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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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November/December 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.

News from the East

Brothers –

This will be my last newsletter article as your acting Worshipful Master. I appreciate all the brothers for giving me the opportunity to rise in the East so I could open and govern the lodge. The year was very busy, not only for myself, but for my family. My wife Marie was appointed Grand Electa in the OES Grand Family. My son Jack continued to act as Master Councilor of the Hiawatha DeMolay chapter. And my youngest son Jordan seemed to participate in everything else, such as, plays, music and sports! Regardless of the time spent in all these events and activities, I could not have received more loving support.

So you ask, did I enjoy my time in the East? I can answer in one word. Relieved! I'm relieved that we accomplished some our labors. I'm relieved that when duty called, we worked together to bring harmony and peace to the lodge. I'm relieved that my year as master is almost over. This year, I was forced to face one of my biggest fears, to be in the forefront and speak if behalf of a group. I tried my best to govern the lodge, however, more importantly; I attempted the task in the first place. Your kind words and support are what kept me going.

Thank you to all the lodge officers. Your dedication to the craft exemplifies what it means to be a mason. I was very pleased with the food, education, ritual and the day-to-day business. It seemed to come together very nicely, with or without my assistance. I couldn't ask for a better group of men to be by my side.

Continued on the next page

News from the East, Continued

Thank you to the lodge brothers. Your eagerness to support the events this year was astonishing and beneficial. Such as, the food truck, floor fundraising, and widow support. Thank you to the brothers who stepped up. I could go on and on; scholarships, fire truck, highway cleanup, table lodge, etc. However, the biggest tip of the hat goes to the brothers who spend their valuable time to work on the completion of the lodge. You know who you are and so do we. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

We have worked very hard to fundraise for the lodge dining hall floor. This includes OES and Jobs as well. The fruits of our labor will pay off soon. We are trying to decide on what type of floor to lie down. The decision will come next month. Once we decide and the work is done, I think everyone will be pleased, regardless of what materials we use.

The Hiram Award is the single highest honor a mason may receive. I'm honored to present this award to Worshipful Brother Steve Scheffert. Steve has served the lodge and the masonic fraternity with devotion over and above the ordinary. He has devoted himself, his time, and his talent above and beyond the minimal requirements of freemasonry. Please congratulate Steve next time you see him. His award dinner will be sometime next spring. We will definitely look forward to that evening.

Again brothers, I would like to thank you. Your support and brotherhood was well received. God bless you! God bless the lodge! And God bless the fraternity!

Farewell and Good Night,

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



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met on September 8th. The Worthy Grand Matron and Patron and other Grand Officers were there for an official visit. Our Chapter member Marie Rhodes is Grand Electa this year. She was escorted to the East and given some gifts for this special honor. Three members who desired to be affiliated with our Chapter were elected. The annual summer picnic hosted by our Chapter and the Masonic Lodge was held on September 11th this year. We met again on September 15th. Every September, all Chapters celebrate and honor the man who established the Order of the Eastern Star in 1850, Rob Morris. We met again on October 13th and 20th. The first meeting was a birthday celebration of our Chapter being two years old. The second meeting was a Halloween meeting. Members dressed in costumes, if they wanted to.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is December 28, 2016. All articles for the January/February 2017 issue are due by the end of the day. Any articles that are received after the due date will be held over for the March/April 2017 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



Chaplain Corner – Perspectives

Greetings Brothers and Friends,

For most of my adult life I have reconciled the Creation Story of 6 days from the book of Genesis with the scientific evidence showing our universe being billions of years old. The reference of days is different to us earthlings to that of the Great Architect of the Universe and thus they are two separate frames of reference of the same event. Our earth days are based on one rotation of our planet, where GAotU's time reference is much more cosmic, being entirely omnipresent and everlasting.

A few years ago, my wife introduced me to a movie named 'The Genesis Code' (released in 2010) and she encouraged me to watch it, or at least the part covering the Creation Story. The overall theme was similar to my reasoning, but in more scientific detail. Being somewhat of a science and math 'nerd', I found this approach interesting and aligning well with our Masonic teachings. Part of the explanation includes Einstein's Time Dilation and Relativity Theories – where passage of time slows with increased speed and with increased gravity. The story line then leads into the theory that with the continuous stretching of Space (beginning with the BIG BANG), time also stretches (like a slinky), resulting in the passage of time to continuously slow down as our universe expands. The theory also gives that the Great Architect's time reference is always constant (cosmic) and is broken down into six partitions since the Big Bang, corresponding with the six days of creation:

- Day 1 = 8,000,000,000 Years – Heaven, Earth and Light are created
- Day 2 = 4,000,000,000 Years – The Sky is created
- Day 3 = 2,000,000,000 Years – The Oceans and dry Ground are formed and Vegetation appears
- Day 4 = 1,000,000,000 Years – The Sun, Moon and Stars are formed / become visible
- Day 5 = 500,000,000 Years – Life begins in the Sea, expanding to reptiles and Birds
- Day 6 = 250,000,000 Years – Animals dominate the earth and Humans appears

Total = 15,750,000,000 Years

The passage of time for each day is half of the previous, due to the stretching of time with the expanding (doubling) of the universe. This segment of the movie concludes that the two perspectives, Science - vs - Scripture, are truly in agreement with each other.

Although these time segments are somewhat embellished / generalized and most scientists believe that the Big Bang occurred only 13.8 Billion years ago, I still find this a very interesting attempt of aligning the two – secular and non-secular – perspectives. Like in all our Masonic teachings, I am offering this as information – how each of us interprets it based on our individual experiences and beliefs is left to us.

The movie overall is a 'B' grade at best, but this segment is pretty well done. Here are links to a couple of YouTube clips from this movie segment, if you are interested.

Short version: 4:50 –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iu3R47gH4CM>

Longer Version: 28:47 –

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgO_0_gGulo

On a final personal note, this will be my final Chaplain Corner article as I am stepping down at the end of the year. I am sure next year's Chaplain will serve this office well with a new and fresh perspective. It has been an honor to serve as your Lodge Chaplain for the last two years.



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

- ❖ Prayers of joy as we join WB Henry Schaefer and family in celebrating his returned health and strength following his treatment for lymphoma earlier this year.
- ❖ Brother Ed Reiners (Mgr. of Savage American Legion) as he continues his treatment for colon cancer.
- ❖ The family of WB Donald Case, who recently joined the Celestial Lodge above.
- ❖ Brother Donald Hegreberg as he contends with a reported illness.
- ❖ Marilyn Eshleman and family as they mourn their recent loss of WB Jim.
- ❖ WB Gordy and Patricia Bane as she continues her battle with cancer.

Fraternally, --Lew

chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org



Entered Apprentice Degree Held



On October 27, 2016, MN River Valley Lodge #6 held an Entered Apprentice degree for the following new Brothers (L to R):

1. Tony Haberle
2. William Everling – Macalester Lodge #290
3. Ron Zappetillo
4. Drew Cook

Included in the photo above are those that performed the wonderful degree work and our visitors from Macalester Lodge #290.

Masonic Milestone Master Mason Anniversary Dates

MN River Valley Lodge #6 would like to recognize all the Masonic Milestone Master Mason Anniversary dates that are taking place during November and December 2016.

They are:

Charles Marston	55 Years	11/24/1961
Bruce Heimkes	45 Years	12/10/1971
Don McNeil	10 Years	12/02/2006
J. Eric Menge	10 Years	12/02/2006
Thomas Petersen	10 Years	12/02/2006



The Roll of the Workmen Has Been Called!



And WB Donald L. Case has not responded.

Donald was born on July 21, 1937 in Spencer, Iowa the son of Harold and Irene (Flipsey) Case. He attended Shakopee High School and graduated in 1955. Don served his country in the United States Air Force and was Honorably Discharged on January 4, 1962.

Donald was united in marriage to Bernice Williamson on July 4, 1973 in Shakopee, Minnesota. The couple lived in Shakopee after their marriage. During this time Don worked for Western airlines and later for Delta Airlines as an airline mechanic and then as a Maintenance Foreman.

In 1987 the couple bought a cabin on Lake Carlos where they enjoyed time with their children. Upon Don's retirement, they tore down the cabin and built their retirement home where he enjoyed fishing and spending time with his grandchildren. Don and Bernice also enjoyed traveling throughout the United States.

Don was a member of the Lions and Masons for several years. He received the Hiram Award through the Masons and was Lion of the Year. He will be remembered as a "Good Man" who never said a bad word about anyone.

Donald died on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; children: Glenn (Vicki), Larry (LuAnn), Connie; grandchildren: Brandon, Keri, Katie, Brady, Kevin, Jennifer, Kelsey, Ian, Alex and Anna; brothers: James (Judy), Gaylen (Donna) Russell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Ronald; sister-in-law, Debbie Case; brother-in-law, Carl A. Reikow.

WB Kermit Bischoff Receives a Quilt of Valor



On Flag Day, Sunday, June 14, 2015, WB Kermit Bischoff, pictured, received a Quilt of Valor for his military service in World War II.

Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts, began the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) from her sewing room in Seaford, Delaware. Her son Nathanael's year-long deployment to Iraq provided the initial inspiration, and her desire to see that returning warriors were welcomed home with the love and gratitude they deserved, and provided the rest.

She hit upon the idea that linking quilt-toppers with machine quilters in a national effort could achieve her goal of cover all returning service men and women touched by war. These war-time quilts, called Quilts of Valor (QOV's), would be a tangible reminder of an American's appreciate and gratitude. Since 2003, QOVF has become a national grassroots community service effort, connecting the home-front with our warriors and veterans.

QOV's are stitched with love, prayers and healing thoughts. Our troops who have been touched by war are awarded this tangible token of appreciation that unequivocally says, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice and valor."

Just how much of an impact has the QOVF made? As of June 1, 2015, there have been 118,515 quilts awarded to service members and veterans.

For more information visit their website: www.QOVF.org

Other recipients of a Quilt of Valor along with WB Kermit were the following: Chuck Andrews, Robert Baumgarten, Robert Brautigam, James Carroll, Quentin DeNio, Warren Fall, Gordon Fisher, Leland Granberg, Roger Jewett, Donald Minor, Bob Peterson, Bill Rasmussen, Ed Schmidt.

Quilt of Valor Recipient Letter

The following is the letter that WB Kermit Bischoff received when he received his Quilt of Valor.

Dear American Hero,

Today you are receiving a Quilt of Valor, made by a volunteer – who just happens to be me – as a member of a little known network of over 10,000 volunteers – an Army of our own – who are dedicated to covering American service veterans with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.

We are not unlike, you and me. In fact, we probably have more similarities than we do differences. Patriotism has always been important to me, and music is too. Some of my earliest and fondest school-age memories are learning and singing patriotic song, and singing them with guest and pride, waving a flag in my hand and wearing my red, white and blue.

Every soldier, no matter what war or if they ever saw war, is a hero. Every soldier deserves honor, comfort, gratitude, and thanks. My Grandson is my hero. You are my hero. You do what so many of us are not capable of doing. Thank you. From the bottom of my heart.

Every quilt I have the honor of making is out of gratitude. The pattern, fabric, cutting and sewing are all pieces of my soul and being, with a thankful heart, toward a veteran like yourself. Like this human experience, no quilt is perfect. As a matter of fact, perfect is not the goal. The goal is healing and comfort. The healing is in the doing and in the using.

Freedom is not free. Thank you for what you have done to support freedom, democracy, and all of the other blessings bestowed on this country because of veterans like you. Thank you for your sacrifice. What you have endured as a soldier and a veteran.

Let Freedom ring! And may God bless you each and every day.

2017 Dues Notices

Brothers,

As many of you are aware we have been working on the 2017 dues notices for the Lodge. The majority of the notices have been mailed in early October and we will continue to mail out notices over the next few weeks.

We wish to remind the Brothers to please pay your dues by the end of the year, as our annual budget relies on this income, along with a payment that the Lodge needs to make to the Grand Lodge of MN for the per capita fee of \$29/Brother at the beginning of the year.

Also, if you have new address, new phone number, new email address, etc., please keep the Lodge informed, so that we can keep you up to date on what is going on. If something has changed, please send a note along with your dues payment and then we will update our Lodge records.

If you have any questions in regards to your 2017 dues notice, please contact me.

Thank you,
WB Steven Scheffert
Secretary
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Daylight Savings!

It is that time again as on November 6th Daylight Savings Time ends. Since it is now Fall Time, we need to “Fall Back” and set our clocks 1 hour back starting at 2:00 a.m.



HELIOS LODGE GOLDEN BOY TRIBUTE TO FREE MASONRY .22 CAL. RIFLE RAFFLE

WHEN

Tuesday December 20th at Stated meeting
8:00 p.m. Winner has choice of rifle or
\$750 cash

WHERE

Helios Lodge
343 Second Ave SW Cambridge, MN **NEED NOT BE
PRESENT TO WIN. MN permit number X-99318**
www.helioslodge273.org



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55005



On the right side, black and white mosaic squares represent the floor of King Solomon's Temple to illustrate "human life, checkered with good and evil". Ascending stairs remind a member of the path to higher levels of Freemasonry, with another "G" at the top as the ultimate goal. CLICK TO ZOOM



“Grow Some Fur” Challenge from Excelsior Lodge #113

Brothers,

Excelsior Masonic Lodge #113 was jolted to reality by our Brother’s diagnosis of prostate cancer and the loss of a young vibrant candidate for Masonry who came to the end of his battles with post-traumatic stress and depression by taking his own life.

We must do something! Men’s health is largely ignored while we are young when it matters the most. We get involved in risky behaviors during our youth and we are not very good about managing our health as we age.

What are the statistics?

Men’s Mental Health -

1. Men die by suicide 3.5x more often than women. On average, there are 117 suicides per day totaling 42,705 per year.
2. White males accounted for 7 of 10 suicides
3. 30.6% of men have suffered from a period of depression in their lifetime

Men’s Cancer -

1. Prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States. About 1 man in 39 will die of prostate cancer this year with 180,890 new cases diagnosed
2. Testicular cancer is most common in young men 20-34. About 8,720 new cases of testicular cancer will be diagnosed this year and 380 men will die

What’s this all about?

This is the kick off, of something that we can all do in our communities and bring the Brotherhood of Masonry together at the same time! We will strive through *Grow Some FUR!* to raise awareness of these men’s health concerns and raise funds to be shared between the University of Minnesota Men’s Cancer Research and the Face-It Foundation an organization in Minnesota that strives to educate men on mental health issues such as depression and suicide prevention.

You can become involved through two “Grow Some FUR” contests -
Contest for the Lodge -

Brothers start your mustaches or beard! The rules to win are simple -

1. The entry fee is \$75.00 / Lodge.
2. The Lodge with the highest percentage of Brothers growing beards or mustaches compared to their Lodge foster wins.
3. The Lodge will need to provide pictures of each of the Brothers participating with clean shaven faces or their original “starter face” and then on or before November 27th provide a picture of the finished “FUR Face”.
4. The last rule is that the Lodge must do something in their community to raise awareness of this cause. It could be as simple as a newspaper entry noting that the Brothers are growing FUR for the cause of raising awareness of men’s health. Your submission of pictures on or before November 27th must also include your Lodges community efforts.

Continued on the next page

Grow Some Fur Challenge, continued

Contest for individual Brothers or interested men -

1. December 2nd 6:30pm - Beard / Mustache contest at Excelsior Masonic Lodge #113. Contest entrance fee is \$30.00 this includes dinner, speakers on men's health, silent and live auctions and entertainment. (see flyer for more details)
2. You must submit a picture of your clean-shaven face or original state face. Then on or before November 27th, you will submit your finished "FUR Face". Judging of your FUR will be performed by representatives from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota.

Trophies and awards will be made to the Lodge Winners and to the individual winners –

If there is anyone that can elevate the awareness of men's health it is the Brotherhood of Masonry. Seems like we were principle players in creating a new county so this should be easy, shouldn't it?

- Lodges engage the Brothers, engage the community and get your pre and post FUR pictures in on time to Brother Alex Youngstadt at al.youngstedt@yahoo.com.
- Register as a Lodge or individually at www.excelsior113.org
- If you choose not to enter the contests but want to contribute elevating these messages, promote cancer research and support brothers with depression then there is a donation button at www.excelsior113.org. You may also send donations to Excelsior Masonic Lodge #113 (Grow Some FUR) in care of the Lodge secretary Tim Leland, 249 Water Street, Excelsior MN 55331.

We are looking forward to seeing your final FUR face but even more we are looking forward to making a difference in the lives of Brothers and men in Minnesota who are dying too young!

Than you Brothers for your action!
Worshipful Master Chauncey P Akers

Grow some FUR co-chairs
Brother Alex Youngstadt
al.youngstedt@yahoo.com

WB Steve Maslonka
srmaslonka@icloud.com

**GROW SOME
FUR!
SUPPORT
MEN'S HEALTH**



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



November 2016

- 1st** – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 3rd** – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 6th** – Daylight Savings – Fall Back 1 hour
- 9th** – 6:30 P.M. Savage Masonic Center Building
Boarding Meeting
- 12th** – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 19th** – 8:00 A.M. Master Mason Degree
- 22nd** – Reserved for Ritual Work.
- 24th** – Thanksgiving Day
- 27th** – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided



December 2016

- 1st** – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 6th** – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 10th** – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 11th** – 2:00 P.M. Installation of Officers
- 14th** – 6:30 P.M. Savage Masonic Center Building
Boarding Meeting
- 22nd** – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 24th** – Christmas Eve
- 25th** – Christmas Day
- 27th** – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 28th** – Articles Due for the Wayfarer
- 31st** – New Year's Eve

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/>
