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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 20, Issue 01

January/February 2018

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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.

Greetings from the East

Greetings Brothers. I stand here before you a changed man. A changed man. I am not changed due to being Master. I have a feeling by the end of the year that I may think or feel differently. No, Master has little or none to do with it. I am a changed man. Masonry. I don't know that I was necessarily a good man how many ever years ago when I had the opportunity to join the world's largest, oldest and (arguably) best fraternity. I think that, especially in this day and age, few of us know what kind of a man we were several years ago. And by whose standards do we measure ourselves? I guess I always tried to measure myself to my Foster-Dad's morals and standards. And even so, I don't know that I was a good man.

But along came a wonderful gift. A glorious opportunity. Something that only the Supreme Architect could have put before me at time when I was in need. But why to a man like me, I'll never know. Something so wonderful, so special. But when I received this gift, it was like so many other gifts that we receive. We look at it, say thank you, examine it some more and then put it on the shelf. It wasn't until a few years into my Masonic experience that I began to really appreciate my gift. It took some time to understand that Masonry is something like exercising. The more you do and experience it, the more benefits you receive and understand. Not that I'm an expert on exercising. Yea, from me, that was a horrible example. That's like a person that's lives in Florida giving advice to us from Minnesota on how to dress for winter. But you get my point.

Continued on the next page

Greetings from the East, Continued

As soon as I began attending meetings, listening to our lines, taking them in and having that beautiful growth of understanding was when Masonry became a permanent part of my life and making change within. It was that slow understanding and transformation that looking back is such a wonderful thing. Being around some of the Brothers that I've come to know, cry and laugh with. Brothers. Good men. Great men! Looking at these men and wondering, "how do I become like them?" These men were so patient, so forth coming, so caring. Magnanimous. That's the word I'm looking for. Magnanimous. That's exactly what I'm looking for. Magnanimous - **Very generous or forgiving**, especially toward a rival or someone less powerful than oneself. What do I have to do become something remotely close to that?

I just reread that question. That's exactly how I felt being within the company of these men? What do I have to do to become a good man? I wasn't sure that I would ever be a great man. I remember fretting on that. You know how when you start a new job, you want to put your best foot forward and make a great impression? That's exactly how I felt.

So, I had the opportunity to get in the Line. I thought at first that maybe doing so would garner that appreciation. I was learning the lines and going through the motions. Again, trying to make that great impression. But it wasn't until roughly sitting in the Junior Warden's chair and then about halfway through the year that I no longer controlled Masonry. Masonry took control of me. It was during the June or July meeting and when I got to the part of, "to call the craft on again in due season that the Master may have pleasure and the Craft profit there by." Instead of trying to control Masonry, I let go and experienced it. It was at that point things made perfect sense. You get out of Masonry what you give. It took me that long, not figure this out, but to understand.

Moving into the Senior Warden's chair, it just exploded into this thing of wonder and beauty. "Harmony being the strength and support of all societies, more especially ours." What a beautiful sentence. A wonderful statement! Twelve words. Twelve words that make such a massive impact if you allow it and try to understand it.

I get it now. Masonry. I get it!! I see how Masonry has already been in my life when I was trying to control it. It was still trying to help, still bringing me, "more Light." Showing me that the Supreme Architect has also

always been in my life. But again, I tried to be in control. Instead of trying to allow things to happen as they should, I would try my best to be in control. Maybe it's the Irish in me. We're not exactly known for our patience. Many, many other things, but not patience. But once I began letting things happen, understanding things. Letting the Light into my life.

In so doing, I know that I've become, minimally, a good man. Masonry has done exactly what it promised me. It made me better. Has it made me a great man? My Grandfather was in the United States Army infantry, fought in Europe during World War II, was captured by the Germans and in a POW camp for almost a year before he was liberated. He came home and raised a family of seven with his wife. He was a great man. My Great Uncle (my Grandfather's big brother) flew as a waist gunner in a B-17F for the USAAF (United States Army Air Forces) over Europe during World War II, was shot down, injured, captured by the Germans and was a POW in Stalag 17 (The movie and Hogan's Heroes (but it wasn't that great, it was one of the worst POW camps during the war)). He also came home and raised a family with his wife. He was a great man. My Foster-Dad took in some kid that came from a broken home, taught him right from wrong, the good in the world, what it feels like to have a family and that being loved is a glorious thing. He, also, was a great man.

Am I great man? I don't think I'll ever know. That's for my friends to decide. My wife, my in-laws and nephews. Am I great man? It's not for me to decide. But I can tell you this. Masonry, has made me a much better man! I hate to think where I would be without this wonderful gift.

Remember, there are men out there that deserve this gift and could do many wonderful things with it. But it's up to us to bestow that gift. We should all be aware of that man who is good and with Masonry become better. The future, OUR FUTURE Brothers, is within our hands. It is up to US to perpetuate this wonderful gift. I ask, I beg, of all of you to give this selfless gift to a deserving man. I ask this. Because, I was just a man before. I am now a Better Man. Thank you to those great men from my Grandfather, Great Uncle, Foster-Father and the Great Men I can and do call Brothers. Thank you, Brothers, for my gift.

James T. Wallin
Master
master@mn-rivervalley.org



From the West

Brothers, as we turn our calendars from one year to the next, it's the season that we reflect on the previous 12 months as well as begin planning and anticipating to the days ahead. It hard to argue that 2017 was filled with turmoil throughout our country as well as worldwide. One of the key Senior Warden lines during the opening dialogue is "Harmony being the Strength and Support of all societies, more especially of Ours." Let us all pledge to keep these words close to our hearts and minds as we move forward into a new Masonic year. If you should look up the word Harmony in Webster's, you'll find definitions such as Agreement, Accord, Synchronization, Coordination and Coherence. Although these are all positive synonyms of Harmony, I am confident that our founding members had an even broader perspective when laying the foundations of Masonry. We recently attended a Fabulous Christmas Musical Program at our church. Although what is considered a large congregation in today's standards, I was still amazed at the level of talent just within our membership. More importantly it just illustrates the importance of blending of talents. Although there is always a place for a good soloist but Imagine a Choir with only Sopranos signing. Even though I'm a former trumpet player, there is no comparison listening to a full orchestra. So how does this apply to our Lodge? The work of a few, can many times produce positive results. However, think of all the advantages of many hands, doing more. I'm confident that we each have our own special talents. Let's pledge to release and share our individual talents to the betterment of our Lodge this year.

Donald Moy
Senior Warden
jw@mn-rivervalley.org



The Roll of the Workmen Has Been Called!

And Brother Gunter F. Kaiser has not responded.



Gunter F. Kaiser, 89 of Lake Wales, Florida Passed away Tuesday, November 1, 2017 at Good Shepherd Hospice in Auburndale.

He was born August 14, 1928 in Mannheim, Germany to the late Willy and Paula (Schulz) Kaiser; he has been a resident of this area for 20 years moving here from the Mission Field in Africa. He was a retired Presbyterian Minister and a member of the Hope Presbyterian Church in Winter Haven. Gunther was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Minnesota, Tampa Bay Presbytery; his pastorates include Spirit Lake, South Dakota and Belle Plaine, Minnesota. He also spent 30 years in broadcasting ministry and mission work in Africa.

Brother Gunter was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on October 12, 1978, Passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on October 11, 1979 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on January 26, 1980.

January 2018 Stated Meeting Change Communication

Brethren of MN River Valley Lodge #6, please take notice that the January 2018 Stated Communication meeting is being changed to the following date:

When: Thursday, January 4, 2018
Location: Savage Masonic Center
Time: 6:30 p.m. Social and Stated Meeting
at 7:30 p.m.

Steve Scheffert
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met in November. There was an official visit. The Worthy Grand Matron, Patron and other Grand Officers were in attendance. The Associated Patron gave a talk on unicorns – the fun symbol of the Chapters' Worthy Matron. In honor of Veterans Day all veterans were introduced and thanks for their service. The Worthy Patron read a moving tribute to the men and women who served and sacrificed to protect our freedoms. Food items were collected for the food shelf. Past Matrons and Patrons were introduced. We had our Annual Christmas meeting on December 21st. A pot luck supper was served before the meeting. The Worthy Matron asked anyone if they would like to share Christmas memories. Some interesting and funny stories were told. Mrs. Santa Claus usually comes to our Christmas meeting, but was unable to be there. She did an Elf in her place and he gave treats to everyone. We had a nice turnout and time celebrating Christmas.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



Key Fob Extender Trick

The transmitters on automotive keys with Lock/Unlock/Alarm/Trunk buttons have limited range because many cars have the same frequency combinations. Sometimes you forget to lock your car or can't remember where you left your car. If you are out of range when you press your key fob buttons, here is a trick to extend the fob's range. Open your mouth and hold the key in front of your mouth with the key end pointing toward the car. Press the desired Lock/Unlock/Alarm button. Your open mouth acts as a parabolic mirror which extends the range. You must be facing the car for this trick to work.

Submitted by: WB Daryl Bren



On Errors

As the new year brings with it new positions for many officers in the lodge, we practiced opening and closing the lodge after our December steering meeting. Such practices bring with them opportunities to become better. As noted in a book by James Joyce, "A man of genius makes no mistakes. His errors are volitional and are the portals of discovery." Our errors during such practices bring opportunities to learn not just the correct way to do things but also the reasons behind them, allowing us to find out more than we would have if we had just done it right the first time. As we seek to become better we should remember that our mistakes need not be something to be avoided at all costs, but something to be valued for the experience they bring. They bring lessons not just to us but to those around us as well. As has often been said, a smart man learns from his own mistakes, a wise man learns from the mistakes of others. I wish to thank the Brothers whose mistakes I have learned from, as well as the Brothers who have been there to assist us in improving ourselves. May your mistakes this year be few, and your errors lead you to greater enlightenment.

Ted Smith
Junior Warden



Quotes

"Live so your children think of fairness, caring, and integrity, they think of you."

H. Jackson Brown
Jr.

"As the eagle seeks the deepest blue of the sky, seek the deepest truth in your heart."

Native American Advice

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 2018.

They are:

Todd Carlson	05 Years	01/19/2013
Fred Regenauer	05 Years	01/19/2013



Congratulations!

Road Less Travelled

As Masons we go down the road less travelled. Usually that is a figurative thought but today I found it to be literal. Lodge Road went from being a paved road at the side of the highway and became a mere pathway ending at the Lodge Hall.

Where has your Masonic thoughts taken you recently?



Submitted by: WB Keith Donaldson

The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, February 28, 2018. All articles for the March/April 2018 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 2018 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)



20 Years of the Wayfarer

Well, depending on how you count the years and since I put the Wayfarer together, we are now starting the 20th year of its publications, hence this year's Wayfarer being recorded as volume 20. Here are some facts about the newsletter:

1. First Issue – September 1999 and only 1-page long.
2. Number of Issues Published – 157
3. Total Number of Pages Published – 1,086 (including this issue).
4. Year most pages published – 2008 with a total of 146 pages.
5. Largest Issue – 16 pages (twice)
6. 7 Years in a row of 12 issues of the Wayfarer per year.
7. Started to issue the Wayfarer every other month in 2013.

Over the past 20 years, many individuals have contributed to the Wayfarer and spent many hours putting it all together. There are so many Brothers to thank for all of their hard work and dedication to make this all happen, and I would be afraid to start naming them as I know I would miss someone. Hopefully you know who you are, and I would like to say

*Thank
you* 

Steven Scheffert – Current Editor of the Wayfarer

Quote

“Make it a habit to tell people thank you. To express your appreciation, sincerely and without the expectation of anything in return. Truly appreciate those around you, and you'll soon find many others around you. Truly appreciate life and you'll find that you have more of it.” -Ralph Marston

2018 January Table Lodge

The Table Lodge has been set for Saturday, January 20, 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.



2018 Name Badge Orders

We are once again preparing to place another order for name badges for our Lodge. We are working on the details for the name badges and once pricing and the design is finalized (working on using the new Lodge logo), we will email the order form out.

Submitted by: Steven Scheffert

2018 Dues Reminder

As we are now preparing to welcome in 2018, please remember to pay your dues, if you have yet to do so. At the time of the putting the newsletter together, we still have many Brothers who have yet to pay their dues for 2018. Our operating budget for the year is based on the dues that are received, so it is critical that individuals pay in a timely manner, so that the Lodge can continue to function properly. Also, if you are involved with another Masonic organization, you must remain current in the Blue Lodge to remain a member in good standing with the other organizations. If you have any questions about the 2018 dues, please contact the Lodge Secretary – Steve Scheffert



*Worshipful Master James Wallin
and the Officers and Brethren of
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6*

Cordially invite you and your guests to our 2018 Table Lodge

Saturday, January 20, 2018
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 10th, 2018.

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.

2018 Installation of Officers



On Saturday, December 16, 2017, the Installation of Officers for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held. The following are your officers for 2018:

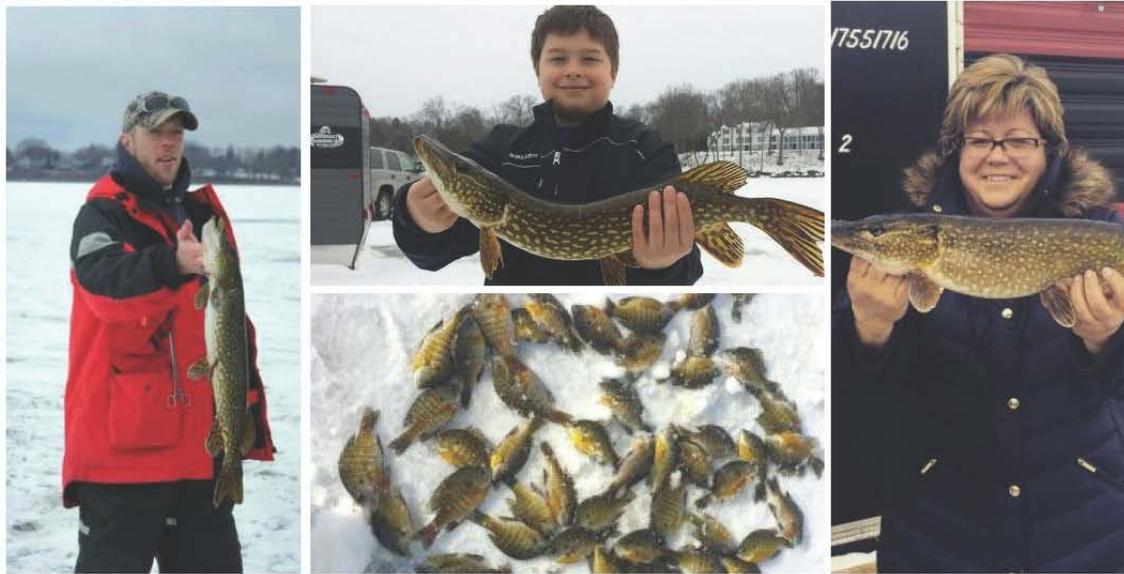
Master	James Wallin
Senior Warden	Donald Moy
Junior Warden	Ted Smith
Treasurer	Joe Andrus*
Secretary	WB Steven Scheffert
Lodge Education Officer	WB Keith Donaldson
Senior Deacon	Paul Bergevin
Junior Deacon	Dan Ploenzke
Chaplain	WB Tim Pray
Senior Steward	Gerry Robison
Junior Steward	Tony Haberle*
Marshal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

*Missing from photo above

3rd Annual Masonic Ice Fishing Adventure

Brethren: We have been cordially invited by Lebanon Lodge #346 to participate in their 3rd annual Masonic Ice Fishing Adventure. If you are interested in attending, please contact WB Chris Heiliger to let him know that you are coming.

Join Us on Beautiful Lake Minnetonka For our 3rd Annual Masonic Ice Fishing Adventure



Chris's Wild, Crazy Adventure!

Outfitted by

Set the Hook Guide Service

Todd Stauffer - todd@setthehookguide.com

Visit www.setthehookguide.com

for more info and to view the ice houses.

*All ice fishing equipment will be provided including bait.
Food and refreshments will be available.*

Hosted by

Lebanon Lodge #346

Contact Info

cheiliger@msn.com

Saturday - January 27

7:30-1:30 p.m.

Meet location

Shoreline BP gas station

4311 Shoreline Drive

Spring Park, MN

This fun-filled half day fishing adventure will keep us on the ice for at least 6 hours. Please dress accordingly.

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



January 2017

- 1st – New Year's Day
- 4th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M. **(DATE CHANGE)**
- 6th – 5:00 P.M. Hiram Award Dinner Event
- 10th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting
- 13th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 15th – Martin Luther King Day
- 20th – 5:00 P.M. Annual Table Lodge Dinner
Event
- 23rd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 25th – Reserved for Ritual Work



February 2017

- 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
- 14th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting.
- 19th – Presidents' Day
- 22nd – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 27th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 28th – 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/>
