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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 18, Issue 01

January/February 2016

Lodge Officers:

Master – Doug Rhodes
(952)854-2368
master@mn-rivervalley.org

Senior Warden – Christopher Brundage
(507)304-2330
sw@mn-rivervalley.org

Junior Warden – James Wallin
jw@mn-rivervalley.org

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

Secretary – Steven Scheffert
(402)960-3629
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Chaplain – Lew Price
(651)952-0820
chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

Lodge Location:

4821 West 124th Street
Savage, MN 55378

Stated Meeting Date and Time:

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

Thoughts from the East

Happy New Year! Brothers, thank you for the vote of confidence in making me the Worshipful Master for 2016. I hope to have an enjoyable, as well as, meaningful term. I have big shoes to fill while sitting in the East. The last two Masters had very challenging years. Worshipful Brother Ken had to deal with the Shakopee Lodge closing and build out of the new one. Worshipful Brother Tim dealt with the opening of the Savage Lodge. Now, that the foundation is set for me; I will have to try to live up to those expectations. My goal this year is to grow membership in Minnesota River Valley #6, but more importantly, maintain the active members we currently have in Lodge. I hope to do this by strong communication and active brotherly involvement. I also want to keep communication open between the other Masonic bodies in the Savage Center. It would be great if we could partake in a few joint activities with Lebanon, both OES chapters and Job's Daughters. In conversation with the Lebanon Brothers, it has been mentioned to use ambassadors for meetings and forming a Savage Masonic Center committee. Let's see how the year plays out.

The installation on Sunday, December 13th had a great turn out. I'm thankful we had great weather (raining, yes, but not frozen) and the Minnesota Vikings played earlier in the week. Thank you all who attended. The Installing Team was perfect as well as the young ladies and men of Job's and DeMolay. I had an embarrassing episode in the East. I misplaced my note cards with all my remarks. I hope I did a good job ad-libbing.

A special thank you to Brother Don McNeil for purchasing the gifts for the widow baskets, and the brothers who helped put the baskets (actually bags) and made the deliveries.

Continued on next page

Thoughts from the East, Continued

Brothers Ted and Craig (2015 Stewards) made a great breakfast to start the morning.

Lastly, I hope to see you all at the January 23rd Table Lodge. The invitations are now mailed and posted. Brother Don Moy is hosting the evening. We will honor our 50-year Members and Past Master. Please come and join in the festivities.

Douglas Rhodes, Worshipful Master
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6
master@mn-rivervalley.org



Name Badge Orders

We are once again taking orders for more name badges for the Brothers that may not have received on during the first initial order. Within this issue of the Wayfarer, you will find the order form that may be utilized to place your order. If you are interested in receiving a name badge, please follow the instructions on the form and mail your form in by January 31st.

Submitted by: Steven Scheffert

January Table Lodge

The Table Lodge has been set for Saturday, January 23, 2016 and the invite has been emailed or mailed to many of our Brothers and friends of MN River Valley Lodge #6. If you have not had a chance to read it or receive the invitation, it has been included in this issue of the Wayfarer for your viewing pleasure. We hope to see many of you there.



Was he a Mason or Not?

January 18th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Many have asked is he a Mason or Not. Here is the answer...

After he died, MLK was made a "Freemason on sight" by the Grandmaster of the Georgia Prince Hall Lodge. "Mason on site" is a rare occurrence when a Grandmaster declares someone a Freemason without the degree work. It is done in the cases of celebrities, accomplished people and sometimes due to illness or military deployment logistics. In King's case it was controversial for some because, while rare in life, being named a Freemason "on sight" at death is even rarer. It does occur though, typically in cases where a man is accepted to a lodge and intends to go through the degrees but does before being able to do so.

Submitted by WB Daryl Bren from a Brooklyn, NY District Rep's 2015 Facebook page

New 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons

The following brothers received their 32nd degrees from the Minneapolis Valley of Scottish Rite in 2015.

- ❖ WB Ken Betterton (Spring Class)
- ❖ Dan Ploenzke (Fall Class)
- ❖ Ed Kidwell (Special 2 day Class)

This was a special year for the Scottish Rite – commemorating the 100th year in their Temple Building. Please congratulate these Brothers on their great accomplishment next time you see them.

Submitted by: WB Lew Price

Regarding friendship, speak truthfully and guide others in good ways.

“Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess. Just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best.” – *Unknown*

The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is February 26th. All articles for the March/April 2016 issue are due by the end of the day. Any articles that are received after the due date will be held over for the May/June 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.

I have recently moved back to MN, so if you wish to mail something for The Wayfarer, please contact me at 402-960-3629 to obtain my address.

Thank You,

WB Steven Scheffert
(news@mn-rivervalley.org)



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 January and February 2016

They are:

Philip Solseng	35 Years	02/09/1981
Todd Schwartz	25 Years	02/09/1991
Stephen Sorenson	25 Years	02/09/1991
Paul Tuttle	15 Years	01/20/2001
Joshua Box	10 Years	01/07/2006
Gary Sankary	10 Years	01/07/2006
Steve Procenko	10 Years	01/21/2006
Richard Vlasak	10 Years	01/21/2006
Christian Pierce	05 Years	01/15/2011



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met on November 19th. A new member was elected to join us, you may belong to more than one Chapter in Eastern Star and we are so happy to have him become a member of our Chapter. As Veteran's Day occurs in November, all Veterans were honored and the Worthy Matron gave them a gift. A talk was given on Frank Sinatra's life and career. This outstanding singer and actor would have been 100 years old this December.

We met again on December 17th. A potluck dinner was served before the meeting. We had a surprise visitor – Mrs. Santa Clause. She gave candy canes to everyone in attendance and also gave a special gift to one of our members – an appointment as Grand Representative to the State of Colorado. A talk was given on Jackie Gleason. He had a long career on television and in movies. He was one of the great comedians and actors. Members brought food for the local food shelf. A large amount was collected for a worthy cause. We will be dark in January and February. Our next meeting will be in March with elections, installation, and a new year awaiting us.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



From the Secretary's Desk

I am WB Steven Scheffert and I would like to introduce myself as the new Lodge Secretary for MN River Valley Lodge #6. If there is anything that I can do to assist you with your Masonic Journey, please do not hesitate to ask. You may contact me in many different ways and they are the following:

Mail: 802 East Circle Drive, Montgomery, MN 56069
Call: 402-960-3629
Email: sec@mn-rivervalley.org

I would like to take a moment to say "Thank You!" to WB Gary Sankary for all of his work over the past several years as our Lodge Secretary and to especially thank him for all of his help during this transition.

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Chaplain's Corner – Do “Real” Men Need Guardrails?

Greetings Brothers and Friends.

One of my favorite places in this world is the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge, Montana. Driving the Beartooth Pass highway is always a must. This highway is one of the entry routes (north east corner) into Yellowstone National park, so as you can imagine very majestic. The late commentator, Charles Kuralt proclaimed this highway to be “the most beautiful drive in America.” On the Red Lodge / Montana side of the pass, the highway contains 7 switchbacks up the side of a mountain reaching a peak at almost 11,000 feet before descending toward Yellowstone on the Wyoming side. The Wyoming side has numerous lakes that are a fly fisherman's haven. As you can imagine the highway is very curvy and contains many steep perilous drop-offs. There are, indeed, guardrails in the more precarious section and turns, but in other less risky sections, there are none!

On one of our fishing trips I bought a t-shirt that gave tribute to the marvelous highway, including the words “Real Men don't need Guardrails – Beartooth Pass”. My first impression of this proclamation was only in reference to the highway and that cautious and experienced drivers don't need the guardrails to remain safe and remain on course of their journey without event. Having been exposed to this highway – either riding or driving – for my entire life, this boastful and arrogant statement appealed to me as I felt I was one of those “Real Men” to which it referred – hence the reason for buying the shirt. But upon later reflection, what if the automobile experienced mechanical problem or a tire blows out at a precarious place? Would the guardrails then be welcome? Mmm.... I think there is something more to this Guardrail statement beyond a humorous boast!

In further reflection, focusing on our Masonic teachings, I find numerous references, although not by name, to the guardrail theme. The first one that comes to mind is the teaching of purpose of the Compass – used to “circumscribe and keep us within due bounds with all mankind, but more especially with a Brother Mason”. Another – “Harmony being the strength and support of all societies....” I also believe that the Charges read at the end of each degree and mention of the Ancient Tenants and Landmarks are also Masonic guardrails that we are expected use to keep us from flying off the cliff in peril.

I am grateful that our ancient craft, over the centuries, has figured out that we need these guardrails to help us in subduing our passions and become better human beings by keeping us in equilibrium, including prayer for our feet not to wander too far off the right path. Regretfully, not all members of society have these guidelines to keep them upright and just – which is another great argument that this current world can use more Masons to spread these critical teachings.

In our current environment, there are so many that no longer can recognize these boundaries, since the safety guard has been torn down, thus risking getting too close to the edge and suffering the consequences.

As Kimberley Strassel and Daniel Henninger – columnists from the Wall Street Journal – have mentioned in their respective columns (K. Strassel – Dec 10, 2015; D. Henninger —Dec 19 2012), many of our current politicians show no respect to anyone else and have little regard for our current laws or honoring the very critical separation of power, established by our nation's forefathers – many of whom were Masons. I believe that to get our society back into equilibrium and harmony we must re-establish these guardrails and hold each and every one of us accountable in paying heed and respect to these vital boundaries.



Please continue to keep Patricia and Gordy Bane in your prayers as Patricia continues her cancer battle and Gordy provides her everyday loving care. Also, please keep WB Secretary Steve Scheffert in your prayers as he continues to heal from successful neck surgery.



Lastly, I want to extend my thanks to everyone who organized and attended my Hiram banquet in early November. This experience was very humbling for me and I was honored by such a great turnout. As I have mentioned before, joining this fraternity has been one of the best things I have done in my life. It has returned to me that “sense of community” that I lost after moving away from our hometown in Montana. This night was made even more special to me by having lifelong friends in attendance. They provided the bridge between these two communities that I so cherish and which have been so influential.

My family and I also want to extend our thanks to the individual(s) who anonymously, I'm told, paid for the meals for my immediate family. We were extremely touched by your gracious generosity.

--Lew – chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

A Call to Arms!

Well, maybe not that extreme, but a call to action all the same. MRV Lodge has been blessed in the past with a number of members that stepped up and took parts in the ritual. Alas, due to jobs, moving out of state, and the passing of time we have lost access to some of those members and find ourselves scrambling to fill some of those parts, both large and small. We can always use more members willing and able to do the first section lecture for each of the degrees; another person to learn the second and third lectures on the 1st and 3rd degrees, the staircase lecture; and members to take parts in the second section of the 3rd degree.

On behalf of the Lodge, I would like to extend a big thank you for those Brethren who have supported the degree conferrals with their time and attendance. Your work is appreciated and without your contributions we would not be able to greet our newly made brethren in due and ancient form.

WB Keith Donaldson

From the Secretary's Desk, Continued

I would also like to say "Thank You!" to our Grand Lodge Secretary RWB Doug Campbell, for taking his time and answering many, and I mean many, of my questions to help get me up to speed on many different topics.

I do need to mention that we still have several Brothers, who have not paid their 2016 dues at the time of writing this article. For those Brothers remaining, payment for your dues are to be received by January 1, 2016, though by the time that you receive this newsletter, it may be past that date, so we ask that you pay as soon as possible.

Again, if you have any requests, please do not hesitate to ask. I may not know the answer right away, but I will get the right individuals involved to help me out and then to let you know.

Fraternally Yours,
WB Steven Scheffert - Secretary



Full Disk!

Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age, it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains, scientists believe. Much like a computer struggles as the hard drive gets full, so, too, do humans take longer to access information when their brains are full.

Researchers say this slowing down process is not the same as cognitive decline. The human brain works slower in old age, but only because we have stored more information over time. The brains of older people do not get weak. On the contrary, they simply know more.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is NOT a memory problem, it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

SO THERE. Now when I reach for a word or a name, I won't excuse myself by saying "I'm having a senior moment". Now, I'll say, "My disk is full!"

I have more Brothers I should share this with, but right now I can't remember their names.



2016 Installation of Officers



On Sunday, December 13, 2015, the Installation of Officers for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held. The following are your officers for 2016:

Worshipful Master	Doug Rhodes
Senior Warden	Chris Brundage
Junior Warden	James Wallin
Treasurer	Joe Andrus
Secretary	WB Steven Scheffert
Lodge Education Officer	WB Keith Donaldson
Senior Deacon	Donald Moy*
Junior Deacon	Ted Smith
Chaplain	WB Lew Price
Senior Steward	Paul Bergevin
Junior Steward	WB Dovid Blinderman*
Marshal	Craig Pederson
Tyler	WB Tim Pray

*Missing from photo above

2016 Installation of Officers Event Photos

The following are just a few photos from the recent Installation of Officers that was held on December 13th.





MN River Valley Lodge #6 Name Badge Order Form

Name (Print): _____
(Please provide the exact spelling of your name, as this is what will appear on your name badge)

Style of badge that you wish to purchase (Check all that apply)

- Pocket Style
- Magnetic Style
- Pin Style

Please mail this form along with a check, made out to MN River Valley Lodge #6, for \$7 per badge, by January 31, 2016 to:

Steven Scheffert
802 East Circle Drive
Montgomery, MN 56069

Questions, please contact:

Dan Ploenzke - dploenzke@gmail.com or 651-295-1433

Or

Steven Scheffert – sdscheffert@gmail.com or 402-960-3629



Worshipful Master Douglas Rhodes
and the Officers and Brethren of
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6

Cordially invite you and your guests to our
2016 Table Lodge

Saturday, January 23, 2016
American Legion Post #643
12375 Princeton Ave.
Savage Minnesota 55378

Social hour 5:00 PM
Dinner / Program 6:00 PM

\$30.00 per person or \$55.00 per couple
The meal selections are
Chicken,
Steak
or
Walleye

Please RSVP with a check and your selections to the Lodge Secretary by
January 16th, 2016.

Pay to the order of:
Minnesota River Valley Lodge # 6

Mail to:
Steven Scheffert
802 East Circle Drive, Montgomery, MN 56069
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

List of Upcoming Events:



January 2016

- 1st – New Year's Day
- 2nd – Bethel #85 Prospect Party
- 4th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 5th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 6th – 6:30 P.M. Lebanon Lodge
- 7th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 9th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley
- 11th – 6:30 P.M. Bethel #85 Council Meeting/Lodge
Cleaning
- 12th – 7:00 P.M. Lebanon Lodge Stated Meeting
- 13th – Bloomington OES Chapter Meeting
- 13th – 6:30 P.M. Building Boarding Meeting
- 18th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 18th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 20th – 6:30 P.M. Lebanon Lodge
- 21st – 2nd Degree Practice
- 23rd – 5:00 P.M. Table Lodge Dinner
- 26th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light
Supper Provided
- 27th – Bloomington OES Chapter Meeting
- 28th – Fellowcraft Degree



February 2016

- 1st – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 2nd – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 3rd – 6:30 P.M. Lebanon Lodge
- 4th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 6th – MN Job's Daughters State Wide Prospect Party
- 8th – 6:30 P.M. Bethel #85 Council Meeting/Lodge
Cleaning
- 9th – 7:00 P.M. Lebanon Lodge Stated Meeting
- 10th – Bloomington OES Chapter Meeting
- 10th – 6:30 P.M. Building Board Meeting.
- 13th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley
- 14th – Valentine's Day
- 15th – President's Day
- 15th – 7:00 P.M. Bethel #85 Meeting
- 17th – 6:30 P.M. Lebanon Lodge
- 23rd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light
Supper Provided
- 24th – Bloomington OES Chapter Meeting
- 25th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 26th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer

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

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