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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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May/June 2020

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Lodge Location:

4821 West 124th Street
Savage, MN 55378

Stated Meeting Date and Time:

1st Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 P.M.

From the East

Sometime in life we get sunny days, other days all we see are clouds. The cloud of COVID-19 has descended upon us and for the immediate future has changed the way we live our lives. Due to COVID-19 we have had to cancel meetings, and it brought significant changes to the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge.

Due to limits on gatherings, the Annual Communication of Grand Lodge could not be held in person. The principle officers of the lodge were provided with credentials enabling them to log in and cast their votes over the internet. Highlights are as follows: MWB Ethan A. Seaberg has been installed as Grand Master. In addition to duties as District Representatives, WB Chris Wendover (Our current DR) has been installed as Grand Orator, and WB Terrance Schaffer (our former DR) has been installed as Grand Standard Bearer. On the topic of District Representatives, our own WB Keith Donaldson continues to serve as in that position. A complete summary will be read at our next stated Communication and is available on the Grand Lodge Website.

Our May 5th stated meeting has also been canceled due to COVID-19. While we all would like to be able to hold stated meetings and gather together again, it is important that we do not put our members at risk in doing so. As of this writing, the June Stated meeting is planned to be held at the Ames Lodge Room at the Masonic Heritage Center, but this may very well change as the response to COVID-19 plays out.

The Spring Table Lodge that had been planned for May of this year is on hold. Hopefully we will be able to safely have it at a later date.

Continued on the next page

From the East, Continued

We have to deal with the cloud of COVID-19 for right now. It causes us to be careful about going to the store. It causes many of us to wear masks whenever we leave our places of abode. It prevents us from gathering together in person. But it does not stop Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Remember the sun will rise again tomorrow even if we cannot see it.

Ted Smith
Master
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6
(952) 492-6977
master@mn-rivervalley.org



From the West

Make A Call

Just because we cannot meet together at the lodge does not mean that we do not continue our brotherhood. We need to take the time to call or visit all our brothers. By visiting, I am saying to social distance. You can sit at the end of a Brother's driveway and talk with them. We are finding new ways like Skype, Zoom, Google chat or Facetime to connect with each other. If you wish to reach out to a Brother that you have not talked to for some time and need their contact information, contact the Lodge Secretary for their information.

Brothers are staying at home because they are furloughed, working from home or just for their own safety. Others are working to keep our system running but are under a lot of stress, because of more workload or concern for theirs and their family's safety during these past few months. We are all in this together. You will find that these conversations are not just good for the Brother that you are making contact with but also for your own well-being.

Paul Bergevin
Senior Warden
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6
(763) 301-9877
sw@mn-rivervalley.org



From the South

Brothers – As I reflect on our current situation and ponder when we might be together again, I realize that every day is filled with uncertainty. In fact, just about every aspect of our daily lives might change unexpectedly, on any given day. As hard as it might be, it is my desire to live one day at a time and face each new challenge with the knowledge that I have a Masonic Lodge full of brothers who I can count on to lend a supportive hand, if I ever need it. With this in mind, I really like the words below that support a positive outlook ... one in which we all come out of this better and stronger. Where we can look forward to the day when we can be together again to enjoy the brotherhood of our fraternity.

“And”

“And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply.

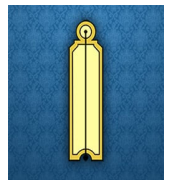
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people (our lodge) joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.”

-Unknown

Dan Ploenzke
Junior Warden
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6
(651) 295-1433
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Quote

I stopped looking for the Light and instead became the Light by becoming a Master Mason. - Unknown

The Wayfarer

OES Report

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, June 19th, 2020. All articles for the July/August 2020 issue are due by 5:00 p.m. on that day. Any articles that are received after the due date will be held over for the September/October 2020 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,

WB Steven Scheffert – WB James Wallin
(wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org)



May 2020 Stated Meeting Change Communication

Brethren of MN River Valley Lodge #6, please take notice that the **May 2020 Stated Communication meeting has been CANCELLED.**

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

WB Steve Scheffert
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Lexophiles for Thought

- 1.) A will is a dead giveaway.
- 2.) You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna a fish!

The Human brain is an amazing organ. It functions 24 hours a day from the day we are born and only stops when we are performing ritual



We did have a meeting in March prior to everything shutting down. Renaissance Chapter #313 met on March 12th. Copies of the budget for the upcoming year were passed out to all members. It was discussed and was decided to vote upon it at the next meeting. Election were held and new officers were elected for the new year. We were planning an installation on April 11th that would involve two Eastern Star Chapters being installed together. All activities for April and May have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, there is no set date of when we'll be able to meet next. Everyone please be safe, happy and healthy.

Submitted by Brad Smith



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 2020.

They are:

Robert Hannah	45 Years	06/11/1975
Philip Hvidsten	40 Years	05/28/1980
David Rima	30 Years	05/15/1990
Jacob Janikowski	35 Years	05/19/1990
Dennis Smith	30 Years	05/24/1990
Mark Treager	15 Years	05/14/2005



The Roll of the Workmen Has Been Called!

And Brother Donald E. Hegreberg has not responded.



Brother Don passed away peacefully on March 22nd.

He was born in Willmar, MN, and grew up on the family farm. At 17, he enlisted in the Army and spent time in Colorado, Washington, Korea, Missouri, Texas, and Germany. After 6 1/2 years, he was honorably discharged and returned to Minnesota. He worked at Toro Manufacturing for 24 years but left there to become a full-time beekeeper, which he loved doing. That was truly his calling in life. He was a member of the Minneapolis Farmer's Market where the family sold his honey for nearly 40 years. Seventeen years ago, he discovered Arizona and loved spending the winter months there, especially sitting on the back patio watching all the birds and wildlife and going to the pool to swim every day.

Brother Don is survived by his wife Mary. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Brother Don was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on November 20, 1999, Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on November 20, 1999 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on November 20, 1999.

May the blessing and comfort of our Heavenly Father be and abide with us all and give to each of us courage, strength and fortitude to meet and perform life's appointed tasks so that when we depart this life we may enter into eternal life, rest and peace in our Heavenly Home.

The Roll of the Workmen Has Been Called!

And Brother Donald H. West has not responded.



Brother Donald passed away on Thursday, April 23, 2020 at Auburn Manor in Chaska. A private graveside service will be held by his immediate family.

Don was born March 18, 1923 in Maple Plain Minnesota, the 4th child of John and Caroline (Hubbert) West. He graduated from Mound High School in Mound, MN and went on to join the US Army during WWII, where he obtained his pilot license. He went on to obtain his MBA from Trinity University in Texas. He became a teacher and taught many years at Chaska High School until his retirement. His career also included Co-owning a TV repair business, crop dusting, flight instructor and running the Wassena Resort in Pequot Lakes, MN. He was a member of the Chaska Moravian Church, lifetime member of the American Legion, Mason & Shriner. He was Sheriff for one day in Bexar County in Texas on July 12, 1948. He loved golf, fishing, and spending time in Texas in the winters and his cabin on Little Pelican in the summer. Spending time with family and friends was important to him. There was nowhere Don would go that he did not meet someone that he knew. On April 1, 1949 he married Eunice Hoegenauer in San Antonio, TX. They had 2 children. He is survived by his wife Eunice. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Brother Donald was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on January 25, 1962, Passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft on February 8, 1962 and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on March 10, 1962.

COVID-19 Update from the Grand Master

by Grand Secretary | Apr 30, 2020



In our on-going desire to protect the safety and health of our members, as well as to be a partner in global efforts to slow the community transmission of COVID-19, the following directives are to take immediate effect in this Jurisdiction:

- (1) The current suspension of all Lodge activities is to extend through Sunday, May 31st, 2020. This includes, but is not limited to, Stated Communications, Special Communications, and special ceremonies of Minnesota Lodges.
- (2) In order to allow for the continuation of normal business, all usual and customary expenses of a Lodge may be paid with approval of the elected officers during this period. Phone and email are acceptable means of communication with one another, and decisions shall be recorded by the Secretary.
- (3) Over time, non-budgeted expenses and unforeseen issues will doubtless arise. As they do, Lodges are directed to contact the Grand Secretary's office to submit requests for dispensation.
- (4) As a reminder, tyled meetings are not to be conducted electronically in this Jurisdiction. However, Lodges are absolutely encouraged to use all available resources, including virtual gatherings, to remain engaged and connected and fraternal.

As I have said previously, in this fluid time know that these directives may change on short notice. Keep watch for updates and revised guidance, and reach out to your District Representatives with questions or concerns.

It is likely that the Governor of Minnesota will soon announce modifications to the current stay-at-home and other orders. However, the unique nature of our Fraternity, its Ritual and a membership made up of so many in high-risk groups, demands we thoughtfully consider how best to reopen our Lodges. With member safety in mind, please spend these next weeks doing just that, and contact the Grand Lodge office as inevitable questions arise.

Just yesterday I received a call, a welfare check, from a dear Brother working through his call list. I cannot overstate how well received that call was. Please continue to check on each other, engage as you're able in community and charity, and use this time to be just exactly what you are . . . Masons.

Fraternal regards,
Ethan A. Seaberg
Grand Master



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



May 2020

Brothers, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Masonic activities are cancelled for the month of May. Please stay safe, sane, happy and healthy!



June 2020

Brothers, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Masonic activities for the month of June are unknown at this time. May every moral cement us and Brotherly Love prevail.

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/>
