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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”

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July/August 2016

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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

Brethren!

Happy Fourth of July! I hope you (and family) are enjoying the summer. As Worshipful Master, my schedule has been busy and the season very eventful. Read for yourself.

One Day to Masonry

One Day to Masonry was held at North Star Lodge No. 23, St. Cloud, on June 18th. Eighteen Brothers were raised. The work was top-notch. I was honored to participate; rewarded the part of the second Craftsman. I tried my best. I only had four lines to remember. I believe I spoke them correctly. The lectures given at One Day were also very good; especially one addressed by a 90-year old brother. I never heard such an elegant and soft-spoken lecture. It rolled off the brother's tongue like it was his own and he did not abruptly stammer or pause. How sweet it was. However, the day was long and I was glad to get home.

Busy Masonic Weekend

The next weekend, June 24th through June 26th, was jammed packed with masonic events. It started Friday with the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center grand opening. Most Worshipful Grand Master Bob Darling led the processional and dedication. After the Masonic dedication and ribbon cutting, we were all invited to tour the facility. If you haven't visited the Heritage Center at the Masonic Home in Bloomington, I suggest you do it soon. It's a site to see. Masonic Charities stopped at no expense to make the center state-of-art.

Continued on next page

Thoughts from the East, Continued

It includes a museum, library, stage and auditorium, and a fantastic lodge room. Hopefully we can hold a stated meeting in the center sometime in the near future, so you can see for yourself. On Saturday, we held the St. Paul Saints social event. For those who missed it, there was great food, an interesting bus ride to the game and exciting baseball. Even though the group had to leave the game early, the Saints pulled off a win in extra innings. Many thanks to brother Don Moy for planning, organizing, and working the event. It certainly will be the best social outing of the summer. Sunday, the Savage Masonic Center partook in the Dan Patch Parade. Members of MRV #6, Lebanon #346 and OES came together to join in the fun. The fire truck is back! Great work WB Rich Hervieux! His repairs on the truck were timely and he drove the vehicle with pride. Thank you to all the brothers (and sisters) as well as their families, who either walked aside the truck and passed out candy, or rode atop and waved to the crowd. The weather was beautiful; couldn't ask for a better day. What a way to end the weekend!

Widow in Need

Recently, I was given some information about a widow who has fallen on hard times. Needless to say, when the Most Worshipful Grand Master and a Past Grand Master approach you about the situation, you sit down and listen. One of our Masonic widows needs our help. She is taking care of her daughter and three grandchildren in her home on only one income. You can imagine that money is tight. Her relief is already in motion. Thank you WB Steve Scheffert for your help in organizing and scheduling brothers to visit the widow. These brothers will take care of some much needed house repairs. My goal is to raise over \$1000 for the widow's aid. I will call for a motion to donate from the lodge funds and also plan to "pass the hat" for personal contributions. If able, please be prepared to give. This certainly is one of our Masonic duties. Thank you all in advance!

The Last Word:

Remember to sign up to work in the food trailer during Kolacky Days (July 21 -24). I would like to challenge the brothers in the north district to fill a

work slot (or two). Especially on Thursday, where more brothers are needed to setup the tent and food trailer. Let's work together and make this a successful fundraising event.

To the next time, Fraternally,

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



Newest Master Mason



On Saturday, May 21, Brother Gerry Robison became MN River Valley Lodge's newest Master Mason. A special thank you to all of the Brothers who joined in on this special day and helped put on a fantastic degree.

Entered Apprentice Degree Held



On June 9, 2016, MN River Valley Lodge #6 held an Entered Apprentice degree for Brother Ben Sorenson and Brother Rod Kirkwold, who is pictured above with the Brothers that performed the degree work.

Chaplain Corner – Growing up in Small Communities

Greetings Brothers and Friends,

My wife Betty recently shared with me a composition she had created reflecting on her “growing up” years. I liked it so much I asked her permission to allow me to share it with you. Thank you Betty for being the guest-writer for this issue of the Chaplain Corner.



Growing Up

A few days ago I shared a posting about which I felt strongly. Part of the "statement" included returning prayer to schools. One respondent came back with "separation of church and state." This got me to thinking about my own growing up years.

I grew up on the prairie of the Great Plains in small communities in Kansas, Nebraska and Montana! It was a fabulous place to be a kid. My early classroom memories include Thanksgiving and honoring and thanking the Native Americans for the help they gave the Pilgrims. We ALWAYS had a Turkey dinner with all the trimmings for hot lunch. School would release early the Wednesday before so those who were traveling could get away earlier.

Christmas came next with all the music and pageantry that goes with it. Parents, friends and members of the community gathered in the gymnasium and celebrated in song and sharing good will to all. We sang the traditional Christmas carols, Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. It was fun. We would adjourn for our CHRISTMAS BREAK.

Easter found schools being dismissed on Maundy Thursday and resuming the TUESDAY after. This was our Easter break. On Good Friday, all the businesses would close about 2:30 pm in the afternoon so as to observe a Good Friday service at the church of your choice. Stores would reopen around 4 pm and finish out their work day.

We had a "church night" every week that was understood that NO school events were to encroach upon it. It was also understood that NO sports events could take place until after 12 noon so as to observe Sunday. No one died from having to wait to have their ballgames.

The Sunday before high school graduation found graduates, their families, friends and members of the community gathered at the gymnasium for a Baccalaureate celebration. This was led by various members of the clergy of the community. We celebrated the graduates' achievements and acknowledged God's guidance and asked for continued blessings. If you didn't want to attend, you didn't attend. No one made a big thing about it.

Graduation was always on Wednesday night a week and a half before school dismissed for the summer. We had a member of the clergy offer an opening prayer and a closing prayer. This was a tradition until someone somewhere began screaming about the "separation of church and state" and you can't do that! To this day I honestly do not understand what the harm was.

I feel sorry for my children and the children of today's world for not having the sense of community that I took for granted. The east side of the community of Baker, Montana, where I spent about 20 years, was hit last weekend [June 11, 2016] with an F-3 tornado. Homes were totally destroyed, many were severely damaged and people were injured. The Rescue Squad and community rallied to see that EVERYONE WAS ACCOUNTED FOR before they went home to their beds. The communities in the surrounding area have come to their aid and pitched in to help with the massive clean-up project. (When we were hit with straight-line winds that took down many of the trees in our area, we saw a little of this kind of caring. It lasted ONE DAY.)

I stand by my statement that we need to return prayer to our schools. I actually believe it is still there hiding in the thoughts of the child who is sitting down to take an important test. I always did.

Think what you want. This is what I believe.

By Betty J. Price



Continued on next page

Chaplain Corner's Continued

Please continue to keep the following Brothers and their families in your prayers:

- ❖ WB Henry Schaefer who now has completed his chemo treatment program for lymphoma and has begun the lengthy healing process.
- ❖ Jim Eshleman as he continues dialysis treatments 3 times each week.
- ❖ WB Gordy Bane who recently lost his wife Patricia to a long battle with cancer
- ❖ Kimm Pray and WB Tim as Kimm continues her maintenance chemo regimen.
- ❖ Monica Brundage as she is treated for some health ailments.
- ❖ All those injured and impacted in Baker MT (my home town) from the June 11th Tornado.
- ❖

Fraternally, --Lew

chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met on May 19, 2016. Ideas were discussed about fund raising for the Chapter. Past and Present Secretaries were honored. They are so important to our Chapter. They were given a gift and much appreciation for what they do. We met again on June 16th. We voted and approved two new members that will be joining us. We are always so glad to have new members. An initiation ceremony was talked about. A date will be set later on. As always, refreshments were served after the meeting. You could choose a banana split or ice cream Sundae.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



September Stated Meeting Change Communication

Brethren of MN River Valley Lodge #6, please take notice that the September 2016 Stated Communication meeting has been changed to the following date, location and time:

When: Tuesday, September 13, 2016
Location: Richter's Woods
35672 173rd Ave
Montgomery, MN 56069
Time: 6:00 p.m. Social and Stated Meeting
at 7:00 p.m.

We hope to see many of you there.

Von Hansen Brat and Hot Dog Stand Work Event



Our next Von Hanson Brat Stand is approaching and I'm looking for volunteers to help us in this fund raiser for the lodge, our homes. I have this set up with 2 hour shifts on Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10th. In April we had a beautiful day for April and hopefully we will have the same in July. We raised over \$900 last time and hopefully we can do better this time.

Von Hanson Meat Market
4301 Egan Drive (County Road 42)
Savage, MN.

Send all request for times via email to
cheiliger@msn.com

Submitted by: Chris Heiliger

Photo submitted by: WB Lynn Mooney during the
April weekend event.

MN River Valley Lodge #6 Shield Presentation

On May 9th, members of MN River Valley Lodge presented a shield to Templar Lodge #176. MN River Valley Lodge would like to thank Josephine Sorom Smith, WB Dennis Smith and others for their work on the shield and the meaning behind the shield blazon and symbolism.



Pictured are: WB Dovid Blinderman, WB John Loutzenhiser, WB Dennis Smith, WM Douglas Rhodes, WM of Templar Lodge, MWGM of MN Bob Darling, WB Keith Donaldson, and Brother Craig Pederson

The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is August 26th. All articles for the September/October 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 November/December 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.

Please contact me at 402-960-3629 to obtain my address, if you wish to mail something in for the Wayfarer.

Thank You,

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



Our LARGEST FUNDRAISER

I know, you get the same message EVERY YEAR! The pork burger stand is our LARGEST fundraiser, but you are busy. You have vacation or kids events or a family dinner, or you have to mow the lawn EVERY weekend. Well, here is what you are missing:

1. Camaraderie – Get to know your Brothers better. If you are a new member this is a way to get better acquainted with our members. Also learn a bit of history. My guess is that the “core” group of Brothers that run the stand have over 400 years of history as Masons. (I am not making this up)
2. Experience –
 - a. This is the 82nd annual Kolacky Days (July 22-24) in Montgomery. A sampling of events includes an authentic Czech dinner, a prune spitting competition, tractor pull, 5k run, dance, parade. Bring the family. Let them walk around, pull a shift, then join them for some fun.
 - b. The LeSueur County Fair (August 18-21) is a nostalgic event for those of you who grew up outside of the Big City. Come and see the 4H kids show their livestock. See the arts and crafts displays. Enjoy a band. Ride some rides. Eat some great fair food.
3. Make a Difference – Every year we support the many Masonic Charities and other important causes that are a main reason for our existence. One of the main reasons I joined the Masons was because I believe.

I hope you will join me in supporting YOUR Lodge. More information will be sent out prior to the events. We will need help with set up, working the events, and tear down/clean up. Shifts are typically 3 hours, although set up and tear down can be either shorter or longer depending on how many Brothers attend. All training will be provided and I will provide a MONEY BACK GUARANTEE if you are not TOTALLY SATISFIED with your volunteer experience.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me any time at 612.803.6774.

THANK YOU,

Brother Jeremy Sacker

KC-Mason Chicken Dinner

Brothers,

On Monday, June 13th members of our Lodge and members from the New Prague 4th Degree KC's met at Richter's Woods in Montgomery. The meeting was to plan the upcoming 48th annual KC-Mason Chicken Dinner. The details of the upcoming dinner event are the following:

When: Wednesday, August 17th
Time: 6:00 p.m. Social and 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Where: KC Hall of New Prague
411 4th Ave, SW
New Prague, MN 56071
Cost: \$15.00 per person

Tickets for the event will be available from WB Don Conn and you may contact him at 952-758-3506 or at jud454@yahoo.com for tickets.

Widows Dinner – Save the Date!

Brothers,

The next Widows dinner event has been scheduled for Monday, September 19th at the American Legion in Savage. More details will follow as the plans for the dinner are finalized.

Dan Patch Parade Photos

On September 26th, members of MN River Valley Lodge along with Lebanon Lodge #346 and Renaissance Chapter #313 participated in the Dan Patch parade in Savage. Pictured below are WM Doug Rhodes (left) and WM Steve Hill (right) from Lebanon Lodge holding the banner.



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 July and August 2016

They are:

Stephen Dixon 40 Years 08/28/1976



50 Year Presentation for Brother Fred Carr

It is our pleasure to share with you that Brother Fred Carr of Largo, FL recently received his 50 Year pin and certificate on June 16th. Pictured below is Brother Fred Carr with the WM of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge #291 F.&A.M. in Madeira Beach, FL.

Congratulation Brother Fred on reaching this great achievement!

MN River Valley Lodge would also like to thank the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, the Grand Lodge of Florida and the Brothers of Gulf Beach Masonic Lodge #291 for helping us make this presentation to our Lodge Brother.



A Gentlemen Stands in Your Midst

(By RW Stenrick B Adams of the Grand Lodge of New York)

Giving honor to God, who is the master of my life, to the Grandmaster, and all present on this glorious day. Make others to know that, always, that gentleman stands before them. "Words we are charged by."

1 Peter declares: You should clothe yourself with a beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit that is pleasing in his sight.

The Quran declares: A gentle man is pious True piety does not consist of turning your face to the East or West, but truly pious is he who believes in God.

In spiritual terminology, piety is a virtue that may include religious devotion, spirituality, or a combination of both. "Godliness"

Mahatma Gandhi was asked, by a reporter, "what is your message?" he replied "My life. My life is my message."-Profound.

Today I ask- What is your message? Who are you? Who am I? What does our life speak to- in our homes, on the job, in lodge, or in the world at large? What is our message? How are we responding to the challenge of being a gentleman?

In modern parlance, the term "gentleman" refers to any man of good or courteous conduct. It may also refer to all men collectively (as an indication of gender- separate facilities), or as a sign of the speaker's own courtesy when addressing others. We also have a distortion for the term today, which we don't care to bring in the picture.

However, in its, original meaning, the term denoted a man of the lowest rank of the English gentry- standing below and esquire and above a yeoman.

Esquire is a title of respect accorded to men, particularly a barrister or lawyer.

Yeoman, in early usage, is an attendant in noble households. Hence, you may see, for example, a name "John Brown Esq." or "Yeoman John Brown of chambers".

Interesting enough, the title gentleman was never affixed to a man's name as a suffix or prefix. It was never based on his bloodline, station in life of education, vocational skill, or financial circumstances, but speaks to his behavior in his circumstances, and how he "makes others fee;"-

how fits in, blends, and contributes to the betterment of others. In this mosaic or tapestry of delivery we call life. No one can bequeath to you, or charter you a gentleman. No King or President can bestow upon you, the title.

Allow me to reflect on a quote by James II. "I can make many noblemen, but God Almighty alone, can make gentlemen".

And I must tell you, but I am sure you know, how much more difficult it has become, in this world we live in today- where selfish gains seem to be the order of the day. On the trains, on the planes, on the job, schools, business men...

What about a gentleman's handshake? What about a gentleman's word? What about just being a gentleman? A man who is courteous, kind, honest, humble, honorable, thoughtful, cares for others, celebrates other's victories, gives of himself for others, and is always concerned about how he makes others feel.

Well, I am so proud to be a part of an organization that charges us to be gentlemen. Peter, reminds us that "the beauty of a gentle and quiet comes from within."

...and Sarah tells us that gentlemen are pious.

We are challenged to strengthen the path of our acceptance, and let our life reflect the love of God, that the world may be a better and happier place because of "you".

Let even your own solitude, keep company with the gentleman within you. [So when you look in the mirror, you can say-you will KNOW- that a gentleman stands in your midst.](#)

Let the texture of your character make everyone know that a gentleman stands before them.

Let your very life speak in such a way, that all may know the high ordeals for which we stand... because a gentleman stands in the midst.

[Let your LIFE be your message](#)

For, much may be accomplished by the force of good example.

So let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify the father, who sits on that house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Behold! Gentleman stand in my midst!

Submitted by: WB Daryl Bren

Masonic Summer Picnic

Hosted by MRVL #6 and Renaissance #313

Your family and friends are invited

Date of Event

Sunday, September 11th,
2016

Time of Event

Setup 1:00pm Start 2:00pm

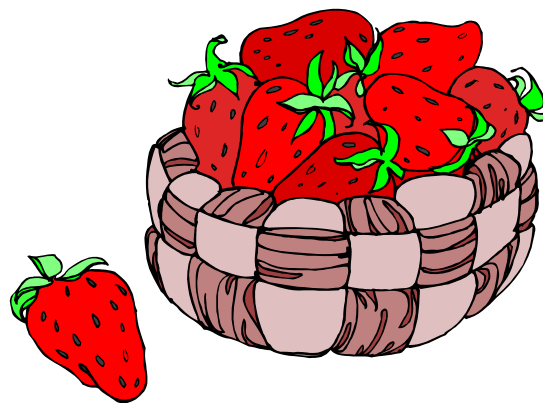
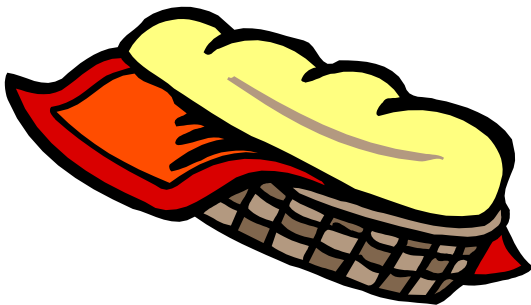
Address

[McCann Park](#)

7125 South Park Drive
City of Savage

Picnic Rules:

- ☺ Bring your favorite dish or dessert to pass
- ☺ Meat, Buns and drink provided
- ☺ Bring chairs or blanket
- ☺ Be prepared to eat and have fun
- ☺ Or just relax and hang out with your sisters and brothers



List of Upcoming Events for MN River Valley Lodge #6:



July 2016

- 4th – Independence Day
- 5th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 7th – Reserved for Ritual Work Practice
- 9th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 11th – 6:30 P.M. Savage Masonic Center Building Boarding Meeting
- 21st – Kolacky Food Stand Setup.
- 22nd – 24th – Kolacky Days in Montgomery. Food stand event.
- 26th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided
- 26th – Reserved for Ritual Work



August 2016

- 2nd – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 4th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 8th – 6:30 P.M. Savage Masonic Center Building Boarding Meeting
- 13th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 13th – 6:00 P.M. KC/Mason Chicken Dinner held at the KC Hall in New Prague
- 18th – 21st – Le Sueur County Fair in Le Center. Food Stand Event
- 23rd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided
- 24th – 6:00 p.m. KC/Mason Chicken Dinner Follow-up Meeting. Held at Lake Side Supper Club in Montgomery.
- 25th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 26th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer

Visit the Lodge Website and view the Lodge event calendar for the complete list of events for all Masonic Bodies that are utilizing the Savage Masonic Center. <http://www.mn-rivervalley.org/>
