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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 25, Issue 01

January/February 2023

Lodge Officers:

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

Senior Warden – Joe Andrus
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Junior Warden – Jay Moran
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Treasurer – Matt Kreger
(612) 961-7141
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Secretary – WB Steven Scheffert
(402) 960-3629
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Chaplain – WB Don Moy
(612) 799-8877
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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 Traditions

Brethren, I want to express my deep appreciation to you for allowing me to sit in the East for 2023. It's an honor that I did not seek upon becoming a Mason but as the years passed and I moved through the chairs I found myself looking forward to the possibilities of working with as many of you as possible to continue on the strong legacy of which we are a part. Over the years MRVL #6 has had many strong traditions. We have been a Lodge that participated in multiple Charitable events and been strongly involved in community activities. I know from firsthand knowledge that we have a vibrant social group. Back when we were individual lodges, I suspect, that our community activity was locally focused and met many of the needs of our members. We are harder pressed to replicate that outreach now. We have grown and are growing. The ages of our brothers range from their early 20's to their 90's. That seven decades gap could be problematic for some but not for us. We do not have a problem.... we have an opportunity.

Let's start with what we know; we know that our lodge has first person Masonic history that dates back to the 1950s, we have brothers that have seen the USA and Masonry evolve through the post war 50's through the turbulent 60s as young men. Some experienced the inflation of the 70s and recession and recovery of the 80s. We have brothers experienced the end of the Cold war or grew up in the Datacom bubble of the 90s. We have brothers who were children when the Twin Towers fell on 9/11 and brothers who went to war as a result of that terrorist attack. All through those long years our brothers grew, got jobs, got married and had children and some of our children have had children.

Continued on the next page

From the East, Continued

Some of us grew old and experienced the loss of loved ones and leaned on our brothers for support. Yet with all those different experiences and all those different lifestyles we find ourselves, still, a fraternity of brothers.

So, what is the opportunity that I mentioned earlier? Well, let me explain. I've been reading a book called *"Successful Masonic Lodges and Grand Lodges Learning to Survive"* by Martin G. McConnell. In it is addressed the very real problem of declining membership in our Fraternity and possibly more alarming, a declining interest in Masonry. One of the issues is that Freemasonry, so steeped in tradition and ritual doesn't fulfill the evolving needs of our members. Masonry is in danger of not being relevant to many of our brothers, older and younger. At MRVL #6, however, our real opportunity is the ability to avoid that pitfall because of the very tradition of friendship and trust that has been engendered throughout our Lodge's history. Social contracts and individual or group priorities are changeable and, in fact, changing. Covid has been a challenge. It caused us to focus inward. The nature of the pandemic kept us from meeting, restricted charitable works and all but eliminated social events. Since, we have worked our way out of those restrictions and emerged essentially intact due to the hard work of all of our brothers. You men who have gotten us to this point have our thanks. To them and each to other we have an obligation. An obligation to be relevant to all of our members.

It does require work. Not necessarily attending events and meetings. That isn't always possible and often a burden. The work that is important is that as many of us as possible stay involved in any way we can. Share thoughts, ideas, experiences. As I said, we have a strong social history. I very much want that to continue. But in conjunction, I want to bring forward and strengthen our Charitable activities enhance our ritual work and become more active in our communities. I want to increase our fundraising so that we more to contribute to benevolent causes. If we can do one or two new beneficial activities for any of the communities that we represent, I would consider it a victory. I need your help. Help in the form of ideas and/or in participation. What will work? What has been tried? What will require long term planning? What are we doing now that can be done better? And if we bring our Lodge closer together around a spirit of "doing good" and being active we will be better enabled to learn from each of our members across the seven decades of new and old Masonic experience. That, my brothers, is an opportunity that is too valuable to lose.

Master
Gerry Robison
(612) 865-8684

master@mn-rivervalley.org



The Wayfarer

The next due date for The Wayfarer is Friday, February 17th, 2023. All articles for the March/April 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 May/June 2023 issue of The Wayfarer.

Thank You,
WB James Wallin –
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 January and February 2023.

Todd Carlson	10 Years	01/19/2013
Fred Regenauer	10 Years	01/19/2013
Drew Cook	05 Years	01/20/2018



Lexophiles for Thought!

Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.

A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.

OES Report

Renaissance chapter #313 met on November 17th. In honor of Veteran's Day, three members of the chapter who served in the military, were recognized, and given a gift. A special flag tribute was given by one of our members. It was reported that on December 29th a special presentation by a famous Minnesota author Jim Burton will occur at the Masonic Center. There will also be a Helping Paws presentation with donations to be collected. This is part of our fifth Thursday events that we will be doing. They are fun things open to anyone AND everyone who would like to attend. The chapter met again for our Christmas meeting on December 15th. We had a potluck supper before the meeting. We will be dark in January. We are planning a special fun night on the second Thursday of the month in January when we will get together and play games.

Submitted by: Brad Smith



From the West

"Of These, the Greatest is Charity"

Tis the season... for shopping, gathering with family, sharing special times with friends, exchanging presents, eating cookies, enjoying the season... It is indeed a busy and magical time of year. As we celebrate with family, friends and brothers I ask us to remember our principals as masons:

Brotherly Love

Truth

Relief

Tis the season... for charity.

Freemasons are taught to practice charity, not only for each other but also for the community, through giving alms and volunteering time and talents to those less fortunate

Brothers, as freemasons this is **our** season to practice one of the most important principles of our craft – Relief. As you pass through this season, I urge you to remember those less fortunate and to assist them as much as you can without material injury to yourself. Charity is where the true joy of this season, and of our craft comes from.

In his Grand Oration (1915), WB George H. Harvey proclaimed that, "Charity is the preeminent virtue, the possession of which in its fullest signification marks the perfect Mason. Charity in its highest and noblest sense includes all other virtues." He also professed that "Charity, in its true meaning, is affection and love, an active as well as a sentient force in all that pertains to our mortal existence."

Happy Holidays Brothers.

Brother Joe Andrus

Senior Warden

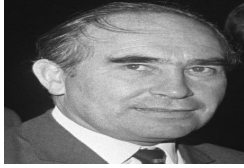
MRVL#6

sw@mn-rivervalley.org



Famous Masons

Sir (WB) Alfred Ernest Ramsey
Born January 22, 1920 – Dagenham (Essex),
England
Died: April 28, 1999 - Ipswich, England
Member of Waltham Abbey Lodge No. 2750,
Essex, England



Worshipful Brother Ramsey is best known for leading England to win FIFA in 1966. Alf played Full Back during his playing days. But his cool demeanor and his mind for tactics propelled him to become coach for England. Alf was known to challenge the traditional way football and to push the boundaries of tactics. One tactic that helped propel his career is known as Push and Run. Which utilized fast passing to pull the opposing team to the ball and create openings for his own players to push forward and strike at the goal.

Cheers, WB JW

Perpetual Masonic Life Memberships

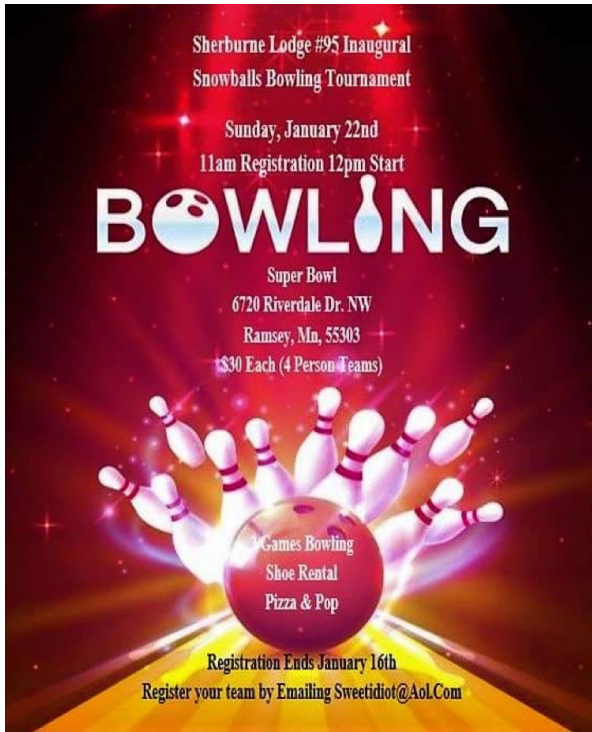
Have you ever thought about a Perpetual Life Membership with your Lodge? Life memberships can offer a Brother a one-time or multiyear payment(s) to be made to the Grand Lodge of Minnesota (not your current Lodge) based upon an age factor number that they provide times the current dues rate of your Lodge. 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
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WB Don's Hiram Award event, as he got the award from MB Dan Ploenzke, and he also got a Hiram Award from the Grand Lodge from MWB Rolf Widstrand for his work on the Junior Warden's conference that he conducted. Congratulations WB!



2023 Installation of Officers



On Saturday, December 10, 2022, the Installation of Officers for MN River Valley Lodge #6 was held. The following are your officers for 2023:

Master Mason Degree



On November 19th, Brother Cullen Furlong was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason
 Congratulations Brother Cullen!

Thanks also goes to Lebanon Lodge #350 for performing the joint degree work with our Lodge.

Pictured above (L to R): WB Reed Endersbe (DR), Brother Cullen Furlong, WB Paul Bergevin and WB John Loutzenhiser

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

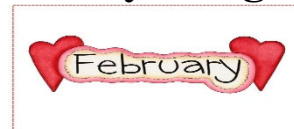
*Not Present

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



January 2023

- 1st – New Year's Day
- 3rd – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 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.



February 2023

- 7th – 7:00 P.M. Stated Communications Meeting
6:00 P.M. Dinner
- 8th – MN Valley Masons, Inc – Board of
Directors Meeting.
- 11th - 7:30 A.M. Masons Coffee at Dunn Brothers
Coffee in Apple Valley. 6:30 P.M.
- 14th – Valentine's Day
- 17th – Articles Due for the Wayfarer.
- 20th – President's Day
- 28th – 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.
