



<http://www.mn-rivervalley.org>

Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6

“Issued with the Permission of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Minnesota

Plumblin for February 2006

The Grand Lodge website, at <http://www.mn-masons.org>, has just undergone a minor facelift. The site has been updated with more information for potential candidates in the "About Us" section, and for better delivery of the extensive Educational Resources we have to offer. Lodge Secretaries or other computer-using volunteers should check the Minnesota Lodges - Interactive List page found under the "Local and Foreign Links" menu (<http://www.mn-masons.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=26>) to update your lodge's current contact information. Finally, if you have your own lodge website, you can add a link to it on these pages. If you have any questions, please contact Grand Secretary Doug Campbell for further information, at grandlodge@qwest.net.

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota's One-Day-to-Masonry event on January 21st at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple was, once again, a great day for Minnesota Masonry. We closed the day with 63 new master Masons joining 32 Lodges, from Silver Bay, Duluth and the Iron Range in the north, to Winona, Mankato, Waseca and Sanborn across Southern Minnesota. I gave a short talk after lunch and it was a good feeling to look out over a dining room with about 225 men enjoying their lunches. A wise old Past Grand Master once told me to be careful with my thank yous because it is easy to miss one, so I will simply say that it took close to 100 Brothers to make this day happen.

And I do sincerely thank everyone of you, whether you were taking part in the ritual work, pouring coffee in the dining room or handling any of the many other tasks that comprise our One-Day-to-Masonry.

I would encourage all of you, no matter how you feel about our One-Day-to-Masonry events to attend one at your convenience, I have a feeling you will be glad you did. For me, it was a wonderful day of Masonic fellowship, friendship and encouragement.

February 3rd and 4th are the dates for the annual Monitors' Examinations conducted by the Board of Custodians. Our ritual is near and dear to most of us and without the work of our

Custodians and Monitors, the ritual work would not be as good as it is. My hat goes off to each of the Monitors for devoting the many hours it takes to become proficient on an entire degree. The examinations are open to any interested Master Mason Degree, so feel free to drop by the Grand Lodge office on Friday or Saturday and see what it take to become a Monitor. We need more Monitors in every part of the state, so you will be most welcome whether you are ready to take your exam or if you are just curious and want to see how it all works when the Board of Custodians gets together. The exams get started at 8:30 a.m.

Senior Grand Deacon Tom McCarthy will host a brainstorming session at the Grand Lodge office on Saturday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m. The topic:

MASONIC PUBLICITY

Dan Brown's best-selling book, "The Da Vinci Code" is being made into a movie that will be released in May. Also, Brown's new book, set in Washington, D.C. and supposed to be involving several Masonic themes, is scheduled for release this year.

No doubt, there will be a buzz about each of these events. Masonry in Minnesota should be positioned to capitalize on the publicity, and be prepared to respond to questions about Masonry that may be raised.

The brainstorming session takes place at the Grand Lodge office, 200 East Plato Boulevard, Saint Paul. All are welcome to come and give input for this rare opportunity.

I hope by now that you have April 7-8 2006 on your calendars, the dates for our next Grand Lodge Annual Communication. We will be in Saint Louis Park again this year, back at the DoubleTree Hotel. You would be wise to make your room reservations now (phone number 952-542-8600) to insure that you get the best rate possible, \$97.00 per night single or double occupancy. We will open the Grand Lodge at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning, there will be no public opening ceremony. We plan to get through much of the business on Friday morning so the entire afternoon can be devoted to breakout sessions, which will be better than ever.

We have a nice contingent of Brothers coming from Martello Lodge in England.

Martello Lodge is the lodge that we (those that went on the Grand Master's tour of England) attended last June, where we witnessed the Master Mason Degree, British style. Our English Brothers are as excited to attend our Annual Communication as we were to attend the Quarterly Communication of the United Grand Lodge of England in June. You will have a chance to meet and greet a great group of Masons traveling a long way to be with us, if you are also planning on being at our Annual Communication.

KidsID

The Kids ID booth at the 2005 Minnesota State Fair was again a huge success.

We hope that everyone who participated last year had as much fun as we did organizing it and our sincere thanks goes out to everyone who donated their time.

In order to get an early jump on things, we have decided to start scheduling a bit early this year. As in previous years, lodges or individuals interested in volunteering can sign up for one of three shifts of four hours each. The shifts are from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 pm, and 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Lodges that sign up should be able to provide eight workers per shift. All workers will receive a ticket to the fair and a handsome Masonic sport shirt.

If you would like to participate, please contact Jacob Geer at:

(H) 651-771-7005

(W) 612-676-8655

Email: Jacob.geer@cerner.com

Chris and I are off for a quick tour of the Southwestern United States, as we leave for the annual Texas-Minnesota Masonic Reunion in Harlingen, Texas on Friday and then over to Phoenix, Arizona in time for the Arizona- Minnesota Masonic Reunion on Monday. It will be nice to see some old friends and I plan on meeting several new friends too. If you are one of the over 200 Brothers and guests expected at these two events, please make it a point to come up and say hello. I would appreciate it.

Andy Rice, Grand Master