



THE Masonic Messenger

Freedom • Integrity • Tolerance

Faith • Hope • Charity

February 2018



Civility Champions awarded in Brandon

The Grand Lodge of South Dakota presented a Civility Champion award to the Brandon Valley High School senior class and to Brandon Valley Senior Josh Donahoe.

Josh lobbied the senior class to elect his best buddy Carson Rowbatham as Prom King. When Josh was elected despite many of the seniors voting for Carson, he gave the title to Carson. The Grand Lodge believes these acts of civility deserve to be recognized, and are especially encouraging when done by the youth of our state.

Worshipful Brother Dave Meltz, Grand Lodge Civility Ambassador, arranged for the award to be presented December 8 during halftime at a Brandon Valley basketball game. Deputy Grand Master DaNiel Wood, Senior Grand Warden Harold Ireland and Junior Grand Warden Richard Hagler made the presentation for the Grand Lodge.

Greetings from the East

Brethren, think back to the night of your Initiation into a Lodge of Masons. What was going through your mind? Were you nervous, confused, bewildered, excited? Maybe a combination of all of these?



overwhelmed is a better word) by the huge amount of information I had received. But mostly, I remember being excited. Excited by the prospect of becoming part of the world's oldest and largest Fraternity. Excited to find men, Brothers, who shared my thirst for knowledge. Excited to have revealed to me the secrets that would unlock a world of philosophy and enlightenment few men get to know. But that didn't happen.

Eagerly I waited for my Fellowcraft Degree, to receive the secrets; that didn't happen. I thought when I received my Master Mason Degree, all would be revealed, and that I would be, to paraphrase Ralphie in "A Christmas Story" when he becomes a member of the Little Orphan Annie Fan Club, entitled to all the "honors and benefits

occurring thereto." But, alas, it was not to be.

However, I found something there that kept me coming back. I can't really tell you what it was, but I knew there had to be more than reading the minutes and paying the bills. Occasionally there would be some education. One I particularly remember was given by WB Jim Cummings on what is a Mason. If you want to know the answer, feel free to contact me.

Still there was no great discussion on the meaning of the Ritual, the veiled meanings behind the words used in the Degrees. I still sometimes wonder what kept me coming.

Within about three years, I joined both the York and Scottish Rites, seeking more light, but again, there were no great revelations. More information and opportunity,

certainly, but not a great deal in the way of guidance.

I believe I joined a Masonry in the middle of a crisis, real or imagined, of membership. We had perhaps become more concerned with Raising Master Masons than we were with really making men Masons. We had cheapened the Fraternity by reducing Proficiency requirements, by keeping dues artificially low to hopefully attract more members, and by allowing men to "try" Masonry, without really considering their motives for joining and their expectations of us. We gave them no expectations of what would be required to be a Mason. Many times I heard a new Master Mason told as he left the

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Greetings from the West

Your Grand Lodge progressive line has been busy trying to provide better tools and products for our Craft. Changes are always hard to implement because we always run into the statement, “that’s not the way we have always done it.” As the greatest fraternity there is, we need to take pride in ourselves and be more professional.

To that end we feel proud to provide the new plastic dues cards with the bar code. By scanning the bar code you can see if a Brother is in good standing, etc. The bar code is tied to your MORI number and we want to utilize this process for Annual Communication to assist in registration and credentials.

The 50, 60, and 70 Year pins have been redesigned and are being presented to our members. Any Brother who has dedicated 50 or more years to an organization deserves something better than we were previously presenting. Remember these longevity awards are a Grand Lodge award and as such should be presented by a representative of the Grand Lodge. If you have deserving Brothers please request support through your District Masters.

We provide a packet to new Master Masons within 60 days of being raised. Packets include the book “Further Light,” a bookmark with OLP instructions, a Grand Lodge pin, a welcome letter from the Grand Master, and new dues card. Recognize your new members and make them productive Brothers of your Lodge. An active participant is more likely to be a Mason for life.

We need your assistance in curbing our losses. We are losing too many good Brothers from our fraternity and need to collectively work this issue. One thing we are doing is recognition of Brothers with five years of service and every 10 years thereafter. We are receiving positive responses on this matter.

Your Grand Lodge is providing every Lodge with a website through Our Lodge Page (OLP) as well as a mobile OLP app for cell phones. Procedures



are in place to calendar events, show your Lodge activities, RSVP for events and to make payments through the app should your Lodge desire to use the features. If you are not using the OLP website your Lodge is missing a great opportunity to better tell your story, show what you are doing, and better communications.

We continue to send out email blasts to keep the Craft informed. If you are not receiving these blasts check with your Lodge Secretaries and ensure the correct email and contact information is listed in MORI.

Grand Lodge continues to provide Leadership Conferences with outstanding Masonic presenters to provide training on Six Steps to Initiation, the health of your Lodge, and how to plan for a successful Masonic year and much more.

We are continuing to strive to protect and preserve the massive amount of Masonic treasures stored in the basement of the Grand Lodge in Sioux Falls. Our goal is to catalogue and properly preserve these items as part of our history.

We have also presented Civility Championship Awards to recognize great actions by civilians and promote Masonry.

As mentioned earlier, change takes time and money but we are doing our best to facilitate appropriate changes and move the Craft in a positive direction by updating our procedures and utilizing technology to become a more professional organization. Your Elected Line has the best interests of the Craft at heart and we are working for the betterment of Masonry. Visits to other jurisdictions provided opportunities to share both successes and issues to meet the challenges of the times. The Elected Line is here to serve you and make a stronger and better Fraternity. We all want South Dakota Lodges to have the opportunity to be successful and want to work as a team to improve our Craft.

RWB Harold Ireland
Senior Grand Warden

Greetings from the East, continued

From page 1

Lodge on the night he was raised “We hope you come back to Lodge sometime.” Is it any wonder we have been in a “membership crisis” for 50 years or more?

As I travel around the state and region, I repeatedly see young men who joined our Craft seeking Light. More, now than ever, they are craving that philosophy and enlightenment. What are we to do?

First, start by making sure the potential Candidate knows what is expected. Use the “Six Steps to Initiation” provided

by the Grand Lodge. Refuse to accept into the Craft just any ol’ man who can fog a mirror and make an x. Then, change your Lodge meetings. Keep business to a bare minimum by using a consent agenda, and spend the majority of the meeting on education. Not just the history of George Washington type stuff, but examinations of the Ritual, and other esoteric topics. Spend some time in the community helping others, and don’t forget to be Brothers outside of the Lodge, as well as in. Don’t hang up your working tools at the door of the Lodge when you leave.

Your Grand Lodge elected line is

working to bring the Craft into the 21st century with programs like OLP and our email blasts. We are also doing our best to welcome new Master Masons with an educational packet after they are Raised and working to keep our current members by sending years of service certificates and developing a better award for 50, 60 and 70-year members.

Brethren, does your Lodge still provide that sense of excitement that you felt when you first knocked on the Inner Door? If so, wonderful. If not, what are you doing to bring it back?

Today, I am still excited by the prospect of Masonry and the secrets it holds.

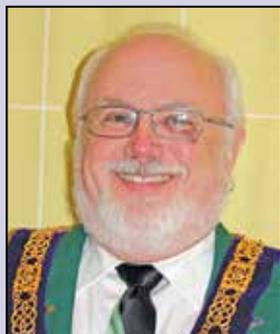
I eventually discovered many of the “secrets” Masonry holds, by a variety of means. Some were learned in the Lodge, others through self-study reading on my own and some by attending conferences and educational classes. However you choose to learn, please know the secrets are there, waiting for you, all you have to do is look for them.

(One or two hints-the secrets are different for everyone, and I strongly believe many, if not most, of Masonry’s secrets can be found in the Entered Apprentice Degree).

Fraternally,
Yancey Smith, GM

Tidings from the desk of the Grand Treasurer-Secretary

I've always believed you never stop learning. I also believe that you may not necessarily



be in search of an educational opportunity when that learning takes place.

In the Fellow Craft Degree we are taught about LOGIC. We are told that it is the science and art of reasoning. We are further instructed that it should mean a system which teaches us to so arrange our reasonings that their truth or falsehood shall be evident in their form.

This particular snippet of wisdom popped into my head one day while in the middle of reading an article. At first it didn't even occur to me why I happened to think of it just then. But, as I continued reading, and then re-reading the article, it became crystal clear. I was being presented with a pre-determined conclusion, followed by questionable and sometimes

even desperate attempts to justify it. I chuckled to myself as I repeated "... the truth or falsehood shall be evident in its form." While the presenter was not entirely clear on what they hoped to achieve by the article, it was certain the goal was neither to educate nor inform.

Think about that concept the next time you read something. Is the presenter attempting to improve your knowledge with a well-reasoned argument or are they essentially trying to sell you something? If you really want to delve into the topic, review something you have written, presented, or otherwise communicated. Can we impress the importance of Masonic teachings on others if we are not following them?

We are taught that we need to be true to our Brothers. The foundation of this principle lies in being true to ourselves. Masonry is and should always be a self-improving art. Let us never forget that self-improvement is an ongoing process.

Fraternally,
Terry Knutson
Grand Treasurer-Secretary

Dates to remember

- Secretaries – Annual reports are due to the Grand Lodge office by February 15, 2018.
- Deadline for legislation and nominations for elected Grand Lodge positions is March 17, 2018.
- April 20-22, 2018 – Midwest Conference on Masonic Education in Rapid City. Registration available soon. Keynote speaker will be WB Mark Tabbert, Director of Collections at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.
- Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota – June 14-16, 2018 in Rapid City. Dr. S. Brent Morris will be our special guest.

Greetings from the South

I am going to make this short, sweet, but to the point. I want to discuss the Tenets of Freemasonry. Not all three, just Brotherly Love and Truth. A



few simple words with a lot of meaning. Depending on the day, I could have a different meaning for each of the Tenets. I wish to share with you the meaning of each to me today.

One of the biggest issues in Masonry today, across the country, is activity. Brothers are not getting as involved as they once did. I am reaching out to encourage more activity. Find a reason

or a way to be active. Just attending regular stated meetings can't be your only activity. You do not have to be an officer of the Lodge or even have a title, just start something. Hold a drive for a local charity, plan a Table Lodge, have a fund raiser, have a special day or night out, whatever; just find a reason to get together. Today, this is the meaning of Brotherly Love to me.

The second Tenet I wish to discuss is Truth. I am guilty, as I am sure most everyone else is as well, of jumping on a "bandwagon" before knowing the Truth. As Masons, we should have higher expectations of ourselves to find the Truth before taking a stance. Truth is finding the facts, not opinions.

RWB Richard Hagler
Junior Grand Warden

Notes from the DGM

That's not the way we've always done it.

How many times have we all heard those words? They are perhaps the single largest inside joke in all of Masonry.

Everyone laughs, uses the phrase as a mantra to precipitate change, and then for the most part returns back to the way they've always done it before.

Don't get me wrong; there are many things in Masonry which absolutely must be maintained such as ritual, their teachings, civility, and our landmarks. These are the bedrock of Masonry, a solid and perpetual foundation from which to build upon. What we do beyond that is where there's room to change and evolve.

Without change there is stagnation and without evolution there is extinction. Think about that for a moment and ponder the truth of those words.

We as Grand Lodge officers have been



putting forth a number of new programs and different ways of doing things. All of us are committed to making these successful. If we don't try new things and different ways of accomplishing goals, we'll stagnate. Some may fail, but in order to succeed, you first need to try. None of us has plans for "our" year – that concept simply doesn't exist among the current line. We are all cooperatively working towards the same goals, and I hope that remains true for many years. We were elected to lead all aspects of the Craft, and it's a responsibility taken very seriously.

There is long list of items that the Grand Lodge provides the Lodges and Masons of South Dakota. I urge you to look into all of them and take advantage of everything possible. Consider what you can do in your own Lodge to institute change and fresh ideas. We have a long and rich heritage to draw from, and an unwavering foundation beneath us. Embrace new ideas and make a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
DaNiel Wood
Deputy Grand Master

AWARDS

Spearfish Lodge #18

WB Charles W. Nicholas received his 50-year pin and certificate on October 5, 2017. The presentation was made by WB Harold J. Walker, District Master.

Rapid City Lodge #25

Bro Bobby F. Lewis was awarded a 50-year pin and pocket certificate on November 16, 2017. The presentation was made by Grand Master Yancey Smith, SGW Harold Ireland, and PGM Maurice Peterson.

Aberdeen Lodge #38

On May 11, 2017, WB George F. Cross presented a 50-year pin and pocket certificate to WB Ray G. Hollan. A 50-year pin and pocket certificate were presented to Bro Harley F. Taylor on October 9, 2017. The presentation was made by Grand Master Yancey Smith, Maurice Peterson, PGM, Lowell

Holmgren, PGM, and Harold Ireland, SGW.

Brookings Lodge #24

On November 11, 2017, District Master Burton Seifel presented a 70-year pin to Bro Dallas C. Pinckney.

Olive Branch Lodge #116, Sturgis

A 60-year pin was presented to Bro Graham H. Chesnut. District Master Harold Walker made the presentation on January 2, 2018.

Custer City Lodge #66

Bro James L. Brunner and Bro Aaron R. Severs received 50-year pins and pocket certificates. The presentation was made by WM Ralph Sowder, on October 18, 2017. Lodge secretary WB William Patterson mailed a 60-year pin to Bro Clell D. Elwood, at his home address in Highlands Ranch, CO.

Wessington Lodge #107

On November 22, 2017, a 60-year pin was mailed to Bro Richard D. Vitters. The award was sent to his home address in Fremont, NE.

Jeptha Lodge #121, Hudson

District Master Bradley Hazuka presented a 70-year pin to WB Hobart J. Cole. The presentation was made November 21, 2017.

Unity Lodge #130, Sioux Falls

On October 25, 2017, WB Glendon Rice, Jr., lodge secretary, presented a 60-year pin to the wife of Bro Donald G. Dummermuth. Brother Dummermuth's health did not allow for non-family visitors.

Sisseton Lodge #131

On August 29, 2017, Bro Lester A. Clarke received a pin for 60 years of

Masonry. The presentation was made at his apartment in Aberdeen by the officers of Sisseton Lodge #131. Those attending were Bob Meland, Worshipful Master, Ralph Schmidt, Treasurer, Dennis Jensen, Secretary, and Marlin Jensen, Senior Warden.

IF YOU THINK YOU ARE DUE TO RECEIVE A 50-, 60-, OR 70-YEAR AWARD, PLEASE CHECK WITH THE SECRETARY OF YOUR LODGE SO HE CAN HAVE THE AWARD PREPARED BY THE GRAND LODGE OFFICE.



Kehm celebrates 70 years

Worshipful Brother Roger Kehm received his award celebrating 70 years as a Master Mason on Dec. 8, 2017. Brother Kehm was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on March 11, 1947. Worshipful Brother Roger has served Zonta Lodge #215 as Master on four separate occasions, for a total of 13 years, and has been very active in all aspects of Freemasonry. The award was presented by Most Worshipful Grand Master Yancey Smith and Right Worshipful Brothers DaNiel Wood, Deputy Grand Master; Harold Ireland, Senior Grand Warden; and Richard Hagler, Junior Grand Warden, at the Masonic Center in Sioux Falls. Gwen Olson, Grand Lodge office manager, was also present. From left are Hagler, Ireland, Wood, Kehm and Smith.

AWARDS



Steptoe awarded 60-year pin

On November 15, 2017, District Master Doug Bjorke presented a 60-year pin to Robert B. Steptoe. Brother Steptoe is a member of Speirs Lodge #186. Pictured are Karen Steptoe, Robert Steptoe, and DM Doug Bjorke.



Fritzsche honored for 60 years

District Master Doug Bjorke presented a 60-year pin to Brother Donald H. Fritzsche, Wessington Lodge #107, on Oct. 13, 2017. The presentation was made at a High Twelve luncheon in Huron with several Wessington Lodge Brothers and friends present.

What is Leadership?

A simple definition of Leadership: "Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act towards achieving common goals."

We all are in pursuit of a better environment for ourselves, our organizations, and our families so we thrive and prosper. Activate your talents because leadership is not a one size fits all approach. Generally, leadership should be a humble, authentic expression of your unique personality in the pursuit of betterment. Use your strengths and address your weaknesses in the most productive and efficient way possible. Know yourself and your team and do your best to set both up for success. A good leader provides people working for them the tools they need to succeed. We should always be looking forward and not backwards, or over our shoulder. It also means giving genuine praise for what goes well and by taking responsibility early and immediately if things go bad.

"Great leaders always lead by example." What you do will often have a larger impact than what you say. Leadership comes from influence and can come from anyone at any level and any role. Being open and authentic, while helping to lift others up and working toward a common mission does build influence. True leaders will influence your life in a positive way. "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." – Harry S. Truman

A leader is someone who has the clarity to know the right things to do, the confidence to know when they are wrong, and the courage to do the right things even when they are hard. Good leaders make their people accomplish more than they otherwise would by building consensus around realistic common goals. When a problem surfaces a leader has the ability to see the problem and provide a solution. They see the problem as a challenge and drive toward it to solve any issue. "Be the solution to problems." As a leader, you have the ability to help people achieve things they don't think possible.

Leaders inspire people through a shared vision and create an environment where people feel valued and fulfilled to achieve common goals. You should always build your team by developing them through coaching, mentoring, training, critiques, and recognition. As a leader you always want your folks to know their job and yours making your job much easier. A leader must be able to prioritize tasks, provide direction, vision and communications. Leadership is about three things: to listen, to inspire and to empower. You must be an active listener and understand the other person's point of view, which leads to a basis of trust and collaboration to inspire and empower. As a leader, your job is no longer about what you can accomplish, but what your entire team can achieve. Great leaders always focus on "we" and not "I" or "me." There is no "I" in "Team."

Fraternally, Harold D. Ireland
Senior Grand Warden



Brother Chesnut receives 60-year pin

Brother Graham Chesnut was presented his 60-year pin at his home in Spearfish on January 2, 2018. District 17 District Master Harold Walker made the presentation on behalf of Olive Branch #47 in Sturgis. Also present were Graham's wife Alma, PGM Mike Rodman, GM Yancey Smith, SGW Harold Ireland, WBs Gene Kinney, Herb Cook, Bob Tesch and Clare Armstrong. Brother Graham is also a member of Spearfish Lodge #18.

From the Archives

Here are scenes from past Masonic activities in South Dakota ...

Splendid Home, Aberdeen Masonic Bodies



FLOUR BARREL USED AS ALTAR

Nail Keg Supported Master at
First Meeting of Aber-
deen Lodge

BY W. E. MILLIGAN

Secretary Aberdeen Lodge No. 38,
A. F. & A. M., Aberdeen, S. D.

Early in September of 1882, when Aberdeen was only a yearling, but vigorous and healthy, a number of members of the craft, from many parts of the country, gathered in a partially completed building to take the initial steps toward organizing a Masonic Lodge.

After the usual formalities had been complied with a dispensation was issued in the following October to organize Aberdeen Lodge.

There was considerable delay in effecting the organization because of

the fact there was no building available which could be occupied for the purpose. A little later a small, low-ceilinged room was secured on the second floor of a frame building situated on the present site of the Federal building and the first stated communication was held there in January, 1883.

Flour Barrel an Altar

A flour barrel served as an altar and an empty nail keg supported the dignity of the Worshipful Master in the East. The lodge worked under dispensation until June 15, 1883 when a charter was granted it under the name of Aberdeen Lodge No. 38, A. F. & A. M.

All of the brethren whose names appear on the charter have passed to the great beyond.

Early in 1887 a commodious lodge room was secured in the building located on the southwest corner of Main street and 4th avenue, where for ten years the lodge prospered and took into its membership many of the best men of the community. Not many years passed before it became apparent that, in order to take care of the several Masonic bodies by that time created in Aberdeen, it was necessary to erect a building.

Build Exclusive Temple

The Masonic Temple Association was then organized and bravely undertook the task of erecting a Temple to be devoted exclusively to Masonic purposes. The Temple was duly built and was dedicated in January, 1907. It being the first building in the state devoted exclusively to Masonic uses. It was a heavy burden to carry and fully taxed the resources of the brethren but today the association owns unencumbered property worth approximately \$100,000 and the older members who assisted so manfully in the struggles of the past are justly proud of the work accomplished by them at that time. In 1917 the lodge had again outgrown its quarters and the Temple was remodeled and enlarged to its present proportions.

Lay Normal Corner Stone

Perhaps the most interesting event in the history of the lodge, aside from its birth, was the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, on October 16th, 1907.

An emergent communication of the Grand Lodge was called for that day

to lay the cornerstone of the administration building of the Normal school and to participate in the ceremony. Masons of prominence from all parts of the state attended. The morning was devoted to the laying of the corner stone.

In the afternoon occurred an unusual and very notable event. The lodge, presided over by Past Grand Master Frank A. Brown, worked the Masters Degree on his son Harry F. Brown, and during the ceremony every station and place on the floor was filled by a Past Grand Master. It was an occasion unique in the history of Masonry and may not have its parallel in the country.

Shows Healthy Growth

During the existence of the lodge it has furnished the Grand Lodge three Grand Masters, John Q. A. Bra-

den, Grand Master of Dakota, 1888; Frank A. Brown 1902, William E. Milligan, 1907.

During all these years the lodge has steadily progressed and now stands second in this Grand Jurisdiction in point of members.

Another important step forward was taken at the regular meeting in May last, when the lodge unanimously consented to the formation of a second lodge in the city. This action appeared almost necessary in order to relieve the present officers of some of the burden of work and it was also thought that a new and vigorous lodge would create an added interest and inspire a friendly rivalry

with the old lodge which would produce beneficial results.

Early Submission of Code Changes Encouraged

Jurisprudence Committee chairman Willie Steinlicht has offered to forward any amendments to the SD Masonic Code received by February 20 to the Jurisprudence Committee members for their review of language or form. If changes are needed, they will be returned to the submitter in time for him to make any revisions and resubmit the legislation to the Grand Lodge office before the March 15 deadline.

Proposals to amend the Masonic Code frequently have errors or omissions that might prevent them from being considered at the Grand Lodge session. According to the Masonic Code of South Dakota, Section 1.09: Amending the By-Laws, amendments can be submitted in writing to the Grand Lodge office at any time. The preferred time is no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Communication to allow time for notification in writing to the Lodges and publication at least 45 days before Grand Lodge meets. March 15, 2018 would be the target date for submission this year. All proposed legislation needs a favorable report from the Jurisprudence Committee prior to its being considered by the Grand Lodge. By submitting it early, changes could be made to assure that the proposal will have a better chance to be considered at the upcoming Grand Lodge session.

What your Grand Lodge is doing for you

Your elected officers are dedicated to providing the best possible Masonic experience for the Brethren of South Dakota. To that end, in the past several years, we have made a few changes.

Shortly after Grand Lodge this year you should have received the new plastic dues card, with a bar code. Masonry has a long history of excellence. Shouldn't the membership card you carry reflect that commitment to excellence? The new card is something you can be proud to

show when visiting another Lodge. The bar code is tied to your MORI number. We intended to have these cards out prior to the last annual communication, but unfortunately that didn't happen. At future Grand Lodge sessions, it should be possible to use the bar code for registration and credentials, hopefully simplifying and speeding up the process.

We are sending a packet to new Master Masons within 60 days of being raised. This packet contains the book "Further Light," a bookmark

with instructions for Our Lodge Page, a Grand Lodge pin, a welcome letter from the Grand Master, and his new dues card. We feel recognizing our new Brother right away will help the Lodge and the Fraternity retain him for life.

We know on average, a Mason will pay dues for about 8 years, before he stops and becomes NPD. We also know that in a volunteer organization, there is very little reward, other than highly valued recognition. To build on this, we now send years-of-service awards to recognize our Brothers on their Masonic Birthday, in intervals of 10 years, starting at 5 years. We have received many positive responses from this.

We believe the awards for Brothers who have reached the 50 year or more milestone deserved a more impressive pin than the one we had been giving. We designed and implemented a much nicer and easier to read award.

Since June of 2016, we have provided every Lodge in the state with a website, through Our Lodge Page (OLP). There is also an OLP app. In this app, your Lodge, your District Master, and the Grand Lodge can post calendar events, and you can RSVP to those events. You can now make payments through the app, should your Lodge desire to use this feature.

We have been sending email blasts approximately every other week, with upcoming events and other information, to reach as many Brothers as possible on a regular basis. Please be sure your Lodge, and the Grand Lodge, has your email address, so you receive these emails.

This past August, we held our third Leadership Conference. We realize that oftentimes the officers of our Lodges are not as prepared as

they could be. Our Conference has brought in some of the best Masonic presenters from around the country to provide training on the Six Steps to Initiation, how to plan for a successful Masonic year and real strategies to make our Lodges both appealing and effective.

In the basement of the Grand Lodge office, in the area called "the cage" are a number of books, aprons, photos and other items that need to be catalogued and properly preserved. We are developing a plan to move forward with preserving these important parts of our history.

These programs have cost some money; however, each of these items was a budgeted expense, approved by the Craft at the Annual Communication. We see these improvements as an investment in Masonry, rather than another expense. For more than 60 years, we have behaved as if Masonry has been on the decline in South Dakota. Your Grand Lodge officers truly believe that by investing in these programs and continuing to stress excellence, the Masons of South Dakota can stem the tide and become again what Masonry should be.

There have been, and will continue to be, challenges in implementing these programs. In some instances, we are doing things differently than the way they have been done in the past. Please know, however, that the Brothers you have elected to serve as officers, have the best interests of you and all of the Craft at heart, and will continue working for the betterment of Masonry.

As always, should you have any questions regarding the Grand Lodge, please feel free to contact me or any of the Elected Officers.

Fraternally,
Yancey Smith, Grand Master

SIoux FALLS AREA FREEMASONS CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM FUNDRAISER

Monday, March 12, 2018 | 6:05 p.m.



THE STORM WILL DONATE 50% OF EACH \$10 TICKET!
EACH TICKET SOLD WILL SPONSOR ONE LOCAL CHILD!



Storm Season Home Opener

Denny Sanford Premier Center
1201 N. West Avenue in Sioux Falls

1,000 Storm Kids Replica Jerseys Given Away (12&Under)

Seating*

Lower level west end zone: \$10 Each (regular price \$15)
Once full: Upper Level Sides, Row 1+Up: \$8 Each
* Based on availability at time of order.



Sioux Falls Area Freemasonry

The Sioux Falls Area Freemasons are the beneficiaries of the Sioux Falls Storm Opening Night Fundraiser on Monday, March 12. The proceeds raised by the Sioux Falls Area Freemasons will help benefit the South Dakota Child Identification Program otherwise known as SDCHIP.

SDCHIP is one of the most comprehensive child recovery and identification programs in the nation. It is recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and supported by the SD Highway Patrol, SD Sheriffs Association, SD Dental Association, SD Academy of Physician Assistants, and the SD Attorney General. The SDCHIP program offers parents a Free Identification Packet of their child for safekeeping and to aid law enforcement in the unfortunate event their child is reported missing.

You can help support the Sioux Falls Freemasons through the purchase of Storm Game tickets, sponsorship or pledges of Storm touchdowns, thunderball toss, QB sacks, field goal kicks or donate/sponsor a silent auction gift. E-Mail Jim Loria C/O jim@siouxfallstorm.com or phone (605) 610-5902 to get more information. You can also email the Sioux Falls Area Freemasons at masonicnight@gmail.com.



Share your events, news with others around SD

Greetings from the Public Awareness Committee. We would like to share your lodge events with others around the state. Help us by emailing events and lodge highlights to pac@mygrandlodge.org to share in the email blasts and other Grand Lodge communications.

We have a great communication tool that all lodges and Masons across the state can utilize. Each lodge has their own Our Lodge Page site to add lodge photos, calendar events, lodge info, file storage, and many more exciting features coming. Along with that there is an app available for each member to get notifications of calendar events, news blasts, contact list and more.

These are great tools available to each lodge. Instructions on how to get set up are available, if you need additional help please let anyone on the Public Awareness Committee know. All of the information is pulled from MORI. To get the most out of it assign a webmaster in MORI, and please be sure to update the contact info for all members to include their email addresses.

South Dakota Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. – Public Awareness Committee

Aaron Zahn
Lennie Tucker
Brian Cole
David Sweigart

The Freemasons of South Dakota engage and inspire good men, who believe in a Supreme Being, to live according to Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Our mission is guided by the core values of our fraternity:

Freedom: Freemasons champion the liberties and values outlined in the founding documents of the United States of America.

Integrity: Freemasons strive to be honest, truthful and reliable, living in a just and upright manner.

Tolerance: Freemasons embrace diversity of opinion, religious, ethnic, cultural, social, and educational differences.

Address Service Requested

GRAND LODGE OFFICE
Grand Secretary A F & A M
520 S. 1st Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6902

