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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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November/December 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

In my last article I wrote about a high adventure trip I took. I mentioned loading most of the gear into the canoe, leaving what gear we left behind as a story for another time. Now is as good a time as any to tell you what item we missed. It was a small shovel. Now many of you may wonder why that would have been needed. Our travels in the Boundary Waters took us into Canada. While on this side of the border campsites have primitive toilet facilities, in Canada you have to dig your own facilities. Needless to say, our trip went well, at least until lunch when someone had need for the shovel. With a good deal of hurry, we searched our gear, and not finding a shovel, came up with the next best thing... a slotted spoon. We made good use of the slotted spoon on that trip, just not how it was originally intended to be used. The world can throw us problems we do not see coming, and we have to make do the best we can.

COVID-19 has certainly been causing problems this year, and we continue to adapt as best we can. We have held Stated meeting in person, and while attendance is down from pre-COVID levels, we have been able to get a quorum without trouble. November's Stated meeting should see the approval of next year's budget, and nominations for elections. December's Stated meeting will hold elections for next year's officers. December will also see the Widow's Baskets going out. This year we will be doing things a little different for our widow's. Due to safety concerns, we will be avoiding in person visits. While we know that everyone involved will miss the visits, we must do what we can to protect others.

Continued on the next page

From the East, Continued

Another area that COVID has forced us to adapt is the manner of conferring degrees. While individual lodges are not able to put on degrees, the Grand Lodge has arranged for the First Degree to be put on in a safe manner, and has been putting on the First Degree in various locations around the state. As I am writing this, I am looking forward to seeing a degree in Mankato. This means that by the time you read this, barring any unforeseen events, our lodge will have a new Entered Apprentice.

While the world throws us challenges that we have to adapt to, we should also learn from these challenges, so as to better prepare for our future. This was not lost on the guide on my High Adventure trip to the Boundary Waters. After supper one night late in the trip, the guide went to work with a file etching a crosshatch pattern into the handle of the spoon. When asked about this, he explained that he wanted to be able to identify the spoon in case he was ever issued it in the future.

Ted Smith
Master
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The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Thursday, December 18, 2020. All articles for the January/February 2021 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 March/April 2021 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,
WB Steven Scheffert –
wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org



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 November and December 2020.

They are:

Keith Reick	25 Years	12/05/1995
Shaun Wigfield	15 Years	12/07/2005
Eddie Kidwell	05 Years	11/14/2015



2020 Dues Reminder

It's that time of year Brothers. If you have yet to do so, please remember to pay your dues. 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 2020 dues, please contact the Lodge Secretary. We do accept credit card payments, via PayPal. A small fee will be applied to your dues to offset the cost of this service.

WB Steve Scheffert
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Quote

There are no strangers in Freemasonry, only friends you've yet to meet.

Dave Thomas

From the West

The more things Change the more they stay the same, We need to be the Change.

As we look at our Lodge and as we move forward with the transition to new leadership, we are still having to deal with the COVID-19 restrictions for meetings. We will continue meetings with the EA degree opening and closing, I would guess this will be until May or June. It is my hope that More Brothers will be comfortable to attend the meetings with the Social distancing and mask requirements. We miss our fellowship with each and every one of you!

I would like to start calling chains, we need to keep in touch with all our members more often. I will call Brothers to make consistent calls to their Brothers and rotate the chains to have Brothers call Brothers that they normally do not communicate with. We have an opportunity to become an even better Lodge by getting to know each other intimately. By sharing ourselves with one another we all become better!

As we are having to shelter ourselves more and more, as the winter has come early this year, everyone's need for Brotherly Love and Affection is greater. Have a willingness to share ourselves with one another. Change our pattern of isolation to one of openness. It is healthier for all of us to stretch a little and give a little more of ourselves for the betterment of a Brother.

It is my desire in 2021 to bring men's health discussions to our Lodge. Not just the Physical like Prostate, Testicular or Colon checkups, but also the Mental health of men like Depression, Alcoholism or Life Balance. As men, we typically push our personal wellness to the back burner for whatever reason until it forces you to do something or it may be too far along to come back from it. I think with these subjects we can present them to our lodge or even our community via online or in person.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Senior Warden
Paul Bergevin
sw@mn-rivervalley.org



From the South

Please Take Care of Yourself

During the COVID pandemic, where we are spending most of our time sheltering in place, I want to make a call-out to my Brothers to please take care of yourself. It is quite possible that the next few months will be worse than what we have already experienced. Below are some thoughts that I felt were timely to share:

1. Walk whenever and wherever you can

To stay fit and healthy, you need to be more active and rely less on taking car rides and using the elevator. Walk when you are going to a nearby store; walk when getting coffee; use the stairs in your office or apartment building as often as possible; take a break from your desk and walk around for even at least five minutes.

2. Cut down your workout time

Exercise is important to stay fit and healthy and you being busy will not change that fact. What you can do, though, is shorten the time required for you to exercise. A high-intensity 20 to 30-minute workout daily is better than exercising twice a month or perhaps not exercising at all.

3. Plan and prep your meals ahead of time

Preparing nutritious home-cooked meals can be time-consuming. But eating well is key to staying fit and healthy. So, how can you eat well despite being busy? Set aside at least 1-2 hours per week to plan and prep your meals. By the time you want a healthy meal, you can just pop out whatever you have already prepped and start re-heating or cooking it. Fast and easy.

4. Say goodbye to the bad guys

To stay fit and healthy even when busy, try decreasing the amount of junk foods that you consume, especially liquids that can contain a lot of sugar. Liquid calories are quite sneaky, with a huge percentage of the sugar we consume coming from our drinks.

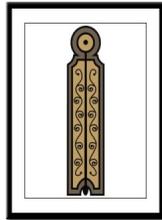
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5. Never fall short of sleep

Our sleeping habits are really crucial to keeping ourselves fit and healthy in the long-term. The quantity and quality of sleep we get is important but many of us do not prioritize sleep enough.

Some of you might feel you are too busy to take care of yourself. Others may feel less motivated because they have too much free time on their hands. Brothers, we sincerely care for each other during this most difficult time. I hope these reminders might be helpful so that we all can take care of ourselves physically and survive this horrible pandemic.

Junior Warden
Dan Ploenzke
jw@mn-rivervalley.org



Lexophile's for Thought!

Have you heard?! Corduroy pillows are making headlines!!

R.I.P. Boiling water. You will be mist.

Perpetual Masonic Life Memberships

Have you ever thought about a Perpetual Life Membership with your Lodge? Life memberships can offer a Brother a one-time or multiyear payment(s) to be made to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota (not your current Lodge) based upon an age factor number that they provide times the current dues rate of your Lodge. Then each year when your Lodge dues cards come out, you will receive your dues card from your Lodge Secretary and no future payment would be required, regardless of what the dues for the year are. The prepaid dues are only good for the Lodge that you apply for, so if you belong to multiple Lodges and want to have a Life Membership with each one, then you would need to submit an application for each Lodge and pay the respective amount.

If you are interested in this option, feel free utilize the [Pre-Paid Dues \(Life Membership\) Brochure](#) (click the link) that is provided by the Grand Lodge. If you interested in this option and are not able to access the brochure, then contact your Lodge Secretary for a copy of it.

Steven Scheffert
sec@mn-rivervalley.org
402-960-3629

Chapter #313 met on September 17th. It was Rob Morris night. All Eastern Star Chapters honor Rob Morris at their September meetings. The worthy patron gave a talk on his incredible life. He was a man of many talents - teacher, author, poet, lawyer, songwriter, and the founder of Eastern Star.

The chapter met twice in October. At the first meeting we had two visitors from other chapters. We always enjoy having visitors and it is fun to go to other chapters. The Worthy Patron gave a talk on women's right to vote. This is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave all women this important right.

At the second meeting we gave some money to our upcoming charity benefit. We are Renaissance Chapter, and the Worthy Patron gave a talk on entertainment during the renaissance era. No movies, television, radio, or computers back then. Some things that were considered entertainment like public humiliation (the stockade) and executions are a thing of the past.

We look forward to our next meeting in November.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



Brethren,

In case you missed it, within the May/June 2020 issue of "The Minnesota Mason" it was communicated to everyone that the Grand Lodge of MN has moved to a new database system called "Grand View". I want to reshare with you the two communications that were provided in the newsletter. One of the communications explains the system and the other communication is a step by step instructions to register as a member into the system.

I would like to encourage everyone to work on getting registered into the system, so that you can help us manage your contact information, pay your dues or for events, etc. We are also looking at using other features of the system for communications, such as meeting minutes, events, etc. so having you registered in the system will help ensure that you receive them.

In the step by step instructions on how to register, there are two links that you can access.

1. Video Link – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx-WliihfcM>
2. Login Website – https://mn.grandview.systems/users/sign_in

In step #5 for registering, if you do not have the 5-digit Member ID number on your dues card, please email me and I will provide it for you. – Steve Scheffert (sec@mn-rivervalley.org)



Grand Lodge of Minnesota GRAND VIEW

Your Grand Lodge Officers are pleased to announce that we have engaged Grand View Systems to provide membership management and communications systems for our jurisdiction.

Grand View is a state-of-the-art system that will replace our existing databases and allow us to enhance management and communication at the Grand Lodge, Lodge, and individual member levels. They have been in business for several years and are currently serving more than 30 Grand Lodges.

As an active member, you will have access to update and correct your contact information, set communication preferences, and update other personal information, including birth date, place of birth, and occupation. Members will also have access to the private member portal where you can find lodge meetings throughout the state, get information on lodge events, and access educational materials.

This system is designed to distribute access and control of lodge records down to the lodge secretary. Your Lodge Secretary will have access to your member record to make changes to history and office positions.

In addition to the record management features, Grand View also provides communication abilities for Lodges to create posts and events that are automatically emailed to the members who use email and mail merge letters for those that do not.

We hope you are as excited as we are about this new endeavor.

Grand Lodge of Minnesota GRAND VIEW

HOW TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER

Grand View Procedure

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hx-WliihfcM>

- Step 1 – Enter the url for your jurisdiction:
<https://mn.grandview.systems>
- Step 2 – Click on Member Portal
- Step 3 – Click on Member Registration
- Step 4 – Enter your Lodge Number
- Step 5 – Enter your Member ID
(5-digit Grand Lodge ID number from top left of your 2020 dues card)
- Step 6 – Enter your Last Name (case sensitive)
- Step 7 – Click on Check Membership Status
- Step 8 – Enter your Email Address
- Step 9 – Enter a Password that you can remember
- Step 10 – Enter Confirmation by entering password again
- Step 11 – Click on Submit

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



November 2020

- 3rd – 6:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 11th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 14th – 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 – Thanksgiving



December 2020

- 1st – 6:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
- 5th – 2:00 P.M. Installation of Officers
- 12th - 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 18th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer.
- 22nd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting
- 24th – Christmas Eve
- 25th – Christmas Day
- 31st – New Year's Eve

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/>
