



Trestle Board

Stony Creek Lodge #5 F. & A. M.

The Master's Message

Greetings Brothers,

First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude to the Brothers of Stony Creek No. 5 in allowing me to serve as Worshipful Master for 2010 and for those that were able to attend the Office Installation on December 5th. I consider it a great honor to follow in the footsteps of our Past Masters and continue their goals in fulfilling the work of Masonry especially in the Oldest Continuously Operating Lodge in Michigan.

I also want to give a special thanks to our newest Past Master – Wor. Brother Jay Rader – for his time, dedication, and mentorship that he has provided to each and every member of the Lodge during the past year, to our Secretary – Brother Ed McDonald – who has been gracious enough to provide me with invaluable insight on the behind the scenes necessities of running the Lodge and to ensure that I did not make too many “rookie” mistakes as I traveled through the officers line. Thank you both.

As you know, with each incoming Master of the Lodge there is a transition period where that Master begins to put his own ideas and agendas into place in the hopes that “his” year will be fruitful, promote the true meaning of Masonry which is Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth and will hopefully enter into the realm of Past Master leaving the Lodge in better standing than when he started. Based on the performances of all of the Brethren who have been the Master of Stony Creek before me, I have an arduous task ahead of me and I will need the support of all the Brethren to accomplish this.

To start, I plan on implementing the following procedures and / or desires with the approval of the Lodge and these are in no particular order:

Agenda. The agenda for each business meeting will be sent out in advance to all members of the Lodge via email and posted on the Members Only Page of our website at least one week prior to the first Tuesday of the month. This will provide each Brother with due and timely notice of the core subject matter that will be discussed at the upcoming business meeting. If any member has a predetermined item that he would like to discuss at the business meeting, please send it to me as soon as possible so it can be added to the agenda and properly prepared for. These meetings should promote a free exchange of ideas so the agenda is not to be considered locked in stone, but rather an outline whereas every member

is to have input. If we do run into a roadblock, we will refer to “Robert’s Rules of Order” as a guideline. A link to an overview of these procedures can be found on the “Members Only” page on the website.

Website www.stonycreek5.com. I encourage all Brethren to look at the calendar on a regular basis. The calendar will not only have the information from Stony Creek No.5, but from other Lodge’s in our area as well. Promote the website to anyone you can think of. The website was designed to spark the interests of Mason’s and non-Mason’s alike. Growing our membership will be a vital part of our strategic plan for the upcoming year.

Facebook. For those Members of the Lodge that are active on Facebook, Stony Creek No. 5 has their own Facebook group which can be used to promote our Lodge to others and to update our current and future activities. For those of you that do not have a Facebook account, it is a free service. To sign up, you only need to go here: www.facebook.com Please utilize and promote this to all of your friends by having them search for Stony Creek No. 5 and join our group. Keep in mind that this service literally reaches millions of people and it’s free.

Bills. In order to streamline business meetings, the Grand Lodge has deemed that only those bills presented to the Lodge that fall outside of the pre-approved yearly budget needs to be discussed and voted on. Pre-approved items would include, but are not limited to: rent to the temple board, printing and postage, and so on. The member’s will be told of these payments, but discussion and voting is not necessary unless there is a concern from those present. Any bill falling outside of the pre-approved budget will go through the normal process.

Investigating committees. In the past, the members of the investigating committees have talked with the candidate and reported back to the Lodge and that was the end of it. I would like the members of the committee to also become mentors to the candidate / Brother as he travels through his three Degrees. Each committee will decide which member will handle any one or all three of the Degrees as the candidate travels through. This will not only enhance the person’s interest in the Lodge, but will also assist him in easing his fears and preparing for his proficiency requirements. As WM, I would also like weekly updates from the committee

Officers

Stony Creek Lodge #5 F. & A. M.

248-651-7181

www.stonycreek5.com

- Jeffrey Geske, WM 586-855-6333
- Christopher T. Peace, SW 248-884-0092
- Jeffrey W. Rolph, JW 248-652-2725
- Edward Moellering, PM, Treas. 248-651-7005
- Edward G. McDonald, Sec. 248-652-0166
- emcdonald@wideopenwest.com
- Erik Schuett., Chaplain 248-505-6167
- William Eichler, Sr. Deacon 248-761-7486
- Dan Marshment, Jr. Deacon
- David A. Cretcher, Steward 248-276-0086
- William J. Kuhn, Steward 586-254-7567
- Robert Montgomery, Steward . 248-807-1045
- Sase Persaud, Steward 248-375-5690
- Daniel J. Toole, Steward 586-212-2471
- Mark Moellering, PM, Marshal. 734-482-7179
- Jerald L. Knust, PM, Tyler 248-651-8641
- Bruce I. Carlson, PM, Organist 248-608-9663

Rochester Masonic Temple Building Association

- Jeffrey Geske, Chairman 586-855-6333
- Scott R. Hummon, PM, Sec. .. 248-652-7750
- Jay Rader, Treasurer 248-652-8036
- Allan Anderson, PM 248-852-4178
- Roy Dettmer, PM 586-566-9817
- Edward A. Moellering, PM 248-651-7005
- Harvey J. Sainsbury, PM 586-295-7881
- Scott Hunter, Ex. Officio 248-651-1529

Rochester Masonic News Sponsor

- Paul Clemo
- Jeff Cuthbertson
- Bruce Kingery
- Jay Rader
- Harold Roscoe

members and from the candidate while this transpires. Most importantly, each member should personally greet the candidate(s) before any Degree is conferred and under no circumstances should the candidate be left alone while in Lodge. Fear and misunderstanding drives these people away.....

Degree nights. First and foremost, if there are multiple candidates waiting to receive the same degree and as long as the Blue Book allows it, these candidates will go through the degree(s) at the same time. The nights that the Degree work will be held will be determined at January’s scheduled business meeting. Each of the three degrees will be locked in to a specific date of the month (i.e. 1st Thursday of the month, 2nd Saturday, etc. depending on the consensus of the Lodge). The dates of the Degree’s will be officially published in the February Trestleboard.

Rochester Masonic News

P.O. Box 80003 • Rochester, Michigan 48308

Published 10 times annually, September through June. Distributed to the members of Stony Creek Lodge #5 F.&A.M. and friends.

Sponsor Rate \$30.00
 Friend of the Rochester Masonic News \$15.00
 Editor & Typesetting Bruce I. Carlson, PM
 Mailing Ed Moellering, PM
 Printing Scott Hummon, PM

Best Wishes to you all from New Zealand

Brian & Stella Say

1 Rosa Crisitna Way
 The Wood
 Nelson 7010
 Nelson
 New Zealand



It's Summer in New Zealand!

Finance & Audit Committee

Jeffrey Geske, WM
 Scott Hummon, PM
 Ed Moellering, PM / Treasurer
 Christopher Peace, SW
 Jay Rader, PM
 Jeffery Rolph, JW

Master's Committe

Bruce Carlson, PM
 Scott Hummon, PM
 Jay Rader, PM

Fund Raising Committee

Jeffrey Geske, WM
 Dan Marshment, JD
 Christopher Peace, SW
 Jay Rader, PM
 Jeffery Rolph, JW

Delinquent Dues Committee

Jeffrey Geske, WM
 Edward G. McDonald, Secretary
 Christopher Peace, SW
 Jeffery Rolph, JW

Scholarship Award Committee

Don Finlay
 Christopher Peace, SW
 Daniel Toole, Steward - Chairman

Pathways & Masonic Home

Jeffrey Geske, WM
 Dan Marshment, JD
 Christopher Peace, SW
 Jeffery Rolph, JW
 Erik Schuett, Chaplain

Degree Work. All Brethren of the Lodge, especially the Officer's, need to work on the rituals to ensure that they are done to the best of their / our ability. I am the last one to say that the ritual book cannot be used in Lodge so if you need it, use it, but let's try as a team to be better than ever. I will be posting updates to all members of the Lodge on any of the Lodge of Instruction's that will be given for 2010 and encourage all members to attend. Remember, it's not about us "old guys," it's about the new members coming in the door that are seeing this for the first time.

Get out of your comfort zone. As we all know, human beings are designed to fall into the most comfortable situations that they can. As a Mason, I have fallen into the pitfalls of doing only what I know or what is comfortable for me because that is a natural reaction. I encourage each member of the Lodge to step outside of that zone that they have built around them and try something new. This can be as simple as becoming a mentor to a new member or stepping into the Officer Line and leaving your mark on the Lodge.

Fundraising. As you all know, the Lodge must implement a serious and dedicated strategy in regards to fundraising. While the Lodge is running in the black, it will only take one set back or unforeseen event to undermine our ability to survive and I hope that all of the Brethren stand with me when I say "that will not happen." Fundraising is an issue that is on the top of my agenda.

Donations / Dues Payments may be made through the Lodge website www.stonycreek5.com via PayPal. A PayPal account is not required for the payment of dues or to make a donation to the Lodge, only a credit / debit card. Dues paid through PayPal, will have a PayPal fee of \$5.50 added to the total. No increase is needed for donations.

The Masonic Home in Alma. I plan on making at least two trips this year to visit the Grand Lodge and the Masonic Home to visit our Brethren that are there. The 2010 Junior Deacon's Day (date - TBD), would be an excellent time for members to travel there. Please join me when I travel to Alma.

Building upkeep. I would like the Brethren of Stony Creek to volunteer one day out of the year – a date of their choice – to help the Temple Board maintain the building. This

could include the basics such as vacuuming, dusting, or any other item that you see that needs to be done. Without pointing any fingers, I can guarantee you that each member can name those Brethren that are constantly volunteering to help or just showing up when they know things need to be done. At the same time, there are members that simply sit back and enjoy the fruits of other people's labors. It is "our" Lodge so please take pride in it and help maintain it as well.

Corinthian Lodge. The Lodge Members of Corinthian Lodge No. 241 have been approached and there is an open offer to support each other on Degree work. It is my goal to increase the bonds of Masonry between the two Lodges by offering to "double up" on Degree work when both Lodges have candidates going through at the same time or if assistance is needed putting on any Degree from either Lodge. I am a firm believer that there is much that can be accomplished when working as a team.

Brothers, my goal is to have 2010 be a year of growth, an increase in financial security, and above all, fellowship. My hope is that with the onset of a new calendar year, the Brethren in the Lodge will use this time to increase their interpersonal relationships and to learn from one another both within and without the confines of the Lodge. A Lodge is only as good as its' members so 1) speak, 2) listen, 3) learn, and 4) teach one another and I can assure you that you will not be disappointed.

Most importantly, I would like all the Brethren to know that even if you do not come to Lodge every meeting, you are still our Brothers. We are thinking about you and praying for your well being. Please drop me a note to let me know how you are doing and if you need a ride to Lodge or one of our events, just let me know and I will do what I can to arrange it. I can be reached at 586-855-6333 or geske@comcast.net.

"Be careful how you live.... You may be the only Mason some people will ever meet."

Fraternally Yours,
 Jeffrey A. Geske W.M.



January 2010

Calendar of Events

Jan. 4th Monday Corinthian #241 Regular 6:30 p.m.
 Jan. 5th Tuesday Stony Creek #5 Regular 7:30 p.m.
 Jan. 6th Wednesday Leadership Training Class 6:30 p.m.
 Jan. 13th Wednesday Temple Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
 Jan. 27th Wednesday Leadership Training Class 6:30 p.m.
 Feb. 2nd Tuesday Stony Creek #5 Regular 7:30 p.m.
 Feb. 17th Wednesday . District School of Instruction 7:00 p.m.
 @ Walled Lake Lodge #528

To the Worshipful Master, Officers, and Brothers of Stony Creek Lodge #5.

Brethren you are hereby summons to attend a District School Of Instruction By Worshipful Brother Tom Braun Regional Grand Lecturer to be held at Walled Lake Lodge #528 on Wednesday February 17th at 7:00 PM. Location 374 W. Walled Lk. Dr. Walled Lk. Mi 48390.

All Officers are summons to attend and all other Brothers are welcome. Please bring your Ritual.