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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 24, Issue 03

May/June 2022

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Secretary – WB Steven Scheffert  
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(612) 799-8877  
[chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org](mailto:chaplain@mn-rivervalley.org)

### 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

Brothers –

On Friday and Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, I had the distinct privilege of representing our lodge at the 169<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication meeting of The Grand Lodge of Minnesota. It was certainly a fantastic opportunity to personally reengage with Brothers from all over the State of Minnesota, especially after two years of pandemic restrictions.

First, some business to report –

Our lodge has a new Area Deputy. Our previous Area Deputy, WB Don Nolley is now in charge of all the Area Deputies across the state. Our new Area Deputy is WB Michael Hill.

We also have a new District Representative. Our previous District Representative, WB Chris Wendover is now an Area Deputy for Metro East. Our new District Representative is WB Reed Endersbe.

I have met with both Brothers and have extended our warm invitations to attend any of our upcoming events or meetings. Even though we will miss our previous Grand Lodge representatives, I am quite certain that WB Mike and WB Reed will be very supportive and tremendous resources for our upcoming activities.

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Second, a call to action –

During one of my break-out sessions, a presentation on the future of Masonic membership was discussed. I came away from the session with a startling fact. By the year 2060, if current nationwide membership trends continue, 75% of the Masonic Lodges in the country will cease to exist!!! I don't know about you, but this is a startling trend.

Currently, at our lodge, we are very privileged to have a significant interest with many new Masonic inquiries. In addition, we have several new Brothers who have recently joined and are progressing through their degrees. We also have had some current Masonic Brothers, from our jurisdictions, requesting membership in our lodge.

Masonry represents many different things to each of us. I am reminded by an experience I had while driving in my car and listening to public radio:

*The caller was lamenting that as a middle-aged man, with his children out of the house and a stable career, which did not require working 80 hours per week, that he did not have any other social activities, particularly with other men, like they had in the old days with fraternal groups such as Masons. I felt that I should crawl through the radio and tell him that Masonry was still very much in existence. Many men do not know we exist yet there is as much of a need for Masonry as there was 50 years ago.*

As such, I challenge each of us, as Brothers, to speak freely about Masonry to your friends. Encourage more membership and help ensure our lodge is healthy and vibrant for years to come.

Fraternally,

Dan Ploenzke  
Master  
(612) 282-5948  
[master@mn-rivervalley.org](mailto: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 May and June 2022.

They are:

Kelly Bender	15 Years	05/12/2007
Thomas Smith	15 Years	05/15/2007
Christopher Brundage	10 Years	05/09/2012



## OES Report

Renaissance chapter #313 met on March 10th. It was a special night. Before the meeting, Ruth Larson, was given her 50-year membership pin in a special ceremony. Her children and family were there to celebrate, and we had cake afterwards. Ruth spoke about her experiences in Eastern Star and what it has meant to her. Beverly Carnell was also given a pin for her 65-year membership. It was great honoring our long-time members of our chapter. During the meeting the budget for the upcoming year was reviewed and discussed and approved. Elections were held for the new year and officers were elected. The Worthy Patron reported on recent Grand Family activities. The chapter had another meeting on March 17th. There were reports given by the Worthy Matron and secretary on the past year. A memorial service was done for members who died in 2021. Information was given about them, and members shared memories of them. Brother Hugh Swift of Myrtle chapter in Farmington did a special presentation of the Associate Patron's lecture during initiation. It was well done and interesting. Our installation of officers for next year was on April 9th and Marie Rhodes was installed as Worthy Matron and WB Doug Rhodes as Worthy Patron. We had a good turnout for this important event of the chapter.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



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## From the West

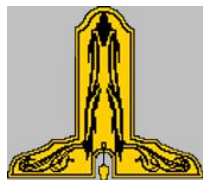
### Thanks

I'd like to use this space this month to thank some brothers that have really stepped up. You may not be aware but the building had a rough go this past winter. We experienced broken pipes and interior water damage to the Lodge room. There were clogged drains and malfunctioning furnaces in our rental space. Facets needed to be replaced and contractors needed to be engaged and met with multiple times. Often these brothers were at the building in the worst weather. Many time they interrupted their own work schedules. They took time from pressing matters to show up at our building to ensure that problems could be fixed and/or pre-empted so minor issue didn't turn into a disaster.

Br Chad Lane, WB Paul Bergevin, WB Jason Bergerson, Br Dale Tellers, WB John Loutzenhiser, Br Eddie Kidwell, and WM Dan Ploenzke are this year's Masonic Board. They are tasked with maintaining the physical plant as well as seeing to our renter's various needs and concerns. In the last couple of months, they have had their hands full. In the spirit of voluntarism, they have been there when called on. They have offered up their personal skills to fix building problems that otherwise could have required expensive repair work by outside contractors. They juggled their personal schedules to accommodate other Board members so that appointments with outside contractors could be kept.

In addition, these brothers mow the grass, change the lights, clean the building, inspect the roof, and generally make sure that our building is in a good state of repair and that we are able to keep our spaces rented. Again, this is a volunteer position, and these brothers cheerfully oversee our investment. If you get a chance, please let these brothers know that their efforts are appreciated and don't go unnoticed.

Brother Gerry Robison  
Senior Warden  
MRVL#6  
[sw@mn-rivervalley.org](mailto:sw@mn-rivervalley.org)



## From the South

### Inclusiveness:

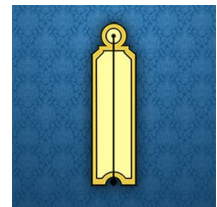
I was at our annual Minnesota Grand Lodge communication last weekend, and it was as impressive as ever. It was full of great leadership, good brotherhood, and many Masonic teachings. One of the many excellent presentations was the appearance of brother Theodor Roosevelt. Brother Teddy gave a rousing talk on many subjects all weaved around the virtues of masonry. As I listened to this great orator, I couldn't help but reflect on one of the virtues that we as masons hold dear and that is so important in this divisive world that we live in. That is the virtue of inclusiveness. In the words of our great brother Teddy:

*"I cannot consent to take the position that the door of hope — the door of opportunity — is to be shut upon any man, no matter how worthy, purely upon the grounds of race or color. Such an attitude would, according to my convictions, be fundamentally wrong."*

We are surrounded by divisive behavior all around us, more than I can remember experiencing in all my life. Indeed, these last few years have been as challenging as ever. That is why, when I was listening to Teddy and he said the above quote about inclusiveness, I remembered one of the reasons I passed through the masonic "door of hope" to join our craft. Our brotherhood is a place where we all can go to feel welcome and safe. No matter what our differences, in the craft we value inclusiveness, where the metal of our character is all that matters. Not our politics, our race, our religion, or our occupation. We are not judged, and we are accepted as we are. In these trying times our Masonic values helps us all to persevere and to keep ourselves grounded when many around us are not.

As our Brother Teddy may say: Bully for Masonry!!

Brother Joe Andrus  
Junior Warden  
MRVL#6  
[jw@mn-rivervalley.org](mailto:jw@mn-rivervalley.org)





## 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.

## The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, June 17, 2022. All articles for the July/August 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 September/October 2022 issue of The Wayfarer.

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



## Did You Know?

In 1860 in Limerick, Ireland, there a stone was found in a small chapel, dated 1517, with the following inscription: "I will serve to live with love and care, upon the level, and by the square."

## Lexophiles for Thought!

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.  
When you see one shopping center, you seen a mall.

## The Role of the Workmen Has Been Called



The Role of The Workmen has been called and Brother Regis Seaman, has not responded. Brother Regis was called to the Celestial Lodge Above on Monday, April 11, 2022. He was Initiated as an Entered Apprentice on May 30, 2007, Passed to a Fellowcraft on June 14, 2007, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on August 11, 2007.

Please keep Brother Regis Seaman's family in your thoughts and prayers during this time.



## August 2, 2022, Stated Meeting

The August 2022 Stated Meeting will be held at the K of C Hall in New Prague. This will be our Brothers only Summer Table Lodge event. Stay tuned for further information in the next issue of the Wayfarer.

The address is:  
411 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, SW, New Prague, MN 56071

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## Famous Masons

Ethan Nathan Allen

Born: January 1, 1904, Cincinnati, Ohio

Died: September 15, 1993 (aged 89) Brookings,  
Oregon

Member of Yeatman Lodge No. 162, Cincinnati,  
Ohio

Brother Ethan was an American center fielder in  
Major League Baseball from 1926 to 1938.

Brother Ethan played for the Cincinnati Reds  
(1926-30), New York Giants (1930-32), St.  
Louis Cardinals (1932-33), Philadelphia Phillies  
(1934-36), Chicago Cubs (1936) and the St.  
Louis Browns (1936-38).

Brother Ethan was also the baseball coach for  
Yale University from 1946 to 1968. Brother  
Ethan reached the College World Series finals in  
1947 and 1948. Brother Ethan coached a player  
named George H. W. Bush. I'm sure we know  
who that is.

Cheers, WB JW

## Fellowcraft Degree



A joint Fellowcraft Degree with Lebanon Lodge  
#346 was held on April 20, 2022.

Congratulations to our newest Fellowcrafts!

Br. Mike Araujo, Brother Matt Dunfee, and Br.  
Stuart Schatz

## Save the Date

K of C-Mason Chicken Dinner Planning  
Meeting "Save the Date" of Monday, June 13th,  
as plans are being worked on for the K of C-  
Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting. This  
will be held at Richter Woods Park, just 1.5  
miles west of Montgomery. Typically, the  
social is at 6:00 p.m. and meeting starts at 7:00  
p.m. with a light meal being provided by the  
host group, with this being our Lodge. We ask  
that you come and attend this planning event and  
enjoy in fellowship and join in the planning  
discussion. Stay tuned to more information  
regarding this planning meeting.



## June 7, 2022, Stated Meeting

The June 2022 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  
Bloomington, MN 55437

The Stated Meeting will start at our regular time,  
which is 7:00 p.m. Dress will be suits and ties. A  
pre-meeting dinner is also being planned, so stay  
tuned for more information.



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



### May 2022

- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting  
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided.
- 30<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day



### June 2022

- 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting at Alfred E. Ames Lodge Room at the MN Masonic Heritage Center. – Stay tuned for dinner plans.
- 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.  
8 A.M. M.M. Degree
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 P.M. MNRV & KC Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Articles Due for the Wayfarer.
- 28<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting
- 29<sup>th</sup> – 5 P.M. Metro West 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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