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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 2023

Lodge Officers:

Master – Gerry Robison
(612) 865-8684
master@mn-rivervalley.org

Senior Warden – Joe Andrus
(952) 432-1660
sw@mn-rivervalley.org

Junior Warden – Jay Moran
(952) 201-3935
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

Own the Kindness Space

I was struck by our guest speaker at our April Stated meeting. WB John Schwietz obviously has a passion about leading a charitable life, in general, and about Masonic Charities, in particular. I especially liked the story he told about the scholarship that was awarded for kindness. I can't say I've spent a lot of time thinking about scholarships in recent years, but I've always thought that they are primarily given for academic or athletic achievement. But a scholarship for being a kind or charitable person? That's a new one to me. I like it.

I was intrigued but as I thought more about it, I was led in a different direction than I anticipated. I started thinking about Masonic charity, small “c”, and our calling as Masons to practice charity or relief. All of us know they are the core tenets of our fraternity. One of the things that originally interested me about Masonry was being part of an organized group of people, in our case men, who regularly make charity and relief a practice in their lives. Finding a way to reach out. To help, aid and assist our brethren and our communities.

When we are initiated, a prayer is given. We call upon God to endue us with his Divine wisdom to practice the beauties of Truth, Relief and Brotherly Love. We are given the chance to withdraw our petition if we do not recognize to solemnity of the obligations we were soon to take. We are further informed that we cannot lay aside our obligations for any reason. Finally, we swear with a steadfast resolution to perform and keep them. The further degrees also call upon us to practice the tenets of Freemasonry. To be charitable in our daily lives and offer relief where we can.

Continued, on the next page.

From the East, Continued

The pursuit of a chartable character is inherent in each of us. Generosity is a natural attribute. The men in our fraternity, I believe, are driven to lead good and generous lives. Such people, when joined together naturally seek out each other's welfare and happiness equally with their own. This happiness and welfare bonds us as a fraternity. We all practice charity with our families and friends, offering our time and resources. Many brothers freely give their time and resources to help, aid and assist others.

A question I pose to you is; how can we take this generosity of spirit and project it into our communities? We have an opportunity that may not be unique to our Lodge but one that we should take advantage of, nonetheless. We have a Lodge that was born of many Lodges to become one. The geographic area that our brothers hail from covers 3,4,5, or more counties. I think it's safe to say that there are opportunities for us to practice our tenets in different ways in each of these communities. Though Savage has become the default home to MRVL #6 it is by no means the single community where we are from or where we should serve. Where can we project Masonic Good Will and Relief in your community?

Worshipful Brother John Schwietz coined the phrase, "own the Kindness space". Those four words speak volumes. It addresses relief and charity and generosity. It calls for an attentive ear, an instructive tongue, and a faithful breast. It enjoins us to practice our obligations as Masons.

Brothers, the Good of the Order is being good Men and good Masons. I call on each of us to renew our obligations and contribute as much as we can to the relief of all men, especially those in our communities. Let's work to own the kindness space.

Master
Gerry Robison
(612) 865-8684
master@mn-rivervalley.org



OES Report

Renaissance Chapter #313 met on March 16th. The annual report about the chapter was given by the secretary the budget for the upcoming year was discussed, voted on, and approved we had elections and new officers were elected for this year. The incoming Worthy Matron talked about her plans and the installation. On April 13th a special installation was held. Sister Vickie Extrand. Was installed as Worthy Matron and Brother Craig Pederson as Worthy Patron. On April 20th we had our first meeting of the new year. We discussed upcoming future. Projects and ideas for the year. Refreshments were served after the meeting.

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 2023.

Robert Nasstrom	70 Years	06/08/1953
Donald Rieck	65 Years	06/20/1958
Michael Pierce	25 Years	06/13/1998
Craig Pederson	25 Years	06/27/1998
Wayne Nagel	20 Years	06/21/2003
Michael Fix	15 Years	05/31/2008
BR SW Joe Andrus	15 Years	06/14/2008
Paul Bergevin (PM)	15 Years	06/14/2008
Geno Carlson	10 Years	05/18/2013
Dan Ploenzke (WM)	10 Years	05/18/2013



From the West

As we approach Memorial Day, it's important to reflect on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans, including the many Masons who have served our country over the years. As Masons, it's in our code to honor these brothers and their service to our country.

One of the key tenets of our fraternity is the importance of brotherhood and community. This means supporting and caring for one another, both within our lodge and in the wider world. As Masons, we are called upon to serve our communities and to uphold the values of honor, integrity, and patriotism.

This Memorial Day, I encourage all members of our lodge to take time to reflect on the sacrifices made by our veterans, and, if possible, to participate in local events and activities honoring their service. This might include attending a ceremony, volunteering at a veterans' organization, or simply taking a moment to say thank you to a veteran you know.

We also want to take this opportunity to recognize and honor the many Masons who have served our country over the years. These brothers exemplify the values of our fraternity, and their service is a testament to the importance of brotherhood and community in our lives.

In closing, we would like to remind all members of our lodge of the importance of upholding our obligation as Masons to honor and support our fellow brothers, including those who have served our country. Let us thank specifically our brothers who are in Minnesota 6 for their service, and always remember the sacrifices made by those and all veterans and strive to live up to the high ideals and values of our fraternity.

Fraternally,

Your Senior Warden

Brother Joe Andrus
Senior Warden
sw@mn-rivervalley.org



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, log into Grand View and then "Resources" in your "My Portal" area. You can then scroll down to the "Master Mason" section and under "Important Resources" you will see the "Life Membership Program" link. If you are 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



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, June 16th, 2023. All articles for the July/August 2023 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 2023 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You
wayfarer@mn-rivervalley.org

From the South

I have to admit, for all of the writing I had to do in college and professionally, I'm not always a fan of it. My first problem is wondering who the audience is. Not who I am writing for, but who will actually read what I write. My next issue is which topic to pick.

I was planning on writing about the Grand Lodge Communication and Lynnhurst Turkey Dinner - two excellent events I had the pleasure of attending recently. Great fellowship and Brotherhood were had, and I encourage everyone to make sure they try to attend. And then I was thinking about continuing the theme of men's mental health and not being afraid to ask for help when feeling overwhelmed emotionally and mentally.

But I can't get away from something Brother John Schweitz said when talking about the new Kindness Scholarship from Minnesota Masonic Charities. He said we should own the "kindness space." I've been chewing on that a lot because it's true.

If you ask any Brother why they joined Masonry and one of their top reasons is typically the charity work Freemasons do. Looking at the enormous amount of money Masons have put into things like the Shriners Hospitals, it's easy to see why this is a point of pride. But, to a certain extent, that kind of charity is just writing a check. And folks will do that if they care enough about the cause.

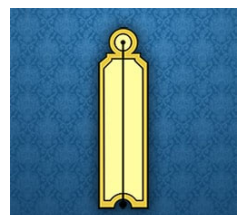
Then I started thinking about how we are taught to govern ourselves as Masons. Indeed, we are taught to keep our passions in due bounds, i.e., temperance. That allows us to forgive transgressions and realize we are all human and imperfect while trying to become more perfect in our thoughts and deeds. Indeed, at the Grand Lodge the Vince Lombardi quote was offered more than once "Gentlemen, we will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence."

That ability to work hard for perfection while admitting the imperfections in ourselves and others is rooted in kindness. This results in an example we set for others. I would suggest it is a cornerstone off of which to build.

If we look closely at the tools we are given as Speculative Masons, we see the goal is indeed one of Building Kindness. That is the work for which we toil. It is work we ought to exemplify and be known for. It is becoming far too common for folks to fly off the handle and hurt others as is evidence by recent shootings of people who were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Just a little kindness and forbearance and those folks would not have been shot. Likewise, we see a lot of entitlement and selfishness, two hallmarks of narcissism amplified by social media.

To mangle a lyric from the late, great Burt Bacharach, what the world needs now is Kindness. Demonstrate that kindness as much as possible. Give people room to merge when driving. Hold the door for someone. Allow someone who isn't moving as fast to get in front of you and make sure they're safe. I know many of you do these things all of the time, but It's worth reminding ourselves to be examples others will see and follow. Build Kindness. That's our job.

Brother Jay Moran
Junior Warden



Save the Date

K of C-Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting "Save the Date" of Monday, June 12th, as plans are being worked on for the K of C-Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Meeting. The meeting will be held at the K of C Hall in New Prague (411 4th Ave SW, New Prague, MN). 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.



Bowling Event

On Saturday, April 22nd, a group of members got together for some fellowship at the local bowling alley. Below is a photo of those that were able to participate.



METROWEST

Area Conference 2023

Saturday, May 6th • 8:30am-1:30pm

Minnehaha Masonic Temple
5149 Bloomington Avenue • South Minneapolis



W. Bro. Jason Lang

"Grandview: Doing more with less effort"



W. Bro. Reed Endersbe

"Re-Engaging Absent Brethren"



W. Bro. Dave O'Neill

"Enhancing the Fraternal Experience through Communication"

All Master Masons must Register by Wednesday, April 26th

Include your Name, Lodge, Current Office, and any dietary accommodations for the Fellowship Lunch • \$15 Suggested Donation Per Person

RSVP via email to: wolfinn@midco.net

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



May 2023

- 2nd** – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 4th** – 7:00 P.M. Fellow Craft Degree
- 10th** – 6:30 P.M. MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 13th** – 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers Coffee in Apple Valley.
- 14th** – Mother’s Day
- 23rd** – 6:30 P.M. Steering Committee Meeting – Light Supper Provided.
- 29th** – Memorial Day



June

- 6th** – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 10th** - 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley.6:30 P.M.
- 10th** – 8:00 A.M. Master Mason Degree
- 12th** – KC/Mason Chicken Dinner Planning Event
- 14th** – MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of Directors Meeting.
- 18th** – Father’s Day
- 27th** – 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.
