

# THE Ashlar

A PUBLICATION FOR MINNESOTA MASONS, STARS AND FRIENDS

MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
CHARITIES

MAY 2023 VOL. 1, NO. 5



INSIDE  
**170<sup>th</sup> Annual Communication Compendium**

## Dayton L. Berg



After a long (and busy) winter, enjoying spring temps and fresh air is refreshing. I want to thank the brethren of Minnesota once again for allowing me to serve the Craft.

One of the initiatives Grand Lodge and Minnesota Masonic Charities are collaborating on is the Fire Suppression Program. The fire suppression tool is a valuable resource first responders use to help control and extinguish fires when they begin. The Fire Suppression Program is an excellent opportunity for your lodge to give back to your local community meaningfully. Please contact your District Representative for more information.

Another goal we are working on is reducing the number of members stricken for nonpayment of dues. Brothers, when the NPD status is the same or greater than our number of Master Masons being raised, growth is challenging. It is vitally essential for our lodges to maintain contact with dues-paying members who are abiding by their 24-inch gauge. How are you conveying gratitude to ALL your members, not just the ones

who attend regularly? Elevating internal communication is essential.

As you're meeting with prospects and potential candidates, the quantity will follow if the focus is on introducing quality men to Freemasonry. Quality also applies to how our lodges welcome these potential members: are they receiving a warm welcome upon entering? How are your brothers engaging with them during dinner and tours and conveying what we're all about? Don't assume your prospects have been greeted by someone else. Making a strong (and impactful) first impression requires us to be proactive, friendly, and welcoming. Please align your efforts to extend a hand and share what being a Mason means to you.

I look forward to seeing as many brothers as possible in the coming months. Please use the Grand Lodge website form to request your Grand Lodge officers at an upcoming event (we use first come, first serve).

Fraternally,

— Dayton L. Berg  
Grand Master

## Sharon Barlow



Greetings from Eastern Star

I am honored to be Worthy Grand Matron of Minnesota in Eastern Star.

On the 6th of May, 2023, Steve Downs and I, alongside our esteemed corps of officers, were inaugurated into our respective positions to serve our organization for the ensuing year. Our chosen theme for this year is Love and Friendship, and we shall continue to extend our unwavering support to our diverse projects, including the Eastern Star scholarships. It is noteworthy that these scholarships are open to all, regardless of whether they belong to Eastern Star, provided they are sponsored by one of our Chapters.

Additionally, we remain committed to supporting the MN Masonic Cancer Center and the Children's Hospital. Our Service Dogs project for veterans with PTSD will continue to receive our utmost support through Helping Paws, a Hopkins-based organization. Notably, Helping Paws will host its Tail Waggin Dinner on the 21st of October, 2023, their largest fundraising event.

For this year, Steve and I have chosen to support the Alzheimer's Association, which is the leading voluntary

health organization committed to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Their primary goal is to eradicate Alzheimer's disease through research, provide and enhance care and support for all those affected, and decrease the risk of dementia by promoting brain health. We, therefore, invite you to mark your calendars for the Purple Benefit for Alzheimer's on the 14th of October 2023 at the American Legion in Anoka, MN.

Remember...

Together is a beautiful word

Coming together is the beginning

Keeping together is progress

Thinking together is unity

Working together is a success

And being together is love

— Sharon Barlow

*Worthy Grand Matron*

Minnesota Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star



# CORNER STONE LODGE FST DONATION



Corner Stone Lodge #99 of Fergus Falls recognized its sesquicentennial Saturday, April 30, with a meal and program in the Underwood School. The pork chop meal was prepared by the Underwood Lions Club and served in the school commons area.

Ryan Hendrickson, Underwood Fire Chief, accepted a Fire Suppression Device Donation from WM James Arvidson. The Fire Suppression Tool is used in a structure fire, and once tossed into the building, reduces the fire temperature up to 1000 degrees in 35 seconds. This unit was donated by Corner Stone Lodge but made possible by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Minnesota Masonic Charities.

Learn more about the FST donation program on the web at: [//mnfreemasons.org/fst](http://mnfreemasons.org/fst)

# 170<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNICATION COMPENDIUM



It was great seeing everyone at the 170th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota, A. F. & A. M., on April 14th and 15th at The Park Event Center in Waite Park. Most Worshipful Brother Tony R. Krall, Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota, presided over a well-attended weekend of meaningful

**A TOTAL OF 85 OF THE 124 CONSTITUENT LODGES WERE REPRESENTED, AND 394 MASONS REGISTERED FOR THE EVENT**

content. A total of 85 of the 124 Constituent Lodges were represented, and 394 Masons registered for the event.

If you were unable to attend the Grand Lodge Communication, you not only missed quality social time with brethren from across the state, but also



top-notch breakout sessions and first-class guest speakers. Many thanks to RWB Oscar Alleyne, RWB Allan Casalou, and James D. Cole Sovereign Grand



Commander, Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction for being with us all weekend. The Minnesota Masonic Charities brunch was also a highlight, having showcased the Selfless Scholar program throughout schools across our state. We were also honored to welcome Dr. Emmanuel Antonarakis from the U of M Masonic Cancer Center, who shared insights on his team's development of translational research strategies related to prostate cancer.

During 2022, 409 Master Masons joined the Grand Lodge, while a total of 788 members were lost, leaving a net total membership of 8,866 as of January 1, 2023.





**CONGRATULATIONS TO MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND  
MASTER DAYTON L. BERG, GRAND MASTER OF MASONS  
IN MINNESOTA, AND THE 2023 OFFICER LINE**

We were also honored to welcome several distinguished guests from other jurisdictions and appendant or concordant bodies. Also, two Duane E. Anderson Excellence in Masonic Education Awards were presented, and formal requests for recognition were received from five foreign Grand Lodges.

The Fire Suppression Program is being rolled out with great enthusiasm across Minnesota, providing first responders with invaluable resources. There is an abundance of fun and exciting events currently on lodge trestle boards throughout the state. Whether it's a community event & fundraiser, stated meeting/degree, or upcoming Area Conference, we look forward to your participation within our Minnesota Masonic family.



**Scan for 170<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Communication Summary**

Our Annual Communication also saw the election and installation of the new Grand Officers, and six resolutions were presented to amend the Minnesota Masonic Code. Congratulations to Most Worshipful Grand Master Dayton L. Berg, Grand Master of Masons in Minnesota, and the 2023 officer line.



**THE  
Ashlar**



**VIEW OUR LATEST PHOTOS**

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# Leadership in Masonry: The Importance of Travel

FROM THE GRAND LODGE EDUCATION OFFICER WB BRADLEY PHELPS



One of the great necessities of operative Masons was the need to travel. This is a key piece of the origin story of our craft and translates into a great privilege that we enjoy today: we enjoy the ability to visit other lodges. I am

sad to report it took me too long in my own Masonic journey to understand the importance of travel, or to capitalize and benefit from this great privilege. It is my hope that I can help drive home what I see as its importance in this article.

Over the past months, WB Andy has been sharing great thoughts on Leadership. His articles do a good job at exploring key concepts needed to be an effective leader. That said, the question might arise, “How does one become a leader?” I remember a time when I was beginning to get more responsibilities and I found myself pondering this exact question.

Title might be a natural answer to that question, and as described in Maxwell’s book, “The Five Levels of Leadership”, it is an important one – but not enough to stand on its own. The very first step is to decide to be a leader, and to spend the time to get to know those around you and best understand how to help them. Being a leader means having people that want to follow you, and as Simon Sinek points out, that usually translates into creating an environment of safety and trust. As the Worshipful Master of a lodge is installed, he is reminded of this – most especially with the words, “... and ever mindful, that though elevated for a time above his fellows, he is elevated by them, and should cultivate everywhere and at all times, the Golden Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.”

Expanding on that, one of my heroes Steven Covey points out that we are limited by a world where we are forced to see through our own eyes. His famous book, “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People”, is broken into 3 sections focusing on internal transformation, transformation based on relationships, and continuous improvement. He attributed his principal-based approaches for personal improvement on the words and teachings of Brother Benjamin Franklin.

One might ask, “What does this have to do with travel?” In response, I would remind us that we rely on our 5 senses to understand the world. The world is a vast and diverse place. Plato’s parable of “the Cave” shows us how senses alone might not be enough, and how we can misinterpret the input we receive by limited understanding or perspective. We have a much better chance of getting closer to the truth with different perspectives and understandings. In my mind, this means if we aspire to learn more about truth, a continual journey of learning and relationships is needed. This cannot happen without travel.

Modern technology is a wonderful tool; but it has its limitations. It does not enable all the senses. Additionally, it holds the potential for adding a second veil to the truth: a reality filtered by editing processes which hides elements deemed unimportant or unpleasant by those transmitting the information. ... But we live in a world where these



unpleasantries exist, and one might argue that these are important factors to consider and discuss. The jewels of the Fellowcraft are priceless, and the order in which they are presented is equally as profound. They always remind me to think about the relationship between listening and speaking; I would propose that this is key to leadership as well.

In summary, to become a leader in anything requires a decision to invest in adventure, and in the people that are around you – for better and for worse. It is a decision to gather and consider multiple perspectives. The best way I have found to do this is to travel, and to continually grow my network. This does not happen by staying at home. In your adventures, you will no doubt find people you want to follow. If you are mindful of those that are around you, you will also likely find people that want to follow you. Perspective is everything. We belong to a wonderful fraternity full of different perspectives and backgrounds that are bound by a great set of principles.

If we have not met yet, my name is Brad. I am humbled by the Brothers that surround me every day. I am passionate about learning, getting to know those who are around me, and hearing their stories and what they have learned. I will work hard to share that passion. I hope to get to know you and invite you to join me on the wonderful adventures that are ahead of us.

— Bradley Phelps  
Grand Lodge Education Officer

To view full article



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## MINNESOTA MASONIC CHARITIES SPONSORS NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Minnesota Masonic Charities and the Grand Lodge of Minnesota are collaborating on an exciting venture to equip Area Deputies and District Representatives with new technology and resources. The goal of this effort is to more effectively present timely and relevant information to Masons throughout Minnesota, with a particular focus on the work, programs, and impact of Minnesota Masonic Charities.

Area Deputies and District Reps play a vital role in Masonic leadership, as they are responsible for educating and informing members about our mission, values, and program development. To support these efforts, Minnesota Masonic Charities invested in iPads and projectors that enable these leaders to deliver useful, engaging, and informative presentations.

With this technology, representatives can utilize multimedia tools such as videos, slideshows, and interactive presentations to enhance their message and engage their audience. We are pleased to be communicating the meaningful ways in which the many programs of Minnesota Masonic Charities support the Masonic values of lodges and members.

Overall, the partnership between the Grand Lodge of Minnesota and Minnesota Masonic Charities is another testament to the organization's commitment to supporting its members and strengthening the Masonic community throughout the state.



# WHAT IS A FREEMASON?



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**A group of people who believe in being good members of their community.**

There are over 8,000 Masons in the state of Minnesota. We believe in brotherhood and helping others.



**Motivated by helping others!**

Some of the many different causes we support:

- Veterans
- Children
- Elderly
- Students
- Food insecure



**Have a long history of giving back to the community!**

We improve our communities by donating money to local causes, nonprofits, and those in need.



**Special traditions & symbols to represent our beliefs**

Freemasonry offers a blueprint to further improve one's character and actions through its system of degrees and symbolism.



## We're not a secret society

We love talking about the fraternity and our brothers. Ask us a question about our lodge!



# WELCOME TO CITY NAME LODGE NO. ###



## **Moorhead Lodge was established in 1876**

For over 147 years, Moorhead lodge members have been making a difference in the FM Community



## **Motivated by helping others!**

Moorhead Lodge has a standing appointment with the Dorothy Day house to serve food, and we host an annual table for Kids ID at the parent's fair.



## **Have a long history of giving back to the community!**

By hosting fundraising events like this one, we are able to continue to support the organizations important to our lodge and the community.



## **Special traditions & symbols to represent our beliefs**

Fellowship is an important pillar in the freemasonry model, and we practice that by having regular dinners together and with our families.

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**Are you interested in learning more about our lodge?** Whether you're a nonprofit looking for support or an individual interested in Freemasonry, we'd love to talk to you! Please visit <website> or call <contact>

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Mound Lodge 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>

## Grand Master's Fishing Excursion

June 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Baudette, MN

## Imperial Shrine Session

July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Charlotte, NC

## MN Masonic Children's Clinic Annual Dinner

Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> Duluth, MN

## Scottish Rite Biennial Session

August 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Washington, DC

MINNESOTA  
MASONIC  
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*save the date*

09.23.23

## 18TH ANNUAL MMC FUNDRAISING GALA

Minnesota Masonic Charities is excited to extend a warm invitation to all Minnesota Masons for our highly anticipated Annual Fundraising Gala! This year, we are thrilled to introduce some new features that will make your experience truly unforgettable. Get ready to bid on incredible items in our live and silent auctions, participate in our fun and exciting wine pull, and capture priceless memories with friends at our photo booth.

But that's not all. By attending this year's Gala, you'll be supporting our thriving Scholarship program. Your generous contributions will impact the lives of deserving students across Minnesota, helping them unlock their full potential.

We warmly welcome lodges to join us by purchasing a ticket, purchasing a table, sponsoring the event, and helping gather needed silent auction items. Let's come together as a community to make this year's Gala an unforgettable experience and support a great cause. Visit our Gala page for more information, and let's make a difference together!

RESERVE A TABLE TODAY!



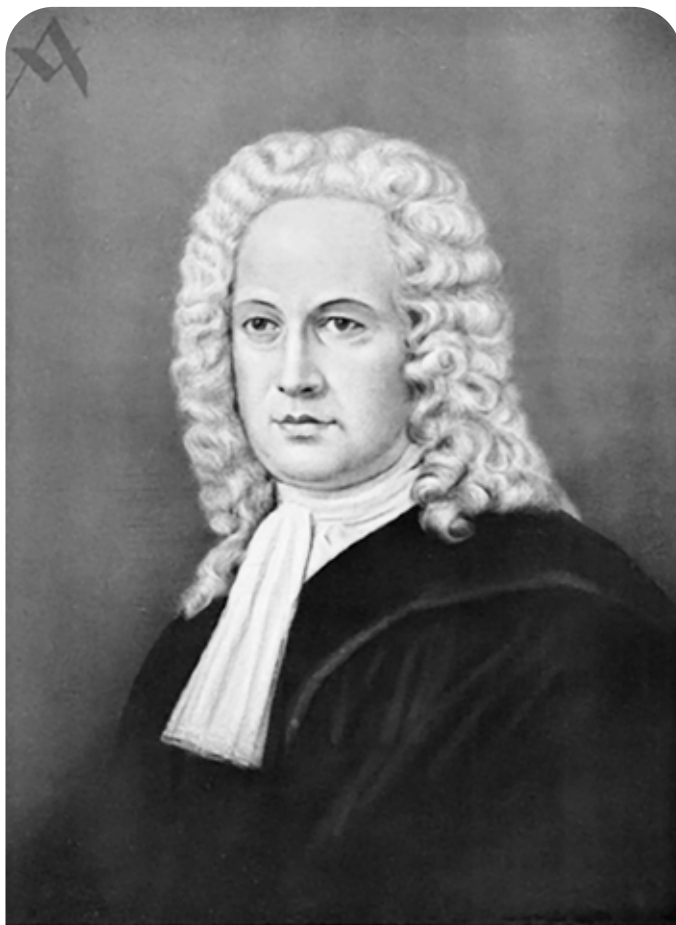


“...and then she said she was no longer impressed by my advanced degree in Fezology.”



95

**Welcome back to the Masonic Conundrum!** Conundrum #95 This Conundrum takes back to the earliest years of English Freemasonry in what was then Britain’s colonies in North America. We asked who was the first American Provincial Grand Master appointed by the Grand Lodge of England, and when was he appointed?



*Daniel Coxe  
First Deputized Grand Master of the North American Colonies, 1730*

**THE ANSWER:** *Daniel Coxe IV was named PGM of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in 1730 by the Grand Lodge of England. He served one year. Brother Coxe (1673-1739) lived in the Colonies from 1702 to 1716 and again from 1725 until he passed in 1739. (Ric Berman, The Grand Lodge of England & Colonial America: America’s Grand Masters; 2020, The Old Stables Press, Oxfordshire, UK, as quoted in Ars Quatuor Coronatorum, Vol 132, 2022 p300)*

**Winners this time include:** Ron Olness, Kasson-Mantorville Lodge #11; Jacob Dick, Tusler-Summit Lodge #263 and Steven Miller, Accacia Lodge #51.

**Conundrum #96:** In my westward travels and in a neighboring land, I happened upon a Masonic Lodge hidden in plain sight. Travelling up a large hill, I found a cemetery that includes the lodge and a Dead man made famous by his hand’s bad luck. Can you help me remember the name and location of the cemetery?

Send your answers by July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to:  
[masonicconundrum@gmail.com](mailto:masonicconundrum@gmail.com)

# THE Ashlar



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## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

To contribute news articles and photos about your Lodge activities or upcoming events, please email them to [\*\*theashlar@mnmfreemasons.org\*\*](mailto:theashlar@mnmfreemasons.org).



If you would like to receive the digital version of the Ashlar in lieu of the paper issue, please sign up on Grandview.



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## THE ASHLAR

The perfect ashlar shows what can be done with a rough, unpolished and unsightly piece of stone as a result of skill, industry and perseverance, so man, with all his rudeness, roughness and imperfection, may, under the operation of the Divine workman be polished and prepared until he becomes a noble character fit to be included as a part of the great spiritual temple which will abide forever.