



March 2010

The Beehive

The Beehive is a monthly newsletter from the Officers of the Lodge. It is intended to provide more insight of the inner workings of the Lodge, personal observations of the Craft, tidbits of information that the Officers found useful or interesting, or simply a sounding board for ideas.

Worshipful Master –Members come to Masonry for many reasons. Because of a relative, because of a friend, because of fellowship, because of curiosity, or maybe because they think they will get ahead. The reason we join is irrelevant. After joining, we found men who treated us with brotherly love. This, in turn relieved the stress of the day. It also gave us a feeling of self worth and helped us see the true meaning of Freemasonry.

The fast movement of everyday life causes a lot of changes in our life style. We move from one situation to another at such a speed, that most of the time, we seldom see the conclusion of one problem before another comes. Except if it doesn't turn out right, then we hear every detail of what went wrong. That is where Masonry comes in.

We come to lodge to meet old and new friends that demand nothing from us. Thus we demand nothing from our Brethren. We teach and are taught a more even way to live and cope with problems. We learn that, all that matters is within ourselves. We learn, through watching others, that a better way to do anything is through love, understanding and trust.

As we speed on and on through this ever changing world, we come to lodge for a little bit of peace and understanding, we come to slowdown, we come because this is;

By Bro. William "Ray" Fischer



Senior Warden – Over the last few weeks, for many reasons, I've been thinking about what Masonry means to me, and what it is I truly enjoy about it. I realized something that hit me pretty hard that I wanted to share. Masonry is not about ritual, though it is important. Masonry is about what it's ALWAYS been about...making good men better.

I'm a bit embarrassed to say that for the past few years, I've been perfectly content with being who I am and what I stand for, but I have completely missed the goals of the fraternity. I haven't held my friendships and my good council as high as I should have; I buried my nose in a black book. None of this has made me happy to be a Mason.

I realize now that I have a lot growing to do. We all do, but that growth comes from the Brothers who give you wise council from experience, and we are reminded of those voices in symbols we see in our Lodge and in our degrees. It's the classic case of the chicken and the egg and I've come to understand that before there was a ritual, before there was a fraternity, there were good men looking to help one another who formed this organization.

So with that my Brothers, I appreciate each of you, because there isn't a single one of you I haven't walked away from having not learned something. For the next few years, I will be leaning on you, and in turn I am here to be leaned on as well. So mote it be.

Junior Warden – Brothers, I am sure that many of you have been asked in the past "what does it mean to be a Mason?" I am sure that many of the more Senior Brothers have already developed their own answer to this question based on their insights, feelings, training, teachings, reading, perceptions, etc. I am sure that this answer is different to each Brother based on their own life experiences. As a relatively new Brother I think about this a lot and when I am asked this question how would I answer it? I am still finding it difficult to formulate an answer to this question that I am happy with because there are so many facets of Masonry that I have not yet been exposed to. During the course of some of my readings I came across the following that I think (at a high level) helps answer this question; especially to the newer Brothers of the Lodge (maybe some of the older ones too).

What does being a Mason mean to you?

1. In the lodge room, Speculative Masonry is information and inspiration
2. In the home, Masonry is kindness and fidelity.
3. In business relationships, Masonry is honesty and veracity.

4. In my daily work, Masonry is thoroughness and dependability.
5. In social contacts, Masonry is moderation and self-control.
6. Toward the *fortunate*, Masonry is congratulations and best wishes.
7. Toward the *weak*, Masonry is compassion and assistance.
8. Toward *wickedness*, Masonry is rebuke and resistance.
9. Toward the *penitent*, Masonry is forgiveness and another chance.
10. Finally, toward *God*, Masonry is reverence, love and obedience.

Be well my Brothers.
Jeff Rolph, JW

Secretary – Continued working on normal monthly Secretary duties and activities. My main activity for this month includes working on the Annual Return for Grand Lodge and getting it returned to them in due and timely notice.

Treasurer – This is a busy time for the Treasurer. The annual report must be prepared for Grand Lodge, and the 2009 books must be closed and made ready for the Audit Committee. - It didn't help to take a 3 week vacation when all this needs to be done.

Senior Deacon – Brothers – Greetings. I had a thought after our February meeting that I wanted to share with you. I'm thankful to our scholarship committee for getting the forms out to the schools. But here's the thought – what can I do to help publicize it? My answer – our church has a youth group with an active senior high component. I'm going to go to a youth meeting this fall and talk about our scholarship. I'll briefly talk about masonry (as relevant to a young person today) and talk about what we have to offer. Then I'll help by providing any material provided for me by the committee. What the students do with it after that is up to them. However, I'll have done a little more to get the word of what we are doing as a Lodge out. What can you do? Can you steal this idea? Does it cause you to have another? Good luck!!!

Junior Deacon –

Chaplin – Hello again Brethren! This month, I would like to share some information regarding The Lewis Cass Society.

Who was Lewis Cass?

Lewis Cass was a dedicated man of action. He had pride for his country and felt great responsibility in taking a leadership role in the development of the United States. He was a brigadier general in the War of 1812 and served as the territorial governor of Michigan from 1813 to 1831. In fact, Cass spent 56 years as a diplomat and was named the Secretary of War by President Andrew Jackson. He was a United States Senator from Michigan and served as the Secretary of State under President Buchanan from 1857 to 1860.

As fate would have it, this important historical figure was the first Grand Master of Masons in Michigan, serving with distinction from 1826 to 1829. What better name to honor those who care so deeply for their fellow man and believe in the power of Masonry?

Lewis Cass died in 1866 in Detroit, Michigan, and was honored with a Masonic Service at his funeral.

What is the Lewis Cass Society?

The Lewis Cass Legacy Society is a group of generous individuals who have committed to investing in the future of Masonry by placing the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation in their will or estate plan. The society, created by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan in 2000, welcomes all Brothers, sisters, and friends of Masonry to participate.

Upon joining the Society, members receive an introductory membership kit that includes a certificate of membership, a lapel pin, and a commemorative pen and pencil set. In addition, Lewis Cass Legacy Society members are honored at an annual black-tie dinner members have the opportunity to meet

one another and to celebrate their commitment to leaving a personal, lasting impression in a bequest that will help secure the future of Michigan Masons for generations to come.

To date, nearly 470 people are [honorary members](#) of the Lewis Cass Legacy Society.

Currently, \$2,507,797.47 has been generously donated by the Lewis Cass Legacy Society.

AVT

Erik Schuett
Chaplain
Stony Creek #5

Also....

For those that have not already signed up for the Michigan Grand Lodge Newsletter, it is a good source of information and touches on various subjects and activities in regards to Masonry. All you have to do to sign up for the free newsletter is to go to:

<http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001ZaS58ajNOw2rYePEX9DOBg%3D%3D>