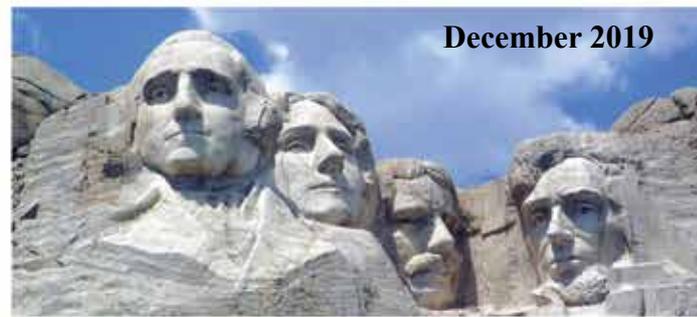




THE Masonic Messenger

Freedom • Integrity • Tolerance

Faith • Hope • Charity



December 2019

Your Save a Child Program is alive and well

Brethren, I would like to bring you up to date on your Save A Child Program. First, several years ago, the Masonic Model Student Assistance Program committee made the change from that mouthful to something that more accurately reflects what we are actually doing. "Save a Child" was chosen, and we have referred to it by that name since.

The last Save a Child program was held in September of 2017 in Miller. Most Worshipful Grand Master Ireland has appointed me State Coordinator, and I am proud to announce we have had a training on November 19, 20 and 21 in Aberdeen. The training was held

at the Yelduz Shrine Center; a hearty thanks to Potentate Kevin Harr and his Nobles.

We are also currently trying to schedule a training in Rapid City for sometime in February.

You may be asking, what is Save a Child/MMSAP all about? The Save a Child training is an intensive three-day comprehensive course that instructs a team of five to eight educators from a school how to identify, intervene and create appropriate action plans for students who may be at risk for issues such as substance abuse, depression, suicide and violence. The training is not just for

teachers; it's open to anyone the school would like to send, bus drivers, custodians, anyone who interacts with kids on a regular basis.

There is no cost to the participants to attend, only the cost of their travel, and the cost to the district for a substitute. The Masons of South Dakota (THAT'S YOU!) provide for everything else, the cost of the training and materials, hotel rooms for educators more than 25 miles from home and meals during the session.

It seems like every time we turn on the news, we hear of another tragedy involving a young person. The children of South Dakota need this program now

more than ever. Brethren, this is YOUR program. Your generous support (in both time and money) has made this program possible, and I thank you for your efforts. However, now is not the time to rest. We can always find a place for the right individual who would like to give of their time, and the South Dakota Masonic Charities, which holds the program funds, would welcome any monetary contributions earmarked for the Save A Child program. Please feel free to contact me at Masonshelping-schools@gmail.com with any questions.

Fraternally,

Yancey Smith, State Coordinator

Pauly's appreciated for youth support

South Dakota Child Identification Program presented an Appreciation Award to Pauly's Pizzeria and Sub Company in Rapid City on August 30, 2019 for their continued support at our annual Outdoor Expo and Youth and Family Services Child Identification events.

Pauly's got its name from the first store started by Paul Dadah (Brian's father) back in the mid 1980's in Box Elder, SD as a place for active duty personnel and employees from Ellsworth to grab a quick, cheap and quality lunch without spending their lunch time running to Rapid City and back or "brown bagging" one. At one time there were four locations as Paul had left each of his children a store when he retired. The store on East Saint Patrick Street is the only one left and

Brian has done a great job of keeping up with the industry.

For the past three years Pauly's has donated free lunches to our volunteers at the Child Identification events. The menu typically is a six inch sub with chips and a water one day and pizzas the next. Pauly's typically provides at least 80 sub lunches and 20 pizzas per event.

Although Brian Dadah is not a Mason, he certainly is a "Friend and community supporter of Masonry" and continues to support our endeavors in all that we do. Be sure to tell him Thank You the next time you stop in for a fresh sub or one of his famous Pauly's Pizzas.

We look forward to many more years with Pauly's and their continued support.



Pictured are, back row: MWB Mike Rodman (S.D.Ch.I.P. Chair), WB Herb Cook (West River Coordinator), Brian Dadah (Owner), WB Dave Meltz and Bro Jessie Thomas Lodge 220; Front row: MWGM Harold Ireland flanked by three of the high energy ladies at Pauly's and MWB Jack Welker (West River Coordinator) on the far right.

Tin City Lodge #112 names Sharon Piper Lady of the Year

On Saturday, October 12, 2019, Masons of Hill City's Tin City Lodge #112 gathered at Desperados Cowboy Restaurant for a luncheon celebration to honor Sharon Piper as Lady of the Year. The honor was for her commitment to the Masonic Family and the Hill City community.

Sharon is a member of Mt. Aetna #55, OES, as was her late husband, Charlie Piper. She also is a member of Ismah Temple No. 119, Daughters of the Nile where she has held several positions including Queen in 1993. In 1996 she was honored to receive a Supreme appointment as Supreme Pr. Zuleika. In 2001 she was appointed a Supreme Goodwill Ambassador. She served Ismah Temple for several years on various committees and, as Historian in 2007, authored the 50th Anniversary book. In addition, she has served the Supreme Temple as an Escort to the American Flag and an Escort to the Canadian Flag. She currently serves on the bylaws committee for Ismah Temple.

In her community life, Sharon

served as Finance Officer for Hill City for several years which led to her involvement in other community interests. She was Secretary of the Hill City Chamber of Commerce in 1984 and was elected President in 1985.

In 1986 Sharon organized a group of people interested in economic development and in September 1988 the Heart of the Hills Economic Development Corp. was incorporated with 52 members. She served as president for the first five years and remained on the Board of Directors for an additional five years. Under her leadership Hill City was awarded a South Dakota Gold Community status, updated store fronts and installed new "Old Fashioned" street lights in conjunction with the construction of the truck route and Main Street rebuild.

Sharon and Charlie built their home in Hill City in 1976 and Sharon plans to stay in their home for as long as she is blessed with good health, good neighbors, loving



On hand to honor Sharon and present her award was the Grand Master of Masons in South Dakota, Harold Ireland and his wife Edie(not pictured), and the current Master of Tin City Lodge #112, Jack Welker.

friends, family and the unending support of her and Charlie's Masonic family.

The Masons of Hill City are cur-

rently sponsoring the Delta Dental Mobile Clinic, Bikes for Books with the Hill City Library and two high school scholarships every year.



Paulsen honored

On Saturday, October 26 members of Custer City Lodge 66 met to honor WB Gladwin Paulsen and present him with his 60-year membership pin. Several of the Custer City Lodge members were in attendance. RWB Jeff Vancuren and WB Vernon (Pete) Issacs, District 16 Master were there to assist in the presentation. Light refreshments were served after the presentation. There was a good time of remembering WB Gladwin's Masonic years. Pictured back row, left to right: Brother Mark Mills, WB Pete Issacs, RWB Jeff Vancuren, WM Jared Carson, Brother Bill Schaefer; Front row, left to right: WB Ralph Kelley, Juanice Paulsen, WB Gladwin Paulsen, Brother Scott Marshaus, Brother Josh Williamson.



Civility Champion Award goes to Lyman School District

On August 6, 2019 a tornado hit Burke, SD. In response to the disaster, the neighboring Lyman School District (Presho High School and Kennebec School) joined forces and held several youth fundraisers at school and within their community. They gathered \$5000 which the Presho High School football team presented to their Burke rivals prior to a game. The picture is of the football team presenting the check to the

Burke football team.

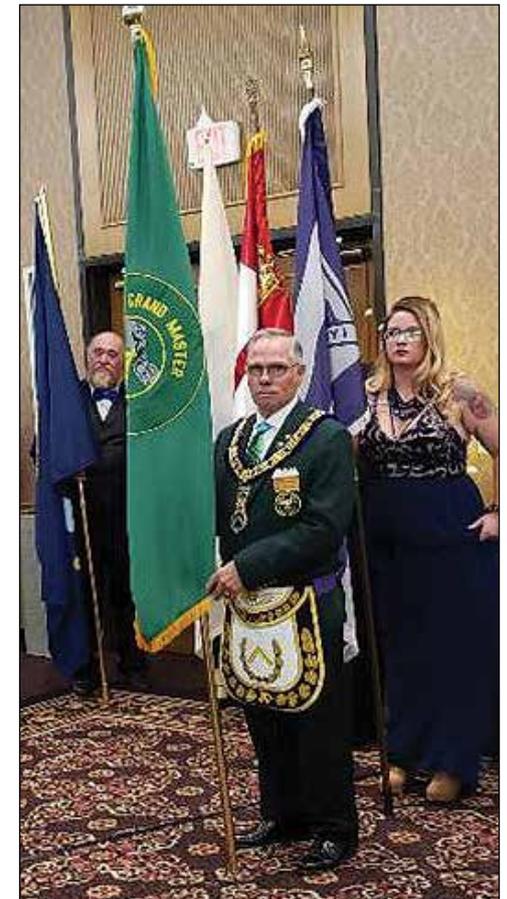
This certainly was a selfless act of civility on the part of the Lyman School District and football team. This is one of those times when charity and civility overlap and complement each other. This is a prime example of the Civility Project's definition, "Civility is the action of working together productively to reach a common goal." In this case it was aiding in the Burke tornado

relief efforts.

Grand Lodge of South Dakota presented the Civility Champion Award to Presho High School in their gymnasium on November 22, followed by a presentation to Kennebec School in their gymnasium. Lyman School District Superintendent, Mr. Rob Davis represented the school district in receiving the award.

WB Dave Meltz
Civility Ambassador

"Civility is the action of working together productively to reach a common goal."



GM addresses OES

Grand Master Harold Ireland attended the Grand Opening of the Grand Chapter for Order of Eastern Star on October 10 at Pierre, SD. He brought greetings on behalf of the 5000 Masons and 70 Lodges to the Grand Chapter and wished them an outstanding session. Pictured is Grand Master Harold Ireland presenting his flag at the Grand Opening before his address to Order of Eastern Star.

Update contact information

In the interest of effective and thorough communication, please ensure that your contact information is updated and current with your Lodge Secretary.



Pictured front row, from left, Brad Richards, Col (Ret) CEO of the Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home; Tom Inman, Director and Brother at the home; SD Director of Veterans Affairs; Michael J. Fitzmaurice; Grand Master Harold Ireland; PGM Bill Coffield; PGM Michael Rodman; PGM Jack Welker; PGM Dean Behrens; Back row WB Jay Darrow; WB Dave Meltz; WB Bryant Stokes; WB Brian Teller; WB Alan Bishop; and WB Steve Barns.

Veterans Home in Hot Springs celebrates 130 years

A full day of festivities on Sept. 20 marked the 130th anniversary of uninterrupted service of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home (MJFSVH) in Hot Springs.

The Masonic Grand Lodge of South Dakota re-created a historic cornerstone-laying ceremony. The

facility's original construction began with the placing of a cornerstone on November 5, 1889, in a ceremony by the Grand Lodge of South Dakota. The Home opened a year later, with its first resident registering on Nov. 25, 1890. The Home's historic original building, informally known

as "Building Two," was made from locally quarried sandstone. The American Legion, particularly Post 71, coordinated the parade. A meal was provided by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3442. Tours of the campus filled the rest of the afternoon.

A brief history of the state veterans home

In 1889 the Grand Army of the Republic lobbied the Dakota Territorial Legislature to establish a home for veterans of the Civil War. As a result, the Dakota Territorial Legislature appropriated \$45,000 for the construction of the Dakota Soldiers' Home. Its name was changed to South Dakota Soldiers' Home when South Dakota became a state and to

South Dakota State Veterans Home in 1967.

On October 3, 1998, Governor William J. Janklow and Major General Philip Killey dedicated the South Dakota State Veterans Home to Medal of Honor Recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice. Michael received the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity of action at

the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a Specialist Four, United States Army, Troop D, 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division at Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam, March 23, 1971.

Services to South Dakota residents who are honorably discharged wartime veterans and veterans'

Continued on next page

Burma named Grand Treasurer/Secretary

The Grand Master has appointed Brother James J. Burma Jr., to replace RWB Terry Knutson as Grand Treasurer/Secretary, effective November 1.

Brother Jim will serve the interim period until Annual Communication in June; and can be reached at burma987@me.com. He is the Past Potentate of El Riad Shrine in Sioux Falls, has served as a member of our Finance Committee for the past three years, and operated a large business in the Sioux Falls area.

Jim's expertise and knowledge are welcomed. Thank you to RWB Knutson for his service to the Grand Lodge.

Congratulations, Jim.

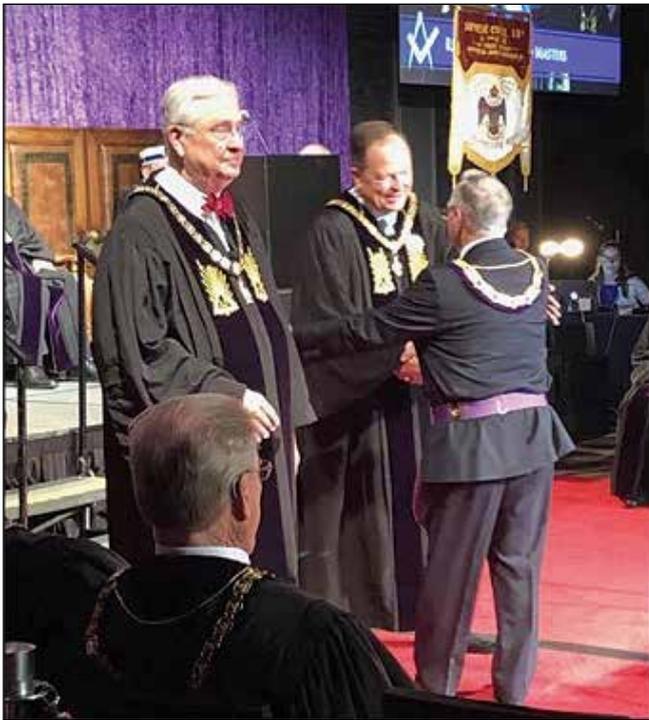
Welcome back, Gwen!

Gwen Olson has replaced Kari Muller as the Grand Lodge Office Manager effective October 21. It is great to have her back in the office and moving forward with our programs of support to the Masons and Lodges within South Dakota. Thank you to Kari for her service to the Grand Lodge.

"I am happy to be back working at the Grand Lodge office," Gwen said. "It is so nice renewing friendships and acquaintances. Thank you to everyone for welcoming me back. I look forward to working with all the Masons again."

Congratulations, Gwen.





Pictured are the outgoing Sovereign Grand Commander, Ron Seale and incoming Sovereign Grand Commander, James Cole with Grand Master Harold Ireland at the Biennial Session.

Grand Lodge is represented at Biennial Session in August

Your Grand Master attended the Biennial Session of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction in Washington, DC August 17-20, 2019.

Our relationship with the other Masonic Bodies toward common goals makes us all stronger organizations.

This was a delightful trip to visit the House of the Temple and see the various Masonic treasures that have been collected as well to witness the history of our country and realize the great influences Masonry has had on the development of the United States. Having lived in the Washington, DC area for a number of years it is always good to see the changes when returning.

I enjoyed the hospitality of the Biennial Session and the fellowship of the Masons from around the world.

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



District 16 Meeting

District 16 District Meeting hosted by Tin City Lodge #112 where all District Officers, the Grand Master of South Dakota, and 5 Past Grand Masters along with all 7 Lodges in the District represented.

A brief history of the state veterans home continued

From previous page

spouses and widows or widowers have continued uninterrupted for 130 years.

The cornerstone of Building 2, the original building which is now called Joe S. Kern Building, was laid November 11, 1889. Over 400 persons gathered in a snowstorm to witness the Masonic ceremony presided over by Grand Master George V. Ayres; hear the address given by Col. M.M. Price and sing "Nearer My God to Thee" as the cornerstone was lowered into place.

The building was designed and constructed by W.N. Perry, Mitchell. It was built of sandstone quarried at Dudley Quarry on the Cleaver Ranch, two miles southeast of the city in Fall River Canyon. Forty men and 15 teams worked on the building. Timber and lime was purchased locally. Only iron and glass had to be imported.

The first veterans moved in November 15, 1890. There was no furniture, no stove, no medicines. The first room of furniture was given by the Woman's Relief Corps of Watertown in late November. Yankton's Woman's Relief Corps sent a flag "ten by twenty feet that will float over the noble building."

The men cooked for the first time on the fire in



the fire box of the boiler. They ate off a board set across two barrels. According to the November 26, 1890 Hot Springs Star, the meal was Thanksgiving, cooked by veteran Abner Cole of Watertown. He fixed roast loin of pork, sweet and Irish potatoes, bread, coffee, butter, pickles, baked beans, pudding, pumpkin pie, and cranberry pie.

Since those humble beginnings, Building 2 is still in use, but an updated facility was opened in 2016. The 133,000 square foot structure has two stories and provides eight neighborhoods with home-like environments to residents.



Daughters Of The Nile Visit
Grand Master and his Lady Edie represented the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota at the Sturgis Temple on October 17 as they greeted Supreme Queen Dale Obernolte at the Daughters of the Nile Banquet and Official Visit. Pictured are Grand Master Harold Ireland and Supreme Queen Dale Obernolte at the banquet.



Jim Heald Day
On August 20, 2019 Brother James Heald received his 60-year Longevity Award at a presentation at Rapid City Lodge #25. Jim's recognition on James Heald Day was proclaimed by the Mayor and City of Rapid City on September 1, 2019. Among those pictured are Grand Master Harold Ireland; WB George Bauder; Honoree WB James Heald; WB Dave Meltz; and WB Mike Lamb.

What is a Mason?

Have you ever been asked "So, you're a Mason? What does that mean?"

We are a fraternity of men from all walks of life who enjoy sharing the virtues of honesty, morality, integrity and tolerance. We believe in God, freedom, equality, family and country.

What do Masons do?

We support a variety of charities and community efforts such as, the Child Identification Program, Scholarships and dependent on the area in which you live may include Alzheimer's research, impaired vision programs, a Children's home, etc.

Most of the founding fathers of America were Freemasons.

Freemasonry exists globally, and its members come from all walks of life.

Freemasonry is popularly known for openly advocating for brotherhood, love, and truth.

Is Freemasonry a Secret Society?

The answer is no. A secret society is one which conceals its membership, has secret meeting places, and of which the public has little or no knowledge of its organization or its principles.

This does not fit our organization at all. We are not a secret society, but we are a society with secrets. Our secrets, maintained through a sense of tradition, are very few in number and deal mostly with the obligations and modes of recognition. These requirements have been handed down by word of mouth for centuries.

It is important that we have a presence and public awareness in the communities in which we live. The community needs to know who we are and what we do and we are there to help better our communities.

Masons host 'Save a Child' training for educators

The Masons of South Dakota hosted a free "Save A Child" training program – or Masonic Model Student Assistance Training Program – for educators Nov. 19-21, at the Yelduz Shrine Center, 802 S. Main Street, Aberdeen.

This event was an intensive, highly experiential training that serves teams of five to eight educators. The teams are trained on how to identify, intervene with and create appropriate action plans for students who may be at risk for issues such as substance abuse, depression, suicide and violence.

"This program was created by former educators to identify and effectively support at risk children," said Harold Ireland, head of the Masons in South Dakota. "It is an intensive three-day workshop provided to South Dakota educators at no cost by the Masonic Lodges across South Dakota."

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.



150+ years

On Sunday, November 10, 2019, Zenith Lodge #202, Tulare, SD, hosted a 50-year pinning ceremony. A potluck dinner was served at 6 pm. There were 20 people in attendance, including the honorees. From left are: Douglas Bjorke, District #9 Master of Masons of South Dakota; Gordon Marzahn, who was pinned by his wife, Cynthia; Alan Steinheuser, who was pinned by his wife, Diane; Bernard Blume, who was pinned by family friend, Deb Schultz; Worshipful Master Zenith Lodge #202, Tom Schultz. Gordon, Alan and Bernard were all initiated, passed and raised all on the same days in 1969. They all followed each other through the Masonic line, and at one point, they were Master, Senior and Junior Wardens of their lodge. Congratulations to a combined 150+ years of Masonic Service to the Craft.



Pins presented

On Saturday, October 26 Custer City Lodge 66 met in open lodge to present two 50-year pins and one 60-year pin to Custer City Lodge members. A 60-year pin was presented to WB Don Husted. WB James Kelley and Brother Robert Kelley each received 50-year pins. Presenting the pins were WB Vern (Pete) Issacs, District 16 Master and WM of Custer City Lodge, Jared Carson. The meeting was an open meeting with wives and family members of those presented in attendance and there was a good attendance of brother Masons. Officers of Custer City Lodge assisted with the presentations. The brothers made remarks on their years of service to the fraternity. Light refreshments were served after the meeting. Left to right: Issacs, James Kelley, Robert Kelley, Husted, and Carson.

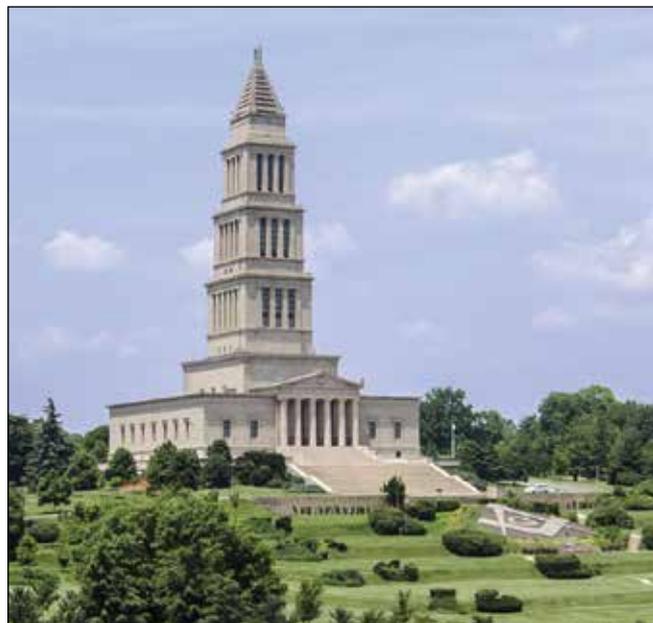


Sloat honored

Brookings Lodge #24 honored WB Clayton Sloat, a World War II veteran, at the Fourth of July Parade in Brookings.

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.



At left, the Memorial. Above, stonemasons on the Memorial's fourth floor repair cracks in the granite. At right, new LED-based lights are installed to illuminate the Observation Deck at night.



Restoration continues on George Washington Masonic National Memorial

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia, is architecturally patterned after ancient lighthouses, in reference to the famous Lighthouse of Alexandria, and symbolically inspired by every brother's quest for Masonic Light.

The Memorial's board of directors and staff are dedicated to ensuring that the building and its mission are carried forward to benefit our nation and our world. For many years, it has been their priority to restore the building.

In 2015, the Memorial was named a National Historic Landmark, and realizing that we hold an important responsibility to continue to inspire each new generation with the ideals of George Washington, the Memorial

Association created the Landmark Century Campaign to allow the public the opportunity to take direct part in that important and crucial endeavor. Thanks to the support received from individuals and organizations, many major projects are now taking place both within the Memorial and on the building's beautiful exterior.

For the last several years, the Memorial's visitors have noted that scaffolding has usually been present on various levels of the tower. This is because of a top-to-bottom restoration of the exterior masonry. These repairs are more than halfway completed. Beginning with the Pyramid level in 2014, and progressing to the Observation level in 2015, the eighth floor Chapel level in 2016, the sixth

floor Library level and fifth floor in 2017, the goal has been to completely restore the stonework to its original condition.

As 2019 comes to a close, the Memorial Association is pleased to announce the completion of the exterior restoration of the third and fourth floors. Next year, they will begin work on the base of the tower, known as the Mezzanine level. Also, important repairs to the beautiful Doric Portico at the building's main entrance will begin. The Portico is the face of the Memorial, and one of the most interesting features of the building.

Recent photos of the Memorial at night demonstrate a major improvement in how the tower is illuminated. New LED-based exterior lighting had

already been added on the Pyramid, seventh, and fifth levels. In 2019, the Memorial installed additional lighting to the Pyramid level, and new lighting to the ninth floor observation level. The new technology allows the Memorial to be lit in many brilliant colors, in keeping with the architectural inspiration of the Lighthouse at Alexandria, and the Masonic symbolism of Light as the transmission of knowledge. For example, recently the Memorial was lit in purple in honor of National Purple Heart Day. (The Purple Heart was first instituted by George Washington in 1782.)

To learn more about the improvements being made at the Memorial, please visit the Memorial's website at <http://gwmemorial.org>.

South Dakota Child Identification Program Update

The South Dakota Child Identification Program has put over 25,000 children through our program, thanks to the support of local lodges across South Dakota!

Just to mention a few of the events that have taken place recently were the Huron Harvest Fest in October, sponsored by Huron Lodge #26, had 161 children go through, The Rushmore Mall Event, in September, sponsored by Rapid City Lodge #25 and Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220, that had 63 children, The Meade County School Schools events, in March and April, sponsored by Olive Branch #47, had 125 children, and the YFS Kids Fair, in March had 489 children go through this year.

The SDCHIP Committee is working on some updates to our program that we hope to have available soon. We are very grateful for the direction and support

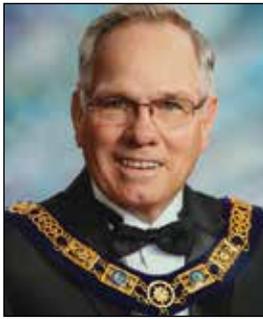
of Brother Kevin Karley, Director of the Pennington County 911 Center for attending the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's law enforcement training program to get the latest training and certification on keeping our children safe and bringing those techniques back to help us upgrade program.

I would like to thank the lodges and the many volunteers, both Masonic and non-masonic that have made our program so successful! If you would like to schedule a SDCHIP program, please call the Grand Lodge office and Gwen will get the ball rolling.

Fraternally,
Mike Rodman, PGM
SDCHIP Chair

Greetings from the East

It is an honor and privilege to serve as Grand Master of Masons of South Dakota. Your Grand Lodge is working extremely



hard to live up to the commitment of our mission in supporting the Constituent Lodges and Masons of this jurisdiction. Our various programs are established and promoted with improvement of the Craft in mind. We have made great strides forward with the South Dakota Masonic Charities and the four areas under its purview: Child Identification Program, Masonic Model Student As-

sistance Program, Academic Scholarships, and Matching Grants. The SDMC has hired Susan Ricci as our new Director of Philanthropy. She will be with the SDMC Board to establish a long-term growth plan to ensure that the foundation is able to provide the necessary funding for our charitable endeavors.

I am happy to announce the Grand Lodge of SD and the MMSAP Committee, along with the National Masonic Foundation for Children has already hosted an MMSAP training session this year in Aberdeen November 19-21. There will also be another session in Rapid City February 25-27.

We will be recognizing Masonic Legacy Families through the presentation of Lewis Legacy

Awards. Grand Lodge presented a four-generation Lewis Award and a three-generation Lewis Award on November 20 at Philip Lodge #153 in Philip, SD to the Smith and West families respectively.

Your Grand Lodge sponsored the annual Leadership Conference in Oacoma on September 6-7. District Master training and updates were conducted on September 6 to all in attendance.

We have six new District Masters and I want to publicly recognize their efforts and enthusiasm. These folks serve as a conduit between the Lodges and the Grand Lodge to carry information or concerns both ways. I request Lodges to utilize these District Masters to help your Lodge improve and grow.

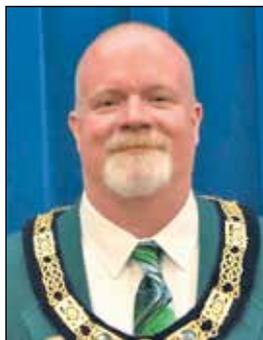
The Lodge Leadership training was conducted on September 7 to support growth for the Lodges and Grand Lodge Leaders. Many changes and challenges have been witnessed but we must always keep the idea of "how does this help Masonry" in your mind with all decisions and collectively we will have a better Craft.

Grand Lodge representatives presented a Civility Champion Award to Lyman School District on November 22 in Presho and Kennebec for their fundraising efforts in support of the Burke School after the natural disaster in Burke. Additionally, we decorated a Grand Lodge Capitol Christmas Tree on November 24 at the state Capitol in Pierre.

Fraternally,
Harold D. Ireland, GM

Greetings from the South

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have 33,000 Masons in our state? Currently we have less than 5,000. In the state of Georgia they have more than 33,000.



I would like to challenge everyone reading this to go and find a man who you know could benefit from becoming a Mason. If you can accomplish this, we would have almost 10,000 Masons in our great state!

I was always told by my family, that is important to replace yourself so I had children in order to ensure that my family name will live on for at least one more generation. Think about that. If we don't replace ourselves at a minimum, then Masonry will disappear altogether.

Membership is key to our survival. It makes zero difference if a man finds his passion in Blue Lodge, Shrine, Scottish Rite or York Rite. We ALL need to work together to grow our great fraternity. There is something for any man in Masonry, we just need to appeal to his interest.

Here is a secret that, of course no lady of a man wants to hear and no man wants to admit ... if you can

capture the lady's interest you will get the Mason. Get a family program going in your Lodge, If it doesn't seem to go well at first, keep pushing, you may need to change a few things but keep trying. Think of inviting more than just Lodge members and their families. Ask Lodge members to bring their friends and family. That would be a great way to introduce your friend to Masonry and for them to see how family oriented we really are.

Many families are busy and for a father/husband to spend that time away NEEDS to be worth it! If all your lodge does is open, read minutes, pay bills and then close it is going to be very difficult to keep the interest of the younger generations. The younger generations need to be engaged, give them a reason to come to Lodge, and make them feel welcome.

Too often I've heard, "Well I didn't fit in," and that's not the way

Masonry should be. We, as Masons, teach Brotherly love which in the simplest form is friendship. (Side-note: Friendship costs you absolutely nothing).

The simplest thing you can do to start attracting the younger generations is by having a Credit Card system for them to pay dues or buy tickets to whatever you have going on. The younger generation does NOT carry a lot of cash or write many checks. They do, however, pay for things online or with a credit card/debit card. So, if your lodge is still in the stone age of checks and cash, you are missing out.

I will get off the soap box now and wish every one of you a great set of holidays to come. May the Great Architect bless each and every one of you!

Fraternally,
Dan Nace
Junior Grand Warden
Grand Lodge of South Dakota

Now before you say, "Well they have a bigger population" you would be correct. The state of South Dakota has an estimated population of 892,631. Of that population, 50.3% is male. The median age is 36.8, so that makes roughly 446,315 possible Masons. If the median age is so low, why don't we have WAY more than 5,000 Masons in our state?

In 2018 the population of Sioux Falls was 181,883, yet we have roughly 1,000 Masons in Sioux Falls. Just giving out some facts so that you will understand what I'm about to say.

Greetings from the West

Brethren,

We, as a Fraternity, are struggling to define ourselves, increase our membership and get into the public eye.

In the quest to keep our Lodge rooms full, some have determined that there is a problem: We have a decline in membership and we can no longer afford our buildings and programs that we have created. Therefore, we must increase our membership.

In problem-solving, there is a distinct set of steps we must follow. First, we must define the problem. Second, we must identify a root cause of why the problem is happening. Third, we should identify counter measures in order to eliminate the root cause. And finally we must establish procedures in order not to revert back to our previous situation.

In the above example, I believe we have skipped over the second step of identifying the root cause. I am sure there are some of you who believe we have identified the root cause and since we are trying to get in the public's eye, it might be assumed that the root cause was that we are not viable to the average "Joe" on the street and the community and that is what is causing us to not get new members. This is what has caused us to think we must become visible to the average public.

What if there is a simpler explanation? What if we have gotten away from the basics of our institution and as a result not retaining the members we are getting who will then in turn bring in new members?

In philosophy, there is a principal called Occam's Razor. This principle says that if there exist two explanations for an occurrence the explanation with the fewest assumptions is most likely the correct one.

In the current assessment of the problem, we are assuming that the institution requires big ornate buildings (or buildings at all) that requires large memberships to pay the bills and that we have to attract as many people to Masonry by being in the public eye.

Let me just throw something out there. If you



look at how the fraternity is transferred from one generation to the next, it is through our oral traditions (The Attentive Ear, The Instructive Tongue and the Faithful Breast). First, by definition, as a Regularly Recognized Grand Lodge, we must operate within the Landmarks, then after that everything is passed down via our oral ritual. Our Constitution and By-Laws were created long after Masonry had been in existence and they were created to satisfy our need to conform to society's expectations of a lawful organization.

So, our fraternity has existed for over 300 years and now we must define ourselves to the public? We must increase our membership through other means than by friend to friend? Are we not told in our ritual that, we are led to the door by a friend whom afterwards we find to be a Brother?

If we follow our Landmarks and oral traditions, and we look to those "Friends" that we believe are worthy of our great Fraternity and will benefit from our teachings then we may be able to increase our membership with "Active" Members. Realistically we all could bring one person a year into the Lodge. "Friend to Friend." But, once we bring a "Friend" into the fraternity, we must deliver on what we exemplify in the three (3) degrees.

As we go forward let us remember Occam's Razor and look at the simple explanation. We have gotten away from the original intent of the Fraternity. Nothing more and nothing less.

Our Landmarks

Our Obligations

Our Ritual

A regular system of Morality, veiled in Allegory and illustrated by Symbols.

Our Working Tools

Our Tenants

Brotherly Love
Relief
Truth

Our Principles

Faith
Hope
Charity

The Four Cardinal Virtues

Temperance
Fortitude
Prudence
Justice

Jeff VanCuren
Senior Grand Warden



Phillips honored

The Grand Lodge of South Dakota recognized Brother Richard M. Phillips as an Honorary Worshipful Master to Huron Lodge #26 at the District Meeting for District 9 held in Huron on October 13, 2019. Richard has been a Mason for more than 50 years and served his Lodge in all the chairs except Worshipful Master with dignity. Richard and his wife have been active members of the Order of Eastern Star. He has served in the York Rite and Scottish Rite as well. Brother Phillips is now recognized as an Honorary Worshipful Master for Huron Lodge #26. Pictured are District 9 District Master Doug Bjorke, Brother Richard Phillips, and Grand Master Harold Ireland.

Greetings from the Deputy

Last week-end I had the opportunity to spend some time with a Past Grand Master that may just be partially responsible for



me being where I am today. I told him that I hadn't seen him for quite some time. He told me that he didn't feel like he was needed anymore. I was completely disheartened. I began thinking about the current state of Masonry in South Dakota. This is, of course, totally my opinion.

In the last number of years, the course of Masonry in this State has been if you are not with me you are against me. Lines in the sand have been drawn and we are expected to be on one side or the other. We have made it East vs. West, one "camp's" ideas vs. another "camp's" ideas, the comparisons can go on and on. I think we should ALL be very concerned about this line of thinking.

In my humble opinion this is NOT Freemasonry. Those Masons that do

not agree with the current course have been told their ideas and beliefs are wrong and that if they do not agree with the status quo their opinions just simply do not matter. Those Masons, in turn, simply go back to their home Lodge and hope that one day Leadership in the State will once again represent them.

In the case of Past Grand Masters, some just feel like their experience and knowledge about Freemasonry in South Dakota doesn't matter and some, at all expenses, feel like their way is the only way forward and refuse to let new or contradicting ideas even be discussed.

We need discussion and input from all our living Past Grand Masters. They have been there. Some of them have been Masons for a lot longer than most of us in the current line and many in the very recent past. I am not saying the old way is always the right way, but their input and guidance should be just as important as the recent Past Grand Masters that seem to feel without them Masonry in South Dakota cannot succeed.

My Brothers, each one of us should feel like we are a part of shap-

ing Masonry in South Dakota. We should not feel that if we stand up and speak at our Grand Lodge session that Brothers that do not have our same feelings about our journey forward are just going to snicker and make comments while we debate our points. Believe me, I sat in the Junior Grand Warden's chair last year during our annual communication and that is exactly what was happening, and I was appalled. I realize you and your Lodge may not be having issues, but if a Brother or a Lodge stands up and says something at Grand Lodge, we should ALL be listening. What would happen if a new Grand Master decides the way you and your Lodge are doing things is wrong? Would you feel like proposing Legislation to protect your Masonic beliefs? Would you want your Brothers to, at least, listen to your reasoning?

There are, at least, two ways to look at most arguments that I have heard in my time as an elected officer. Both sides should be heard. Let our Brothers hear both sides and vote like Masons. If we continue to draw lines in the sand, we are bound to have some major issues moving

forward. For those of you that don't know me I am a listener and I really appreciate hearing both sides of an issue. I can then, in my own time, make my own decisions based on my own Masonic beliefs and upbringing. Ultimately, I am only one voice and I am confident of my Brothers' ability to make the right decision for our Jurisdiction.

If we are true leaders of this Fraternity, we should be listening to as many opinions and viewpoints as possible and taking all that into consideration when we formulate our programs for the upcoming Masonic year. Our Past Grand Masters and all the Masons who feel like their opinions don't matter should know that I value your thoughts and ideas as I move forward in planning my year as Grand Master. Be wary of Brothers that have all the answers. We can only do this together. We MUST be able to find some common ground and come together as Masons, leaving politics and agendas by the wayside.

Fraternally,

Jason D. Swindler, Deputy Grand Master/Grand Master Elect



District 16 Traveling Apron

Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220 visited Tin City Lodge #112 on October 23 and took home the District 16 Traveling Apron. The Traveling Apron concept was set up to encourage Lodge Visitations by Brothers to other Lodges. It requires a minimum of three members to include a Lodge Officer to take the Traveling Apron to your Lodge. In the case of more than one Lodge visiting a Lodge to take the apron at the same time the Lodge with the most attendees will receive the Traveling Apron. District 16 congratulates Mt. Rushmore Lodge #220 on their receiving the Traveling Apron and encourages other Lodges to go visit and take home the apron. Pictured are members of Mt. Rushmore #220 and WM Jack Welker of Tin City Lodge #112.



70-year pin

On September 13, 2019, members of Joppa Lodge #120 (Hurley) gathered in Sioux Falls to present Brother Robert Goodhope his 70-year pin. It just happened to be Brother Robert's 96th birthday as well. Pictured standing from left: Donald Weeg, Secretary Wayne Petersen, Paul Scheidt, Wayne Davey, Charles Larsen, Bobby Goodhope (son), Worshipful Master Roger Petersen. Seated is Brother Robert with special friend Darlene Petersen.



50-year presentation

On Sunday, August 8, Washington Lodge 111 and White Star Chapter 16 held their annual picnic in White. In the presence of 40 attendees, MWB Bob Osborne (1993 Grand Master) was presented his 50 Year pin and certificate. MWB Bob was raised on June 19, 1969. His Masonic record was read by Lodge Secretary, Brian Schmidt. The ceremony was presented by District Master Jeff Jung and WM Paul Schmidt presented MWB Bob's pin. He was given public grand honors and gave several pleasing comments. Pictured are District Master Jeff Jung and WM Paul Schmidt, Master of Washington Lodge 111, presenting the 50 year award to Most Worshipful Brother Bob Osborne.

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

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