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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
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 hope this finds you dug and thawed from the snow. I recently was at one of our appendant Body's meetings. Job's Daughters to be exact. I was extremely overwhelmed. Overwhelmed by the excitement that I was there. Overwhelmed by how much of big deal (pomp and circumstance) that they made over me being there. Overwhelmed how excited they were to receive my wife (your wife can come to these meetings). But mostly overwhelmed, that I was the only Master Mason there (that wasn't required for them to open their meeting or a parent).

Brothers. I know we're all busy. It seems like as the years pass on the busier we get, at least that rings true for me. Masonry is truly one of the most important things in my life. I'm not saying that it should be that way to you. We all have different lives. But you joined Masonry for something. For some it was to get through the Blue Lodge to get onto something different that fit more to your lifestyle. For others it may have been a tradition (Dad, Grandfather, etc.). For some, such as myself, I wanted to be part of something great and fantastic. And it is and so much more.

As we all know, there are so many facets of Freemasonry. So many different directions that we can go. And one facet is the youth that is supporting us. Did you hear what I said? They're supporting us. It's supposed to be the other way around. You, as a Master Mason, are given charge of these young people.

At this past Grand Lodge (aka the Blizzard of '18) I heard Miss Minnesota Job's Daughter Nadia Peterson (she's like the Grand Master but for Job's (obviously)) speak. She spoke about how when she joined she was a shy girl who dreaded public speaking. She continued on about how going through the different positions had given so much confidence and now here she is. This gal spoke with the ease of a seasoned CEO addressing their company.

Continued on the next page

Greetings from the East, Continued

She continued discussing the friends she's made and some of the experiences that she learned from. I was absolutely blown away at her ease, poise and comfort speaking about the subject she decided to present to us. The subject was something that hit me right in the gut.

As Nadia started off thanking Grand Lodge for the opportunity to be there, and the audience for their attendance. Nadia continued to talk about how Job's Daughters is for girls 10 to 20 years old and to teach them things that they'll need or use in everyday life. She started in how Job's is now growing due to the fact that a girl no longer needs to have (family) Masonic ties to join. She just needs a Mason to sign off on her. She then went onto ask what if 100 Masons in the room would support one girl a piece. Not only would the girls heavily benefit, but how many of those girls' fathers, uncle, or grandfathers would learn about Masonry and become one themselves. Hmmm... that makes sense and is a heck of a good point.

She then asks all the Masons in the room to please stand (remember it's not tyled so there were many other people there, including my wife). She then asks that any the Masons that have been or are part of Bethel Guardian council to please sit down. Very few Brothers sat down. Nadia thanked those that sat. She then asked that any Mason whose been to a Bethel meeting to please sit down. I, along with very few Masons, sat down. She thanked us that sat. I was so ashamed. My stomach felt like I'd been punched. These are our Daughters! We're supposed to be here for them!

Nadia asked those that were remaining standing (which were many) a simple challenge to come out to one their meetings. To give the Jobies the opportunity to impress them. To show them how much fun they have. To show them that they need Masonic support, and how important it is to them. That they need this to teach them speech skills, social skills and more. She then asked those that were still standing to be seated. I was completely blown away by this gal. I was going to tell my wife so, and as I was leaning over to tell, I noticed she was smiling, tearing up and nodding at Nadia.

WOW! What a powerful statement this girl just made. When she was done there were many people daubing their eyes. But not one person was sitting as she concluded her speech to a standing ovation. Where was something like this when I was a kid? Nadia Peterson, I tip my hat to you. You are going places and I can't wait to see where. The world is truly her oyster.

Brothers, she's thrown the gauntlet down. I tell you what. I'm here to pick it and champion that cause. For us here in six, this is a no brainer. We HAVE a Bethel in our Lodge. Now to some point I can understand why some Brothers aren't attending. "I didn't know I could attend." "I never know when they meet." "I don't know much about them." Ok. I'm here to change all this. I'm here challenge YOU!

Yes! Any Master Mason can attend! This last meeting, due to Nadia Peterson, my wife attended with me. Your wife can and is encouraged to attend. The only thing you have to do is take a vow you won't share their secrets.

Their meetings are on our calendar. Now having said that, their calendar changes very often. I have access to their own personal calendar. You want to know? Ask me.

I understand not knowing much about them. Going to their meetings changes ALL of that. They're so much fun and full of energy (almost exhaustively). I'm telling you, you leave that meeting excited and full of ideas. It's so much fun

To have all of them and walk up to you, thank you for coming and asking if you're going to come back to the next meeting. And as you're speaking with them and look over you see some of the girls laughing, smiling and speaking with your wife.

As I said, we're supposed to be there for them. Instead of them being there for us.

I challenge you Brothers.

Love, harmony and peace I wish upon all of you Brothers

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



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, June 29, 2018. All articles for the July/August 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 September/October 2018 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,

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

From the West

As many of you know, my new role at work involves travel within a 30-state region. Most recently, this business travel took me to Cleveland the week of the NFL draft. To those that follow this annual event, it has evolved into a special holiday of prediction, statistics, and competition. Teams attempt to capture the best athlete that will help their team to become more successful in the coming year. Each team takes endless hours reviewing and combing over endless stakes of statistics, all to add the next player to make their organization better. Fans of individual team will stress over the anticipated selection process to the point of insomnia, eating disorder and just pure anxiety. Once certain selections are completed, these feelings quickly turn into revelation and joy or anguish and anger depending on their individual mindsets.

It's interesting how the NFL Draft and Masonry are polar opposites. Masonry looks to continually add good men not necessarily to better the organization but to Make Good Men Even Better. Masonry teaches us that all Masons are equals and not an organization of Superstars and Franchise players. Masons are also taught to help one another as opposed to competing against each other for selected positions. Masonry maintains the theme of Brotherly Love to one another. We are here to help one another. Our fraternity is based on the strength of the gathering of good men to promote the pillar of Masons. One additional member or one Mason alone can never match the strength and power that can be developed by a Brother working together with other Brothers for a common goal.

Continue to move forward to build a better man in yourself, a stronger Masonic Lodge, and an Better world to live in. Harmony being the Strength and Support of all societies, most especially of ours.

Donald Moy
Senior Warden
sw@mn-rivervalley.org



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met in March. We had a potluck supper and elections were held for the upcoming 2018-2019 year. The budget was reviewed and discussed. It was approved by the Chapter. On April 8th, we had our Installation of Officers. Kathy Smith was installed as Worthy Matron and Ted Smith as Worthy Patron. We had a good turn out on the sidelines despite the bad April weather. We had our first meeting of the new year on April 19th. The Junior Past Matron and Patron were honored. They were thanks for the great year they had and given a gift. The Worthy Patron gave a talk on the wild flower ginger. We all enjoy flowers, but don't know much about them. He gave us some interesting facts to think about.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



KC-Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting

Brethren,

We are once again beginning to plan for the **50th annual KC/Mason Chicken Dinner**.

We ask that you come and attend this planning event and enjoy in fellowship and join in the planning discussion. This year the KC's will be the host of the event. Typically, at the planning meeting and at the dinner event, the KC's have a much stronger showing than the Mason's, so it would be nice to turn the tables.

The planning meeting will be held on Monday, June 11th. Social is at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. A light meal will be provided.

This meeting will be held at Richter's Woods, in Montgomery, which is at the following location:

35672 173rd Ave
Montgomery, MN 56069

Stay tuned for the July/August issue of the Wayfarer for more information about the dinner itself.

Hiram Award Dinner

On Growth

On Saturday, January 6th, WB Chris Brundage presented W. Brother Keith Donaldson the 2017 Hiram Award. W. Brother Chris Brundage, 2017 Master of Minnesota River Valley Lodge No. 6, presented the Hiram Award, with the help of Grand Lodge Area Deputy Don Nolley and Grand Lodge District Representative Terrance Schaffer.



Now that spring has arrived (better late than never) and the snow is retreating from the gardens, I find myself pondering what I can do to get more from what I plant. What worked well in past years, what didn't. At Lodge we often ponder a similar question, what can we do to promote growth in the lodge? Not just growth in number of members, but growth in participation, growth in fellowship, and growth in ourselves. These are not isolated things.

Improvement in one of them affects the others as well. When a prospect joins us for dinner before a meeting and sees the camaraderie between us, does that not improve his opinion of us. Does not improving ourselves make us better members of our communities, and thus improve the reputation of our fraternity? If we only sat through business meetings, what would drive people to join, to stay active? While we must be mindful that we do not sacrifice who we are, what we stand for: Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth, we should look for new avenues for growth. Ideas come from all over the place. As has often been said, no one has a monopoly on good ideas. If you have an idea for encouraging growth and putting into practice those values inculcated within the lodge, I am sure that our line officers would love to hear from you. And if you have any advice for growing better tomatoes, I would love to hear that too.

Ted Smith
Junior Warden
jw@mn-rivervalley.org



2018 Name Badge Orders

Brethren,

The time has finally arrived, when we are now ready to accept orders for our new name badges with the new Lodge logo that was created. At the end of this newsletter you will find a form for your order. If you desire to have a new Lodge name badge, please turn your order form into WB Steve Scheffert prior to Friday, June 8th.

Submitted by: Steven Scheffert

Role of the Workman



James N. Underwood, age 95 of Shakopee, Minnesota, passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Emerald Crest in Shakopee.

Jim was born on July 15, 1922 in Smithville, Tennessee the son of Houston and Olivia (Patterson) Underwood. He married Evelyne Gay on December 20, 1941 in Smithville, Tennessee. Jim was a veteran of the United States Army and served during World War II. He was the owner of Underwood Construction where he worked with underground utilities.

Jim enjoyed his occupation, golfing was his sport, and he loved his family. His family always came first, and he was very generous to many causes. Many people have said, "that man meant so much to me!" Faith was very important to him as well.

"Jim was an overcomer, and faced many challenges in life, and figured out how to best deal with and handle them. And I know he overcame this last one as well. His faith in Jesus Christ gave him a confident hope and expectation for his future after his life here."

Brother James was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on February 9, 1962, Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on March 16, 1962 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on April 27, 1962.

Role of the Workman



WB Henry Schaefer of New Prague, passed away on Friday, April 13, 2018.

WB Henry went through the one day to Masonry on May 14, 2005. He went through the officer line of Minnesota River Valley #6 and was Master of the Lodge in 2011.

WB Henry is survived by his wife Rosalie, his three children; Michael, David and Rebecca. Henry was always smiling, unassuming and positive. He loved the Renaissance Fair, both Rosalie and Henry could be seen there enjoying the sights and sounds every year most every weekend, in costume. Henry loved cowboy boots. He has several pairs by the way. Did I mention his Corvette, he loved his Corvette. For sale by the way. Scotch, another favorite of his, that was the best time to hear a story from Henry, over a glass of scotch. Henry travelled a lot, sometimes for work. He worked with the corn growers on the Federal level, I'm a city boy and don't know these things, but many of you do. He was good at his job, so much that I don't think it was as much of a job for him as it was where he could try to make a difference for those around him, the farmers of Minnesota.

Henry was an "Ah shucks" kind of guy, you could tell who and what he was pretty easily, but that didn't mean he could be taken advantage of. He was open and giving. Henry will be missed by all.

Besides Henry and Rosalie's love for the Renaissance Fair they loved Glacier Park. In lieu of any gifts of flowers or such please donate to Glacier Park Conservancy, PO Box 2749, Columbia Falls, MT 59912 in memory of Henry H. Schaefer

Chaplain Report

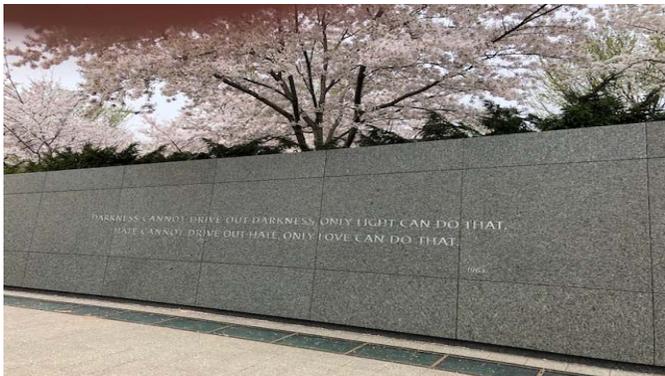
This year has seen too many brothers not answer the role call already; Ed Rieners, Henry Schaefer and Dick Friend to name a few. You may already be thinking of those Brothers who are in poor health or haven't been to lodge for a while because it's too difficult for them. Keep thinking of those brothers whom we don't see because of health issues. Those Brothers need our notes, calls and emails of encouragement. Charity isn't always about giving your money. The time you spend with someone is worth so much more. Brotherly love, the words and time you spend on them, to them can mean so much more than just giving money.

The following Brothers continue needing prayers and thoughts.

- WB Gordy Bane and his wife Patricia
- B Anthony Haberle
- B Dallas Horejsi and his sister
- B Rod Kirkwold and his wife Ginny

These Brothers are still dealing with health issues of various sorts.

Tim Pray, Chaplain



DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS,
ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT.
HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE,
ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.

Dr. Martin Luther King – A quote from his memorial in Washington DC.

Submitted by: WB Keith Donaldson - LEO

June 5th Stated Meeting

Brothers, our June Stated Meeting will be held at the Alfred E. Ames Lodge Room located within the Minnesota Masonic Heritage Center. The address is: 11411 Masonic Home Drive in Bloomington. The meeting will start at our regular time with dinner at 6:30 pm and the regular meeting starting at 7:30 pm. Dress will be suits and ties.

For this meeting we are giving our Stewards the night off. The menu will include:

- Boneless BBQ Ribs
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Pickles

The meal will be gluten free for those brothers who are concerned. The price for dinner is \$15.00 and is payable at the door or ahead of time.

We need your help, so please RSVP, if you plan on attending, by signing up on the following website:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49afa92eabfa7-june>

We need to supply a number to our caterer by May 25th, so please respond by then.

Also, please share this event with other Masons and Lodges that you are in contact with. This will be a very special event for our lodge since each lodge can only utilize the Ames Lodge Room once a year.

If you have any general questions about the event, please call me at 952-891-3423

Dan Ploenzke



Fraternal Lodge #92 Bowling Challenge

On January 28th, MRVL #6 again sent a team of bowlers to the 4th Annual Fraternal 92 Bowling Challenge sponsored by Fraternal Lodge #92 of Princeton, MN. Teams from 6 different lodges were represented. If there was an award for the lodge traveling the farthest distance to participate, we would have won.

This year MRVL #6 was represented by Worshipful Master James Wallin, Worshipful Brother Doug Rhodes, Brother Gerry Robison and Brother Dan Ploenzke. Each team was competing to win "**The 92**".

"Forged from old Tylers swords and the tears of Past Grand Masters, "**The 92**" is a huge trophy for a huge ego to be displayed at your lodge for one year along with the bragging rights that such a victory engenders. The winners will have their team's name placed on the trophy in a manner that will probably be visible for years to come and "**The 92**" is yours until it is challenged again next year."

- Fraternal Lodge 92 website

As in past years there are some really good bowlers. At MRVL #6 our we do bring a lot of fun and a wonderful sense of Masonic camaraderie. However, even though Worshipful Brother Doug started us off with 3 strikes, our bowling skills were no match for some of the lodges who bowl much more than once per year.

Every year we do learn something. This year Worshipful Master James did teach us that we probably did not have enough "libation". Next year we will try and match our liquid consumption intake with the number of strikes. Certainly, a designated driver will be helpful to return us safely.

It is rumored that Fraternal Lodge #92 also does host a golfing event later in the spring. Let us try and put together a foursome and again show the lodges north of the river how to have a good time.



Submitted by: Brother Dan Ploenzke

2018 Grand Lodge Session

Despite the blizzard that hit the metro area during the 2018 Grand Lodge session, our Lodge still had a strong showing. WM James Wallin, Brother Don Moy (SW) and Brother Ted Smith (JW) were there to represent our Lodge. Other Brethren that attended were WB Dennis Smith, WB Keith Donaldson, WB John Loutzenhiser and WB Steven Scheffert. For those that stayed long enough, we got to see our very own Brother Donald Moy be installed as the 2018 Grand Lodge Standard Bearer. His escort for the installation was WB John Loutzenhiser.



Congratulation Brother Don!

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 May and June 2018.

They are:

Robert Nasstrom	65 Years	06/08/1953
Donald Rieck	60 Years	05/20/1958
Craig Pederson	20 Years	06/27/1998
Michael Pierce	20 Years	06/13/1998
Tim Berg	15 Years	05/10/2003
Wayne Nagel	15 Years	06/21/2003
Jason Pierce	15 Years	06/21/2003
Joe Andrus	10 Years	06/14/2008
Paul Bergevin	10 Years	06/14/2008
Michael Fix	10 Years	05/31/2008
Geno Carlson	05 Years	05/18/2013
Dan Ploenzke	05 Years	05/18/2013



Congratulations!

June and September 2018 Stated Meeting Change Communication

Brethren of MN River Valley Lodge #6, please take notice that the June and September 2018 Stated Communication meetings are being changed to the following date, location and time:

June Meeting:

When: Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Location: Alfred E. Ames Lodge Room
11411 Masonic Home Dr.
Bloomington, MN 55437
Time: 6:30 p.m. Social and Stated Meeting
at 7:30 p.m.

September Meeting:

When: Tuesday, September 11, 2018
Location: Richter's Woods
35672 173rd Ave
Montgomery, MN 56069
Time: 6:00 p.m. Social and Stated Meeting
at 7:00 p.m.

The September meeting will be our annual Table Lodge/Meeting event.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact the Lodge Secretary.



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 June 8, 2018 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:



May 2018

- 1st – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting –
Dinner at 6:00 P.M.
- 3rd – Entered Apprentice Degree Practice
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting.
- 10th – 7:00 P.M. Entered Apprentice Degree
- 12th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn
Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley
- 13th – Mother's Day
- 22nd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 24th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 28th – Memorial Day



June 2018

- 5th – 7:30 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
– Dinner at 6:30 P.M.
- 7th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 9th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 11th – 6:00 P.M. KC/Mason Chicken Dinner
Planning Meeting
- 13th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting
- 17th – Father's Day
- 26th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided
- 28th – Reserved for Ritual Work
- 29th – 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/>
