."

"A woman drove me to drink and I didn't even have the decency to thank her."

SICK AND DISTRESSED REPORT

Earl Van Cise was hospitalized for 4 days following a car accident and is now home recovering. Bro. Earl, when you feel better we'll look forward to seeing you at lodge again.

LODGE ACTIVITIES

September 2015

9-03	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner-bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
9-10	Thurs.	Social Nights for cards	7:00pm
9-17	Thurs.	To be determined	TBA
9-24	Thurs.	To be determined	TBA

October 2015

10-01	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner – bring a dish-to-share	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
10-08	Thurs.	Financial Committee Meeting	7:00pm
10-15	Thurs.	To be determined	TBA
10-17	Sat.	Open House	1-5 pm
		Open to Public for prospective new members	
10-22	Thurs.	To be determined	TBA
10-29	Thurs.	Social Night	7:00pm

November 2015

11-05	Thurs.	Potluck Dinner-bring a dish-to-pass	6:00pm
		Regular Communication	7:00pm
11-12	Thurs.	To be determined	TBA
11-19	Thurs.	Awards Night Dinner	TBA
11-26	Thurs.	No Schedule — Thanksgiving	

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

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 Jim Sparks for further information.

MASONIC HUMOR

