Volume 42, Issue 3 March 2012



ANOKA MASONIC LODGE #30 A.F. & A.M



FROM THE MASTER

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS: March 7 : Stated Meeting March 21st: Master Mason Degree

Traditionally, it is said that March comes in like a Lion and leaves like a Lamb. Well, the month of March is upon us, and I am not seeing much of the old 'Panthera Leo' in the air. Not being one to look a guest Lamb in the mouth, I will simply lionize Old Man Winter and go with the season.

As I finish up my second month in the East, I am amazed how much time seems to have passed and how little actually has. (Thanks Albert). As a few Brothers may have noticed, I am a philosophical thinker kind of guy. I like to observe things and dwell on how they work and how they might work better. I am also, as I have noticed (more so this year), somewhat impatient. This can have good and bad aspects. I hope I can use the better parts of these qualities to work to improve facets of the Lodge and how we operate.

One of the things I most commonly think about is the roles of Tradition and Innovation in our lives and Lodge. One of the things that drew me to Masonry was the timeless quality of the Traditions and Ritual. Those are both elements I enjoy today, especially the Ritual work. I think I will seriously miss taking part in degree work after this year. Tradition is important. It anchors us to the beautiful and meaningful parts of our past. It can ground us in these socially turbulent times. But, if taken too far, or held onto to firmly, Tradition can also hold us back and bring stagnation. We need to recognize key Traditions we hold dear and focus on how and why they bring meaning into our lives. But not hold them as rigid, inescapable truths.

Innovation is equally important as Tradition. Some people view innovation as "change" and see any such change as a negative thing. This can sometimes be the truth.

However, just as we must maintain a health perspective of our Traditions, we must also do the same with our desire to Innovate. Innovation, without Wisdom, is as unhealthy as Tradition without Reason. Innovation, when tempered by Wisdom, can bring fresh air to a room that is otherwise stagnant and may even bring ancient and time-honored Traditions into a better Light.

All this is a fancy and rather wordy way of saying that we, as a Lodge, need to work to being both Traditional and Innovative. The last several years have been something of a winding staircase; the future is veiled to us. But, as I have sat in various places and stations in the Lodge, I have seen some many a Brother step up and speak out for Tradition as well as for Innovation. These voices have lead us to where we are today. And, although we have come far, the road ahead remains just behind the curve.

So, I ask you, the Brothers of Anoka Lodge #30, A.F and A.M, to answer the due signs and summons of your Master.

I ask that you who read this article to take a moment and dwell on the Lodge and Freemasonry and ask yourself this; What can you offer to Tradition and Innovation? What Wisdom and Reason have you to offer your Brothers? We are all gifted by our Supreme Architect of the Universe with unique interests, ideas and talents. I would love to meet you and share them with your Brothers.

Hope to see you all in Lodge.

Rob Naeve Worshipful Master





FROM THE WEST

our snowless winter drags on. If I was a betting man (oh, wait, I am), look for a huge, crushing pile of snow in March. No scientific data except that March is our snowiest month. Call it a Minnesota hunch.

I would like to welcome our newest members to Anoka Lodge. Presiding in the East for the First Degree does really give you a different perspective on everything, and I think for the most part, all went well by our Degree Team. Enjoy your journey! Remember that it only begins after the Master Mason Degree.

I would be remiss not to thank all of the Brothers and Sisters who supported WM Rob, WB Randy, Chris, Jon, Bill and myself in the 2012 Polar Plunge at Crooked Lake. We raised over \$2000 for Special Olympics Minnesota. Thanks to John Murray for taking such great pictures. It was something that I was apprehensive about doing, but I speak for most when I say we will do it again next year. If you thought about plunging, c'mon and join the team. I would love to see Anoka Masons (that includes Star and Jobies) make a huge splash, pun intended, for Special Olympics next year.

Jumping in that lake was a little scary. I had no idea how cold it was going to be, what the air was going to feel like. The run to the hot tubs seemed like an eternity. The morning of the event, Laura asked me if I had second thoughts. I said no. With so much support behind me, both in spirit and financially, I knew that I had no choice, and that those who supported me were with me, even if they were not in the water. The same holds true for trying something new in the Lodge. Whether it is

heading up or being on a committee, learning a lecture, or even coming back to Lodge after an absence, there is some unknown. Will you do a good job? Do you have the skills? Will anyone remember me? No matter what plunge you take, know that you have the support of your Brothers. So take the plunge and we will see you in the Quarries!

Yours in the Gentle Craft,

Todd A. Mayer Senior Warden



Anoka Masons Take the Plunge for Special Olympics

by Terrence Schaffer

Again

Coon Rapids, MN - On Saturday, February 11th, at Crooked Lake in Coon Rapids, a brave group of our own Brothers from Anoka Masonic Lodge #30 joined over 400 fellow dare-devils to leap into the frigid waters of the lake to raise money for the 2012 Polar Bear Plunge, an event presented by Minnesota Law Enforcement for the Special Olympics.

The call to chilly action was sent out by Thomas E. Hendrickson, the Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota. A long-time supporter of the Special Olympics, GM Hendrickson challenged the brethren of Anoka to take part in the 2012 Polar Bear Plunge and to raise \$2000.00 for the cause. Six Brothers answered the call and took the plunge! The Anoka County Mason team was led by our Worshipful Master, Robert Naeve. His team-mates were: PM Randy Cook, SW Todd Mayer, Asst. Secretary Chris Berglund, and Brothers Jon McNeil and Bill Emery. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and look forward to participating next year. The end tally for donations made by friends, family, and brothers was \$2,200.00. The team made their goal and some more. They plan on exceeding this contribution in the 2013 Polar Bear Plunge with a larger team and greater goal.

Inside the Welcome Pavilion, Anoka Lodge set up a table selling hot chocolate and hot cider for the brave plungers and their guests, with proceeds from the sales going to the event. Brothers Lee Kielblock, Myron Shelton, Scott Franz and Terrance Schaffer manned the booth, and both steaming beverages were welcome refreshments for all, as despite our unusually warm weather this year, Old Man Winter decided to do his part that day and brought a low of 15 degrees and a bitter wind to the event. What really warmed the hearts of all involved was the outpouring of support shared between the athletes and the plungers. Cheers and high-fives abounded as each plunging team marched to the ice and when they charged to the warming hot-tubs.



FROM THE SOUTH

Well, I have arrived home from my travels at sea and I have to say that I am well refreshed and ready to take on the world again. This was the first time I had ever left the friendly confines of the continental U.S. and I have to say that, I was a bit anxious of what challenges

laid ahead both culturally and from a language standpoint. When you have been accustomed to a particular culture for 47 years, it is a bit un-nerving to step outside that comfort zone! Even though I felt a bit uneasy at first, my fears were quickly diminished at the onset of a certain "friendly and brotherly grip" I experienced In meeting one of the ship's crew.

As some of you may already know, cruise ships offer a beverage package, which allows you to pay up front, for a set price, for all of the pop you want to drink during the voyage. In addition, you also get a fancy insulated collector cup to enjoy your pop in and take home as a souvenir. I decided to take advantage of this program and proceeded to go to the table where this was being offered and sign up. I handed my Sea Pass card (the card which all your onboard purchases are made) to the crew member and he proceeded to ring me up. He looked down at my card and said, "David Hansel?", which I replied, "Yes?", then he promptly offered out his hand to greet me and then it hit; BAM! "I am pleased to meet you, Brother", he replied. This was not some half baked grip that many of us have been guilty of giving and receiving around the lodge, this was the full - on, no -mistaking, wow - just - like - I learned - in -the - degree grip! There was no doubt in what he was attempting to communicate to me! When I got over the initial surprise at having received such a grip while cruising in the middle of the Caribbean, I replied, "My, that is a mighty peculiar grip you have there, you must be a travelling man". Of which he replied, "Yes I am" and we proceeded to exchange information about our lodges. He happened to be from a lodge in the Phillipines (sorry, I can not remember which one it was, he was a little hard to understand and I was still under the initial shock of the whole experience) and told me that his supervisor onboard, the Bar Manager (Masonry has it's privileges!) was also a Brother.

So how did he know I was a member of The Craft? You see, instead of wearing my more subdued black stainless steel Masonic ring, I decided to wear my more fancy gold

one and go on, what I like to call, "trolling for Brothers". He noticed my ring when I extended my right hand to give him my Sea Pass card. We had a nice discussion and he invited me to visit him in the theater, where he tends bar in the evenings.

Buzzing with Brotherly love and friendship, I rushed back to the cabin and excitedly told Janet about my experience. Suddenly, my nerves and uncertainty about the trip had begun to subside a bit, knowing that I was in the good hands of a Brother or two (well, at least in the bars!)

The next day, while Janet was napping, I took it upon myself to meander down to the casino for a little gaming action. Before settling in to a nice round of video poker, I stopped at the casino bar to pick up an adult bevvie for some liquid refreshment. I handed the bartender (a nice young lady from Russia) my Sea Pass and as she returned from ringing me up, she asked, "Will you be back here in the evening"? "Now this is odd, why does she care if I will be back here in the evening?", I thought to myself. I replied, "I guess I can, why do you ask"? "Your ring", she replied. "I noticed your ring", referring to my Masonic ring. "My boss is one of you, a Mason. I always look out for this for him", she stated.

Sure enough, Janet and I went down to the casino that evening and she brought her boss over, who was also a member of that same lodge in the Philippines. He extended his right hand and there again, no doubt about what kind of grip that was; it was text book. He offered his assistance to Janet and I in anything we needed on the ship and let us know that we were in good hands with him and his staff during our journey.

There is more to the story, but I am going on too long. The main point here is, do not be afraid to go out and "troll for Brothers" once in a while. I was reluctant to wear my larger ring on my trip, as I did not want to draw any attention to myself. I was not sure how people in the Caribbean would react to someone being a Mason. In the end, I am glad that I decided to wear it anyway. I may not have had that great experience of getting to meet two Brothers from the Philippines on our ship. It is good to know that Brotherly love and affection reach out in all directions, even while sailing the high seas! So get out there and troll, Brothers! You never know what you might catch out there!

Dave Hansel Junior Warden



EASTERN STAR

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS: March 11th - All Member Dinner March 25th - Installation of Officers

What a terrific year we have had. Our term as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron will end on March 25th with the Installation of a new core of Officers. We have thoroughly enjoyed the time we have spent with all the wonderful friends and great activities. We hope that you have enjoyed it also. It is an honor to have had your support and approval for all the events and meetings that were carried out this year. A special thanks goes out to our officers. They have done a fantastic job in everything we have asked of them. We will still be around always to lend a hand when needed. Thank you sincerely for the support and confidence you have shown through out our time at Martha Chapter.

Now, on to other topics. The February meetings were business as usual with a balmy tropical evening on the 16th in this very strange Minnesota winter. Profits were made with the Chinese dinner and the lunch served for the Royal Arch Festival.

March brings these activities:

March 1 -Election meeting and reports

March 3 - Kitchen clean up – everyone is welcome
to come at 9:00 with a light lunch for all when
finished. (usually about 12:30)

March 11 - All member dinner — Martha Chapter members and families are invited to come and enjoy our year end event. 4:30 social time, 5:00 dinner.

March 15 - Stated meeting and reports – Good bye March 25 - Installation of new officers – 2:00

Again, our thanks to everyone for the fabulous memories we will carry with us always in our quiet(?) retirement(?) times.

Fraternal Love and blessings to all, Denise Emery, Worthy Matron Dave Emery, Worthy Patron

ROYAL ARCH

Greetings from the East,
Congratulaions to all of you
Companions! On February 11th
Shekinah 52 UD hosted the One Day to

Royal Arch for the state of Minnesota. We had over 70 attendees and 23 candidates for the degrees. A hale and hearty welcome and congratulations to our 7 newest Shekinah members. Highlites of the day included our own Trent Gilberton delivering the Mark Master degree lecture (with vary favorable comments from Gr. High Priest Gary Odegard!) and Dale Lilevold taking on the Long Journey

and two other long lectures for degrees. Everything went very smoothly and a great time was had by all. I also don't want to forget the great effort by our own Martha Chapter of Eastern Star who worked so hard to see that everyone had a great lunch. Very well done Ladies, thank yo so very much! We are getting closer all the time to having enough active members to be able to staff the degrees in house. We will have to suspend work after the April meeting as we will be sending in all our records to the Grand Chapter in hopes of finally securing our own Charter at Grand Sessions this June. So far it is looking pretty good.

Steve Braun High Priest Shekinah 52 U.D.



JOB'S DAUGHTERS

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS: March 19 - Initiation March 30 - April 1st - Grand Bethel in St. Cloud

On Monday. February 6th the Jobies had a very thoughtful honoring for the parents and guardians. They read a beautiful poem and spelled out LOVE IS PARENTS. The ladies gave their parents a candy filled heart and thanked them for being their parents.

Our next event was bowling on the 12th. It was fun for all 18 people who attended. We were able to bowl 2 games and ate some wonderful pizza and soda from Classical Bowl in Coon Rapids.

Here are our upcoming events:

Saturday, March 3 We will have a winter fun event.

Monday, March 5

Jobie Meeting: Mother Mick

Monday, March 19
Initiation

Monday, March 26

Council meeting

Friday, March 30 - April 1
Grand Bethel in St. Cloud



IMPONITHE LIEO

We had a very interesting presentation from WB John Aguilar on his last trip to Honduras. We were able to see a lot of pictures of the local Masonic Lodge and even more pictures of ancient temples and other structures. Not often that we get to see the results of a brothers travels.

For the March stated we will be treated to a presentation on cults and deprogramming former members thereof by Mr. Douglas Agustin. If that name sounds familiar he is the father of JD Paul Agustin. Mr. Agustin has been involved in the cult awareness consulting field for the past 28 years. He has been a member of Minds Free Minnesota since 1983 and served as the organizations president for eight of those years. He has given many talks on this subject to church, civic, college and government groups. He is still active in

this work in both the US and England. This should be a very interesting presentation.

Looking ahead to the April stated we will be hearing from Bro. John Schwietz from the Minnesota Masonic Charities. Bro. John will tell us about the activities of the Minnesota Masonic Charities as well as Minnesota Masonic Home including who can become a resident and how. This should be of great interest to many of our current brothers and their families. Please come with questions and feel free to bring your spouse and other family members.

Fraternally

John A. Freeburg, Lodge Education Officer

WB John Aguilar and Guest of Honor Marine Corp. Michael Memorich at this year's George Washington Birthday Dinner and Tribute to United States Veterans.

Thank You WB Aguilar for your hard work and dedication to this annual event!!



2011 COMIACI LISI

ANOKA MASONIC LODGE		SELIM GROTTO	
Master- Rob Naeve	612-386-2218	Monarch- Todd Mayer	763-413-0764
Senior Warden- Todd Mayer	763-413-0764	SHEKINAH 52 U.D.	
Junior Warden- Dave Hansel	763-862-5352		
Treasurer- Don McGuire	763-422-4507	High Priest- Steve Braun	763-412-9004
Secretary - Jay Lenz	763-786-6178	OES MARTHA CHAPTER	
Asst. Sec- Chris Berglund	763-807-5727	Worthy Matron Denise Emery	
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Father Thomas is the Anoka Lodge Chaplain and Chairman of the Sunshine Committee.
If you know of someone in the Masonic Family in need of support, please contact Father Thomas at (612) 702-4770.

EDITOR CONTACT INFO:

Please contact Ryan Dawson if you would like to submit an article, purchase advertising space, or if you have any comments or suggestions.

612.817.7537 sandc.editor@gmail.com

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Anoka Masons take the "Polar Plunge" to help fundraise for the Special Olympics