

143rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge AF & AM of South Dakota

Thursday June 15th thru Saturday June 17th, 2017
Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center
Rapid City, South Dakota

This year's annual communication has a great line-up of speakers and entertainment that you will not want to miss---



Russ Charvonja-

MWB Russ Charvonja, PGM of the Grand Lodge of California currently serves as President of the National Civility Center. The center was created from discussions at the 2014 Conference of Grand Masters of North America on how to return civility back to today's society. The Civility Center's mission is to be the catalyst for conversation about civility in society and to provide leadership, resources, and tools that empower and enable individuals and



organizations to be civility champions in their communities. MWB Charvonja also leads regular conference calls with Grand Jurisdiction Civility ambassadors as Masons continue to lead conversations on civility. He will lead the **Grand Lodge Civility training session** on Thursday, June 15th from 12:00-1:30 PM at our annual communication and speak during our tyled session on Friday.



Dr. David Harte-

Brother Harte serves as a spokesperson for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a partner with Masonichip International, the parent organization for the South Dakota Child Identification Program. This program consists of a standardized child information sheet, still photograph, short video interview, laser fingerprints, DNA swab and dental imprints called Toothprints. Toothprints is a technique developed by David Tesini, a Massachusetts children's Dentist and incorporated into the Child Identification Program by Dr. David Harte.



SDCHIP, which is a part of MasoniCHIP International, has been recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as the most comprehensive child identification system available. Dr. Harte will have a **South Dakota Child Identification seminar** on Thursday, June 15th from 1:30 PM-3:00 PM and will be the featured speaker for the joint luncheon on Friday April 16th at noon.



Helen Merriman-

Helen has served as the founding director of the SD CEO since its opening in November 2009. During that time participation has grown from 425 participants to over 1400, statewide. Additionally, she was an invited participant at the 2015 National Security Forum at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. and has served as an Honorary Commander for the Ellsworth Air Force Base 28th Contracting Squadron. She was awarded the 2013 SBA Region VIII Women's Business Center of Excellence award.

Launched in 2009 with funding from the Small Business Administration (SBA) Office of Women's Business Ownership, support from Black Hills State University and local business sponsors, the South Dakota Center for Enterprise Opportunity - SD CEO - provides comprehensive business assistance, education, counseling and training to aspiring and established entrepreneurs and communities to foster economic development in South Dakota. Although there are 110 Women's Business Centers nationwide who operate with the mission to "level the playing field" for women entrepreneurs, SD CEO is the **only** women's business center in the state of SD. We don't discriminate but we do have a special focus on women to enhance their professional development, foster economic development and advocate the development of prosperous businesses in SD.

- In 2016 the SD CEO served nearly 1500 women and men from 50 South Dakota counties (primarily in the Black Hills region) providing comprehensive training, education and business assistance, support and counseling.
- SD CEO has hosted an annual Women's Business Conference in the Black Hills for seven years. Helen will present the **ladies program** on Friday, June 16th from 10 AM-12:00 PM.

Mark Menard-



Mark is the founder and CEO of Enable Labs. In 2004, the Grand Lodge of New York came to Enable Labs with an antiquated member management system running in DOS. They wanted to update to a unified web-based system for their internal users and their 600 local lodges.

Enable Labs designed and implemented the Masonic Online Registry Interface (MORI). MORI manages all of the member functions for the Grand Lodge and their 600 local

Lodge secretaries. Integrating all of the functionality into a web application greatly decreased the paper work load for the Grand Lodge significantly lowering their operating expenses.



MORI has since been adopted by the Grand Lodges of Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, the York Rite bodies of Massachusetts and the Order of Eastern Star of New York. MORI manages over 35% of all Masonic records in the United States. Brother Mark will host two training seminars on Thursday, June 15, the first seminar is a **MORI training** from 12:00 PM-1:30 PM and the second is the **Our Lodge Page training** from 1:30 PM-3:00 PM.



Marty Jackley-

South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley had been a long time partner in the South Dakota Child Identification Program before becoming a Mason in January of this year. As Attorney General, Marty has a proven record of leading an office that protects families and is committed to crime prevention. South Dakota's Internet Crimes



Against Children Task Force proactively protects children from sexual predators, while South Dakota's Child Abduction Response Team has received national certification for its ability to respond to a missing child emergency. He has worked with the Legislature to strengthen human trafficking laws and the sex offender registry, and to develop a prescription drug monitoring program that emphasizes prevention over prosecution. South Dakota's 24/7 Alcohol Sobriety and Monitoring Program has been extended across South Dakota and the nation. The sobriety program has reduced the likelihood for subsequent alcohol offenses and requires the offenders to pay all of the program costs.

In 2010 and 2014, Marty was overwhelmingly elected as South Dakota's Attorney General. He has served as the President of the National Association of Attorneys General, and Chairman of the Conference of Western Attorneys General. In 2016, Marty was honored to receive the National Kelley-Wyman Outstanding Attorney General award. Marty will be the featured speaker for the Thursday, June 15th awards night banquet.



The Banner Girls-

Hailing from Leeds, ND, this awesome high school singing group first captured the hearts of ND Masons with their repertoire of patriotic songs when they performed at the Buffalo Soldier Monument ceremony last May at Ft. Buford, ND. They most recently performed at the George Washington National Masonic Memorial in Alexandria, VA for the annual George Washington Birthday Celebration. Since North Dakota's annual communication is again the same time as ours, ND Grand Master Roger Stout graciously asked the Banner Girls to represent the Grand

Lodge of North Dakota at our annual communication by performing the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Concert for the Friday, June 16th Grand Masters Banquet. This talented group of young vocalists will also be performing at 1:00 PM in the amphitheater at Mt. Rushmore on Sunday June 18th, (Father's Day) with a tribute to George Washington, the Father of our Country.



Bring the family and plan on spending a couple of extra days in the beautiful Black Hills.