



[HTTP://WWW.MN-RIVERVALLEY.ORG](http://www.mn-rivervalley.org)

THE WAYFARER

MN RIVER VALLEY LODGE #6

“PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL
GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M. OF MINNESOTA”

Volume 24, Issue 01

January/February 2022

Lodge Officers:

Master – Dan Ploenzke
(651) 295-1433
master@mn-rivervalley.org

Senior Warden – Gerry Robison
(612) 865-8684
sw@mn-rivervalley.org

Junior Warden – Joe Andrus
(952) 432-1660
jw@mn-rivervalley.org

Treasurer – Matt Kreger
(612) 961-7141
treas@mn-rivervalley.org

Secretary – WB Steven Scheffert
(402) 960-3629
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

Chaplain – WB Don Moy
(612) 799-8877
chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org

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

Brothers –

As we begin another year, as Brothers, and as Minnesota River Valley Lodge #6, we are at the doorstep of a very important year. As your Master, I want to encourage us to regain some of the traditions which have been paused because of the pandemic. At the same time, 2022 is also a year where we can explore how to improve the Masonic experience for both the Brothers and their families.

Surprising as it may be, and dependent on the current investigations, we may have up to six new Entered Apprentices, plus another five additional new inquires. Interest in Masonry, and our lodge in particular, is extremely high. As such, and with the assistance of the Mentoring and Membership Committee, we have the extremely pleasant task of growing our lodge and ensuring that we make Masonry relevant for all our new Brothers.

I am reminded by a story from an unusual source. Please let me introduce you to Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the Soviet Union. Upon the end of his Presidency, he revealed that he had never planned to do great things, such as the disbanding of the Soviet Union and leading his country towards a democratic society. While he studied at the University of Moscow, he was exposed to the principles of democracy. Those principles stayed in his mind for many years.

As his professional life changed from year to year, he found himself in politics and he kept working, making little changes in his life, until the day when he was selected to become the President of the Soviet Union.

Continued on the next page

From the East, Continued

At that time, he realized that he had the power and desire to change the world, as it was then. And change it he did, drawing on those principles of democracy that he was exposed to in his formative years at the University of Moscow so many years before.

When I joined this fraternity, I had no thoughts of becoming any type of officer. Personally, I joined the fraternity for the friendship and my interest in the historical nature of our traditions. I saw the type of men that were Masons and I enjoyed being around them.

I never planned on becoming Worshipful Master. But like the captain of a ship, who never sees the port to which he is sailing. He continually makes small course corrections to finally reach his destination.

By “going through the line” to serve our Lodge, and by the little course corrections I made over the years, prompted by my Brothers of the Lodge, I now find myself standing before you.

This is how I want to approach this year. With the renewed interest in our Lodge, let us now take advantage of this opportunity. As I stand here today, as Master of the Lodge, I have two primary initiatives:

- 1) To encourage “fun” and reengage our Lodge in the many activities that have had to be postponed over the last two years.
- 2) To ensure our new Brothers have a positive, rewarding experience as they begin their Masonic journey.

The year is just beginning. With my sincere gratitude, and humility, I look forward to my year as Master. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Fraternally,
Master
Dan Ploenzke
(612) 282-5948

master@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 January and February 2022.

They are:

Charles Richter	55 Years	01/30/1967
David Scheffert	45 Years	02/26/1977
Gary Goodwin	40 Years	02/06/1982
Brad Koskie	40 Years	02/13/1982
Paul Peterson	30 Years	02/11/1992
Richard Hervieux	15 Years	01/20/2007
Anthony Haberle	05 Years	01/21/2017
Rod Kirkwold	05 Years	01/21/2017
Ron Zappetillo	05 Years	01/21/2017



2022 Dues Reminder

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 2022 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. You can also pay on the Grand Lodge website!

WB Steve Scheffert
sec@mn-rivervalley.org

From the West

NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS ARE NOTHING NEW

New Year's resolutions actually go back to ancient times! In 2000 B.C., the Babylonians celebrated the New Year during a 12-day festival called Akitu, the vernal equinox. This was the start of the farming season to plant crops, crown their king, and make promises to pay their debts. One common resolution was the returning of borrowed farm equipment (which makes sense for an agriculturally based society). New Year's resolutions were also made in the Middle Ages. Medieval knights would renew their vow to chivalry by placing their hands on a peacock. The annual "Peacock Vow" would take place at the end of the year, as a resolution to maintain their knightly values.

Over the years, however, resolutions seem to have migrated from denying physical indulgences to general self-improvement, like losing weight. While it may seem superficial, medical sociologists suggest that today's resolutions are also a reflection of status, financial wealth, responsibility, and self-discipline—which isn't that different from how the New Year's resolution tradition began.

In the United States, New Year's resolutions are still a tradition, but the type of resolutions have changed. Resolutions in the early 1900s were more religious or spiritual in nature, reflecting a desire to develop stronger moral character, a stronger work ethic, and more restraint in the face of earthly pleasures.

Resolutions From 1947 — Gallup Poll

1. Improve my disposition, be more understanding, control my temper
2. Improve my character, live a better life
3. Stop smoking, smoke less
4. Save more money
5. Stop drinking, drink less
6. Be more religious, go to church more often
7. Be more efficient, do a better job
8. Take better care of my health
9. Take greater part in home life
10. Lose (or gain) weight

Today's Resolutions

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit and healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others fulfill their dreams
9. Fall in love (seems odd that someone can plan this)
10. Spend more time with family

So, if you make one or many New Year's resolutions, good luck. If you make none, good luck. Either way, have a great start to 2022. Happiness and prosperity to all.

Gerry Robison
Senior Warden
MRVL#6

sw@mn-rivervalley.org



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday 18, 2022. All articles for the March/April 2022 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 May/June 2022 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,
WB James Wallin –
wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org



Lodge Education Officer

LEO Presentation

Greetings all! In case you haven't heard, I've stepped into the role of Lodge Education Officer. I'd like to thank WB Ted, and all LEO's that have come before me, for the work that has been done to bring light to the brothers in their pursuit of making themselves better. Ever since WM Dan asked if I would take on this responsibility, I have been thinking about what it would mean to me and how I would try and continue this tradition of education for the good of the lodge. Then, at some point in mid-December or so I had a thought that maybe I was over thinking it. It is pretty straightforward what we're all here to do, and it is explicitly stated as we open our 1st degree. We are here to learn to subdue our passions and improve ourselves in masonry.

There are 2 key words in that line that I plan on focusing on over the coming year, Learn and Improve. The nice thing about both of those words is that they are concepts of action. Learning and improving never stop. Nobody is perfect and nobody knows everything, so the process is ongoing. To that end, if anybody has ideas for something they want to present in Lodge during the LEO presentation to help us all learn and improve, just let me know.

For this installment of the education portion I'd like to direct you, especially our new officers, to the Grandview site under the Seminars section (https://mn.grandview.systems/public_members/seminars). Once you are there find the "Build a Better Beehive" series for your new position. I would recommend that all new officers review the presentation for your position. Then, when time allows, review the presentations for all of the other positions in the line.

This would also be good for any other member of the lodge as you will better know what the positions mean, how they fit into the governing of the lodge, and what duties are expected of you should you agree to a position. There are additional seminar recordings that may also be of interest on an introduction to Grand View, communication, running meetings, etc.

LEO WB Jason Bergerson
leo@mn-rivervalley.org



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met in October. A final vote was taken on the new chapter bylaws and they were approved. A new secretary was elected and installed at the meeting. The chapter met again on November 18th. There was a good turn out with visitors from four different chapters attending. We had three new members join us as they are now joint members with another chapter. The Worthy Patron gave a talk about Thanksgiving, its history and some other fun and interesting facts about the holiday. We played the can game which everyone seemed to enjoy. We had our Christmas meeting on December 16th. A meal was served before the meeting. Jane Ward, a member of our chapter, gave a demonstration with her service dog. She works for helping paws and presented an interesting program on how the dogs are trained and what they do to help others. The Worthy Grand Patron of Minnesota, Jim Bjostad, was in attendance and presented three Grand Representative awards to three of our members. It was a special night and we all had a great time. We will be dark in January but will meet again in February.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



Lexophiles for Thought!

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.



**MEETING
MINUTES**

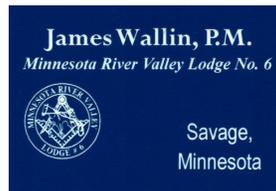
Brothers, beginning in 2022, MNRV #6's meeting minutes will no longer be posted to our website. Due to security reasons, they're being moved to [Grand View!](#) If you haven't signed up for Grand View, please do, it has so many resources that every Brother can use.

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



Name Badges

Get your name badges here! Name badges, get your name badges here!!

Interested in getting your official Minnesota River Valley Lodge No. 6 name badge? Looking to replace one you misplaced? Look no further! To get your genuine, 100%, made somewhere on Earth, simply fill out the form listed and mail it with a check. You will then receive your official name badge after it has been created.

Name: _____
(Please provide the exact spelling of your name, as this is what will appear on your name badge)

Mark the quantity of each name badge you wish to purchase. Prices are listed per name badge.

_____ - Pocket Style - \$7.50
_____ - Magnetic Style - \$5.50
_____ - Pin Style - \$5.50

Total amount due: _____

Please mail this form, along with a check due for the total amount to:
Steven Scheffert
802 East Circle Drive
Montgomery, MN 56069

Please make the check out to MN River Valley Lodge #6.
If you've any questions, please reach out to WB Steven Scheffert – sec@mn-rivervalley.org

November's Beard Competition

Greetings Brethren! On behalf of the entire panel of judges (myself and WB Dennis) and WM Paul (now formally known as the youngest past master) I would like to announce the winners of the November Beard Competition. But, before I do, I'd like to share some information on the reason for the event.

The idea of using facial hair to raise awareness of men's' health issues started in 2003. Two friends met up for drinks in Melbourne and decided they should grow moustaches in November. The moustache had all but disappeared as a fashion trend so they thought it would be a good way raise awareness as a conversation started and a way to raise money. Thus launched the Movember movement! If you are interested in learning more about that organization, they have a US website (<https://us.movember.com/>). They have also included walking so everyone can participate in the Movember movement.

A second organization sprang up in 2009 called No-Shave November that focuses on cancer research. They were inspired by the Movember movement and had been refraining from shaving in November for a while before officially launching their organization and donating the money that would normally have been spent on grooming supplies to various cancer research charities. If you are interested in learning more about their efforts, they also have a website (<https://no-shave.org/>).

Separate from those two organizations, there are men all across the world doing their own facial hair growing competitions or just choosing not to shave for November as their own way to raise awareness. Which brings us to our own Beard Competition.

First the rules. 1. Start with a clean shave. 2. Don't shave. 3. Grow a beard. 4. Best beard wins. As you can see, we got a little carried away with the rules. We'll see if we can trim it up for the next time. We had seven brothers enter the competition and all of them grew something on their face. WB Dennis and my job was to try and judge these manly concoctions of facial ruffage. It wasn't easy because

all beards are fantastic and beautifully unique. Thus, everybody gets a winning title of some kind and we'll finish up with a grand champion.

WB Lew: *The Beard of Sophistication.* Mostly I think it is the face mask around his neck that looks like an ascot or something. It gives an air of complexity and showcases the need to frame your pictures well to best show off your assets. But, the beard itself is confident and reassuring, giving a sense of deep wisdom if you just had the courage to ask.



WB Gary: *The Beard of Congeniality.* The beard with a heart of gold. The beard that all the neighbor kids are afraid of, but is shoveling out mailboxes at 2 am for all the houses on the street. The beard that scratches and scruffs, but is there for the fight, there to have your back, there for the bad times and the good. The beard that if it had a bit more than a month to fill in would be the envy of all.



B Chad: *The Beard of the Hunter.* This is a beard that will keep a guy warm on those cold winter days. Maybe it's that or all the booze in the background and the earth tone hoodie, but I fully expected a deer to be slung over his shoulder on this one as he stops in for a quick nip after a month in the woods.



Continued on the next page

November's Beard Competition, cont.

B. Jay: *The Dr. Professor Beard.* This probably has more to do with the luxuriously flowing locks behind the beard (which in and of itself is a testament to what some can achieve with only a month to grow a beard), but the total ensemble reminded us somebody running a student union group on the power of the dark web and the use of blockchain cryptography in the pursuit of hacktivism around the world.



B Dan: *The Beatnik Throwback Beard.* This is a wonderful beard. Neat and well kept, even in growth and uniform in the coloration (read graying pattern). Taking in the full picture of the crispness of the beard, the mood and tone of the artist, with the medium height dark turtle neck presented here I could hear the William Shatner – Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds playing in the background. (YouTube it if you haven't heard it, you're welcome).



WB Tim: *The G.O.A.T of Goatees.* The growth and sculpting on this are magnificent! Surely, this is the honorable mention, second place runner up, will assume all duties if the winner is unable to continue in his duties. It's just not a beard (see rule #3).



WM Paul: *The Grand Champion Beard.* Maybe it's genetics, maybe it's the lighting, or maybe it's the just right turn of the head to show both the front and side of this work of art. Regardless, and in no way related to WM Paul being the WM and the sponsor of this event (no, really, we swear there was no exchange of gifts or favors), we have our champion!



Now let's all have a moment of silence as shortly after these photos were taken most of these champions, these mastodons in the world of facial hair were ruthlessly cut down, whisker by whisker. Alas, until we meet again in next year's competition!

Thank you all who participated and remembering that raising awareness for men's' health is the reason for the season of facial hair growth.

WB Jason Bergerson

Celebration of Life Invitation

The family of Betty Jean Price personally invite all to attend her Celebration of Life

January, Saturday the 8th at 2:00 P.M.
Minneapolis Scottish Rite Temple
2011 Dupont Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55405



We hope you will come and share your memories of Betty with us all.

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 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

Did You Know?

Between 1890 (when it became a state) and 1951, every Governor of Wyoming, except one, was a Mason. The one, Mrs. William A. Ross, was the wife of a mason and a member of Eastern Star.



Zuhrah
FISH ON!

Zuhrah First Annual
Indoor Ice Fishing Tournament
Raffle | Fundraiser
Sponsored by
Zuhrah Rod and Gun Club

SILENT AUCTION
DOOR PRIZES
GAMES TO PLAY
RAFFLES
\$40 FOR EACH
ZUHRAH
Fishing License
includes Shorelunch

January 22nd, 2022
Doors Open at 4:30pm | FISH FRY at 5pm | TOURNAMENT FISHING at 6:30pm

Zuhrah Shrine Center
scottfredell@gmail.com **6120 Blue Circle Drive, Minnetonka**

OFFICE: 952.426.3023 | SCOTT FREDELL: 612.817.0325 | RON WILCOX: 763.370.3036
All Proceeds benefit Zuhrah Shrine and are not tax deductible as charitable contributions.

FRATERNAL 92 BOWLING CHALLENGE

SUNDAY, JAN. 30TH

SIGN UP 11:30

Bowling Starts @ 12:30

Bring your Team of 4 Mason
Bowlers To Princeton lanes

7853 State Hwy. 95

Princeton, MN 55371

The event Includes:

3 Games Of Bowling, Shoes,
Hoagies, Pizza, Pop

And a chance to win the 92

The 92 is a huge trophy for a huge ego to be displayed
at your lodge for 1 year along with its

BRAGGING rights.

The winners will have their names placed on the
Trophy for year to come and "The 92"
is your until it is Challenged Again next year

JOIN US. LETS HAVE SOME FUN!

Register your team with Brad Brown

763-389-1343 763-260-0381

\$25.00 Per Mason

Actual Past Master's Convocation



**Saturday,
January 22, 2022**

St. Paul Masonic Center

8:15 a.m. Breakfast @ \$10.00

9:00 a.m. A.P.M. Degree

Sponsored by
St. Paul Scottish Rite
R.S.V.P. by January 19 to
Secretary's Office
@ 651-222-2676

2022 Installation of Officers



On Saturday, December 18, 2021, the Installation of Officers for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held.
The following are your officers for 2022:

Master	WB Dan Ploenzke
Senior Warden	Brother Gerry Robison
Junior Warden	Brother Joe Andrus
Treasurer	Brother Matt Kreger
Secretary	WB Steven Scheffert
LEO	WB Jason Bergerson
Senior Deacon	Brother Jay Moran
Junior Deacon	Brother Dean Becker
Chaplain	WB Don Moy
Senior Steward	Brother Chris Matta
Junior Steward	Brother John Dillon
Marshal	Brother Scott Ludes
Tyler	Brother Chad Lane



Fellow Craft Degree
11-04-2021
Brother Keith Deutsch



Entered Apprentice Degree
12-02-2021

1. Brother Nicholas Lozinski-McLean – Macalester Lodge #290
2. Brother Dixon Mokua
3. Brother Matthew Dunfee

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



January 2022

- 1st – New Year’s Day
- 4th – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 6th – Entered Apprentice Degree
- 8th – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 12th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting.
- 25th – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting –
Light Supper Provided.



February 2022

- 1st – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 9th – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board
of Directors Meeting.
- 12th - 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 18th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer.
- 22nd – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee 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/>
