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THE WAYFARER

MN RIVER VALLEY LODGE #6

“PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF MINNESOTA”

Volume 16, Issue 03

May/June 2014

Lodge Officers:

Master – Kenny Betterton
(952)292-9054
master@mn-rivervalley.org

Senior Warden – Tim Pray
(952)891-3274
sw@mn-rivervalley.org

Junior Warden – Doug Rhodes
(952)854-2368
jw@mn-rivervalley.org

Treasurer – Joe Andrus
(952)432-1660
treas@mn-rivervalley.org

Secretary – Gary Sankary
(612)581-3384
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Chaplain – Dan Ploenzke
(651)295-1433
chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

Lodge Location:

110-1/2 1st Ave. E
Shakopee, MN 55379

Stated Meeting Date and Time:

1st Tuesday of the Month at 7:30 P.M.

“Thoughts from the East”

Greetings Brethren,

After a long, cold, and drawn out winter I think possibly that spring is here. At least for today! It is hard to believe but four months of my year as Master have elapsed and there is so much more that I want to accomplish. As Master, this year has not been a typical year. I have spent more time on packing, loading, moving, demolishing and building than running the lodge, doing ritual or spending time with those in need.

The Grand Architect of the Universe knows us all too well. Of course I am Master at a time when there is a need for more back than brain, more hammers than gavels and thus plays to my conviction that “nothing happens by mistake.”

The new Lodge construction is proceeding well and on time, the move should be completed this weekend and there is “more light and the end of the proverbial tunnel.”

- **Need to know information**

I was approached by Brother Alan Betker, Secretary of Templar Lodge, at the Lynn Hurst Turkey Dinner and we had a discussion as to where MRVL#6 was going to hold our Stated Meetings until construction was completed and he very generously offered the smaller lodge that is in the same building as Templar. As a group at the steering meeting this Tuesday we the Brethren weighed it out and the vote was unanimous that we meet there for the next three months. By doing so we will not have to pack up all necessary items to hold lodge, we will be meeting in a dedicated lodge room and have the sanctity and privacy that I feel strongly about when conducting open lodge.

Continued on the next page

Thoughts from the East, Continued

It is my hope that all of you will support this opportunity and attend. The location is literally 12 minutes north of our Savage location

Location:

Templar Lodge #176
6509 Walker Street
Saint Louis Park, MN 55426
(952) 920-9701

Also important to note, the first meeting May 6, 2014 we will meet at 7:00 PM and gavel will strike at 7:30 PM. It is my request that the attire stay business casual, showing respect to their lodge as an appreciative visitor.

The first meeting there will not be a meal served allowing the Stewarts an opportunity to see what is there and what we have access to. I also suggest that we car pool as much as possible due to distance and more importantly there is limited parking.

The regular Steering Meetings for MRVL#6 will continue to be held at the Savage location, in the room east of the lodge.

These are exciting but also very trying times for all of us, with the construction, the move, and sense of complete chaos. We as labors of the "Gentle Craft" need to stand firm with resolve to see the completion of the building, knowing the rewards and resources with benefit not only us but the thousands in Masonry for decades to come. *"The future is so bright I have to wear shades."*

Enjoy the photograph below from the Templar Lodge Visit



Masonic Milestone Master Mason Anniversary Dates

MN River Valley Lodge #6 would like to recognize all of the Masonic Milestone Master Mason Anniversary dates that are taking place during May and June 2014

They are:

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------|
| John Loutzenhiser | 50 Years | 05/09/1964 |
| Gordon Clough | 50 Years | 05/27/1964 |
| Walter Loggers | 50 Years | 05/27/1964 |
| Robert Davis Jr. | 35 Years | 05/10/1979 |
| Thomas Hone | 25 Years | 06/17/1989 |
| Michael Kottwitz | 20 Years | 05/14/1994 |
| Tim Pray | 05 Years | 06/20/2009 |
| Tad Conroy | 05 Years | 06/20/2009 |

A special congratulations to Gordon, John and Walter for 50 Years of Masonry.



As always I offer strong encouragement to all; to live the tenants of Masonry inside and well as outside the lodge and practice them in all your daily encounters.

May the blessing of the Grand Architect be upon you and yours, each and every day as we navigate this journey called life.

Worshipful Master,
Kenny Betterton
master@mn-rivervalley.org



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is June 27th. All articles for the July/August 2014 issue are due by the end of the day. Any articles that are received after the due date will be held over for the September/October 2014 issue of The Wayfarer.

You may send articles to me for the newsletter; by any method you desire (email, regular mail, etc...). Articles that are not received by the due date will be held over for the next newsletter.

Thank You,

Steven Scheffert
(news@mn-rivervalley.org)



New Lodge Building Work Dates

Work continues at the new Lodge building on the following days and time:

1. Every Monday at 7:00 P.M.
2. Every Saturday – We will meet for breakfast at the American Legion at 8:00 a.m. and then begin work at 9:00 a.m. We will work on the building as long as individuals can.

We hope to see you there!



OES Report

Shakopee Chapter #90 met on March 20th. We had a new member join us. The initiation was done at the meeting and the Officers did a wonderful job. This was our last meeting at the Shakopee Lodge Hall. On April 5th we had our installation of Officers for the upcoming year. Suzan Pederson was installed as Worthy Matron and Doug Rhodes as Worthy Patron. Refreshments were served after the ceremony. On April 24th we had our first meeting of the New Year at Excelsior Chapter. We will be there until we move into the new building. Sideliners were honored and given a gift by the new Worthy Matron. We are always glad to have visitors and they are an important part of any meeting. Money was given to several charities. The theme this year is birds and the Worthy Patron gave a talk on Robins. Interesting and an appropriate one for spring.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



“Words of Wisdom”

From the perspective of the Chaplain

In each issue of our Wayfarer, I want to share with you some commentaries that I have found meaningful. I sincerely hope you will find the following as equally meaningful as I have and that they may create a moment of reflection. May these moments of reflection become an inspiration to you and perhaps create a small change in how you interact with those around you.

The first is a brief excerpt from Pope Francis’s new book, “Let Us Be Lights of Hope”. He says, ***“I would like to speak of three simple attitudes: hopefulness, openness to being surprised by God, and living in joy.”*** I especially like how he describes the attitude of “openness to being surprised by God”. Pope Francis goes on to say, ***“Anyone who is a man or women of hope – the great hope that faith gives us – knows that even in the midst of difficulties God acts and surprises us.”***

Continued on the next page

Chaplain's Corner, Continued

The second commentary I want to share is from a pamphlet handed out at my church, author unknown. Here is a brief excerpt, written as if God is speaking directly to all of us:

I know your life is hectic, but please take a few minutes to stop, and listen.

I need to tell you that you're amazing. I see in you everything that you were created to be, but it's hidden behind all the worry and stress that you carry around. Why do you do that? That stuff gets in the way, and makes you hide your eyes.

Look in the mirror again. Can you see yourself the way I see you? You are loved. You are also powerful. With a single word, expression or gesture, you can hold up that mirror for someone else. Follow me, and help others see in themselves what I've shown you. Tell them what I'm telling you: You are absolutely, completely, unconditionally, radically and ridiculously loved.

Finally the third commentary is a prayer, used quite often in Masonic gatherings. It dates back to the 4th century:

GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE

May I be no man's enemy, and may I be the friend of that which is eternal and abides.

May I never quarrel with those nearest me; and if I do may I be reconciled quickly.

May I never devise evil against any man.

May I love, seek and attain only that which is happiness and envy none.

May I never rejoice in the ill-fortune of one who has wronged me.

When I have done or said what is wrong, may I never wait the rebuke of others, but always rebuke myself.

May I accustom myself to be gentle, and never angry with people because of circumstances.

*May I never discuss who is wicked and what wicked things he has done, but know good men and follow their footsteps.
So mote it be.*

Submitted by: Dan Ploenzke
Chaplain
chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org



Inter Lodge Visitation

St Paul Lodge No 3
June 17, 2014 6:30 PM
Meetings held at:

Triune Temple
1898 Iglehart Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104

Dark Suit or Tux is the preferred dress. Gourmet Dinner is served following the meeting and is considered to be part of the evening. Reservations required. \$30 each

Sign up at either the May Stated or June Stated Meetings or see Keith Donaldson by June 11th.



Upon the plumb

News from the South



Brethren;

Spring has arrived! Let's thank the Great Architect for a highly anticipated change of season. It was, in my opinion, one of the worst winters in recent memory. The change in a way, symbolizes our Lodge, as we pack up our belongings in Shakopee and look toward the move to our New Lodge. As a fairly new member to #6, I have no regrets and can't wait to have our first Lodge meeting in Savage. However, I do realize there is history in the old Lodge, so I don't want to downplay the feelings of some of the members. Regardless, we should all have one thought in common, Goodbye Stairway! Again, I want to thank all members for their continuous support.

Masonic Etiquette

For this newsletter, I would like write about Masonic etiquette and the effect it makes in our everyday life. As it was expressed to us in the Entered Apprentice degree, a Mason's first duty in the lodge is to learn how to subdue their passions and improve themselves in Masonry. Almost immediately after the EA degree, newly initiated Brothers are taught some rules of Masonic Etiquette. Our organization adopts these rules to better enable it to carry out its good work in an atmosphere of harmony. Here are a few rules:

- 1) Salute the Worshipful Master when entering or retiring from a lodge in session, as well as, before and after speaking.
- 2) Do not pass through the Worshipful Master's view of the Great Lights
- 3) Be "properly clothed" when entering a lodge room about to open, by wearing an apron, the distinguished badge of a Mason.
- 4) Stand up to speak, while addressing the Worshipful Master or making an announcement to the Brothers.



The Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth



- 5) And finally, a rule of with some modern touches; turn the cellphone off while a meeting is in session.

Masonic etiquette, for the most part, is merely good manners and respect for the lodge, its members, its Worshipful Master and the convention of Freemasonry, in general. But how should these rules and customs apply to our daily lives. All of the five mentioned above have a common theme: they are deeply intertwined with "respect". Respect should always be part of our day-to-day. As we intermingle with family, neighbors, employers, political and religious officials, etc. And strangers as well. As like the lodge, we should give people their due respect (reference salute), not cause conflict within others (reference Great Lights), be in our best behavior in public (reference apron), speak graciously and listen intently to others (reference stand). And turn cell phones off when it's appropriate to do so, like worship and theaters, where silence and no disruption is key. I know some of these references are stretching it a little bit, but I hope I made my point. It helps to remember the "golden rule", treat others as one would like others to treat oneself. This rule has very much a relation to the Masonic principles of brotherly love, relief and truth; the foundations upon which Freemasonry is built.

You see plenty of disrespect and disharmony in the world around us (war, crime, abuse, social conflict, struggles with power and wealth, etc.). This can be very unsettling for anyone trying to subdue passion and make self-improvements. The world media throws this turmoil in your face. You read, hear and witness it continuously. You can't run away from it. You even carry it with you in your smart phones and tablets. At the end of the day, you feel like a pincushion by having chaos poked into your psyche. But brothers! Don't worry! Relax! Take a breath. We always have our family, friends, and more especially our fellow brothers to help and support us. Let brotherly love prevail!

Fraternally,
Douglas J. Rhodes,
Junior Warden, MN River Valley Lodge #6
jw@mn-rivervalley.org

Freemason vs. Mason

A feeling is an idea with roots - Chinese Fortune Cookie

Last month I attended a wonderful talk by Dr. John S. Nagy at Grand Lodge. His presentation was full of ideas that are potential LEO presentations. Here is one:

Are you a Freemason or a Mason?

Per Dr. Nagy's definition the Freemason is involved in the organization. It is the organization that teaches the code. The organization conducts ritual to communicate the code and teach the lectures to help preserve and propagate the code. The Mission of the organization is to preserve and propagate the code.

The Mason is an individual who is learning to execute the code. The Mason has received the code and used it as basis for making a good man better, an individual at a time. For the Mason the code is not the destination, but the beginning. The Mason is working to "Be" the code.

Have my words taken root? Is my original question proper or improper? Should the original question have been AND instead of OR? Guess that is up to you.

Keith Donaldson
Lodge Education Officer
leo@mn-rivervalley.org



MEET THE TENANTS

by Betty Price

In an effort to help keep the Masonic family informed of what is happening at the new Masonic Center facility, I was asked to interview those who are currently renting space. I can tell you quite sincerely that the folks who have made their business home within the Masonic Center are fabulous folks!



My first stop was to check-in with Adam Bauer of Reality Bytes. Adam began working on computers when he was about 12 years old. His parents had a Gateway computer with Win 95. Since it wasn't working well anyway, Adam decided to tear it apart and see how it worked. It lay in a pile for a week when he put it back together whereupon the computer worked fine! This began a career of side jobs repairing computers.

Adam's formal tech training came later when he attended Concordia College in St. Paul where his major was Christian Ministry. During his years at Concordia, he worked the help desk. Adam began Reality Bytes in his basement in 2013, which he promptly outgrew.

Adam is married to Kristi who is a Youth Pastor at a church in Bloomington.

I recently had the opportunity to utilize Adam's services when my son came to me and said, "Mom, we're going to have to take my laptop in as it is slow, hard to start-up and the fans are not working." I called Geeks only to be told that they would have to send the computer in for repairs and would take about a month. I said that would never do. I called Adam and told him about the situation asking if he could take a look at it for us. I took it on over and let him "do his thing." Adam got to the bottom of the problem, which turned out not to be what we had thought it was. My son had his computer back within 36 hours! Adam, you definitely are a gem and we will be seeing you for all of our computer problems!

MEET THE TENANTS

by Betty Price



I spent some time visiting with Shana Flowerday and Holly Johnson, Shana's mother, of Shana's Dance Studio. Shana is the owner and dance instructor while Holly tends to the nuts and bolts of the operation. Holly greets people with her winning smile and makes them feel right at home and comfortable. She always has the coffee pot on and is ready to share a story with you. Shana is a professional which comes through in her demeanor. What a delightful pair they are!

Shana began her career as a dancer on the Carnival Cruise Lines where she danced Las Vegas style shows, Broadway musicals, magic shows and other venues. She did three contract tours, each lasting nine to eleven months. Her last was aboard the inaugural voyage of a new ship built in Finland. Though the travel was fun, it did get old after a while. Shana wanted to come back home, open a studio and share her love and passion for dance

That was five years ago! In that time, Shana has seen her business grow. She offers all kinds of dance to everyone from Tiny Tots age 2 all the way to Adult. Shana wants everybody who wishes to dance to be able to do so and to feel welcome doing it. She likes to help them to enjoy and do what they have seen in movies or on television. She loves it when someone comes in and says, "Hey, I just saw this type of dancing on TV and want to learn to do it." Shana knows that people come in all shapes and sizes. That does not mean they cannot learn to dance!

The clientele are like a big family. The parents come in and hang around. Shana told me about a soon-to-graduate senior girl who commented how much Shana helped her in so many ways and was a positive influence in her life.

The ladies were thrilled when they had learned that the Masons had purchased the building. Holly's dad, James Dodge, age 87, has been a member of Hastings Dakota Lodge #7 for 59 years and is a member of the Zuhrah Shrine.

So, if you are interested in learning to dance or know someone who is, send them along to Shana!

Last Meeting in Shakopee

On April 1st the Stated Meeting for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held for the last time at the Shakopee Lodge Hall. Below is a photo of the Lodge Brothers who attended the meeting.



There was also a large group of Brothers from Mound Lodge #320, Mound MN. They came to capture the flag that the Lodge had just obtained from Templar Lodge (see "Thoughts from the East" for photo).



Summer Events

Summer events are starting soon, more especially our food stand events, so watch for the Web Calendar reminders in your email or check out the calendar of events on the last page of the newsletter and the calendar website itself.

List of Upcoming Events:



May 2014

- 1st – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 5th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 6th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 10th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Brugers Bagel Bakery in Apple Valley
- 11th – Mother's Day
- 12th – 6:30 P.M. Bethel #85 Council Meeting/Lodge Cleaning
- 13th – 7:00 P.M. Lebanon Lodge Stated Meeting
- 15th – 7:00 P.M. Shakopee #90 OES Meeting
- 19th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 19th – 6:30 A.M. Lebanon Lodge FC Degree
- 22nd – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 26th – Memorial Day
- 27th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided

Visit the Lodge Website and view the Lodge calendar for our complete list of events.

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



June 2014

- 2nd – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 3rd – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 5th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. Bethel #85 Council Meeting/Lodge Cleaning
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. KC/Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting
- 10th – 7:00 P.M. Lebanon Lodge Stated Meeting
- 14th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Brugers Bagel Bakery in Apple Valley
- 14th – Flag Day
- 15th – Father's Day
- 16th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 17th – 6:30 P.M. St. Paul Lodge #3 Visitation
- 19th – 7:00 P.M. Shakopee #90 OES Meeting
- 21st – Summer Solstice
- 21st – Food Stand Event – Fireman's Dance in Montgomery.
- 24th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided
- 26th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 27th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer