



THE Masonic Messenger



May 2020

Freedom • Integrity • Tolerance

Faith • Hope • Charity

South Dakota DeMolay Conclave 2020



Top: First International Order of DeMolay taken in 1921 in Kansas City, Missouri
Bottom: SD and WY DeMolay Spring Conclave 29 February 2020

Friday and Saturday February 28th and 29th 2020, several young men from across the state of South Dakota and Wyoming attended the DeMolay Spring Conclave. Carrying on a 100 year tradition, 16 young men ranging in ages from 12-20, along with their adult advisors, spent the weekend at the Sturgis Masonic Lodge on the Whitewood Service Road, engaged in the fellowship and leadership opportunities that participating in DeMolay provides. DeMolay has been a part of Sturgis History since 1949. Many of those young men that have been on the roles of the

Sturgis Chapter of DeMolay, have gone on to serve their communities in adulthood as Doctors, Lawyers, Business and Military men and became great Husbands and Fathers.

This Spring Conclave gave an opportunity for these young men to come together to do Degree Work. The DeMolay degrees teach life lessons and encourages filial love, sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness, and patriotism. These youth also had the opportunity to meet young men from other Chapters, allowing them to form lifelong friendships.

DeMolay is the premier international youth leadership organization, striving to shape young men into leaders of character by epitomizing timeless values, and accepting the chal-

lenge of leadership. Both by character and action, the young men of DeMolay transform themselves into citizens of the highest caliber. DeMolay is an inclusive organization that only asks of young men interested to believe in a higher being.

Each young man takes ownership of his DeMolay experience. From generating ideas, planning events, coordinating logistics, and executing their plans, each DeMolay Chapter is responsible for defining their success. All of this is accomplished under the mentorship of trained Advisors, selected from the local community, enabling each Chapter to be uniquely tailored to support the interests of its members.

The Black Hills Scottish Rite, Valley of Deadwood acquired their set of backdrops from Kansas City in 1935. One of these historic backdrops happens to be the one used in 1921 at the first International Meeting of DeMolay. The participants had a unique opportunity to have their picture taken with that same backdrop during their Spring Conclave weekend.

The DeMolay youth also had a joint meeting with the Job's Daughters Bethel #12 from Sturgis. Afterward the two youth groups attend the Rapid City Rush Hockey game Saturday night.

Vermillion Masons Lodge Celebrates 150th Anniversary

VERMILLION — Members of the Masonic Grand Lodge of South Dakota celebrated the beginnings of the fraternal organization in Vermillion Sunday by making a bit of history of their own.

Masons performed a historic cornerstone rededication ceremony as part of the 150th anniversary celebration of the dedication of what was originally Incense Lodge #257, chartered in 1869 by the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

The ceremony was held Sunday afternoon in the Masonic Lodge in Vermillion, known as Incense Lodge #2, located at 7 West Main in the heart of the community's downtown.

The event attracted a strong crowd made up of not only local Masons and their spouses, but also some of the organization's regional leaders, including Grand Master Harold D. Ireland, Senior Grand Warden Jeffrey P. VanCuren and Junior Grand Warden Daniel A. Nace.

Incense Lodge #2 was named in 1875, when the Grand Lodge of Iowa gave its jurisdictional rights to the newly formed Grand Lodge of Dakota, making it the second oldest lodge in the jurisdiction behind St. John's Lodge in Yankton.

Tom Sorensen, the Worshipful Master of Incense Lodge #2,

“Incense Lodge #2 was instrumental in helping install and establish the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory.”

thanked the members of the Order of Eastern Star Juno Chapter #44 who helped make Sunday's ceremony possible.

“As old as this lodge is, the Order of the Eastern Star has been under our roof, according to our history books, since 1898,” Sorensen said. “We have a partnership that goes back a long ways.”

Masonry, a benevolent, educational and charitable organization, is the world's oldest and largest fraternity of men dedicated to helping each other and contributes to the betterment of society.

Masonic lodges across South Dakota support various local youth and community projects and humanitarian efforts through South Dakota Masonic Charities.

“The Masons here in Vermillion and Clay County and in this area, in February of last year, celebrated its 150th year and it takes time to plan things and get people together,” Sorensen said. “We were established as a lodge in 1869 when Dakota Territory was here and stretched from the Missouri River all the way to Canada”.

Incense Lodge #2 was instrumental in helping install and establish the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory, Sorensen said.

The lodge was first known as Incense Lodge #247 under the jurisdiction of Iowa.

After Dakota Territory became North Dakota and South Dakota on Nov. 2, 1889, Incense Lodge #2 in Vermillion became part of the Mason's South Dakota jurisdiction.

“We were established as a lodge on Feb. 10, 1869, under dispensation issued by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. The Grand Lodge had received due application as early as 1867, but it took a couple years for

everything to happen,” Sorensen said.

The first communication of Iowa's new Incense Lodge was held in a room on the second story of a building below the bluff in what's known as Original Vermillion. “It moved several times until finally we established our lodge in this building and then later we remodeled and added on to it,” Sorensen said.

The lodge is the home of several historic documents, including its original charter. Sorensen noted a photograph showing a partially built Clay County Courthouse and the large crowd that had gathered for the ceremony of laying the building's cornerstone.

“The Grand Lodge of South Dakota helped handle this in 1912 at the Clay County Courthouse,” he said. “We have a very rich history and this is the latest part of our history so watch what happens.”

According to a document prepared by the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center in 2017, there was Masonic activity as early as 1862 in what is now South Dakota. The first charter was issued under the jurisdiction of Iowa to a lodge in Yankton, Dakota Territory, in 1863. By 1875, there were five lodges, all in the southeastern part of the territory.

In 1875, the Iowa Grand Lodge instituted the Grand Lodge of Dakota at Vermillion. In October 1899, 10 years after statehood was granted, North Dakota and South Dakota were split into two Grand Lodges.

“Reprinted With Permission From The Vermillion Plain Talk”

The South Dakota Mason's Child Identification Program

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, there are about 800,000 children are reported missing each year in the United States -- that's roughly 2,000 per day. Of those, there are 115 child “stranger abduction” cases each year, which means that there was a child taken by an unknown person.

The South Dakota Mason's Child Identification Program is a FREE program sponsored by the South Dakota Masons, where a child can be identified. This process includes pictures, voice, finger prints, DNA, teeth imprints, parent information and ID. All information is given to parents/guardians and, if needed, may be used to quickly initiate an Amber Alert.

We had 146 Volunteers
31 Junior ROTC Students

15 Medical professional from the South Dakota Academy of Physicians Assistants

14 Honor Society

8 Retired Senior Volunteer Program Members

6 Pennington County 911 Dispatch Center Members

Thank you Courtney and Ashlin for your special support from 911!

We had 72 SD School of Mines Students, which entail the football program, women's basketball program, golf program and the music program.

Thanks to our volunteers!

We received television coverage from KOTA, News Center One.

Thank you for all that you do for Masonry,
Bryant Stokes

Greetings from the West

Relief in a Time of Social (Physical) Distancing



To relieve the distressed is a duty incumbent on all men but more especially Masons. To soothe the unhappy, to sympathize with their misfortunes, to compassionate their miseries and to restore peace to the troubled mind is the grand aim of Masonry. So, in this time of social distancing (I prefer physical distancing) how do we accomplish relieving our family, friends, neighbors, Lodge members and Brethren wheresoever dispersed?

There is not a one size fit all solution but, we as Masons need to

contemplate what we can do and contribute to relief of our communities, more especially our Brother Masons, as liberally as possible without material injury (and physical) to ourselves and family. I am very proud to say I know many brethren who are taking up the mantle of their lodges and instituting their own calling chains to make sure that nobody feels isolated at this time. They are making calls to brothers that they don't even know. I personally have experienced a couple such calls where I have spent 30 to 40 minutes on the phone with somebody I have never met before. These conversations were as good for me as they were for the person on the other end of the phone. I recently had a discussion about not being able to get out and support my nonprofit char-

ity because, if I were to contract this virus, I would be putting my family, who are in a high risk category, in unnecessary peril or danger. The brother on the other end of the conversation reassured me that, even though it was counterintuitive, I was making the right decision. We, my wife and I, have made a conscious decision that there are other ways that we can help those in our community that are in need without, unnecessarily exposing ourselves to the danger of this virus. We have been able to offer our Zoom account to allow groups to meet and socialize, I have also been able to use Facebook pages to connect and promote encouraging words.

As we end this year, we are under a dark cloud of the pandemic that is threatening the world. Masonry

is taking a big hit but, it is how we react in the coming days that will define the Fraternity. I am proud to be involved with Lodges and Organizations that are reaching out to their members and making sure that we adhere to one of the tenants or our Organization, Relief. I urge everyone not just the elected officers of the Lodges to reach out to members that they may have lost contact with or that they do not even know. Renew your commitment to this Great Fraternity and always remember to practice those tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

Jeff VanCuren
Senior Grand Warden

Sesquicentennial and Rededication of Incense Lodge #2, Vermillion

The Grand Lodges of South Dakota and Iowa participated in the 150 Year Sesquicentennial and Rededication of Incense Lodge #2 on 8 March 2020 in Vermillion, SD. A great crowd was on hand to help celebrate this historic event and share in the celebration.

Incense Lodge was originally chartered as Incense Lodge #257 by the Grand Lodge of Iowa on 10 February 1869. Incense was one of the first five (5) Lodges in the territory and its support led to the establishment of the Grand Lodge of Dakota Territory in 1875 when the name was changed to Incense Lodge #2 because it was the second oldest Lodge in Dakota Territory. The only Lodge older than Incense was the Lodge in Yankton which was named St. Johns Lodge #1. On 2 November 1889 the Dakota Territory became the two states of South Dakota and North Dakota and these Lodges retained their names. The Lodge has been under three (3) Grand Lodge jurisdictions; Grand Lodge of Iowa with its original charter, Grand Lodge of Dakota whereas its name was changed to Incense #2, and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota since 1889. The Installation Ceremony of the Grand Lodge of Dakota was held in the Baptist



Participating in the ceremony were GM Harold Ireland, GM William Crawford IA; WB Dave Meltz; RWB Dennis Heflin IA; RWB Jeff VanCuren; RWB Dan Nace; WB Tony Larson; and WB Harold Walker.

Church in 1875 with Thos H. Brown, MW Grand Master; F.J. Dewitt, RWD Grand Master; C.G. Shaw, RW SR Grand Warden; H.H. Blair, RW JR Grand Warden; Geo H. Hand, RW Grand Treasurer; and Mark W. Bailey, RW Grand Secretary. Order of Eastern Star, Juno Chapter

#44 has been a partner with this Lodge since 1898 and was available to accomplish an excellent lunch for those participating in this historical event.

Incense Lodge #2 has a great history and has had influence on the area since 1869. An example of the influence was the dedication of the Clay County Courthouse by the Grand Lodge of South Dakota along with assistance from Incense Lodge #2 in 1912. There has been Masonic activity in what is now South Dakota as early as 1862. The first charter was issued in Yankton, Dakota Territory in 1863.

Incense Lodge #2 is a place where Brothers could meet on the level and practice our great foundation of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. We wish them success in their endeavors for the next 150 years.

Fraternally,
Harold D. Ireland GM



Annual Report of the Save a Child (MMSAP) Program in SD

I am happy to report that we were able to hold two Save A Child program trainings in South Dakota this year.

The first was held in Aberdeen at the Yelduz Shrine Center in November and about 20 educators were trained. A huge thank you to all who assisted with this training.

The second training was held at the Ramkota in Rapid City in February. Just over 30 educators were trained. Another huge thank you to all those involved in making this happen. One notable difference at this training was there were 6 attendees from the Rapid City YMCA after school program at North Middle School. To my knowledge, this is the first group to participate who were not full-time professional educators.

I believe for future trainings, we should invite not only area school districts, but organizations such as YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Ministerial groups, etc.

The National Masonic Foundation for Children (NMFC) is a national 501(c)3 charity that is part of the Conference of Grand Masters of North America. This charity is the group that oversees the day to day administration of the MMSAP trainings. The NMFC employs a full time Executive Secretary who coordinates and schedules the trainers, sends the invitations to area schools, etc. and were a huge help to the program in getting these trainings done.

In addition to the standard MMSAP training we have done in South Dakota for more than 20 years, the NMFC and the company contracted to provide the trainers now offers several other trainings, including bullying, trauma informed care and others for educators, and training for youth peer groups in schools and training for Masonic youth leaders. It may be time to look at offering some of these other trainings, as the climate and environment of education continues to change.

It is our hope to provide another training this fall, but with the shutdown of schools because of the Coronavirus, I am not how that will play out.

I would again like to thank all those who continue to support this critical program financially as well as those who volunteered many hours to make the two trainings this year a reality. I would also thank Most Worshipful Grand Master Ireland for appointing me State Coordinator for our Save A Child program.

Respectfully submitted,
Yancey Smith, PGM
SD State Coordinator, Save A Child

South Dakota Educators Participate In Save A Child Training

*Courtesy Rapid City, SD (KOTA TV)
By Sunday Miller*

By teachers, for teachers, a training was held in Rapid City to help educators recognize at-risk behaviors in students.

The training program is called “Save A Child” and aims to help teachers, janitors, and bus drivers intervene to prevent worst case scenarios.

At-risk behaviors include bullying, depression, and suicidal tendencies, which could lead to substance abuse and violence.

The training was hosted by the Masonic Lodge of Rapid City, which supports various local youth and community projects. This three-day training is free and attracted more than 30 educators from across the state.

One sponsor said this is supplemental to the training schools already receive. “Our children, they have their regular backpack that they have that has all their materials and stuff, but in addition to that, they’re carrying another backpack that’s in front of them that carries these emotions, these difficulties, these challenges that they’re faced with in life so what our objective is, is to help teachers to identify some of these behaviors,” said Michael Sparks, Masonic Lodge of Rapid City.

Sparks said he hopes teachers walk away with the tools to deal with various issues faced in the classroom.

The training includes group exercises in a classroom setting to allow educators the opportunity to share experiences and work together. They also learn how to create action plans to help students and families overcome these issues.

“We have been doing a lot of work within the district on intervention and thinking about how we can better serve our kids, I work at a predominately Native American district, and that achievement gap has not been closed for the last 15, 20 years so we started to think about well what we can do to better identify and better help our students and our families,” said Dana Haukaas, principal of Todd County Middle School.

Haukaas said she hopes this training helps push her district into the next level of implementation.

The last training was held in Aberdeen, and future training will be based on interest.



Minnesota Exchange with South Dakota Masons

Masonic Brothers from Nelson Lodge #135 (Buffalo, MN) and Star Lodge #62 (Rockford, MN) joined Brothers from Gettysburg, Aberdeen and Redfield for an evening of fraternal fellowship and an exchange of activities in Lodges represented to further our local presence and the interests of Masonry. We enjoyed Oyster Stew, Chili, sandwiches and dessert. The following comments are from W.Bro.

Secretary of Star Lodge:

“Hi Brother,

We raised 6 last year and had 2 transfers into our lodge from other lodges. We are involved with and raise money for an active local 501c3 that runs the food shelf, lunch deliveries in the summer for kids, and a variety of other local community events and services. They are called RiverWorks Community Development.

We also provide 2 x \$2,000 scholarships each year to local seniors for tech schools (2 year programs) as we have found that support for 2yr versus 4 yr degrees are limited.

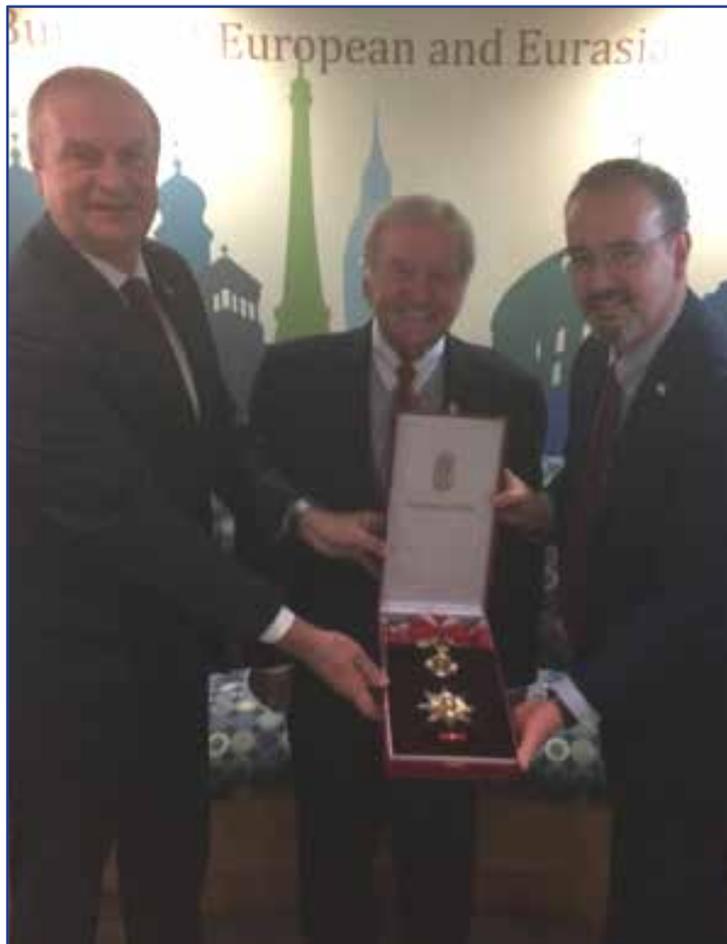
Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me for further info.

Fraternally,
Eric Sorenson”

We neglected to get a picture of the event. We hope for a repeat next year and will make a strong effort to get pictures.

Larry Madsen, Secretary of
Ionic Lodge #83 in Gettysburg, SD

Brother David Vuich, Member of Rapid City Lodge #25 Received the Order of Karadjordje Star, Medal of Freedom



Brethren of Rapid City Lodge #25,

I am honored and pleased to forward the attached announcement that refers to my recently having been chosen by the President of the Republic of Serbia, Aleksandar Vucic, to receive the country's highest honor,"The Order of the Karadjordje, First Class, equivalent to the US Medal of Freedom. Please share my honor and personal joy with my brothers of Rapid City #25, and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

I am the second American to have been awarded this distinguished honor, the first one

being Brother General John Pershing.

Rest assured, I was quite surprised and overwhelmed however grateful for their having bestowed this honor upon me.

During the 1990's I was actively involved in a sincere effort to return the "Light" to the Grand Lodge of Serbia, which has since become prominent and fully recognized by the Grand Lodge of the United States.

Fraternally,

David Vuich, 33o K.C.C.H.
Rapid City Lodge #25 (65 Years)

Once again please accept Vera's and my heartfelt congratulations for receiving the highest military and civilian decoration of the Republic of Serbia.

Your tireless work, scientific achievements, as well as your immeasurable contribution to the promotion of the reputation of the Serbian community, here in the United States and all over the World, are immensely appreciated and highly valued. We are honored to know you and to be the friends of Ginger's and yours. We wish you good health and to wear this medal for many, many years to come with pride and dignity.

I am sending you enclosed herewith the translation of the letter of the Secretary-General of the President of Serbia, Mr. Nikola Selaković as well as the link to the website of the decoration you were awarded.

Mr. Vuich is the second US citizen in history to have been awarded the honor, the first being General John Pershing.

US State Department
Djerdj Matkovic
Ambassador
Embassy of Serbia

Esteemed Mr. Vuich,

It is with great joy and pleasure that I inform you that the President of the Republic of Serbia Mr. Aleksandar Vučić has decided to decorate you with the Order of Karadjordje's Star of First Degree on the occasion of Sretenje – the National Day of Serbia.

Appreciating the significant results, you have achieved working on the Apollo cosmic program as well as valuing your contribution to the advancement of the reputation of the Serbian community in America, as well as the Serbian Nation all over the World, the President has decided to decorate you with this high award.

Please accept my sincere congratulations, along with my wishes that for many years to come you wear this medal in good health, for the pride of your family and all the citizens of Serbia.

The ceremonial presentation of the decoration will be held at the New Palace, Andrićev venac 1 in Belgrade, on February 15, 2020 at 1 pm.

In hope that we will meet you on Sretenje, I send you my kindest regards.

Secretary General
Nikola Selaković



David Vuich, Rapid City #25, (65 Years); 32o, K.C.C.H., Valley of Los Angeles (50+ Years); and Al Malaika Shrine (50+ Years)

On Monday, February 24, David Vuich was presented with the Order of Karadjordje Star, First Class at the US State Department in Washington, D.C. during a private ceremony by His Excellency US Ambassador to Serbia, Godfrey, and His Excellency Serbian Ambassador to the US, Markovic. The award is considered equivalent to the U.S. Medal of Freedom.

Message from Grand Trustees

The Grand Trustees recognize that these are tough times during the pandemic crisis and that this ordeal could last for quite some time. During this time, many of us and our families will be experiencing tremendous financial difficulties including lost jobs or wages, medical expenses from illnesses and even expenses from deaths.

Our forefathers had these issues in mind when drafting provisions in our Bylaws for a Grand Lodge Charity Fund. Please note that this is separate and distinct from the South Dakota Masonic Charities, which has a separate Board of Directors. The Grand Lodge Charity Fund is strictly controlled by the Grand Trustees.

Our Grand Lodge Charity Fund has a little over \$4,000,000 at hand.

We take great pride in providing approved applicants with either one-time payments or monthly stipends. All applications are available from the Grand Lodge Office. You can reach the Office and request an application by email at office@mygrandlodge.org or you may call the Office at (605) 332-2051. When applications are received, they are distributed to the five members of the Trustees and are held in the strictest confidence. Although our meetings are generally attended by others including Grand Lodge Officers, any discussions involving these applications are done with only the five Trustees in attendance. All others are excused from the meeting.

Also be assured that we do not file a lien against any property owned by those receiving assis-

tance. We lifted that proviso approximately one year ago. This is a gift with absolutely no requirement that these monies be repaid. These expenditures are meant to be for the relief of fraternal Brothers and their families with no expectation for recompense.

Now, we understand that there are those among us who are not inclined to apply because of pride. We certainly understand that. However, we certainly do not wish to see our Brothers and families suffer undue hardships unnecessarily.

Again, we have over \$4,000,000 in the Grand Lodge Charity Fund. We do help those in need as much as we possibly can. The monies we spend have not adversely affected the monies we have available. All of your Trustees, both past and

present, have anticipated times like these, have built up our fund over the years and we have the ability to meet the financial needs of those during these trying times.

We strongly encourage those who are in need to apply. We also encourage all Brothers who are reading this to think of a fellow Brother or his family who would benefit from this assistance and reach out to them. The Grand Trustees not only want to assist, we have an obligation to assist.

Fraternally from the Grand Trustees,
Steve Barns, Chairman
Glendon Rice
Bob Tesch
Larry Madsen
Doug Papendick

Historic Spearfish Masonic Lodge #18 A.F. & A.M. PO Box 294 Spearfish, SD 57783



Spearfish Masonic Lodge #18 AF&AM established a program to contact our widows and shut-ins, to remind them that we are here to help when needed. In partnership with Rosemary's Kitchen we delivered a bag containing fruit, cookies, and snacks, and a note for them to call us (our answering machine) if they need our help. Rosemary's kitchen rents our kitchen and developed our bags in a secure/safe environment. The bags were then placed in a grocery bag for delivery. We called each recipient before going and then had them remove their bag from our grocery bag.

Note:
If anyone wants our process or other information we would be very happy to share.

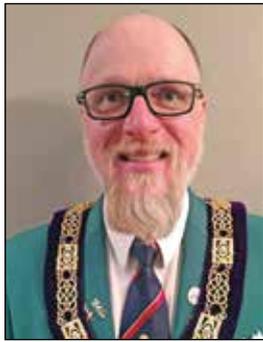
“Let's be the go to guys whenever there is an emergency or someone needs assistance.”

Mobridge Lodge #164 PO Box 535 Mobridge, SD 57601

The Brethren of Mobridge Lodge #164 teamed up with the first responders in Mobridge to accomplish similar tasks to assist those who need help in getting groceries and resources. Brothers and first responders went to grocery stores and bought the food and items then left it at their door for anyone that was unable to do this for themselves. Many of our Lodges are not only assisting their Brothers but others in the communities that need assistance. Let's be the go to guys whenever there is an emergency or someone needs assistance.

Notes from the Deputy Grand Master

These are interesting times Brothers. I hope you are all staying well. I would like to thank those among us that are being



If you don't have a list of those individuals it might be time to start doing some research and getting that accomplished. This might be an opportunity to remind our Brothers, their widows and orphans that we do truly care. And who knows, maybe it will give them a reason to reengage with the Lodge. In my mind that is a win-win situation.

I would also like to remind everyone that the Grand Lodge has funds set aside to assist Brothers and their families during the pandemic. We understand that some of us are temporarily unemployed or may have unexpected medical expenses that can add up in a hurry. We are here to help. The Grand Lodge office has applications that can be filled out and sent in. These applications are confidential, as only the Trustees see them. I realize there might be hesitation by some but remember those funds are put in place for just this reason. This is part of what we all work so hard for. To help our Brothers when they need it. Also keep in mind that those asking for assistance will not be asked to pay ANY of this back. We are doing this because it the right thing to do, plain and simple.

Masons are meant to be Leaders. Now is the time for us to show it. We should be doing all we can for our Brothers, our Lodges, our Family and our Community as long as we are staying safe while doing so. I know there are lots of ideas and plans out there. Make them known so they can be shared and used to help all of us get through these challenging times. Please stay safe and know I am just a phone call away. We are not alone we are all in this together.

Jason D. Swindler,
Deputy Grand Master

deemed essential during the Covid-19 pandemic. I would also like to remind everyone that the Grand Lodge is here for those that are experiencing hardship for whatever reason. We need to remember as Freemasons we should never feel we are alone. Most of us are used to regularly stated Lodge meetings to catch up with Brothers we may not see often and have good Masonic fellowship. Remember we are Masons, and this Fraternity has survived some incredible times in our history. We have had to constantly reinvent ourselves while staying within the bounds of our Landmarks, Code and By-laws. This is another time for us to think out of the box and get creative.

I applaud the Lodges that have embraced video-conferencing tools like Zoom and Microsoft Teams to stay connected with their Lodge while we can't meet face to face. It's nice to see familiar faces and hear voices that can offer some comfort and support during these uncertain times. Remember however, the Brothers that don't have this capability. It is a great time to print a roster and reach out to as many of our Lodge members as possible to make sure everyone has what they need for now. I believe even just a conversation might be what a lot of us need right now. Remember the widows and orphans. We have vowed to take care of them as well.

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.

Tidings from the Grand Treasurer-Secretary



Well things have been interesting to say the least and the Grand Lodge Office. This Covid-19 Pandemic has made it necessary to change

how our Grand Lodge Office does business. Had to get things set up rather quickly so Gwen could do most of her work from home. We now have remote access and cloud back ups for all our information, this is something we were planning on doing anyway but is done now. Sharon is back but working a limited schedule also. We continue

to monitor all the updates from the City and State and hope to get back to a new normal sometime later in May. If you need anything, please call leave voice messages, or send e-mails and we will get back to you ASAP. Otherwise the office is closed though May 15th as of now. Hopefully many of you have been able to meet via Zoom, Skype and other virtual means. Continue to be safe and creative as we all work to get through this.

Thanks,
James J Burma Jr.

146th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota

To the Worshipful Masters of all Lodges in the Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota

You are hereby summoned, with your Wardens and Past Masters (whom you will please notify), to be part of the 146th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of South Dakota to be opened at 10:00 AM (Mountain Daylight Time) on Friday, 19 June 2020 by electronic means. Due to the Corona virus and current restrictions we will be holding an Electronic Session for the 2020 Annual Communication that will require all who participate to have a valid email. All eligible to vote must ensure Grand Secretary has their valid email so he can provide a unique ID number for voting on secret ballot for Election

of Grand Lodge Officers, Approval of Preprinted Reports and Budget for 2021. Verify that your email is accurate in MORI or send an update to Grand Secretary.

Worshipful Masters and Wardens unable to participate will appoint qualified Proxies with emails submitted to Grand Secretary to vote in their stead. All Members must be current on their 2020 Dues, and if attending as a Proxy, they must provide a signed proxy card. All Master Masons, in good standing, in a recognized Lodge, are cordially invited to participate.

The Secretary of each Lodge shall communicate this summons to their Lodge members after its receipt.

Harold D. Ireland
Grand Master

Greetings from the Grand Treasurer-Secretary

Lodge Secretaries,

Due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic, the Grand Master has ordered the use of an electronic ballot for electing Grand Lodge Officers and voting on Grand Lodge reports as found in the annual preprinted reports.

As Grand Lodge prepares for Annual Communication in June we need your assistance to identify any Past Masters and those from your Lodge who are eligible to vote at our session. Request you send their names and email addresses to the Grand Secretary so he can gener-

ate a unique ID number for each to make the electronic voting work.

In able to participate everyone must ensure their email is accurate in MORI or send an update to the Grand Secretary.

It is incumbent on the Lodge Secretaries to ensure we have all Past Masters identified so they can vote during our Electronic Session for Annual Communication on 19 June 2020.

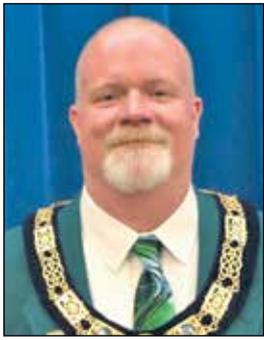
Fraternally,
James J. Burma, Jr
Grand Treasure/Secretary

146th Annual Communication Agenda

- 10:00 AM Opening of Annual Communication
Electronic Session
- 10:05 AM Roll Call of Constituent Lodges
- 10:10 AM Overview of Session
 - Awards
 - Reference Preprinted Reports
 - Voting Procedures and Link for Ballot
 - Vote on Grand Lodge Officers, Committee Reports, & Budget
- 10:15 AM Announce Awards
 - Lodge of the Year / Master Builder
 - Lodge Education Officer
 - Grand Master's Awards
 - SD Masonic Charities Contributors (GMs Circle, Master Builders Club, Legacy Society)
- 10:25 AM Call from Labor to Refreshment until 1:00 PM
- 10:30-12:00 Voting on Ballots (Window open)
- 12:00 PM Tellers Canvass Ballots
- 1:00 PM Call from Refreshment to Labor
 - Announcement of Ballots
 - Next Regular Annual Communication 17-19 June 2021
- 1:45 PM Installation of Officers - Remotely
- 3:00 PM Closing of Annual Communication Session

Nominations begin on page 12.

Greetings from the South



As I sit here in the last leg of my trip to the Conference of Grand Masters of North America, I can't help but think, how many other brothers are on this plane with me? The first one I noticed just happened to be sitting right next to me. His name is Matt and we chat about what's coming for us in Louisville in a very short time.

Then, as I watch the plane start to fill, Brother after Brother after Brother file in! They just keep coming and coming! Well, since I occupy the aisle seat and Matt has the window I get to greet them all one by one as they pile in, bringing their girlfriends or ladies.

Now we are in the air... all you hear is the occasional opening of an overhead compartment, the roar of the motors and all the wind noise you can handle. Matt and I exchange some words when one of us has something we want to share with the other, or he reads from a book, and well...I'm writing this to you. The point of my story telling is why would anyone not want this exceptional Brotherhood that we all share? I didn't know Matt until he

sat down. I'm not sure if I'll see him again but I certainly hope so!

The longer I sit during the flight, it dawns on me that all the Brothers and ladies on this plane are headed to Louisville for one purpose: to keep Freemasonry alive! To keep the brotherhood going! Keeping up the more than 300 year history of this great fraternity that we all love, and to continue to move forward into the next centuries ahead.

If you know of a great and qualified man to join this great fraternity, first send him to www.beafreemason.org for information about what to expect from the Order. Then lead him in the right direction! Talk with him, get his opinion on Freemasonry, invite him to a lodge function, so that other members can meet him. After you are satisfied that he will make a great Master Mason of our fraternity, then, hand him a petition! It's a good feeling knowing that you have brought a good man to the craft and are in the process of making him a better man as he also helps others on their own personal journeys.

Dan Nace
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of SD

Electronic Voting Requirements

This directive provides guidance for use of electronic ballots on 19 June 2020 by eligible voting members of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

The intent of this electronic balloting is to allow for conducting only the most essential annual business of the Grand Lodge. An in-person Communication, previously determined to be held 19-20 June 2020, is not possible by federal, state, and local guidelines and restrictions. The barrier is the current COVID-19 national emergency, which by order of the President, CDC and the Grand Master's Edict Regarding CORONAVIRUS barring the gathering of persons in any sized group.

I have approved an electronic ballot, created by an independent source, to do the most essential annual business. It contains only two items for voting members to consider: (1) **Election** of Grand Lodge Officers, Trustee, and Jurisprudence

for 2020-2021, and (2) the approval of the Grand Lodge reports and budget proposal contained in the **2020 Annual Communication Preprint**. Historically, these items have neither been controversial nor deeply contested. No issue that may have been considered controversial would have been placed on the ballot. With concurrence from the Jurisprudence Committee, all Legislation will be pushed to the next regular Annual Communication. ***All that wish to vote in this year's Annual Communication need to ensure the Grand Secretary has your email or it is accurate in MORI.***

Each of our qualified voters will receive a unique number from the Grand Secretary. The voter will use that number to electronically sign in and receive access to his ballot and vote. Once the period for voting is complete, the Tellers Committee will collect the data, just as they would paper ballots, and

report the results. The Grand Secretary is not a member of the Tellers Committee and will not have access to the ballots. The Tellers will not have access to the Grand Secretary's list of names and their unique identifying numbers. These efforts are to ensure a secret ballot, to the best of our ability.

I would like to pause just a moment to discuss secret ballots. Masons are men of honor. We take obligations to act that way, and hold each other accountable. Critics of this electronic balloting plan might balk at the notion that complete secrecy and privacy can be maintained in a digital environment. I reply to them with the following: I am requesting that the voting members of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota keep their ballots secret and hold them harmless from corruption. To not do so would subject a voter to Masonic discipline. With a nod to our Master Mason's obligation, we've now as secret and

private a ballot as men on this earth can hope to have.

A link to the online ballot will be sent by email to each qualified voter, with his unique number. Follow-up will be made to their Lodges by our District Masters both reviewing the process and answering questions. Voters without access to the internet may proxy their vote to a Past Master of their Lodge or the Master of the Lodge may enter two or three votes, circumstances depending. In either case, this is just as would happen if a voting member was unable to attend the Annual Communication in person.

The Electronic Session of Annual Communication will open at 10:00AM MDT on Friday, 19 June 2020 followed by a roll call of Lodges, Announcements of Lodge of the Year, Master Builder of the Year, Lodge Education Officer and any special awards.

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

References to Preprinted Reports on what are available on line and the procedures used to vote will be discussed. Balloting will open at 10:30 AM and remain open until 12:00PM. This is in keeping with our Grand Lodge Annual Communication per the Code except for election of Grand Lodge Officers will be accomplished as time allows through on line access. The Tellers Committee will meet at 12:00 PM to begin their canvass of votes. The chair will make his report and the Grand Master will announce the winners. Obligation and installation of the newly elected Grand Lodge officers will follow immediately thereafter.

I close with a point of emphasis. An electronic ballot is not how a single one of us wants to accomplish the work of our Annual Communication. My hope, though, is with this balloting, we can get as close as we can in this COVID-restricted environment to our usual form of work. When we've finished, we can look to a happy future period when we can gather together again to celebrate both our Brotherhood and our precious South Dakota Freemasonry.

To the Masons of South Dakota, I close with best wishes for your good health and for the health of your families. Continue to support one another as you always do, and I say again what a blessing it is to be counted among your number.

Fraternally and Sincerely,

Harold D. Ireland
Grand Master of Masons



Grand Lodge A.F. & A. M. of South Dakota

GRAND MASTER'S EDICT ON ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS

As we continue to work through restrictions imposed by COVID-19 situation, we must accomplish our regular Masonic business in new and different ways. Under a previous edict I ordered that all regular meetings, degree work, and events be postponed or cancelled until conditions change and restrictions are lifted. Continue to utilize electronic meetings to conduct your Lodge business and fellowship with our Brothers.

It is not sensible to congregate in groups at this time per CDC, federal, state and local guidelines. Per requirements of Section 4.37 of Masonic Code of South Dakota the election of Lodge Officers shall be accomplished at the last May or first June Stated Communication. With that in mind, I direct the Election of Officers for Constituent Lodges be accomplished in the following manner:

1. Nominations will be accomplished by electronic means (Zoom, MS Teams, Conference Calls, Email, etc.).
2. Ballots will be written and either emailed or mailed to eligible voters of each Lodge.
3. Brothers print the Ballot and/or fill it out without placing their name on it and mail back to their Lodge. This will help accomplish secret ballots at this time.
4. Lodge Secretaries will receive Ballots by mail and provide to Worshipful Master.
5. Worshipful Masters will announce the selection for Elected Officers in their Lodge.
6. Installation of Lodge Officers can be conducted by remote settings as the Grand Lodge will do in June for the Grand Lodge Officers.

Under the current requirements to social distance, minimize group sizes, and health concerns we must consider the health and safety of our membership as our first priority. I direct your support in these unprecedented times as we are all in this together. Ensure your Brothers have the resources they require and assist wherever and whenever you can by showing others what Brotherly Love, Truth, and Relief are all about. If you know a Brother that needs assistance please let the Grand Lodge know so we can help.

Stay safe and healthy my Brothers.

Fraternally,

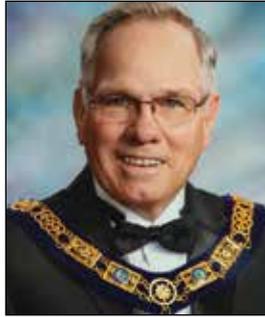
Harold D. Ireland
Grand Master of Masons

If you have Lodge news articles for the Messenger, please send them to the Grand Lodge for publication in the next edition.

Greetings from the East

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master

As I start to write this column for the Masonic Messenger, it is surprising that this will be my last communication after four years of columns. It has been a very rewarding year serving as your Grand Master with a whirlwind of travel, events, philosophical discussions, new relationships and fun; coupled with plenty of great fellowship and food.



Whenever and wherever I travel and whatever the event, I am always struck by the profound sense of love of our Fraternity at every turn. With many different ideas on the best approach to the future of our Craft, there is never any doubt of the sincerity of your devotion to our future successes. I have been so honored to be a part of this great fraternity and being able to call you my Brothers.

We have accomplished many dedications and rededication ceremonies this year. The year started with the 100th Anniversary and Rededication of Mt Roosevelt and Friendship Tower on 6 July 2019 with about 200 people in attendance. What great support from the Lt Governor of SD, City of Deadwood, Forest Service, and Days of 76 Museum, who made our Cornerstone Ceremony an excellent public relations event. July 1-3, I represented the Grand Lodge

of South Dakota at the Imperial Shrine session in Nashville, TN and was able to attend the Midwest Shrine Association conference in Aberdeen, SD 31 July – 2 August. Each year the Grand Lodge is asked to host the Biker Lodge event at the Deadwood Lodge and this year I was able to be the Master for that excellent event on 8 August with Brothers in attendance from all over the globe. The Scottish Rite Biennial was held in Washington, DC 17-20 August and I represented South Dakota at that great event. Many thanks go out to my Brothers from Tin City Lodge #112, Rapid City Lodge #25, and Mt Rushmore Lodge #220, who along with my two sons hosted our 50th Wedding Anniversary Open-house for my Lady Edie and me. The fellowship and thoughtfulness were something to remember. The first weekend of September the Grand Lodge Leadership Conference was held and I had the privilege to be a part of growing future leaders for our Craft. I have been honored to support this event for the past five years and will certainly miss the leadership training for our District Masters as well as Lodge Officers.

On 20 September your Grand Lodge participated in the Rededicated the Michael Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs with a Cornerstone Ceremony and with more than 200 people on hand. On 10 October was honored to be presented at the Grand Chapter,

Order of Eastern Star in Pierre. 17 October my Lady and I were guests at the Sturgis Temple for recognition of Dale Obernolte, Supreme Queen Daughters of the Nile Banquet and Celebration. I attended numerous District Meetings across the state and a number of volunteer support dinners.

On 26 October I hosted the Grand Masters Table Lodge in Rapid City raising funds in support of the South Dakota Masonic Charities. The KCCH Biennial Degree work was held on 1-2 November at the Deadwood Temple and I was honored as Grand Master to present the Red Hats to the recipients. We awarded a Civility Champion Award to the Lyman County Schools at Presho and Kennebec on 22 November. These children raised \$5000 to support the Burke School after it was damaged by a tornado. The enthusiasm and hard work performed by these children ensure our future is in good hands. Assisting us in the presentation were members from the Lodge in Winner and members of the Presho OES Chapter. Harmony Lodge #110, Hot Springs held a rededication of their refurbished Charter on 3 December that I was honored to conduct.

During my year as your Grand Master, I was privileged to attend most of our neighboring jurisdiction's Annual Communications and represent South Dakota. Your Grand Lodge Elected Officers attended the

Conference of Grand Masters in North America in Louisville, KY in February. The 150 Year Sesquicentennial Rededication and Cornerstone Ceremony for Incense Lodge #2 were held on 8 March at the Lodge in Vermillion. The Sesquicentennial Rededication for Elk Point Lodge #3 was scheduled for 18 April and the C. W. Nash, Founders Celebration in Philip scheduled for 1-2 May have be postponed due to the CORVID-19 situation.

As you can see it was a busy but rewarding year as your Grand Master. Even though leaving the post will be bittersweet, I am encouraged by the new Brothers I meet and their enthusiasm and thirst for Masonic knowledge. That my Brothers are a sign of a bright future. The programs we have put in place to recognize the great works of our Brothers and Lodges along with tools like the Six Steps to Initiation will continue to serve us well as we go forward. I wish DGM Jason Swindler all the blessings and joy for his year as I received from all of you this past year.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Masons of South Dakota; it has been an incredible experience and an honor to have served. I hope my year has met the trust you gave me to serve the Craft. God Bless all of you and Masonry in South Dakota.

Fraternally,
Harold Ireland, GM

NOMINATIONS

Deputy Grand Master Grand Master Elect Jeffery VanCuren



Right Worshipful Brother Jeffery (Jeff) Philip VanCuren was born and raised in the shadows of Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Both of

By the age of 10, he had progressed to only needing corrective shoes and was just as active, if not more so, than any kid his age. RWB Jeff was a four sport athlete (football, basketball, track and baseball) where he earned All-Conference honors in football. Without the Masons and the Shriners, Jeff would have not been the person he is today. He would have never played sports, he would have never entered the Army and he would have struggled to earn a lively hood in any physically demanding job. RWB Jeff joined Masonry to give back to the organization that gave him so much.

RWB Jeff was Initiated, Passed and Raised in Fredericksburg #4, Fredericksburg, fell in love with the Blue Lodge and Masonry, and served as Worshipful Master in 2015. RWB Jeff then was hired by the US Air Force at Ellsworth AFB, and moved back to South Dakota. He retained his membership with Fredericksburg #4 and became a plural member with Mount Rushmore Lodge #220, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2017-2018. He was appointed as District Master for District 16 in 2016 and Senior Grand Deacon in 2018. RWB Jeff is the Secretary for Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220 and was elected Senior Grand Warden for the Grand Lodge of South Dakota in 2019.

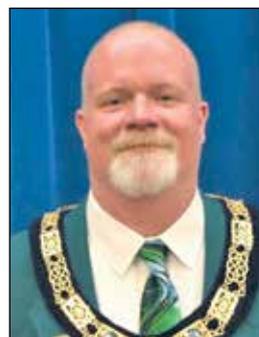
RWB Jeff was an integral part in the Grand Master's Planning Committee for the Mount Rushmore 75th Anniversary, the 2017 Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, the 2018 Grand Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota and the 2019 Conference of Grand Masters of North America. RWB Jeff is a member of the Widows Sons, National Sojourners, York Rite, Scottish Rite, and NAJA Shrine. He is nominated for the position of Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master Elect by the Brothers of Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220.

RWB Jeff's grandfathers retired from the United States Air Force and his mother and step-father were Officers in the United States Navy. RWB Jeff left South Dakota at the age of 10 when his mother was recruited by the Navy. RWB Jeff went to school in Washington State, Massachusetts, and Connecticut where he graduated. RWB Jeff returned to South Dakota to attend the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) by way of one semester at Colorado State University.

After graduating from SDSM&T in 1993, RWB Jeff received his commission as an Army Officer. He spent 10 years as a Quartermaster Officer stationed in Germany, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Dakota. While teaching ROTC at SDSM&T, he earned his Masters of Science Degree in Technology Management. He then transitioned to be an Acquisition Officer and spent the remainder of his 20 year career in the Northern Virginia/District of Columbia area.

During his final years in the Army, RWB Jeff was looking for that missing sense of Brotherhood and Comradery that he was not getting in the halls of the Pentagon. This longing, and his interaction with a local Shriner led RWB Jeff to Masonry. RWB Jeff was born with a severe club foot, became a Shriner Child through the efforts of NAJA Shrine and was a patient of the Shrine Hospital in Minneapolis, MN.

Senior Grand Warden



Daniel A. Nace, 40 years old. Has enjoyed supporting the community of Sioux Falls his whole life!

Graduated from Roosevelt High School

in 1998. After graduation worked and then eventually became the co-owner of his family's property management business, until the sale of the business in 2015. Currently now the co-owner of a screen printing and embroider business, named Big Yeti Custom Creations, L.L.C. in Sioux Falls. With a great brother Robert Solorzano, or also known as Solo. Opened Big Yeti Custom Creations in 2016 and it continues to thrive with much local support.

In 2012, was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason in Unity Lodge #130. Being a Mason has given him much honor and joy, and loves being a part of this brotherhood. Has always strived to be the best man that he could, for his family, friends, and himself personally. Becoming a Mason has allowed him to achieve this and so much more. As well as being a Mason is a family tradition. Great-Grandfather was a member of Flandreau, and also has two uncles are and were members of Unity #130 and Trinity #200.

Has been a member of Unity Lodge #130 in Sioux Falls, and was fortunate enough to be elected to Worshipful Master in 2017. As well as being awarded Mason the year from Unity #130. His dedication does not stop there as he is also a member of Hartford Lodge #136. Has also continued his support and commitment by becoming a member of many different bodies associated with the Masons. Is a member of the

El Riad Shrine, the Sioux Falls Valley Scottish Rite, the York Ride Bodies, and the York Rite College Pasque Du Prairie #182 all of Sioux Falls. Plus, was fortunate enough to be awarded the Ish Sodi award from the Grand council of Cryptic Masons of South Dakota. Served as Junior Grand Warden 2019/2020

As a strong believer in Freemasonry he plans to keep the tenants of Masonry strong. Is looking forward to working alongside the current Grand Officer line, for all his Brothers and for the betterment of Masonry in South Dakota!

Junior Grand Warden Dane Bloch



I was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in January 2013, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft in February 2013, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Ma-

son in April 2013 all in Unity Lodge #130. I have served my Lodge as the Senior and Junior Deacon, Senior and Junior Warden, and the Worshipful Master. I am the current Secretary of Unity #130.

I am currently serving as the Senior Grand Deacon of the Grand Lodge under Most Worshipful Grand Master Harold Ireland. In 2018, I was appointed the Senior Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge by MWB DaNiel Wood. I have been very active in Masonry and the appendant bodies to which I belong. I have assisted the Grand Lodge Committee on Public Awareness in sponsoring, organizing, and executing Masonic Days with the

NOMINATIONS

Sioux Falls Canaries. For the Masonic Bodies in Sioux Falls, I have created opportunities for our Masonic Families to grow and serve our community. As part of the planning committee, I have assisted in bringing families together through our Sioux Falls Masonic Picnics. For the past four years, I have led the Lodges in Sioux Falls in participating in the annual Rake the Town service project through the Center for Active Generations. This program serves elderly and disabled members of our community in cleaning and preparing their property for winter through leaf and debris removal.

Since 2017, I have served as the Chair of Unity Lodge's Scholarship Committee which provides up to \$2500 annually to scholars pursuing higher education across the state. In 2018, I was honored to receive the Unity #130 Mason of the Year Award from RWB Dan Nace. We diligently work on ways to include all our Brothers in Blue Lodge events and to create positive, relationship building opportunities to strengthen bonds across Lodges and within our own. A Masonic passion of mine is to assist in bring new Brothers into our Fraternity through meaningful and impactful degree work. I have traveled across the state to participate in providing the Degrees of Masonry for Lodges bringing in new Brothers. In 2018, I had the unique experience of sitting in the East during the Entered Apprentice Degree as my youngest brother Wyatt was initiated into Masonry. It was an honor and an experience I will always value.

Outside of Unity Lodge, I serve as Treasurer of the Sioux Falls Masonic Building Association. This has been a challenging and rewarding role. In the last three years, I have completely reorganized building's financial state. This included creating from scratch a financial record keeping system and

bringing the building back from the brink of financial insolvency. Through prudent spending cuts and additional rental income, we have created a balanced budget and now have a plan for restoring and preserving our building. These were not easy decisions to make, but through principled discussion, negotiation, and hope in our future, the board was able to work together to tackle difficult problems. In the past week alone, we have completed a major roof replacement project and created an endowment so future generations may enjoy the benefits and brotherhood of the Masonic Fraternity.

I am a member of the Sioux Falls York Rite bodies (Sioux Falls #2 RAM, Alpha Council #1, and Cyrene Commandery #2). I am also a member of the Sioux Falls Scottish Rite Bodies. In both, I have continued to be an active and supportive Brother.

My wife and I live in Sioux Falls, with our newborn daughter Amelia, our corgi Dakota, and our cat Luna. I received my bachelor's degree in Government from Augustana College and my Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management from Villanova University. I work for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society at the Director of Development for the Communities of Sioux Falls. Just recently, I recently earned my Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE) designation and Change Management Specialist (CMS) designation. I have a passion for baseball, hunting and the outdoors, and a good cup of coffee.

As part of my dedication to serving and growing Lodges across our state, I want to express my deep gratitude to the Brothers of Pierre Lodge #27, Tin City Lodge #112, Unity Lodge #130, Hartford Lodge #136, and Mount Rushmore Lodge #220 for your nominations, thank you.

Junior Grand Warden Aaron Zahn



Worshipful Brother Aaron Zahn was born 2/13/1981 in Sioux Falls, SD. He grew up in Worthing, SD and graduated from Lennox High School in

1999. He received an Associates Degree in Architectural Engineering Technology from Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls. He pursued a career in drafting and project management. He now works from home in a sales and project management position for a construction company based in Minnesota that specializes in the construction of Grain Storage and Handling facilities across the country. His work affords the flexibility to devote time to what is most important, his family. Aaron and his wife Lisa have one son Caleb (11) and one daughter Madeline (8). Aaron is an active member of his church, having served on the church council, teaching Sunday School, and serving on the Property and Preschool Boards.

WB Aaron was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in 2002 in Worthing Lodge #141, where he is a life member. He was elected Master of Worthing Lodge in 2009 and has served as its Secretary/Treasurer since 2010. He is a plural member of Minnehaha Lodge #5, York Rite Bodies and El Riad Shrine, all in Sioux Falls. WB Aaron has served as Grand Standard Bearer, Junior Grand Steward, and Junior Grand Deacon for the Grand Lodge of South Dakota as well as serving on the Committees on Public Awareness and the SDCHIP Committee. Aaron is a proud member of the El

Riad Shrine Roadrunners and Classic Autos, is Secretary for the Classic Autos, and Chief of Staff on the El Riad Shrine Divan.

The Zahn family has a long-standing history in Worthing Lodge, including Aaron's Great Grandfather Lloyd Lind, Father George Zahn, Brother Avery Zahn, and Uncle Al Zahn (El Riad Shrine Potentate). One of the proudest moments was when son Caleb Zahn was recently elected to the position of Master Squire for the Sioux Falls Manor of the Order of Squires. Aaron looks to the time when daughter Madeline reaches the age for Job's Daughters to continue the Masonic Family tradition. It has been a very satisfying journey to be able to be an active member in lodge as well as having his family involved with events like SDCHIP, Breakfast with Santa, and selling snow cones and cotton candy at the Shrine circus (something Caleb can't wait for every year!). Aaron looks forward to being able to give back to our wonderful organization that has provided so many lifelong friendships and experiences in Making Good Men Better as well as making our communities better for future generations.

WB Aaron Zahn has been nominated for the office of Junior Grand Warden by Worthing Lodge #141, Minnehaha Lodge #5, and Resurgam Lodge #31.



**Nominations continue
on page 14.**

NOMINATIONS

Appointed Grand Secretary-Treasurer Grand Lodge of South Dakota WB James J. Burma Jr.



Jim was born in Tempe, AZ on November 26, 1967 and moved to Sioux Falls, SD with his family in 1975. He attended Washington High School, graduat-

ing in May 1986. Jim attended college at Mankato State University, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Marketing and Management.

Jim began working with his family-owned Carlson Distributing, the local Miller Beer distributor, from 1983-1990. After graduation from college he moved to the Twin Cities to further his beverage marketing experience by working for one of the largest Miller Distributors in the country at the time, JJ Taylor of Arden Hills, MN from 1991-1995. Jim returned to Sioux Falls in 1995 to again join the family operation, which continued in marketing and managing elements of the business until May 2008. The business was acquired by Dakota Beverage, and Jim continued to work for that firm until retiring in April 2015 after his father had passed. Currently, he works at managing the family investments, which includes real estate and a large storage business. Jim and his wife Kim have two children: Jimmy is a senior at the University of South Dakota; and Madeline is a student at the University of Sioux Falls.

Jim's Masonic journey began in March 2004 when he was raised a

Master Mason with Trinity Lodge #200 in Sioux Falls. Soon thereafter, he joined the El Raid Shrine, where he has been an active member of the Oriental Band and the Steel Drum Band. Jim served as an aide to the Potentate in 2005 and 2006, and Chief Potentate's Aide in 2007. In 2008, he was asked to join the El Raid Divan as Outer Guard, which started a ten-year journey on the El Riad Shrine Board of Directors. Jim was elected Potentate of El Raid in 2017. In 2018 he was elected to serve on the Shriners Hospitals for Children-Twin Cities Board of Governors, a position which he still holds. He is chairman of the El Riad Circus/Shrine Marketing team and a member of the Circus Finance Team. Jim also holds memberships in the Birak Shrine Club in Fergus Falls, MN and is a member of the Sioux Falls Valley of the Scottish Rite.

Jim hopes to bring his business marketing and management background and 30-plus years in business to help in the Grand Lodge thrive and grow. Because he is now retired, Jim has the time to share his extensive experience in business, and his ten years of leadership on the Board of Directors of El Riad to help the Grand Lodge of South Dakota move forward in this new decade. He is honored to have been appointed Grand Secretary / Treasurer by MWB Grand Master Harold Ireland in November of 2019 and strives to do his best for the Grand Lodge's work.

Jim is currently working on new ways and means to improve communications across all the offices and committees of Grand Lodge. He supports the great Grand Lodge office staff in Sioux Falls, and is exploring new ways to provide improved support and communications to all lodges in South Dakota and to the Lodge secretaries as needed. Hopefully with improved communications and increased support, Jim hopes that

the Grand Lodge and each lodge can return to positive membership growth and increased participation by lodges and Masons across the State of South Dakota.

Thanks again to all for this opportunity to serve!

Board of Trustees Robert Tesch



Robert Carl Tesch Jr. was born December 10, 1968 in Huron South Dakota. At a young age Robert moved outside of Hermosa

South Dakota. Robert attended High School at Custer where He graduated in 1987. He also attended South Dakota State University in Brookings. In March 1986 Robert joined the South Dakota National Guard in Custer, and attended Basic Combat Training in Fort Leonard Wood Missouri during the summer of 1986. Additionally, Robert attended Advanced Individual Training as a Motor Transportation Operator Summer of 1987. Robert was deployed to Iraq in 2002 and Afghanistan in 2011. In April 1995 Robert started to work full time at the Organizational Maintenance Shop #1 of the South Dakota National Guard in Sturgis, where he presently works as a Production Controller.

Robert started attending Olive Branch #47 soon after moving to Sturgis, and in November 1995 he affiliated with Olive Branch #47. In November 1996, Robert married his wife Dawn, to which they have three children. Robert has served as Master of Olive Branch #47 in 1999-2000; 2006-2007; and 2008-2009; where he currently is the Lodge Secretary from 2009 to present. In June 1992, Robert was initiated an

Entered Apprenticed in Custer City #66; passed to a Fellow Craft in November 1992; and was raised a Master Mason in March 1993. Robert has been involved with the Jobs Daughters in Custer and Sturgis for many years, where he served as Associate Bethel Guardian in both Bethels. He had two daughters involved with Bethel #12 in Sturgis. Robert was instrumental with area Masons in the restarting of DeMolay Chapter in Sturgis, where he is a Chapter Advisor.

Robert joined the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Southern Jurisdiction May 1995 in the Valley of Deadwood, but after getting married, Robert requested a Demit for many years in order to give time to his young family. In February 2014 he became active once more in the Scottish Rite, and in January 2017 he was appointed to Valley Secretary. In 2018 Robert was selected to be a Fellow for the Sovereign Grand Commander Ronald Seale 33°, and in November 2019 Robert received the Honor of Knight Commander Court of Honor. Robert is also one of the Charter Members of the Black Hills Chapter #422 National Sojourners, where he serves as the Chaplain.

Robert served in the Grand Lodge of South Dakota as Grand Sward Bearer in 2009-2010 and in 2016-2017. Currently, he serves as the Masonic Services Association representative to Fort Meade Veterans Hospital. Robert was appointed to the Broad of Trustees Grand Lodge of South Dakota in 2018, and was elected to the remaining one year of that term in 2019.

Robert has been nominated for a 5 year term on the Board of Trustees by Olive Branch Lodge #47, Tin City Lodge #112 and Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220.

NOMINATIONS

Jurisprudence Committee DaNiel D. Wood



Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel Wood was born in Madison, SD on August 6, 1967. On August 16, 1967 he was adopted to a loving family

in Sioux Falls, SD where he grew up, graduating from Washington Senior High School in 1985. He attended the University Of South Dakota where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science, and attended graduate school at the University Of Southern California Spatial Sciences Institute. He has also completed the three year 'Emerging Leaders' program sponsored by the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States.

While attending college, he met his future wife Stephanie Spillum of Huron, SD and they were married on July 13, 1991. Stephanie is currently a Senior Vice President with Wells Fargo and DaNiel is a Technologist with Beal Distributing. They have two boys; Caden, 21, and Devin, 19.

Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel received the three degrees of Masonry from Unity Lodge #130, where he served as Worshipful Master in 2013-2014, and holds a plural membership with Incense Lodge #2 in Vermillion, SD. He served on the Unity #130 Board of Directors and Board of Trustees during 2014-2017. He has served the Grand Lodge as the Grand Marshal for two terms from 2012-2014, Grand Pursuivant from 2014-2015, Junior Grand Warden 2015-2016, Senior Grand Warden 2016-2017, Deputy Grand Master 2017-2018, and as Grand Master 2018-2019. He is currently serving the Grand Lodge as a member of the Finance

Committee and is the Grand Representative to Israel.

Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel is a member of #91 Gavelers High Twelve International, and a Noble of El Riad Shrine Temple. He is a Past High Priest of Sioux Falls Chapter #2 Royal Arch Masons, Past Illustrious Master of Alpha Council #1 Cryptic Masons, and Past Eminent Commander of Cyrene Commandery #2 Knights Templar. He has served the Grand York Rite in a number of capacities including offices in all three Grand bodies. He is a past Grand Representative for the Royal Arch Research Assistance, and Jurisprudence Committee member for the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and Grand Representative for Cryptic Masons Medical Research Foundation for the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons. He is a member of Pasque du Prairie #182 York Rite SOV College and St. Simon Chapter of the Red Cross of Constantine. Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel is a 32^o KCCH Scottish Rite Mason, member of the Sioux Falls Valley Executive Council, and served as Venerable Master in 2017-2018. Additionally, he served as the Secretary and is a life member of the South Dakota Lodge of Masonic Research.

Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel is

a Sioux Empire United Way Heart Club Member, has led numerous bicycling fundraiser rides for the South Dakota Lung Association, and represented the United States on a cycling team competing in several European countries. He is a founding member of South Dakota Search & Rescue (SoDakSAR), and is the current Temple Board President for Mt. Zion Synagogue in Sioux Falls. Most Worshipful Brother DaNiel is nominated for Grand Jurisprudence by his home Lodge Unity #130, and by Deadwood #7, Rapid City #25, and Tin City #112.

Respectfully submitted,
DaNiel D. Wood



Jurisprudence Committee James Hoy



Worshipful Brother James L. Hoy was born on February 22, 1961 in Sioux Falls, SD. He is a member of Minnehaha Lodge No. 5 in

Sioux Falls. Brother Hoy is an attorney and has practiced in Sioux Falls since 1987. He was raised a Master Mason at the first one-day conferral in the state in Ft. Pierre, SD on May 13, 1995. He was installed as Worshipful Master of Minnehaha Lodge No. 5 in 2000, 2007 and 2011. He served as District Master of District No. 3 from 2014 to 2017. He served on the Life Membership Committee from 2015 to 2016. Brother Hoy previously served on the Grand Lodge Jurisprudence Committee from 2004 through 2011. He is also a member of the Sioux Falls Scottish Rite, the York Rite and El Riad Shrine. Brother Hoy was nominated for the five year term on the Jurisprudence Committee by Minnehaha Lodge No. 5.

Grand Lodge Mission Statement

The Mission of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota is to assist its constituent Lodges by being an asset to their membership and communities and to promote and maintain the Ancient Tenets, the principles of Freemasonry, and to facilitate the charitable outreach of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.



Pierre Lodge #27 Past Master night on March 9, 2020. There were Past Master from Pierre, Hiram and Lily Lodge. WM Brian Ballew presented Brother Robert Travis with honorary Past Master award, as Brother Travis twice tried to go up the line to become Master of Pierre Lodge, but due to changes at work was unable to attend meetings. There was a wonderful turn out, thank you to all attending.



Left: Bro Larry Ryno received his 50 year pin and certificate on April 7, 2020. DM Jack Frantz, District 12 made the presentation. Social distancing was observed in the wide open spaces of South Dakota. Congratulations Larry!



Right: Roger Dwyer received his 50 year longevity pin on February 17th at Frontier Lodge # 87. A dinner of oyster stew and chili was had with about 30 inattendants, performing the ceremony was district master Doug Bjorke of District 9, pinning Roger was his daughter Melanie, granddaughter Kendra, Roger and daughter Michelle. Congratulations Roger!

Address Service Requested

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