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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 22, Issue 04

July/August 2020

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### Lodge Location:

4821 West 124<sup>th</sup> Street  
Savage, MN 55378

### Stated Meeting Date and Time:

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7:00 P.M.

### From the East

These turbulent times remind me of a ship being tossed about in stormy seas. Sea captains have been aided by a gimbal that held the instrument stable, independent of the state of the seas, enabling them to find their destination. We too should emulate this compass mount and attempt to maintain our bearings and direction so we too may find a course to our destination through the ups and downs of life.

While Covid-19 has greatly limited Lodge activities, there are still some things going on. In place of our regular Stated and Steering Meetings, we have been having virtual meetings that have allowed us to discuss what the lodge is doing, similar to our in person Steering Meetings. Special thanks to our virtual Tyler, B. Jay Moran for setting up meetings via Webex and Zoom for us. The current recommendation from grand lodge is to not hold meetings if attendance at meetings was normally more than 12 people. Since we normally had more than 12 in attendance, we will be continuing the practice of having virtual gathering. This does mean that the July 7<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting is canceled, and we will have a virtual gathering in its place.

There are still some in person activities going on. Roadside Cleanup was June 27<sup>th</sup>, and a planning meeting for the KC/Mason Chicken Dinner is being worked on for July, with the hopes of being able to hold the Chicken Dinner in September. We will have to wait and see if we will be allowed to have the Dinner. One other item that I am going to do in person is clean out the Refrigerators at the Lodge.

I have received some advice on cleaning, including double bagging and using a clothespin.

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## From the East, Continued

It is too bad that removing four-month-old food can't be done remotely, but such are the ups and downs of life.

Stay safe and healthy, and may you always have a steady compass to guide you.

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



## The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. All articles for the September/October 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 November/December 2020 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,  
WB Steven Scheffert – WB James Wallin  
([wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org](mailto:wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org))



## Walking in someone else's shoes

As we have experienced, having to stay home from the COVID-19, layoffs, loss of people close to us (not being able to mourn like we have before) and Rioting/Protests in the streets. Things seem to be out of “wack” and backwards recently. As Masons, we need to think deeper and not get lost in the gray areas. Find clarity and be the light for others. If you are aware of a brother or neighbor in need, reach out to them and lend a hand. It can be as simple as bringing the newspaper to their door or making a phone call to just say “hi”. Put yourself in their shoes for a moment and think about what you would like to have a brother, or a friend do for you if you were dealing with their situation. I think we have a lot of Pride that we don't need someone else's help. I can do it on my own, right? Maybe? You don't have to! It is alright to ask for help or when someone that cares for you takes the time to reach out, it is OK to let them help you or just have a conversation to talk out some ideas that you may not have thought of.

As I have been laid off for the first time in my working career, I want to thank those that have reached out to see how things are going and sending me job opportunities that they have run into. I really appreciate those gestures, they might seem simple, but they go a long way. I know that other Brothers are experiencing the same thing or have in the recent past lost a job. Those Brothers can pass along advice to people like me. I will be able to help others from my experiences.

Example, I almost took a position that I would have regretted. I bounced ideas and thoughts off of friends and Brothers. They suggested that I dig deeper into the company and look at reviews of the management on LinkedIn, The Ladders and GlassDoor. I was so focused on the product and selling myself to the Company to get working again that I missed diving deeper into how they go to market. I would have been miserable working there. I was lucky enough to make contact with a recent Sales Manager, who had work there for a year and was just laid off. The reviews are one thing but for someone to send me their phone number and talk about the everyday experience of what it is like to work there. I had a whole new set of questions to ask them the next time we met and found that it was not a mutual fit for me or for them. Thanks to those that were available to bounce thoughts and ideas off of to give me better clarity. I have had many other interviews and I am better prepared when I have those meetings in person or via online video interviews. I am waiting for an offer next week, hoping my search will be over for a while.

That is just my experience, we have Brothers that have been isolated for Months now. Make a call to them! We have others that have been ill or have family members that are ill. Reach out!

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## From the West, Continued

Send a card or a Facebook message to let them know that people care about them. These are very unusual times we are in. We need to be the example of how we can be extraordinary as Masons! Put yourself in their shoes. Shed some of your **Light** on them so they can see better!

Your Senior Warden  
From the West looking East!

Paul Bergevin  
Senior Warden  
Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6  
(763) 301-9877  
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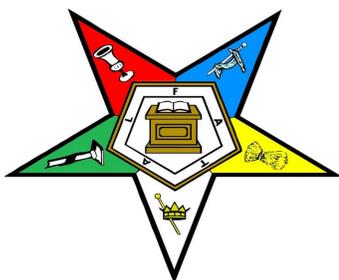


## OES Report

### July/August Renaissance Chapter 313

Renaissance chapter #313 did not meet in April or May due to Covid-19. We plan on having a meeting in July if Governor Walz allows groups of ten or more to meet. We have spoken with a number of members who have agreed to come to a meeting if it is held. During said meeting, we plan on installing the 2020 – 2021 officers. Ravelle Smith would be installed as Worthy Matron and Brad Smith as Worthy Patron. We're hopeful monthly meetings can and will continue after that.

Submitted by Brad Smith



## From the South



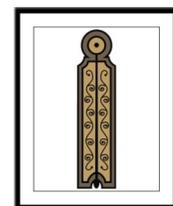
Brothers – It is summer. Many of you have already cleaned out your boats and prepared to enjoy one of the most beloved Minnesota pastimes – fishing. Both the boat and motor probably laid dormant all winter long. As with all gasoline engines the boat motor probably required maintenance, persistence and perhaps patience to restart again for the boating / fishing season.

My son recently acquired a 2½ horsepower boat motor from his uncle. This motor has been in storage for many, many years. The motor had been previously owned by my son's maternal grandfather and used on the back of a canoe when he went duck hunting. We are not talking about a number of months that the motor was in storage, but decades.

I am thinking that this is a fitting analogy to Masonry today as we are “in storage” during the pandemic. When we are again able to have meetings, it will feel like we are trying to start an old motor that has been in storage for decades. It will take maintenance, persistence and patience to re-start this beloved motor. However, it is mostly going to require all of us to use the Strong Grip of a Mason and collectively grab the pull cord together.

To re-start our Masonic engine, when the timing is right, your attendance and involvement in our Lodge is now more than ever encouraged. Yes, we will all still need to be safe together, just as when you are in a boat you have a life jacket available. However, if we all support the cadence of regular meetings, MRVL #6 can be re-started with enough horsepower (manpower) to ensure our success going forward.

Dan Ploenzke  
Junior Warden  
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## July 2020 Stated Meeting Change Communication

Brethren,

On behalf of our Master, WB Ted Smith, we wish to communicate that we are cancelling the scheduled, in-person Stated Communication, which was to be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Savage Masonic Center. For those that can participate, a virtual meeting will be held in lieu of any in-person meeting. The virtual meeting information will be communicated, to those that we have email addresses for, as we get closer to the meeting date.

If you have an email address and are not receiving any electronic communications from the Lodge, please reach out to the Secretary to provide him your email address and to be added to these communications.

We will continue to communicate any potential changes to all future events as they get closer.

If you have any immediate business for our Lodge, please reach out to WB Ted Smith at (952) 649-8464 to discuss.

Regards,

WB Steve Scheffert  
sec@mn-rivervalley.org



### Lexophiles for Thought

- 1.) The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large!
- 2.) I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

## From Most Worshipful

Brethren:

The State of Minnesota moved to Phase III of its COVID-19 Stay Safe MN plan in mid-June. That plan is broken down by “Setting”, as in social or business, etc., and the Grand Lodge sought clarification from the State on which setting was the best fit for Masonic Lodges. We were given a few options from which to choose, and our COVID Committee recommended selecting “Places of Worship, religious services, weddings, and funerals”. While I naturally hesitate to equate Freemasonry with religion, operationally our Lodges are quite similar to places of worship (though for the sake of emphasis I will qualify without dogma, sacrament, or promised paths to salvation).

With the previous information in mind, I hereby authorize the following updates to the May 28th, 2020 “Returning to In-Person Masonry” edict:

(1) Constituent Lodges shall be considered “Places of Worship, religious services, weddings, and funerals” for the purpose of determining meeting capacity. Currently, the capacity is set at 50%, though that percentage and all other COVID restrictions and guidance are subject to change.

(2) Lodges wishing to open shall do so under the terms and conditions of the attached “Grand Lodge of Minnesota – COVID-19 Preparedness Plan” dated July 1st, 2020. Among the changes from May’s document, including naming it our Preparedness Plan for the purpose of Stay Safe MN compliance, its most substantive update is a provision for balloting on petitions for the Degrees of Freemasonry.

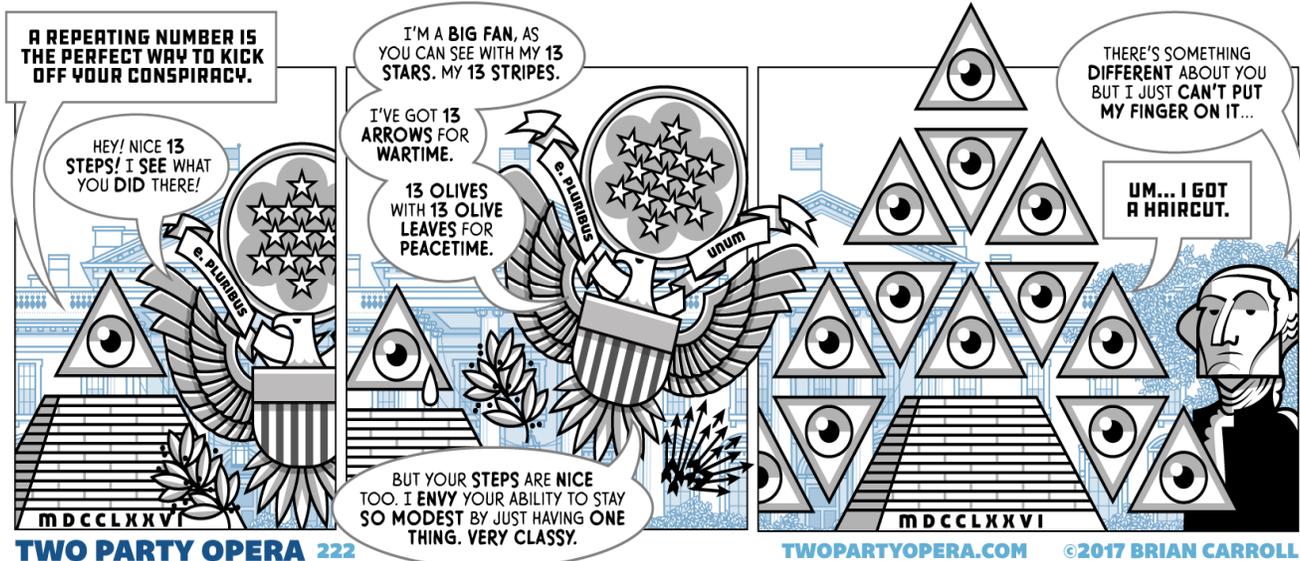
While this move to 50% capacity will allow most of us to meet in Lodge once again, it cannot be as before the pandemic. Social distancing will be maintained, masks will be worn, and cleaning will continue. Please make liberal use of the Covid-19 Meeting Compliance checklist for quick reference. [Note: if your local Fire Marshal has not calculated maximum capacity for your Lodge spaces, a resource is linked for that purpose on the bottom of the checklist.]

As I have done previously, I thank both our COVID Committee and the Masons of Minnesota for working so hard to keep Masonry, and our dear Masonic family, as safe as we’re able. Please contact your District Representatives should you have specific questions in this pandemic environment, and I pray for your continued health and safety as we wade through this viral time together.

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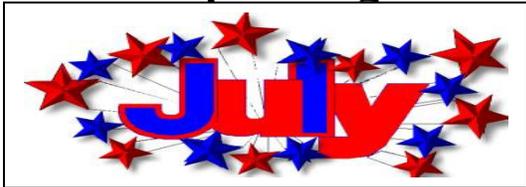
To all of my Brothers, Happy Independence Day. Please remember all those that have sacrificed so much for us to enjoy such a wonderful, beautiful country! Cheers!

WB James Wallin.



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



### July 2020

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day
- 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Virtual Meeting – Information provided prior to the meeting.
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting. (Virtual Meeting)
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Virtual Steering Committee Meeting – Information provided prior to the meeting.



### August 2020

- 4<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting (Virtual or In-Person TBD)
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting. (Virtual Meeting)
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Articles Due for the Wayfarer.
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Virtual Steering Committee Meeting – Information provided prior to the meeting.

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/>

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