



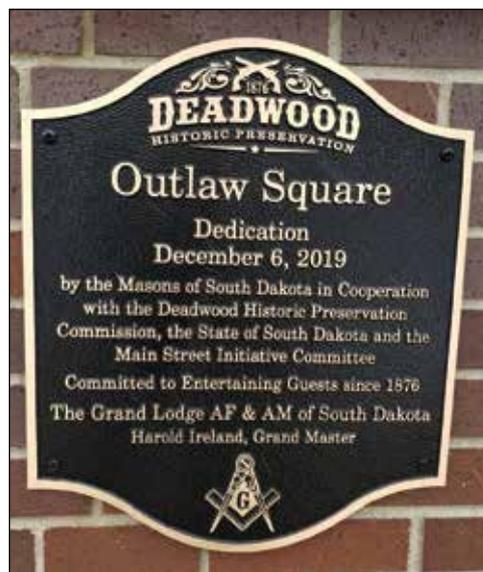
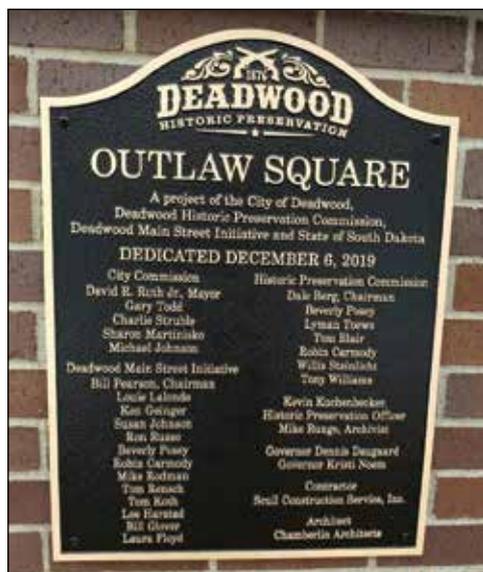
# THE Masonic Messenger

Freedom • Integrity • Tolerance

Faith • Hope • Charity



February 2020



## Grand Lodge dedicates Outlaw Square in Deadwood

The Grand Lodge of South Dakota was honored to dedicate the new Outlaw Square in Deadwood on December 6, 2019.

Masonry has been an integral part of the Deadwood area ever since Brother Seth Bullock arrived in Deadwood in August of 1876, along with his business partner, Past Grand Master of Masons of Montana, Sol Star. Both were members of King Solomon Masonic Lodge #9 in Helena, Montana. Together they lived the principals of Freemasonry, bringing law and order to the Black Hills with Star serving as Mayor of Deadwood and Bullock as Sheriff of Lawrence County.

They were an integral part of developing Masonry in the area, with the chartering of the Deadwood Lodge and Deadwood Valley Scottish Rite, along with the building of the Deadwood Masonic Temple on the same block as the new Outlaw Square.

The Grand Lodge of South Dakota and Deadwood's development have been linked

ever since Deadwood businessman George Ayres served as the first Grand Master of Masons in South Dakota and renowned by Masons for his founding and funding of the Masonic Charity funds, now known as South Dakota Masonic Charities.

The Masons of South Dakota were honored to be given the opportunity to welcome our newest neighbor, the Outlaw Square at the historic site of once Deadwood City Hall. We congratulate the citizens of Deadwood for their foresight and innovation in constructing the magnificent center and applaud their enterprising spirit. We are very pleased to be a part of the great Dedication Ceremony and the plaques on the Outlaw Square acknowledge the historic bond between the Masons of South Dakota and the citizens of Deadwood.

We want to thank Dave Ruth Jr., Mayor of Deadwood, for asking the Masons to be part of this celebration and dedication.

## Please consider giving to SD Masonic Charities

For those of you who utilize Our Lodge Page (OLP), you will see at the beginning of the page that an option is provided to donate to the South Dakota Masonic Charities by using a credit card.

If you would rather donate through regular means the Grand Master's Appeal letter with brochures was sent to your mailbox. The information includes a report of what the Grand Lodge Programs are doing to support our children and communities under SD Masonic Charities.

There are three levels of support that will be recognized: Brothers who are able to contribute \$125 or more will be recognized as a member of the Grand Masters Circle, those contributing \$300-

\$500 will be considered in our Master Builders Club, and those contributing \$1000 or more will be recognized as a member of our Legacy Society.

Your contribution supports our mission as Masons through providing peace of mind to parents, support to teachers, and educating the youth of South Dakota. Your commitment and dedication to the Craft will carry us into the future for years to come.

All donations, regardless of size, will be recognized with a letter of thanks. I would like to personally thank all that have given support to our South Dakota Masonic Charities this year.

Harold D. Ireland  
Grand Master of Masons

## What is Outlaw Square?

Outlaw Square is a new public gathering place developed to provide the people of Deadwood and Black Hills visitors a venue that hosts events and activities "to build a stronger Deadwood and promote our rich history," according to its website.

It is located across the street from the historic Franklin Hotel.

Activities will include movie nights, a farmer's market, featuring fresh produce in season or South Dakota-made products, summer concerts and Deadwood history presentations for families.

The square is also available for ice skating and family events, including weddings. The large main stage will also be the new home of the Deadwood Jam music festival.



## 21st Resurgam Lodge Community Christmas Dinner feeds over 800

Where were you on Christmas Day, 1998?

The Brothers of Mitchell's Resurgam Lodge #31 know where the late MWB Alvin T. Wahlert was – and where a number of them were as well. That was the first of 21 consecutive Community Christmas Dinners as originally conceived by our good Brother "Doc" and continued unbroken through the years.

Though Resurgam Lodge, and South Dakota Freemasonry, lost Doc's kind guidance and strength of character to cancer in 2007, his Christmas legacy continues unabated. Leadership passed to WB Troy Magnuson who's carried on Resurgam Lodge's and the Corn Palace Shrine Club's desire that nobody needs to be alone on Christmas Day.

December 25, 2019, was no different than the previous 20 Christmas Days. Brothers started well

before dawn, in fact well before Christmas Day, preparing turkey and all the traditional side dishes and desserts customary to the season. Masons and their Ladies, from Resurgam and other nearby Lodges, volunteered their holiday time for the community at large. Over the years a large cadre of both Masons and non-Masons has joined in to help serve and clean up; to provide desserts; decorate the Ball Room; and generally help out.

As reported in the Mitchell Daily Republic the day after Christmas: The Mitchell Masonic Lodge and Corn Palace Shrine Club continue giving back to the community on Christmas Day by serving a cost-free, full-course meal with holiday food favorites, such as ham, turkey, green bean casserole and pie ... "It means so much to me and all the volunteers to have the opportunity

to give back to this great community," said Troy Magnuson, an event coordinator and lodge member. "It's a special thing to be a part of, and I'm happy we can continue this tradition at the lodge."

According to Magnuson, there were just over 800 people served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Considering the effort he and all of the volunteers put in to make the dinner possible, Magnuson said he's overjoyed with the community support.

Close to \$3,000 worth of food is prepared and served during the holiday dinner. Thanks to private donors, there is some financial relief with overall food costs. For those who are unable to attend the dinner, a separate team of volunteers delivered meals throughout the city.

"We are blessed with the volunteers we have every year, and our goal is to feed everybody that wants

a meal," Magnuson said.

The Resurgam Lodge Community Christmas Dinner is "Freemasonry in action" in the finest sense of the phrase. It's good for the Craft and demonstrates that we are an organization dedicated to improving individuals and our communities. To paraphrase Charles Dickens from the concluding lines of his *A Christmas Carol*:

*"And it was always said of him that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us! And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless Us, Every One!"*

And, let it also be said of Resurgam Lodge, all our Brothers, their families, and Freemasons across all of South Dakota, that we, too, know how to keep Christmas well! And God bless Us, Every One!



## Delta Dental Mobile Program visits Hill City thanks to Tin City #112

Every year, the Delta Dental Mobile Program pays a visit to Hill City. This year was no different as the program – housed in a specially outfitted bus – was parked outside Hill City Middle School Dec. 16-20.

“It’s very well worth it,” said Theresa Masteller, the bus coordinator for Delta Dental. “We’ve been coming for five years. We have seen 219 kids as of last year.”

None of the roughly 40 children who visited the van need to pay. The mobile program provides treatments, cleanings and checkups. The mobile program saw kids from all three divisions of Hill City schools this year and every year.

The mobile program does see some repeat kids every year, Masteller said, with roughly 10 kids coming back this year.

Some of the treatments that the mobile unit does includes fillings, restorative care, space makers and sealings, among other work.

“Sealings are important because they prevent rot from happening,” said Heather Voigt, a dental assistant on the bus. When they fill up the grooves with sealant, it prevents the cavity germs from penetrating the teeth.

The mobile program also does a lot of education on proper dental hygiene, said Jan Willard, a dental assistant with the mobile program.

The mobile program is on the road all over South Dakota for much of the year. Along with the other Delta Dental Mobile Program bus, Delta Dental provides free dental work for 42 weeks a year (84 weeks total between the two buses).

The program is funded by local non-profit organizations. Like every other year, this year the Tin City Masons Lodge in Hill City funded the mobile program.

The mobile unit, too, is careful to ensure that they are not taking any patients from local dentists. In a questionnaire that the kids’ families fill out before the child is seen, the program asks if they have been to a dentist in the last year. If they have, the program will call that dentist to ensure it’s OK for the children to be seen.

By the end of the week, Willard estimated that the mobile unit would have performed roughly \$2,500 worth of free dental work to kids. The mobile unit, while mostly sponsored by local non-profits, is run by Delta Dental’s charitable arm.



“I love my job,” Willard said. “It’s the best work ever. We have great employees on the road, which makes it great.”

### BY THE NUMBERS

The Delta Dental Mobile Program served 42 kids for a total of \$31,355 worth of dental care. Kids that had no decay made up 52 percent of the kids visited with while 48 percent did have dental decay.

A total of 190 sealants were placed; 199 diagnostic procedures were performed at a cost of \$4,922; 306 preventative procedures were performed for a cost of \$14,229; and 76 restorative procedures were performed for a cost of \$12,204.

A total of 62 percent of the kids were not covered by dental insurance, 24 percent were covered by Medicaid/SCHIP and 14 percent had coverage through private insurance.

## Matching Grant Funds aid in bringing Delta Dental to Hill City

Tin City Lodge #112 of Hill City used Matching Grant Funds for the Delta Dental Mobile Program that we have sponsored for the last five years.

Our goal was to raise \$2500 and the \$500 from the grant really helped in making that goal. That makes sure the bus will get to us.

The program this year was again at the Middle School in Hill City from December 16-20 and they saw 42 kids and did

\$31,500 worth of dental care.

Thanks to the South Dakota Masonic Charities for having such a great program as the Matching Grant Fund. The parents of the kids that were helped are very appreciative, as was told to us by the dental assistants that came to our chili feed for them.

Be sure and read the above article.

Thanks,  
Jack H. Welker WM

## Save a Child Program training set

“Great job. Loved it all ... AGAIN!” “Enjoyed it immensely.” “This was the BEST training I have ever been to as an educator.”

These are just a few of the comments received from educators at the Save a Child Program in Aberdeen last November. These words prove the positive impact your program has on the teachers and youth of South Dakota.

Approximately 20 educators and several Brothers from around South Dakota attended the three-day training held at the Yelduz Shrine Center. A huge thanks to Brother Kevin Harr for putting in all the leg work in Aberdeen to make this happen. This was the first training held in South Dakota since the fall of 2017.

However, now is not the time to rest. We have another training set for February 25-27, at the Ramkota in Rapid City. We need your help spreading the word to make this training an even bigger success. If you are in contact with teachers, administrators or others involved with the schools in your area, please pass the information from the flyer below to them. If I can answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [masonshelpingschools@gmail.com](mailto:masonshelpingschools@gmail.com).

Brethren, this is your program. You are always welcome, and even encouraged, to stop in and experience the program firsthand.

Fraternally,  
Yancey Smith

Save a Child State Coordinator

## 1891 charter reinstalled at Harmony Lodge No. 110

The Grand Master of South Dakota is a “traveling man.” One look at his calendar tells you he is “on the road again” as Willie would sing. Thus, it takes a while to find an opening on his calendar. Harmony Lodge No. 110 A.F. & A.M. in Hot Springs struck paydirt when the Grand Master committed to visiting December 3 to take part in a ceremony to re-install its 1891 Charter.



The Charter had been removed from the lodge for cleaning and conservation. The first hurdle was successfully negotiated. BUT come to find out, the Grand Lodge of South Dakota does not have a ceremony for the re-installation of a Charter that had been removed from a lodge for preservation. That problem was solved by the Lodge Secretary WB Albert L. Jensen, who created a Craft correct ritual proper for such an event, a ritual worthy of adoption by the Grand Lodge.

At its stated communication in April 2019, Harmony Lodge No. 110 A.F. & A.M. approved sending its 1891 Charter to the Ford Conservation Center for conservation. The conservation actions were carried out under the supervision of Ms. Hilary LeFevre.

The Charter was described as ... “The object is an Ancient, Free and Accepted Mason’s charter for the creation of Harmony Lodge, No. 110 in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The charter is dated June 10, 1891. The charter is signed by five members of a Mason’s Grand Lodge at the bottom of the document. At the lower left is an embossed seal. The charter is handwritten in black ink, on animal skin parchment. The ink used for the day of the month and for the signatures has a thinner applied consistency.

“The charter is in good condition. It is structurally sound and complete. The parchment has planar distortions overall, as well as a dark coat of surface soiling present on both the recto and verso (front and back). The verso of the charter has three pieces of pressure sensitive tape present. Two pieces are found along the top edge of the document, and the third is near the bottom edge of the document. A dark accretion is present in the upper left quadrant of the charter. There are a few faint yellow areas of discolorations present on the document. These are mostly isolated to the lower and left edges of the document, but there are also a few spots within the central area of the document.

“Treatment will aim to clean and stabilize the charter through rehousing for long-term preservation. Treatment was mechanically reducing accretions from the recto. Mechanically remove the tape and reduce the adhesive residue present on the verso. Reduce surface soiling and loose particles on the recto and verso of the charter. Flatten the parchment through gentle humidification to reduce undulations. Hinge and secure the parchment in a matboard enclosure to provide a safe display that will help restrain the document and inhibit undulations.”

The work undertaken by Ms. LeFevre and the Ford Conservation Center staff was of the highest quality and is recommended to others interested in conserving their historical documents. For interested parties the Ford Conservation Center’s contact information is:

Ford Conservation Center  
1326 So. 32nd Street • Omaha, NE 68105  
402-595-1180

**Feb 25-27, 2020**  
8:30am - 3:30pm  
Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center  
Rapid City, SD

**SAVE A CHILD TODAY**  
**Student Assistance**  
**Program Training**

This training is an intensive, highly experiential training that serves a team of five to eight educators. The team is trained in 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. The program gives teams, concrete skills and strategies to begin or enhance the prevention and intervention process. The Student Assistance Program provides specific strategies for identification and intervention in the areas of academics, health, behavior, and attendance and participants will leave with a specific plan for behavioral interventions, and a system for implementing in their schools.

- Strength Based Intervention Strategies
  - Developmental Assets
  - Social Emotional Learning
  - Collaborative Intervention
- Comprehensive Programming and Implementation

**Training is free of charge thanks to the generosity of the Free Masons of South Dakota**

**REGISTER at**  
**[b.link/rapidcity](https://b.link/rapidcity)**

Contact- Abby Morgan  
[NMFC@masonicmodel.org](mailto:NMFC@masonicmodel.org)



### **Sturgis Rally Charities donates \$1,000**

Olive Branch Lodge #47, Sturgis, SD, received a \$1,000 grant from Sturgis Rally Charities to support the Child Identification Program in the Meade County area. WM Todd Knudson of Olive Branch #47, WM Harold Walker, District #17, and BR Bob Tesch, Secretary of Olive Branch #47, received the check. For the seventh consecutive year Sturgis Rally Charities has provided a grant to Olive Branch #47 to support the Child Identification Program within Meade County. Over the past six years these grants have assisted in providing nearly 1,200 identification kits for area youth. Marcia Johnson, Chair of the Sturgis Rally Charities, said "This program is great for our children, and our Charities Board is well aware of the contribution it makes to our community."

### **WB Donald Olivier receives 50-Year Longevity Award**

On November 20, 2019, WB Donald Olivier was awarded his 50-Year Longevity Award in a joyous ceremony at Philip Lodge #153 in Philip, South Dakota. In attendance were his family and members of his Lodge. Pictured L-R: Grand Master Harold Ireland, WB Donald Olivier, and grandson WB Lincoln Smith, both members of Philip Lodge #153.



### **Norman receives 60-year award**

Gaylor Norman was presented with his 60-year award on Monday, January 20, 2020 at Hiram Lodge Past Masters dinner. Gaylor was surrounded by both Masons and his family. Gaylor shared memories from his time at Sweetheart dances while in Demolay. The dinner was followed by the Hiram Lodge regular meeting, where they honored their Past Masters. The four gentlemen in the top photo are Marty, Mike, Gaylor and Zay Norman. Marty, Mike and Zay are Gaylor's sons, all are Masons. Also pictured is Gaylor's daughter, Jill Mutchelknaus. Gaylor's son Mork, who is also a Mason, was not able to be present.

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

# Speakers lined up for 146th annual Communication

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

## Dr. David Harte

Brother Harte serves as a spokesperson for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a partner with MasoniCHIP International, the parent organization for the South Dakota Child Identification Program.



This program consists of a standardized child information sheet, still photograph, short video interview, laser fingerprints, DNA swab and dental imprints called Toothprints. Toothprints is a technique developed by David Tesini, a Massachusetts children's dentist and incorporated into the Child Identification Program by Dr. Harte.

SDCHIP, which is a part of MasoniCHIP International, has been recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children as the most comprehensive child identification system available. Dr. Harte will present the latest and greatest changes to the program. He will hold a South Dakota Child Identification Seminar on Thursday, June 18, from 1:30 – 3:00 PM and will be the featured speaker for the Joint Luncheon on Friday, June 19 at noon.

## Mark Menard

Mark is the founder and CEO of Enable Labs. Enable Labs designed and implemented the Masonic Online Registry Interface (MORI), a web-based system to replace the antiquated member management system used by the Grand Lodge of New York in 2004.



MORI manages all of the member functions for that Grand Lodge and their 600 local Lodge secretaries. Integrating all the functionality into a web application greatly decreased the paper workload for the Grand Lodge, significantly lowering their operating expenses.

MORI has since been adopted by the Grand Lodges of Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin, the York Rite bodies of Massachusetts and the Order of Eastern Star of New York. MORI manages over 35% of all Masonic records in the United States.

Brother Mark will host three training seminars on

Thursday, June 18. The first seminar is training on MORI and Our Lodge Page for our District Masters from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Seminar two is for Lodge Secretaries and runs from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. The third seminar is for the Lodge Masters and Wardens from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. Come be part of these excellent training seminars and see all the exciting changes that have been rolled out in 2019 to support the Lodges in their operations.

## Gib Young

Gib is a famous Theodore Roosevelt impersonator who has performed with many other great impersonators. He says he is a born and bred Hoosier and hails from Huntington, Indiana.



Gib was well received and participated at the 100th Anniversary and Rededication Ceremony of Mt. Roosevelt and Friendship Tower on July 6, 2019 hosted by the City of Deadwood, the Historic Preservation Council, the National Forest Service and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.

Gib has been a life-long Civil War buff and admirer of Theodore Roosevelt. (He is a member of the Theodore Roosevelt Association.) Mr. Roosevelt's personality, intellect, and zest for life were an irresistible call to Gib. But it wasn't until about 1998 that a local teacher convinced Mr. Young to come to a fifth grade class as the 26th President. The "challenge" and fun of that small event led to an acceleration of study of "TR's" history and a development of period clothing and spectacles.

A fortuitous meeting in 2003 with Mr. Fritz Klein, the foremost Abraham Lincoln interpreter today, convinced Gib to become a professional interpreter himself. Mr. Klein felt that Gib's Theodore Roosevelt impression was the best he had ever seen. Besides the physical resemblance of Theodore Roosevelt – circa 1915 – Mr. Young has been able to develop the vocal and movements of his subject to a high degree.

As we celebrate so much of our Masonic history this year with Dedication, Rededication and Anniversary Ceremonies at Mt. Roosevelt, Deadwood Outlaw Square, Incense Lodge #2, Elk Point Lodge #3, and more, it is only fitting that we have a history buff to cap off this historic year. We are honored to have Gib Young as our speaker and entertainer for the Grand Master's Banquet on Friday evening, June 19, 2020 during our Annual Communication.

## Ladies Program

This year the Ladies Program will host the working canines (K9) that support our law enforcement and also feature the changes and updates to the 911 Center in Rapid City.



Local law enforcement works with our Masonic Child Identification Program as well as many of our youth programs to ensure the safety of children in our communities. It has been demonstrated that dogs can pick up the scent of children even after 16 years. This was recently demonstrated by 28 different dogs being able to hit on the 16 year old scent.

The updated processes at the 911 Center are in concert with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has helped them ask better questions through 911 Centers when there are emergencies or abductions. Ladies please register for this special program to gain more information on the support provided for the safety of our children.



**World ranked Mason Worshipful Master LaMont introduces WB Pulscher to Grand Master Ireland at Harmony Lodge #110 AF & AM at the Dec. 3 stated communication in Hot Springs. WB Pulscher is an active arm-wrestler and the current U.S. 190 lb. champion and runner-up 185 lb. champion. WB Pulscher traveled to Constanta, Romania to compete in the World Championships Oct. 26-Nov. 4, 2019. Brother Pulscher placed in the 90 kg class and seventh in the 80 kg class. Motivation, dedication and perseverance paid off for WB Pulscher. As was pointed out to the Grand Master, WB Pulscher is the only world ranked MASON!**

## 146th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota June 18-20, 2020

To the Worshipful Masters of all Lodges in the Jurisdiction of the 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 attend the One Hundred and Forty Sixth 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, June 19, 2020 in the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Convention Center, 2111 N. Lacrosse, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Worshipful Masters and Wardens unable to attend will appoint qualified Proxies to attend and vote in their stead. All Members must show their current 2020 Dues Card, and if attending as a Proxy, they must present a properly signed proxy card. All Master Masons, in good standing, in a recognized Lodge, are cordially invited to attend.

The Secretary of each Lodge shall read this summons in open Lodge at the first meeting after its receipt.

Harold D. Ireland  
Grand Master



## Grand Lodge of South Dakota 146th Annual Communication 18-20 June 2020

**All events will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center, in Rapid City, SD. Room rates of \$134.99 are available by calling 605-343-8550. Indicate that you are with the Grand Lodge of South Dakota.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lady's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Event	Number	Price Each	Amount
<b>Grand Lodge Registration Fee (SD Masons Only)</b>	X	\$20.00	=
<b>GL Reception &amp; Awards Dinner - Business Casual</b> Thursday, 18 June at 5:30p.m. - No host bar; Dinner - 6:00p.m. - Pork Filet Mignon with salad, potatoes, vegetables, coffee & Ice Tea	X	\$32.00	=
<b>Breakfast Buffet (open to Masons &amp; Spouses)</b> Friday, 19 June 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, pastries, breakfast potatoes, orange juice & coffee	X	\$18.00	=
<b>Past Grand Masters' Breakfast (PGMs and GMs Only)</b> Friday, 19 June at 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	X	\$18.00	=
<b>Joint Luncheon (open to Masons and Spouses)</b> Friday, 19 June at Noon - Black Hills Buffet with chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, campfire beans, corn, ice tea & coffee	X	\$22.00	=
<b>Ladies Program</b> Friday, 19 June 1:00pm - 3:00pm	X	No Charge	=
<b>Grand Master's Banquet</b> Friday, 19 June - No Host bar - 6:00 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m., 8oz Top Sirloin, salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable, rolls, ice tea & coffee	X	\$35.00	=
<b>Breakfast Buffet (open to Masons &amp; Spouses)</b> Saturday, 20 June 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, pastries, breakfast potatoes, orange juice & coffee	X	\$18.00	=
<b>SD Masonic Veterans Association Breakfast</b> Saturday, 20 June 6:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	X	\$18.00	=
		<b>TOTAL:</b>	

**\* Please indicate any special dietary requirements\***

Make checks payable to **Grand Lodge of South Dakota** and mail to the address below

Please, no later than June 5<sup>th</sup>

Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota  
520 South 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6902



### **Final meeting of Golden Star Lodge #9**

The last official meeting of Golden Star Lodge #9 was held on December 5, 2019. Golden Star #9 was originally chartered in Lead, SD on June 11, 1879. The lodge is now merged with Deadwood Lodge #7 to become Deadwood Golden Star Lodge #7. Pictured back row, L-R: Bryan Sullivan, Roger Thomas, Bill Collister, Gary Hjermstad, Dee Black, Jeff Schroeder; Front row: Les Job, Dan Ryan, Larry Sullivan, Martin Kocanda, Eddie Hacker.



### **McKay honored with 70-year pin**

Olive Branch Lodge #47, Sturgis, SD, and the Grand Lodge of South Dakota Ancient Free and Accepted Masons present a 70-year membership award to Brother Keith McKay at the Aspen Grove Assisted Living facility in Sturgis. Brother McKay was raised as a Master Mason in 1949. Pictured L-R: Harold Walker, Master of District #17, Grand Lodge of SD; Jeff VanCuren, Grand Senior Warden, Grand Lodge of SD; and from Olive Branch #47, Brother Keith McKay, Brother Bob Tesch, Secretary, Brother Todd Knudson, Master, and Brother Randy Brennick.



Pictured at the Recognition Ceremony were, from left: Worshipful Master Brian Sullivan, Golden Star Lodge #9; Most Worshipful Harold Ireland, Grand Master of Masons of SD; and Worshipful Master Aaron Baenen, Deadwood Lodge #7.

## **Resolutions to consolidate accepted by Grand Lodge**

The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota accepted Resolutions to Consolidate from Deadwood Lodge #7 and Golden Star Lodge #9 as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota under Sections 3.18.

Effective January 1, 2020, the two Lodges were consolidated into Deadwood Golden Star Lodge No. 7 at Deadwood. The new Lodge will operate under the By-Laws of Deadwood Lodge No. 7 until such time as a new set of By-Laws is adopted after the date of Consolidation.

A Recognition Ceremony was held at their first meeting under the new name on January 7, 2020 at the Lodge in Deadwood. A New Charter of the combined Deadwood Golden Star #7 Lodge was presented and posted. The Charters of Deadwood #7 and Golden Star #9 of Lead were annotated and retired. Many Masons were in attendance to be part of the historic ceremony, conducted by the Grand Master of Masons of SD, joined with other members of the Grand Lodge and visiting Brethren from throughout District #17.

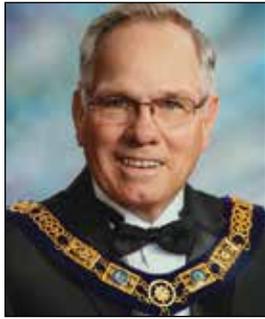
### **Lily Lodge #62, Ree Valley Lodge #70 also consolidate**

The Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of South Dakota accepted Resolutions to Consolidate from Lily Lodge #62 and Ree Valley Lodge #70 as prescribed in the By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota under Sections 3.18.

Effective January 1, 2020, the two Lodges were consolidated into Lily Lodge # 62. The new Lodge will operate under the By-Laws of Lily Lodge No. 62 until such time as a new set of By-Laws is adopted after the date of Consolidation.

## Greetings from the East

As Grand Master of Masons of South Dakota, it has been a very busy but rewarding year to witness the great work we do in so many of our communities across the jurisdiction. 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.



At the recent Grand Lodge Midyear Session held in Pierre we reviewed the status of the various programs that were established and promoted for improvement of the Craft. We are making great strides forward with the South Dakota Masonic Charities and the four areas under its purview: Child

Identification Program, Masonic Model Student Assistance Program, Academic Scholarships, and Matching Grants. I am happy to announce the Grand Lodge of SD and the MMSAP Committee, along with the National Masonic Foundation for Children, hosted a training session in Aberdeen November 19-21, and will be hosting another training session in Rapid City February 25-27. We have been recognizing Masonic Legacy Families through the presentation of Lewis Legacy Awards. Our annual Leadership Conference is beginning to pay dividends with many Lodges engaged in degree work for their incoming members. We continue to stress the use of the Six Steps to Initiation to make "Masons for Life" not just more members.

With six new District Masters this year we have engaged them to get involved and work with the Lodges in their districts. I want to personally

thank these Brothers for stepping up and recognize their efforts and enthusiasm. These folks are the conduit between Lodges and the Grand Lodge to carry information or concerns both ways. I request Lodges utilize their District Master to help improve and grow.

Effective January 1, 2020: Deadwood Lodge #7 and Golden Star Lodge #9 consolidated to become Deadwood Golden Star Lodge #7; Ree Valley Lodge #70 consolidated with Lily Lodge #62; and Sisseton Lodge #131 dissolved. As we address the many changes and challenges that are witnessed, we must always keep in mind "how do our actions help Masonry" with all decisions. Collectively we will make a better Craft.

We are preparing to accomplish two 150 Year Anniversary and Rededication Ceremonies for Incense Lodge #2 in Vermillion on March 8 and Elk Point Lodge #3 on April 18. On May 1-2

we will hold the C.W. Nash Founders Celebration in Philip, SD to recognize the beginning of Masonry in this part of the world. Mark your calendars and come be part of history in the making as we celebrate these events.

Our Annual Communication is just around the corner and we are getting some exciting speakers and events lined up to enhance your experience. I urge anyone interested in being a Grand Lodge Officer (Elected or Appointed) to contact RWB Jason Swindler and visit with him about your wishes. We have a number of District Master terms that are up this year as well and we are looking for some replacements. Remember nomination packets are required not later than 90 days prior to Annual Communication so if you are running for a position get your packet submitted.

Fraternally,  
Harold D. Ireland, GM

## From the Civility Ambassador to the Grand Lodge

Greetings Brethren;

A couple of months ago we were privileged to recognize acts of public civility by students in the Lyman School District. It was great to see the reaction and enthusiasm from the young people when our Grand Master explained (in their terms) what Civility is and why we were there. Students in the elementary, junior high and high-school grades came together (under the supervision and coordination of a set of parents) to do what they believed, felt and were taught was "The Right Thing To Do" after a devastating tornado decimated their rival school's building and much of the town.

Following up with a couple of the teachers, principals and the superintendent, it was great to hear that they used this presentation as a reinforcement to the solid hometown lessons in life and civil acts regarding personal interactions between themselves and others.

The students were surprised and very proud, as well they should be, that we

Masons were and are ever watching. Although not many of them may understand who Masons are or what our Fraternal principles are, they do understand that we are "Role Models", as many of them shared about how their family members were Masons or involved with Masonry, as Eastern Star has a strong presence in their community. Not only are we watching our youth, but they are watching us.

So I was reminded that as a Mason, I am to uphold our principles in all my daily actions with people, lest a younger (and sometimes older) person sees my actions as "The Rule and Guide" and I would then contribute to continuation of civil acts. I tell myself every day during my morning devotional that I AM A JUST AND UPRIGHT MASON and as such am ever GIVEN CHARGE TO WALK AND ACT AS SUCH. I understand that to be "Charged" is to be tasked or given the responsibility to do, which is to place a heraldic (one who "Actively"

promotes or advocates) bearing on one's self.

As we start a new year, round the corner for our current Grand Lodge regime and arrive ever nearer to spring and our Annual Communications, I would ask that each of us read and remind ourselves of our Charges we were given on our journey to becoming Master Masons. The best I personally can hope and strive for is to be a little better today than I was yesterday and hopefully a little better tomorrow for God, Country, My Family (which includes my Brethren) and my Neighbors.

I leave you my Brethren simply with this definition of Civility by the Civility Task Force;

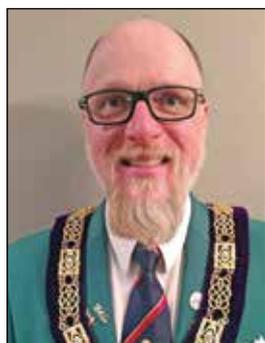
"Civility is the action of working together productively to reach a common goal, and often with beneficent purposes."

Fraternally,  
W.B. Dave Meltz, Civility Ambassador  
Grand Lodge of South Dakota AF&AM

"Civility is the action of working together productively to reach a common goal, and often with beneficent purposes."

## Notes from the Deputy Grand Master

I have been debating on what I wanted to write about for this article. I finally decided to give a few of my thoughts on something you may not have expected.



up somewhere in the middle of strict and easy-going and maybe that's for the best. I think consistency is the key and even that is hard to do with so many moving parts of a family. In the end our children need to be able to count on us to be somewhat predictable in order to connect with us at some level.

Now you may be asking why I bring this topic up. I believe being a leader is a lot like being a parent. We may have a grand view of what our ideas and goals will bring to the table but we must understand that not all of them will work out like we planned. Some ideas will be accepted, some thrown in the garbage can, but some with conversation and debate might turn out better than planned. Leaders are only as good as the people they are leading. We must build teams and realize when we need to trust someone to lend us a hand or at least whisper wise counsel in our ear. But probably most of all we need to be consistent.

If we want the people that look up to us to lead to eventually trust the path forward, they need to be able to look back on our character and on how we have reacted in the past. It is my hope that in the next few years we will have some consistency. That we will have more Brothers decide to become leaders in the Fraternity and eventually have a desire to serve as officers in the Grand Lodge.

We all know men that would be good Masons. Invite them to dinner. Answer their questions honestly and let them know about your personal

journey in Masonry. We need to be thinking about who is going to replace me if I can't be there for whatever reason. And remember, my Brothers, I have told my wife and kids that if they are ever in need to reach out to a Mason. I trust I am putting them in as good of hands as my own. That's part of being a Mason.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve this Jurisdiction and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months and years.

Jason D. Swindler  
Deputy Grand Master

One of the most challenging, yet rewarding, tasks I have been faced with as an adult is parenting. As parents we decide whether to be strict and unwavering or easy-going and laid back. I know in my experience what I imagined was going to work and what I had envisioned the outcome to be usually turned out to be nothing close to what happened. And that was just with the first child. If you happen to be silly enough to think just because a technique worked for one child that it will work for the next one, think again! In the end we probably end

## Greetings from the Grand Treasurer/Secretary

I want to first say thank you to the Grand Master Harold Ireland for this appointment. It is an honor to be asked to serve and help out in the Grand Lodge Office.



In 2018 I was appointed to the Twin Cities Board of Governors for the Shrine Hospital for Children, a position I still hold and enjoy. I am now a member of the Steel Drum Band.

But through all my time with the Shrine I continually worked to promote getting back to Lodge while on the Divan. So, this opportunity to serve as Grand Lodge Treasurer and Secretary was a good way for me to get back and give back.

I hope to be able to bring some of my business marketing and management background and 30+ years in business to help in the Grand Lodge office.

We are currently working on new ways to improve communications across all the Offices and committees in Grand Lodge. We're also exploring ways to provide improved support to all Lodges in SD and their secretaries if needed.

Thanks again to all for this opportunity to Serve!

James J. Burma Jr.

## No contention, save that noble contention, or rather, emulation

One of the lessons our working tools teaches us is that amidst our organization no contention should ever exist, save that noble contention, or rather, emulation of who can best work and best agree. Does this mean we should not have discussions on what is best for the organization? No. Does it mean we can't have disagreements? No. So what does it mean?

I think it means that once the organization determines what is best, then it is an obligation of the craft, in order to keep a united and harmonious atmosphere, to work towards what is agreed upon. I have been known from time to time to engage in healthy debate in the confines of a Lodge meeting. In these engagements, I do not get personal and I ensure my comments address the idea and not the person delivering the idea. I have been taught, in my profession, that all ideas and discussions are useful. Even if the idea is deemed not in the best interest of the organization, it may spark a better idea from a listener or even a presenter.

I am reminded of a particular

meeting, when, all the old grey beards felt they had found a loophole in the bylaws that would benefit the individual Lodge, and they proceeded to make a motion to exploit that loophole. The motion was made and seconded. When the floor was opened for discussion, a fairly new member rose in opposition. The "how dare he" expressions could be seen on the faces of all those in the room. The Brother began to speak and made the point that "what", we were about to do, although within the rule of the law, was not within the intent of the law. The appalled expressions disappeared and all the old grey beards listened intently to the words of the new Brother. In the end, the Lodge, to include the proposers, did the right thing and voted against the motion.

So, why is this important? All my life, I have heard the East versus West discussion amongst the fine citizens of our territory. You would think that, in our enlightened institution, we would be beyond that type of thinking. But, we are not. Prove me wrong!

Jeff VanCuren  
Senior Grand Warden

## Greetings from the South

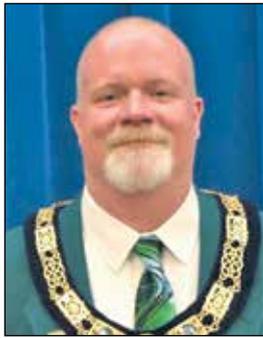
Greetings Brethren,

I hope everyone had a fantastic set of Holidays. Time to get back to the grind!

I think we all had a good time at the Grand Lodge mid year meeting in Pierre. And looking forward to more exciting things to come!

As we move our Lodges forward to the future, let us not forget to keep all of our members engaged in Lodge. An idle Lodge is hard to keep members, or to gain new ones. If a Brother in Lodge is eager to do something new, why not give it a try? Have fun while doing things as a Lodge!

I feel that one of the biggest problems with membership retention, is if a Brother doesn't feel needed or welcome, the chances of that Brother



staying a member is almost zero. Find the passions of the Brother and help steer him in the right direction. Get your Lodge education officer to work, don't just read the minutes and close. Have a meal, invite the families or friends of the Brothers, so they can see what it's about. Also, it's a great idea to let the Lodges around you know what you are up to, so they can visit.

If you are having success on gaining members please share!! Most of the Lodges would sure like to know!

Another great tool for membership retention is to use the six steps to Masonry while talking to a possible new member. If you need copy of them to read over, please get a hold of me or any of your Grand Lodge officers, we will gladly set you up with it.

See you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

Dan Nace

Junior Grand Warden



**Lewis Legacy Awards Presented at Philip Lodge #153**  
Philip Lodge #153 hosted the Smith and West families to participate in presentations of Lewis Legacy Awards. Charles Richard Smith was awarded the Lewis Legacy Award for his four generations of legacy Masons who were present to enjoy this excellent event with their grandfather. Rich, as he is normally called, has a lot of stories to tell for his 102 years of experience. Also receiving three generation Lewis Legacy Awards were Keith W. Smith, Melvin L. Smith and Douglas C. West and their families. It was an exciting and historic night on November 20, 2019 with family and friends present and an excellent meal served. Pictured with Grand Master Harold Ireland are the Smith and West Family Recipients.

## Greetings from the West

As we look at the health of our Lodges, I believe we have gotten a few things sideways. First, I believe that the officers of the Lodge should be the



best Brothers to run the Lodge, both in terms of time and competency. How many times have we asked a brand-new Brother to take a job as an officer shortly after he has been raised? How often do we consider a Brother's talents before we ask him to do a job in the Lodge? Do we look down on a Brother if he doesn't want to get into a leadership position? Would a business or professional organization do the same

thing we do as an organization? Would a College, Bank or Business change leadership every year?

Why then do we as an organization expect our Lodges to do the same? I think there are three main reasons for this.

1) When Masonry was one of the few Fraternal organizations to belong to, there was a plethora of qualified Brethren to run a Lodge and it was just a way to keep our best of the best involved in the Lodge. 2) A Lodge is looked at being weak or in a rut if they "recycle" a Worshipful Master. 3) And finally, too many Worshipful Masters see the job as a one and done event. We need to change that perception.

Granted, I also see the need for new and different leadership to make sure we keep the Lodge moving in a positive direction. So, Balance is the key.

We want younger Masons in our mix but, younger Masons have wives, kids and jobs. Maybe they are involved with their church, kid's sport team or even attending school themselves. I believe God, Family and Job take precedence but, if you take an Officer position then you have obligated yourself to a higher commitment to the Lodge on a voluntary basis and should honor that commitment.

Why do we expect our younger Masons to undertake such a burden so early in their Masonic career when they barely understand their 24-inch gauge? Maybe we need to explain what the working tools mean to our younger Masons before we expect them to utilize those tools in the running of the Lodge. Maybe our middle-aged Masons need to look at this period of their life and determine if they can contrib-

ute to the Lodge and give a little extra for a couple of years.

Finally, our Past Masters, as older Masons, need to stay involved in the Lodge and not be afraid to offer their opinion. I personally have heard too many Past Masters say "It's your year Worshipful Master" rather than giving good and timely counsel and then be the first to criticize when an idea fails. Older Masons also must get out of the way when it comes to new and innovate ways to deliver the time-tested lessons of Masonry.

Choose wisely, don't obligate yourself until ready and don't pressure those that are not ready. Finally, remember the three steps of Masonry and apply that to the Lodge (Youth, Manhood and Old-Age).

Jeff VanCuren  
Senior Grand Warden



### **70-year award**

**Brother James O. Hansen received his 70-year pin during the Grand Lodge of South Dakota Mid-Winter meeting in Pierre on January 11, 2020. Brother Hansen has been a 70-year member of Spearfish Lodge #18. Pictured L-R: Harold J. Walker, Master of District #17 Grand Lodge of SD AF&AM; Brother James O. Hansen, Spearfish Lodge #18; Harold D. Ireland, Grand Master of Masons of South Dakota; and Jason D. Swindler, Deputy Grand Master of Masons of SD.**

## **50 ~ 60 ~ 70 YEAR AWARDS**

MERLYN WOOKEY	50 YEARS	REDFIELD #34	11-14-69
ERWIN F. HARTMANN	50 YEARS	OLIVE BRANCH #47	11-5-69
JEFFREY E. SAMUELSON	50 YEARS	MT. RUSHMORE #220	11-22-69
DUANE B. ROSS	60 YEARS	BROOKINGS #24	11-18-59
LEIGHTON E. SATTLER	60 YEARS	RESURGAM #31	11-24-59
SAMUEL A. PFEIFER	60 YEARS	UNITY #130	11-27-59
KEITH ALLEN MCKAY	70 YEARS	OLIVE BRANCH #47	11-2-49
JOHN R. KELLEY	50 YEARS	ST. JOHN'S #1	12-16-68
CARTER O. WIESE	50 YEARS	ARCANIA #97	12-16-69
JAMES G. BOEKEL	60 YEARS	CONCORD #13	12-30-59
MAX A. GONZENBACH	60 YEARS	CONCORD #13	12-30-59
VANCE M. SNEVE	50 YEARS	BROOKINGS #24	1-3-70
ROBERT C. LATHROP	50 YEARS	ABERDEEN #38	1-27-70
LLOYD E. KESZLER	50 YEARS	OLIVE BRANCH #47	1-7-70
LARRY R. HEADRICK	50 YEARS	UNITY #130	1-3-70
LESLIE G. DAY	60 YEARS	ONIDA #173	1-14-60
JAMES O. HANSEN	70 YEARS	SPEARFISH #18	1-30-50

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