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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 19, Issue 01

January/February 2017

Lodge Officers:

Worshipful Master – Christopher
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Junior Warden – Don Moy
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Secretary – WB Steven Scheffert
(402) 960-3629
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Chaplain – WB Tim Pray
(952) 891-3274
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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

Greetings Brethren,

We are entering into a new year with a new officer line. I am very honored to have been elected by the Brothers of Minnesota River Valley #6 to be Worshipful Master of the Lodge for 2017. I enter into this position with equal parts excitement and anxiety. I am excited as the Lodge continues to grow and develop. We continue to initiate new members and spread the Craft. We have helped those in need and we have continued to put the finishing touches on the Masonic Center (just have to lay the flooring now). I am anxious by the responsibility that has been entrusted to me. Speculative Masonry has been around for 300 years. Minnesota River Valley has existed for 18 years. Many Worshipful Brothers have sat in East and kept the Lodge strong. I do not want to be the one to reverse this fortune.

With the New Year, people make resolutions as to improve themselves. We want to improve upon ourselves and become better. In like manner, with the New Year it is important for the Lodge to figure out ways to improve upon itself. By coming together, we can find ways to strengthen the Lodge and enter into 2018 more improved than we are leaving 2016. With that in mind, it is just as important to remember the lessons that we have learned up to this point. By learning from the past, we can avoid the same mistakes. This aids in our quest for improvement. So not only is it important to focus on the future in order to continue to thrive, it is important to remember the past so that we do not fall into the same pitfalls.

Continued on the next page

News from the East, Continued

I bring this up because of the focus of membership. We continue to see and hear about bringing in new members. And while this is important, as it is how a Lodge continues to do the good work it does, it is imperative that we retain our current members. We need new members to invigorate the Lodge, but we need to the experienced members to navigate. There are many areas where we can make mistakes. There are many areas where I can make a mistake. By using the experience and wisdom of those before us, we may be able to avoid such mistakes, or be better prepared to deal with their consequences. By understanding this, some of my anxieties are more abated. I know that the Brothers wish to see me succeed since a successful Master means a successful Lodge. I know that I have many years of experience that I can call upon in order to make the best decisions to best keep the Lodge alive and active.

In this manner, I have decided to hold a Dusty Square Degree. This is a degree that does not get held as often as it should. We focus on the initial 3 because through these we welcome and advance a new Brother. We keep the Lodge going. But what of our members who were unable to attend when we were in Shakopee due to the treacherous steps? Or those who for one reason or another have discontinued coming? We need to welcome back these Brothers so that we can have their experiences that will allow us thrive forward. April 27 will be a great day for this. To refresh the purpose of the Craft, not only for those who have not been in a while, but also those of us who attend the meetings but can be sidetracked from the original purpose of Masonry. I look forward to working with all of the Brothers, as well as the other bodies that share our space, to make 2017 as successful as possible. And I doubt that any of my other articles will be quite so long.

Looking forward to a Great Year.

Christopher Brundage
Worshipful Master
master@mn-rivervalley.org



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met on November 17th. The highlight was one of our members was honored for being a 50-year member. He was introduced and escorted to the East. It was interesting to hear about his memories of being in Easter Star for so many years. The annual Christmas meeting was on December 15th. A potluck supper was held before the start. Songs were sung to celebrate the holiday. We will be dark in January and February, as is our custom, and will meet again in March.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, March 3, 2017. All articles for the March/April 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 May/June 2017 issue of The Wayfarer.

Please note that March/April issue of The Wayfarer will be published a little bit later than normal.

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

The holiday season is over for this year. I certainly hope that everyone had an enjoyable time with family and friends. But the holidays are not always the best time for people, we have all lost a loved one, some family some friend. The Christmas season brings many memories out, both good and bad. The presence of sadness during this time of year really means that you have lost someone that was very close, and their loss is still there.

Happiness is the realization of great things, someone's presence, and the smile of young child or just life giving to you rather than taking. My hope for all of my Brothers is that the happiness you experience outweighs and out lasts the sadness you have when remembering your past memories.

Please keep the following Brothers in your thoughts and prayers:

- ❖ WB Ken Betterton continued healing for his broken leg
- ❖ WB Gordy Bane and his wife Patricia who battles cancer
- ❖ WB Ed Reiner's and his fight with cancer
- ❖ WB Henry Schaefer to continue regaining his strength from his past chemo treatments
- ❖ WB Ed Morse of Lebanon Lodge who is starting his treatments for cancer
- ❖ WB Dick Friend for his continuing health challenges
- ❖ Br Joe Andrus' wife Cindy continues recovery of her broken leg
- ❖ Brigetta Green wife of Alan Green recovery and rehabilitation for shoulder surgery WB Chris Brundage and his wife Monica for their loss of both of their cars in separate accidents, the same day, shortly after his installation.
- ❖ WB Jim Tongen formerly of King Solomon #44, most recently a Brother of Sunset Lodge #109 passed away after a long struggle with cancer. Brother Tongen was remembered for being active as an Associate Guardian of Bethel #85, Jim and

his wife Sally were also active in Shakopee OES #90 while they lived in town. They moved a number of years ago, to Montevideo, MN and joined Sunset Lodge. Funeral services will be held in April 2017, details will be passed along as they become available. Sally indicated that Sunset Lodge is small and expressed hope that members of MN River Valley #6 would be willing to help with the Masonic Rites in Montevideo, when the date is announced. Please contact me if you might be able to help once the date is announced.

May the Great Architect shine brightly on all of us,
Tim Pray, Chaplain

chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org



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 January and February 2017.

They are:

Charles Richter	50 Years	01/30/1967
David Scheffert	40 Years	02/26/1977
Gary Goodwin	35 Years	02/06/1982
Paul Peterson	25 Years	02/11/1992
Richard Hervieux	10 Years	01/20/2007



New 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Masons



WB Tim Pray and Brother Gerry Robison recently became Masters of the Royal Secret (32 degree) at the Minneapolis Valley of Scottish Rite on December 15, 2016. Please congratulate these Brothers on their great accomplishment next time you see them. Pictured above are (L to R): WB Lew Price, Brother Gerry Robison, WB Tim Pray and WB Steven Scheffert

January Table Lodge

The Table Lodge has been set for Saturday, January 21, 2017 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.



Joint Master Mason Degree Held



On Saturday, November 18th, 2016 32 members from MN River Valley Lodge #6 and Lebanon Lodge #346 gathered and held a joint Master Mason's degree to raise a total of 5 new Master Mason's between the two Lodges. MN River Valley Lodge, would like to congratulate our newly raised Brothers, who are Brother Ben Sorenson (left) and Brother Eric Creger (right), pictured with WB Doug Rhodes above.

Name Badge Orders

We are once again taking orders for name badges for the Brothers that wish to get one. 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

From the West

Brothers, I'm sure that many of us share the same sentiment as far as 2016 goes. GOODBYE, SO LONG, SEE YA!! 2016 wasn't the friendliest of years. How many great people did 2016 take from us?

Actors and actresses;

- Carrie Fisher (Star Wars)
- Debbie Reynolds (Mother of the aforementioned and Singin in the rain)
- Alan Thicke (Growing Pains)
- Zsa Zsa Gabor (Moulin Rouge)
- Robert Vaughn (The Man From U.N.C.L.E.)
- Alan Rickman (Harry Potter or Die Hard for you action junkies)

Just a few to name, the list (unfortunately goes on). And what about the musical talent 2016 has taken from us?!

- The most obvious... Prince (Prince and the Revolution, Prince and the New Power Generation and Solo Career)
- George Michael (Wham and Solo Career)
- Leonard Cohen (Solo Career)
- Frank Sinatra Jr. (I don't think I really need to expound on that)
- Glenn Frey (The Eagles and Solo Career)
- David Bowie (Solo Career)

We also have to look at our own lives. Did you lose a loved one? Perhaps tough time such as a car accident. Everyone was fine, but the time and frustration that you had to invest to put things right. Or losing your job such as I.

2016 was mean to us. Or was it? For many years now, my wife has been trying to teach that the Supreme Architect has a plan for each and every one of us. To accept certain truths. Bad things happen. Things that are out of our control. We all know what that's called. Life. Sometimes life is easy and other times it's extremely difficult.

For many years now I did everything I could to be the best in my professional capacity. My hard work accomplished just that. But at what cost? What did I truly accomplish? Lack of time with my family. Not seeing my nephew's grow or my God children. Not

spending time with my Mother and Father-In-Law. Not spending time with friends and being there for them. And my wife. How many things did I miss out with her?

2016 was an educational year. I've finally come to grasp that 2016 wasn't a mean year. It was trying to teach us something. These people (performers) are the same as us. Human. Life treats them the same as us. Sometimes it's great, other times it's overwhelmingly difficult. It's what you do with those difficult times that defines you as a person.

I've learned that my nephews need an uncle that is always there for them. To tickle them and beat them at thumb wars. To let them know when they're being disrespectful and how to treat a lady. To get to know my God children so as they grow older, I'm not just a title (God Father), but someone they know and love. To help my In-Laws shovel their walk way or help my Father-In-Law with his Corvette when he's doing work to it. And to show my friends that I'm here for them and show them I enjoy their company and love. To, finally, be with my wife on those nights and weekends. To show her how much I appreciate everything she's done and continues to do for me and us. To just take the time to observe her smile and appreciate it.

It's unfortunate that it took me these years to learn that I HAD my priorities out of whack. But thank you God for being patient with me. I've finally learned how much I need to learn.

Freemasonry isn't just about acceptance. It's about that patience and Brotherly Love. I love you Brothers and thank you from the bottom of my heart. For everything you've taught me and will teach me. Nay. 2016 wasn't mean to us. 2016 taught us to appreciate, love and cherish.

Thank you 2016.
God Bless Brothers.

May 2017 be an even learning experience!
In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.
(Albert Einstein)

James Wallin
Senior Warden
sw@mn-rivervalley.org

2017 Installation of Officers



On Sunday, December 11, 2016, the Installation of Officers for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held. The following are your officers for 2017:

Worshipful Master	Christopher Brundage
Senior Warden	James Wallin
Junior Warden	Donald Moy*
Treasurer	Joe Andrus
Secretary	WB Steven Scheffert
Lodge Education Officer	WB Keith Donaldson
Senior Deacon	Ted Smith
Junior Deacon	Paul Bergevin*
Chaplain	WB Tim Pray
Senior Steward	Dan Ploenzke
Junior Steward	Gerry Robison
Marshal	Ben Sorenson
Tyler	WB Doug Rhodes

*Missing from photo above

2017 Installation of Officers Event Photos

The following are just a few photos from the recent Installation of Officers that was held on December 11th.





Worshipful Master Chris Brundage
and the Officers and Brethren of
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6

Cordially invite you and your guests to our 2017 Table Lodge

Saturday, January 21, 2017
American Legion Post #643
12375 Princeton Ave.
Savage Minnesota 55378

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

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

Please RSVP with a check and your selections to the Lodge Secretary (Steven Scheffert) by
Wednesday, January 11th, 2017.

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
Cell: 402-960-3629

The Lodge does have the capability to invoice you for your payment, if you wish to pay by credit card.
Additional credit card transaction fees are applied to the cost of the dinner.
Credit card payments must be made prior to the event or paid by check/cash the day of the dinner.
Contact Steven Scheffert for details.



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)

Mark the quantity of each badge type that you wish to purchase. The price per badge is also listed.

_____ Pocket Style – \$7.50

_____ Magnetic Style – \$5.50

_____ Pin Style – \$5.50

Please mail this form, along with a check for the amount due, by January 31, 2017 to:

Steven Scheffert
802 East Circle Drive
Montgomery, MN 56069

Please make checks out to: MN River Valley Lodge #6

Questions, please contact:

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

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



January 2017

- 3rd – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 5th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting
- 14th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 16th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 21st – Table Lodge Dinner Event – 5:00 P.M.
Social and 6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 24th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 26th – 7:00 P.M. Fellowcraft Degree



February 2017

- 2nd – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 7th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 8th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting
- 11th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 14th – Valentine's Day
- 20th – Presidents' Day
- 23rd – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 28th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- March 3rd – 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/>
