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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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Lodge Location:

4821 West 124th Street
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Stated Meeting Date and Time:

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

Greetings from the East

Sharing is Caring

We've all heard that slogan before. Heck, I think the Shriners are using it in one of their commercials. The slogan itself has been around forever. We all remember our teachers telling us to share. But how many of us have ever stopped to think about it? Honestly. I'm not talking about sharing your other Twinkie with your tablemate or friend. I'm asking you honestly, have you ever really thought about it? Sharing is caring.

I want you to think back. Remember when your dad or grandfather took you fishing? As an adult, any time I take my nephews fishing, it's a massive production. Doing all of the stuff to get ready for fishing is not at the top of my list for enjoyment. Gathering this, gathering that. By the time I'm done, I feel like if I'd gone myself, I would've already been fishing for an hour. But the act of gathering the items isn't the main part. It's to impart upon them some knowledge. How to tie a hook on the line. How to unhook a fish (that one's kinda important by the way). How to cast and not catch trees or people (another important one). By showing them that patience and knowledge, you've imparted yourself.

What about when you were taught to throw a baseball? Or to throw a spiral football? Now granted, my spiral football looks like I threw a Big Mac in the air (it's all over the place). But somebody took that time to try to teach me how to do that.

Continued on the next page

Greetings from the East, Continued

Or what about when you began learning how to drive? Remember how stressful that was? I don't know about you guys, but I learned how to drive a stick first. Driving a stick is an art. And these days, a lost art.

All of us are naturals at something(s). But almost always, someone has to take the time to teach us or show us these things. Encourage us when we feel like we're failing or not doing it as good as they do. It's what these people have done for us that make us whom we are. Do you realize that because of these wonderful people, we've come together as a group? Because of what they taught you, showed you and encouraged you to do is a huge part of why you are the way you are and whom you are.

Now again, remember when you were a kid and were taken fishing? How much did you actually take away that day, or maybe what did you take away that day? How many of you wish upon wishes to have more days of fishing, throwing the ball, being in the car with that person? I know I would trade the world just to throw the baseball one more time with my Dad. I'm sure many of you feel that way about that one person.

Why? Why do we feel that way?

Because you were given one of the greatest gifts a person can give. Love. Do you get it now? Sharing is caring! My dad taught me all of those above things. But it wasn't those things that I NOW take away from all of those wonderful experiences. My dad was willing to share himself with me. He truly helped to create the man I am now because of his unselfishness to share. Just like those people in your lives. Just like so many of you have done with your own children. Again, you didn't necessarily enjoy packing the bug spray, band aids, snacks and juice boxes. It was that time with them. To show them how to do it several times. To encourage them when they get down on themselves or frustrated.

Wait. Did I just explain what Masonry is like?! To recognize something in someone, to bring them in, to teach them, to encourage them and be there for them. Masonry. Is it really that simple? Sharing is caring? Hmm... wait... IT IS! To share the gift of Masonry. To recognize a good man and offer him that gift. That's the beginning of Masonry. Realize Brothers every time we meet, act or part you've given a piece of yourself to all of us to love and cherish and the other way around. Our Craft is that simple if you stop and think about it.

I don't know about you guys, but when I stepped into Masonry I wasn't prepared for such a wonderful gift. It wasn't something I was looking for. It was something that I stumbled upon. Just like how I had a great day throwing the ball around, but now I understand it was so much more. Something my dad knew but couldn't say anything. Because I had to actually learn it myself. Now we're the "dads." And we have such a wonderful opportunity to impart ourselves, our knowledge and our love.

When was the last time you shared that joy with a new Brother going through the degrees? Teaching him his proficiency? Teaching him how to read our cypher? And glowing when you see him learning all of those things and catching onto the meaning of certain things? That is a gift that is truly up to you to give. Meaning, when you recognize that good man, step up, give that gift of yourself, of Masonry and becoming that "better man."

Peace, love and harmony to you all Brothers.

James T. Wallin

Master

master@mn-rivervalley.org



From the West

As many of you know, we recently lost a dear Brother, Ed Reiners. Not only did he head up the American Legion but was an active member of the Shriners, Scottish Rite as well as our Lodge. The overwhelming turnout for his celebration of life masonic service was just one testimony of the work and generosity that Ed unselfishly shared throughout his life. During one portion of the service, Jerry Oliver compared our lives here on earth to that of an hour glass. Grains of sand continuously streaming down not knowing exactly the amount of time before it runs out.

How are you spending the remaining grains of sand in your hourglass? Masonic teachings stress family first followed by our fraternity. What have you done to strengthen your time with your family? What have you done to promote your Masonic ideals? Very few if anyone has ever said that they have too much free time on their hands. In fact, we all share the same amount of time each day. It's how we choose to use those precious minutes each day that will set us apart.

Maintain the balance of your personal life, fraternal life and spiritual life. Easier said than done at times but keeping this balance is critical.

Donald Moy
Senior Warden
jw@mn-rivervalley.org



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 was dark and did not meet in January and February. Our next meeting will be in March. We will elect officers for the upcoming year. In April there will be an Installation of Officers at the Savage Masonic Center.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



February LEO Presentation

At the February Stated Meeting, members of the Savage Fire Department came in and gave a presentation on CPR and the use of our AED. The following are some photos from the evening.



4th Annual Bob Bowersox Highland Table Lodge

On February 10, WM James Wallin and WB Steven Scheffert attended the 4th Annual Bob Bowersox Highland Table Lodge, which was hosted by Sherburne Lodge #95. It was a fun evening as many of the Brothers wore their kilts, the Pipes and Drum unit from Zuhrah played, and there was Scottish Dances that were performed by 3 young adults.



Even James and Steve entertained the crowd after the event. Well not really, Steve has no idea how to play the piano, but it sure looks good in a photo.

Odyssey Paranormal Society

Please join us at the March 6th Stated Communication as our LEO presentation will be given from Odyssey Paranormal Society. Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. and the presentation will start around 6:30 p.m. The Stated Meeting will be held immediately after the presentation.

First Steps

In the coming months we are looking forward to initiating several candidates. In preparation for the coming degrees, I find myself looking back at my first steps in Masonry and thinking of the Brothers who guided me on my journey toward being a better man. Some of what I remember may, at the time, have seemed trivial, such as being greeted at the bottom of the long stairway in Shakopee on a cold winter night by a Brother who offered to let me wait with him in his warm car until someone with a key arrived. Yet it is one of the standout memories I have of that night. This has me wondering what little thing I might do that will become part of someone else's memory of *his* first steps in Masonry, what little thing will you do? I encourage all of you to come to the upcoming degrees if you can. Whether you take a part in a degree, give a thoughtful word of advice, or just are present on the sidelines, you are an important part of a new Brother's journey to Light.

Ted Smith
Junior Warden



2018 Dues Reminder

Now that we 3 months into 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

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:

Alan Carpenter	45 Years	03/12/1793
Jack Swenson	45 Years	04/12/1973
Douglas Larson	45 Years	04/25/1973
William Lockwood	45 Years	04/25/1973
LaVern Johnson	30 Years	04/25/1988
James Rieck	20 Years	03/20/1998
Scott Ludes	10 Years	03/22/2008
Jason Bergerson	10 Years	03/28/2008
Douglas Rhodes	10 Years	03/28/2008



Congratulations!

Did you Move or get a New Email?

Please don't forget to inform the Lodge, or any other appendant Masonic body, if you move or get a new email address. If you have an email and are getting printed versions of the newsletter, please contact the Lodge Secretary. Sending information via email helps us get information to you quicker and we can also add you onto our event calendar reminder list.

Submitted by: Steven Scheffert

The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, April 27, 2018. All articles for the May/June 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 July/August 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)



Daylight Savings!

It is that time again as on Sunday, March 11th Daylight Savings Time begins. Since it is in the Spring Time, we need to "Spring" our clocks 1 hour forward starting at 2:00 a.m.



2018 Name Badge Orders Update

Since our last newsletter, work continues to take our new Lodge logo and get it in a format that will work with our name badges. Once the work has been finalized, we will provide the information required to place an order.

Submitted by: Steven Scheffert

Chaplain Report

Happy Olympics to all Brothers and Friends of Mn River Valley #6,

Isn't it a bit odd how every 2 years we watch people we don't know, doing things we rarely know ourselves and because of National pride we cheer and shout and puff out our chest when they win? We get a chance to look inside their personal lives, given the opportunity to connect or identify with some of them. Yes, it's to draw us in and spend more time watching TV and sell more commercials. But still knowing that, some Olympians become real to us, they could be our neighbor's kid. Sometimes they actually are! So, when one of these athletes gets hurt doing something they love, they have worked hard to get to the Olympics, we empathize. Below is a list of Brothers we already know and care about, each of us asked to become their brother. I know you see some of them on every list I put forth, their need continues, empathy. We get used to an ever-shortening news cycle, if it's not newsworthy if it isn't the latest or worst thing to happen, it doesn't get attention. I won't continue, but our brothers continue to struggle with things they didn't ask for, things we can't prepare for.

- Rod Kirkwold's wife Ginny continues to need our thoughts and prayers. Rod can use our strength, wisdom and fortitude.
- WB Henry Schaffer continues his chemotherapy at Rochester Mayo, trial chemo has not worked as well as hoped. But his Doctors continue to search for the most effective treatment possible.
- WB Gordy Bane continues his care of his wife Patricia.
- Dallas Horesji and his sister are on continuous oxygen. Prayers of strength for both of them.
- Tony Haberle for his recent battle with seizures. Know that Faith and Hope are with you as you search for answers.
- Berlyn Tieg going through Physical Therapy for his recent knee replacement.
- WB Ed Morris of Lebanon who has been battling health issues after beating prostate cancer.
- Don Moy for his slow but continuous recovery from a very persistent condition.

- Most recently for the family of Jerry Maas who passed suddenly from an aneurysm. Jerry was formerly in Albert Pike Lodge in Hopkins, and became a MN River Valley brother in 2016, he loved being in the Shriners Corvette Club.
- WB Chris Brundage added another boy, Kevin, to his family. Kevin was born on February 26, 7lbs 20 inches long. Monica is doing well. AJ is doing well after a hernia surgery also.

Please keep not only these Brothers in your hearts but those brothers we don't know about. How, you might ask, in your thoughts and prayers each day let the Grand Architect of the Universe feel your empathy for those who need it. You in turn will feel his empathy for your hurts and sorrows. I believe we all feel more compassion for others after we have reached out to others to ease their journey in this world.

In Faith, Hope and Charity,
Tim Pray, Chaplain

33 & Beyond Movie Premier

Brethren,

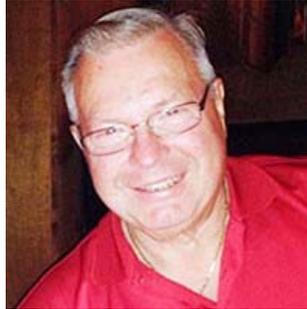
Greetings from Fergus Falls! I scheduled a Mpls premier of 33 & Beyond, The Royal Art of Freemasonry on Mon, March 26 at 7:30pm in Eden Prairie. I encourage you, your families and your Lodge to see this documentary movie together. It is also a great piece to share with prospective candidates and ask questions that they may have. Brother Johnny Royal is planning on being in attendance if we can sell out the reserved 75 seats before the deadline of March 16. Please help me spread the word by sharing on social media and at your next meeting or function. Thank you!

Here is the link: <https://gathr.us/s/22751>

Fraternally,
WB Russell Wolf Jr
Cornerstone Lodge 99
[701-526-6187](tel:701-526-6187)

The Roll of the Workmen Has Been Called!

And Edwin A. Reiners and Jerry L. Maas have not responded



Reiners, Edwin A. age 76, of Eden Prairie, lost his battle with cancer 20 Jan 2018. Ed was an Army Veteran, graduate of Mankato State University, carpenter, CEO of Signal Systems, and Manager at Savage American Legion. He was a past Chief of Staff for Zuhrah Shrine and a member of the Cycle Corp, Mariners, and Steel Drum Band. Ed was also a lifetime member of the Minnesota River Valley Masonic Lodge #6, the Plymouth Masonic Lodge #60, Knights of Columbus and Scottish Rite. He was made an Entered Apprentice on January 27, 1997, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on February 24, 1997 and raised to the degree of Master Mason on April 5, 1997



Jerry L Maas, age 79, of Eden Prairie, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, February 14, 2018. Jerry enjoyed a distinguished career in sales of petroleum products with Amoco/BP. Beginning his career pumping gas in high school and working his way through the Amoco Tower in Chicago. Jerry and Carol lived in several cities throughout the Upper Midwest during his career. Jerry was an avid fan of any activity his children and grandchildren participated. He rarely missed an opportunity to support his children and grandchildren in their passions. He was involved in many activities in his community. Jerry had a passion for youth sports such as t-ball, little league, and youth basketball. He was also involved several church programs as well as his home owners' association and was a member of the Masonic Order. Recently, Jerry was instrumental in developing the pickleball activities in the Eden Prairie area serving as local Ambassador of the USPA. While he served in many roles in various activities, he was known as a kind leader, with a gentle demeanor and a passion for action. He will be remembered for his welcoming smile, his warm embrace and mischievous sense of humor. He was made an Entered Apprentice on March 26, 1969, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 30, 1969 and raised to the degree of Master Mason on May 28, 1969.

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



March 2017

- 1st – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 6th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:00 P.M.
- 10th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 11th – Daylight Savings
- 14th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting.
- 17th – St. Patrick's Day
- 22nd – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 27th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 30th – Good Friday



April 2017

- 1st – Easter Sunday
- 3rd – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 10th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting
- 13th – 14th – 165th Grand Lodge of MN Annual
Communication.
- 13th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 24th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 26th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 27th – 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/>
