

Golden Ark Lodge 595

Volume 13, Issue 1

January 2010

From the EAST

Communications from the WM

John R Miller, PM

Worshipful Master

First, and foremost, I would like to thank the Brethren for electing me to serve as Worshipful Master for the ensuing Masonic year. It is an honor, and a privilege, to lead and learn from my Brethren. It has always been my belief that an informed, or enlightened, Mason becomes a better man, as well as a better Mason. I hope to gain enlightenment from the knowledge and wisdom of our older Brothers, as well as help our newer Brothers on their path to enlightenment. Welcome to another year of Brotherly Love here at Golden Ark.

I would also like to take a few moments to thank all of the Past Masters that helped out during our Annual Installation of Officers – WB Joe Molner, WB Alex Chapman, WB Chuck Owens, WB Thomas Stafford, WB Walter Mahan, WB Kevin Dobbins, WB Pete Elam, and WB Mike Barham. A special thank you goes out to WB Fred Gerdom, who flew up from sunny – and warm – Florida to act as Grand Master and perform the

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Master's Letter
- 1 GA in the News.....
- 4 From the WEST
- 4 From the SOUTH
- 4 Birthdays
- 5 From the Secretary

Golden Ark in the News

Third year of keeping children warm

Reprinted from the News-Herald

TAYLOR — Members of the Michigan Masons Golden Ark Lodge 595 are stepping up their efforts to help area children.

For the past three years, the Masons have donated winter coats and boots to underprivileged students at Taylor Parks and Blair Moody elementary schools.

This year's donation to Taylor Parks included 20 pairs of new winter boots, 20 new coats, dozens of used coats, 30 new hats and 140 new pairs of gloves. The Masons also donated 14 new coats and 55 new pairs of gloves to pupils at Blair Moody.



Members of Golden Ark Masonic Lodge 595 in Taylor present coats, boots and other apparel to Taylor Parks Elementary School. In the front row are WB Joe Molner (left), WB John Miller and students Nathaniel and Bradley Hatfield. In the back row are Taylor Parks teacher Trisha Bergeron, Br James Collier, Br Bruce Ball, WB William Clawson, Principal Diane Downie and WB Russ Ouellette Jr. (Photo by Dave Gorgon)

Installation ceremonies. WB Gerdom introduced me to Masonry, and has been a mentor to me ever since. Our friendship has become a stronger bond because of this fraternity, and continues to grow each year.

Congratulations to all of the Elected, and appointed, Officers for 2010. Besides myself, the list is as follows;

Senior Warden – Br. Paul Loudon

Junior Warden – Br. Timothy Dragone

Treasurer – WB Leonard Seese

Secretary – WB William Clawson

Chaplain – WB Richard Ouellette

Senior Deacon – Br. James Collier

Junior Deacon – Br. John Morgan III

Senior Steward – Br. Ronald Campbell

Junior Steward – Br. Bill Alford

Steward – Br. Jim Thomas

Steward – Br. James Turner

Marshall – Br. Timothy McHugh

Tyler – Br. Fred Kalsic

Please join me in wishing these Brothers success in their positions as Officers for 2010. Also join me in congratulating Br Jim Thomas for receiving the honor of Mason Of the Year for 2009.

You will find, in this newsletter, a calendar of tentative events as well as scheduled meetings. None of these events are "set in stone" and if there are any changes/modifications, we will communicate them with the trestle board and newsletter.

As most of you are aware, it is my belief that joining Freemasonry is one of the most important steps that a man can make. Freemasonry was founded on the ideals that men with good moral values should be able to come together, as one, and have a POSITIVE effect on their community. Freemasonry has, or should have, taught us that men of all religions and creeds, regardless of their position outside of the Lodge, can unite and live by a moral code founded on the highest moral standards – Honesty, Integrity, and Strength of Character. We, as Masons, can pave the way for those around us. We have the opportunity to make a change and have that POSITIVE impact.

One of Masonry's most important tenets is to give back to our communities. Along with supporting education and investing in children, community service is an important part of how we strive to better ourselves and our world. First and foremost, we want to help our fellow man. But community service has other benefits, too. As we look inside ourselves and ask how we can give back, we discover our strengths, set an example for our children and neighbors, and fulfill our Masonic ideals. We're also making our lodges a familiar face in the community.

Golden Ark Lodge, for the past 20 years, has been an active part of the Taylor community. Our members have been actively involved and continue to do so. Over the past 3 years, Golden Ark has helped the children in the Taylor School District by providing over \$6000 worth of Boots and Coats to some that would not otherwise be prepared for the harsh winter weather. In the upcoming year, Golden Ark will continue to give back by volunteering in 2 elementary schools – Taylor Parks and Blair Moody. Our members will help by reading to children and helping out the Teachers as needed. We have pledged to volunteer at least 1000 hours over the next 12 months, as well as continue to develop our Boots & Coats program. It's not about recognition – Masons are always content to do good without needing a pat on the back. But it is about building relationships, which is the heart of any good community.

It is my HOPE, that each of us will take a moment to reflect on ourselves and the things that we have been taught during our Masonic endeavors. That we will then take those GOOD moral values and principles out to the community and show them that we are Free and Accepted Masons by who and what we are, what we say, and how we act - not just by what we wear.

Until next month – HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! †

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty."

Br. Winston Churchill

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Stephen N. Toth Jr | 4-Jan |
| Michael E. Brown | 5-Jan |
| Eric A. Marshall | 5-Jan |
| Ciro J. Mattias, PM | 5-Jan |
| Donald M. Spina | 5-Jan |
| Paul E Loudon | 6-Jan |
| William E. Hilliker, PM | 8-Jan |
| Harry M. Lightner | 8-Jan |
| John F. Roring | 8-Jan |
| Robert E. Austin | 10-Jan |
| Edward F. Beale | 10-Jan |
| Thomas Stafford, PM | 11-Jan |
| Richard J. Wallace | 11-Jan |
| Leslie C. Anderson | 12-Jan |
| James F. Chapman | 16-Jan |
| Kenneth E. Mills | 16-Jan |
| William C. Robertson | 16-Jan |
| Donald W. Lewis | 17-Jan |
| John J. Platenik | 18-Jan |
| Thomas G Shinn Jr | 18-Jan |
| Vernon L. Lowery | 19-Jan |
| Charles K. Hart | 20-Jan |
| John S. Johnson | 22-Jan |
| Marco L. Deon Jr | 23-Jan |
| Jimmy D. Veach | 23-Jan |
| Martin J. Drouillard | 26-Jan |
| Robert A. Gust | 26-Jan |
| William O'Donnell | 26-Jan |
| Charles M. Pfeffer | 27-Jan |
| Harold L. Brockman | 29-Jan |
| William V. Patts Jr | 29-Jan |
| Richard A. Dolin | 30-Jan |
| Donald B. Gibson | 30-Jan |
| Torlan R. Nickles | 30-Jan |
| Franklin D. Hayes | 31-Jan |

From the WEST

Brethren,

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for allowing me to serve as J.W. for the year 2009 and I look forward to serving you as S.W. in 2010.

The first scheduled SW Dinner is set for Jan. 9, 2010 at Lola Valley Lodge. Please contact me for reservations.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. God Bless

Br. Paul Loudon

"An empowered organization is one in which individuals have the knowledge, skill, desire, and opportunity to personally succeed in a way that leads to collective organizational success."

From the SOUTH

Brethren,

I would like to first off say thank you to you, your families and friends for all the support, friendship, and instruction that I have received. Not to mention, all the wonderful friends I have met in the last several years. Had I not joined this institution, I would of have never met any of you fine people, and to think I joined only because of various examples of the character of people I have known to be Masons. When I came into this fraternity, I did not know what to expect, but only the best of my expectations have been met. Thank you, and thank you again.

Well, it is going to be a challenging and labor intensive year, but I look forward to it. Through experience we grow, and quite possibly I will learn some new skills, and ideas that I can take home to my own table. I am not much of a cook. Actually, I don't think I can cook at all, but I swear that I will do my best not to let my brothers eat hot and ready pizzas. I am sure that things will be fine, with the help of Worshipful brother Mike Barham, and the rest of you.

I will follow up with the details for the Mason of the Year Party. Congrats to Brother Jim Thomas.

Until next time,

Junior Warden

Timothy M. Dragone

LOOK FOR US ON THE WEB

We continue to update the web site with information as it becomes available. Feel free to visit and leave us a comment and/or some feedback

www.goldenark.mimasons.com

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK

Earlier this past month, we created a Facebook Group for Golden Ark Lodge. Membership requires authorization, so feel free to request to join. If you do not have a Facebook account, it is free to sign up. www.facebook.com

E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Got an idea for the newsletter? Need to update your information? Need to tell us something? Please feel free to send us an e-mail at goldenark@ameritech.net or taylormasonic@yahoo.com. Got a message for one of the Lodge officers? Visit the web site and click on their name to send them an e-mail.

Golden Ark Lodge
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Taylor, MI 48180-1281

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

From the Secretary

WB William Clawson

Brethren,

Thank You, once again, for putting your trust in me to serve as Lodge Secretary for 2010. I will continue to do my best to serve this Lodge. Congratulations to all of the newly elected Lodge Officers as well.

There are still a few Brothers that have not yet paid their dues. Please get these in as soon as possible. It is also necessary to keep all of your personal information updated. If there has been a change of address, telephone, and/or e-mail please contact me so that we can make sure all of the information in our records is correct.

"Many an opportunity is lost because a man is out looking for four-leaf clovers. Learn to listen. Opportunity could be knocking at your door very softly."

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' 'Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world. ' '

- JOEL BARKER