



Minnesota DeMolay
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January 2009 EO Update

Winter Carnival

A nice but chilly winter day greeted DeMolay at the Camp on January 3rd, unfortunately by the end of the day freezing rain made for a slick ride home. In-between, DeMolay from all of the twin cities chapters participated in sledding, boot hockey on the lake and the ability to warm up in the lodge with hot cider and stoup with an interesting version of dumplings. Playing Wii, by the fireplace also help to warm up.

What to Know about 2009

LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP FEES. Some Chapters are increasing their membership fees to include T-shirts or Hoodies as an incentive for the new member to feel welcomed in his new organization. Chapters please remember to include \$25 with the Form 10, and as always Form 10's should be mailed to the P.O. Box within 10 days of the Initiatory Obligation.

MEMBERSHIP. January 1919 was the start to DeMolay, 90 years ago this month. Our membership goal in celebration of our anniversary is 90 new members. Ambitious YES! Achievable YES! What will it take? look at Conclave and all of the active members, if every active member brought in just ONE new member and that new member brought in one new member prior to the end of the year we would greatly exceed 90. One petition every 4 days is needed, get your Chapter to work to achieve this goal. Job's Daughters Challenge. We have been challenged by the Job's Daughters of Minnesota in membership goals. The group that achieves the greatest membership growth on a percentage of existing members by June 30, 2009 will have to plan, and sponsor an event for the winning group.

HIAWATHA INSTALLATION. Saturday January 17th. 6pm. This is a combined DeMolay and Jobs Daughters installation with a Sweetheart dance to follow. This is not just a Job's Installation followed by a DeMolay Installation but truly a combined Installation, attend and see it.

WINTERFEST. Once again the trek to Giants Ridge in Biwabik. Registration begins 8pm Friday February 6th. Registration is \$ 60 and is exclusive to DeMolay and Advisors by Friday January 16th, after that we open to Job's Daughters, the final deadline is February 2nd. MN DeMolay now accepts Pay Pal, there is an additional service charge but if it is easier for you to pay that way feel free. Please be sure to have a meal on your way up on Friday, Friday night will be open activities, with Breakfast and all day potluck on Saturday. Ski Rental and Lift tickets are in addition to the registration fee. Remember we only have space for 96 so get your registration in early. Saturday evening will be a mini congress, LCC workshop, Board Games, Video games, and movies, something for everyone!

MINNEAPOLIS VALLEY COUNCIL FEAST February 14th. Minneapolis Scottish Rite, Franklin and Dupont. This years theme for the feast is to celebrate Masonic youth and Masonic youth leaders. The evening begins at 5:45pm, Dinner at 6:15 and the program at 7pm. Dinner is \$ 10 and reservation need to be made by February 10. You can call 612-871-1500 to make reservations. Father Job and Jacques DeMolay will be in attendance for the evening making presentations.

Our **GRAND MASTERS CLASS** will be March 14. What an opportunity to showcase our Ritual and Membership goals for our Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota Most Worshipful Thomas C. Jackson.

DEMOLAY JAM is scheduled April 17th to 19th Location is still TBD in order to meet all of the requirements of this event.

May 16th will be our **SWEETHEART FORMAL**, back on the Lake? Better boat? Dinner or light refreshments? Stand by we will answer all of those questions shortly, just have your DeMolay get out their best dress and dancing shoes and be ready.

May 17th **MASONIC YOUTH DAY** at Valley Fair. All the screams and excitement that can be offered for a day at Valley Fair or realizing that we ran out of hot dogs. Reduced rate tickets will be offered as well as a price break if you attend both the formal and youth day. A picnic will once again be provided around noon.

PAINTBALL is back.

DEMOLAY UNIVERSITY AND BROTHERHOOD WEEKEND. Friday June 26th and overnight to Saturday Jun 27th. An opportunity for our new members to get to know each other and receive some DeMolay education, also a great opportunity to learn their obligations, for our more experienced members an opportunity to expand their DeMolay knowledge and improve their leadership skill. This will be at the camp where additional opportunities abound for physical activity.

Walter Breuning, oldest living man in North America



Walter Breuning was born in Melrose, Minnesota, on September 21, 1896. He worked for the Great Northern Railroad from 1913 to 1963. A member of Great Falls, Montana Lodge No. 118 since 1925 having served as Worshipful Master in 1934, he served as Lodge Secretary for 25 years, from 1945 to 1970. Since joining the Scottish Rite in 1937, Valley of Great Falls, he has served on various work committees, including Director of Work, from 1940 to 1985. Breuning served as Venerable Master in 1950, received the K.C.C.H. in 1949, and was coroneted a 33° Inspector General Honorary in 1958. Noble Breuning has been a member of Algeria Shriners since 1951. He served as manager of the Elbon (Noble spelled backwards) Shrine Club for many years. He is also a member of the Royal Order of Scotland and Royal Order of Jesters. He is also the recipient of the **DeMolay Honorary Legion of Honor**.

Among his many activities since turning 100, he spoke at the Great Falls Feast of Tishri at age 104 and Maundy Thursday at age 106, published "This is the Day the Lord has Made" in the Scottish Rite Journal at age 104, and tossed the first pitch at the Great Falls White Sox season opener at age 110! Walter broke his hip at age 108, spent 8 days in the hospital, and was healed in 21 days. He uses a walker to get around, but it hasn't slowed him own. Everyday, Walter eats breakfast and lunch - no dinner. In November 2007, at the age of 111, he was fitted with hearing aids. On his 112th birthday, Walter said "the secret to long life is being active. If you keep your mind busy and keep your body busy, you're going to be around a long time."

Scholarship Opportunities

Deadlines Approaching

There are several opportunities for our DeMolay to apply for and receive scholarship monies, there is usually an application, Essay and DEADLINE associated with the scholarships. There are forms on the website, but here is a list of upcoming scholarships:

Kach Essay. Grades 11 and above and 10 and below. 2 winners from each region for \$300 and 2 national winners for \$ 1200. Topic: Patriotism and What it Means to Me". **DEADLINE: February 1st.** 1000 -1500 words, typed double spaced.

Minnesota Masonic Charities Signature Scholarships \$ 5000 which may renewed for 4 years. Graduating seniors with minimum GPA 3.0. Application form **DEADLINE: February 13th.**

Minnesota Grand Lodge Scholarship. Open to graduating seniors, 1 winner \$ 1500. Topic: "What if there were no Order of DeMolay." **DEADLINE: March 1.** 1000 words minimum.

Frank S Land Scholarship. Needs based, application form \$1000, **DEADLINE: April 1st**

General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons. Needs based, \$ 1000, **DEADLINE: April 1st**

In Case you didn't know

It has been said that a day can be changed or a great moment launched by a single phone call.

Such a call came in *January of 1919*. As Frank answered the telephone he recognized the voice of Sam Freet, newly installed Senior Warden of Ivanhoe Lodge. "Frank, I have a favor to ask. One of our members, Elmer E. Lower, who had been initiated as a Fellow Craft, died a year ago. Could you find a part-time job for the oldest boy, Louis? He is one of the finest young men I have ever seen.

"Sam, you called at just the right time. I would be glad to talk to this boy. Send Louis to me, say after school tomorrow if you can arrange it. I shall look forward to meeting him."

The next afternoon Louis arrived promptly for his interview. Shaking hands with this youth brought a response to Land that seemed to blend them into a common experience that would unite them for years to come. Louis radiated an honesty of character, a natural aptitude for leadership, and the grace of movement of the athlete. Frank thought, "If I had a son, I would want him to be just like this lad."

They talked for a while about school. Louis told him of his aspirations for a place on the track team, of his position as a pitcher on a baseball team, and in response to a question said, "I am a fairly good student. Even with the hard time we are having, I want to finish high school and then help with the education of the others."

Frank responded, "It is a good goal. You will meet the challenge. Now, tell me about your father. I knew him but only from very casual meetings."

Louis hesitated as though reluctant to look into the past but finally said, "My father was the finest father a boy ever had."

That evening, as Nell Land cleared the dinner dishes, she said, "Frankie, something happened today. You look like you have found a long, lost friend."

"Not a lost friend but a new young friend. This boy I talked to today is tremendous. One of the finest young men I have ever met. He is going to work with me in the office and I know I shall enjoy having him around. Perhaps we could take him to church with us Wednesday evening. The teachings of Christian Science would be good for him and you could meet Louis Lower."

"Yes, we should do just that," she said. "I suggest that you have him bring a few friends over to the apartment some evening. I would like to meet him."

It was not until the middle of February that the opportunity for such a meeting took place. "Louis," said Mr. Land, "who do you run around with?"

"I have some friends in my neighborhood," said Louis.

"How would you like to form a Club and meet here at the Temple?"

Louis thought the idea had possibilities and showed up the next week with eight other boys. That was February 19, 1919.

The boys came early that Wednesday evening and each in turn was introduced to Mr. Land by Louis Lower with, "I want you to meet Ralph Sewell, Elmer Dorsey, Edmund Marshall, Jerome Jacobson, William Steinhibler, Ivan Bentley, Gorman McBride, and Clyde Stream. There are nine of us."

They were a group destined to form a great youth organization and each was to advance through his efforts and determination to prominence in his chosen field of work.

Mr. Land acknowledged each introduction with a handshake and word of welcome. "Before we get down to business, let's make a tour of this building. I think you will find it just about right if we should decide to form a Club and use it as a meeting place."

It was a radiant group that gathered about the long table in one of the meeting rooms that night. There was no doubt that they should continue to meet as a Club. The only question was a name. One suggested they use Greek letters as the college fraternities did but this was instantly voted down as making them only a part of other organizations. The name must be distinctive and carry meaning. They turned to Land for suggestions. He pointed to a recent series of prints on the wall that showed the adventures of Sir Galahad and the Knights of the Round Table. There was a negative shaking of heads.

The greatest of wars had ended only a few months before and the adventures of knights of old seemed far away. Then names were mentioned from history and from the Bible. Stories such as Damon and Phythias, David and Jonathan and of Nathan Hale. Nothing seemed to click until one of the boys, Clyde Stream, said "Mr. Land, tell us something connected with Masonry. They must have great names and we are meeting here in one of their buildings."

Frank smiled, "This year I am serving as the head of one of the Masonic Groups. I am the Commander for the DeMolay Council of Kadosh. There are many names and stories directly connected with Masonry, but I think I should tell you about the last leader of the Knights Templar. His name was Jacques DeMolay or as they say in history books, James of Molay."

The story and the name caught the imagination of the boys. Here was heroism. Here was a great example of loyalty, of courage. Here was a theme from knighthood and chivalry, at its best, and the name of a martyr to fidelity and toleration. The boys were ready without further consideration to accept this name as the name of the group. But Land interrupted, "Now let's wait just a little bit and sleep over this. Let's not rush into it. Perhaps with a little more thought we can come up with a better name. One that might be more in keeping and more appropriate. It is growing late and you should all be going home. Come back next week and bring a few more of your friends. We will talk more together about it then. Good night and thanks for coming."

While the boys talked to Land about the Club when they came to the Temple, it was their long talks together at school and as they walked from school to home that heightened their interest and gave momentum to their organization. One afternoon after a chemistry class, Elmer Dorsey caught up with Louis Lower to ask, "Louis, I think this club idea is terrific. But what is it all about? What does Mr. Land get out of it? Do they want us to become junior Masons?" "I don't have all the answers, Elmer, I only know that Frank Land is one of the greatest. His only motive is the one he tells us. He likes to be with young people and sincerely believes that if we do form such a group each of us will benefit from it. How he ever talked the older boys into letting us use their temple is beyond me. They must be interested in us as Land is, because he has told me that we are not to be a junior Masonic group. He told me these men are concerned about only one thing and that is that we should grow into decent men who will be respected in the community."

March 24, 1919 was the day in history that launched the Order of DeMolay. During the next few years, however, the date of March 18, the date in the past that had witnessed the death of Jacques DeMolay, came to be more frequently used.

Thirty-one boys, all from the same high school, came to the Scottish Rite Temple that night. Frank Land made each boy welcome and then explained briefly his ideas of a Club. Land said, "This is your meeting. I will serve as Advisor but it is your meeting. Why not proceed with an organization and elect a few officers. I will take charge until you have completed your election."

During the next few months the group grew in numbers, in activities and interest. Then a fear came to some of them that they were growing into too large a Club.

Someone suggested that a committee talk with Mr. Land and endeavor to convince him that membership should be limited to 75. Land neither criticized or ad-

monished the committee at the time. In fact they didn't know whether he agreed or disagreed to their suggestion.

Later when the meeting was called to order, the chairman reported and moved that the membership of DeMolay be limited to 75. The motion quickly received a second and was unanimously adopted. It was then that Dad Land rose from the back of the room where he had been more or less out of sight for he wasn't the type to take the spotlight, or the forefront in their meetings. He wanted them to conduct their own meetings.

As he came to the front of the room that night, he proceeded to tell them—and in no uncertain terms—how selfish and how inconsiderate they were. He told them that they were operating and thinking absolutely contrary to every idea that he had in mind for this organization. He reminded them that there were three other high schools in Kansas City which had young men who were just as capable, just as qualified, and just as upstanding as they were. In fact, he indicated he thought they were probably much, much better than what they thought they were. He said that if it was good for one boy, it must be good for all eligible boys. He reminded them that 'to become big, they must be big.' The motion to limit membership to 75 was rescinded. It was then that DeMolay was permitted to grow and develop.

And grew it did. DeMolay continued its growth initiating new member and instituting new chapters in all states of the continental USA. DeMolay then crossed the oceans and the organization was developed in many foreign countries. Thousands upon thousands of young men have had their life enriched by the rescinding of the motion to limit the Order of DeMolay to just 75 members.



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