



MINNEHAHA LODGE #5

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons
 520 S. 1st Ave
 Sioux Falls, SD 57104
sec@minnehaha5.com
 (605) 351-5756

OCTOBER 3, 2024

Opened in Due Form 7:00p.m.
 Closed in Due Form 9:09p.m.
 Attendance 33
 Visitors 1

STATED MEETING ~ MASTER MASON			
WM	CARLOS COBOS	SD	THOR BARDON
SW	RYAN HARRISON	JD	TIM MALONEY*
JW	JAMES BYERS	SS	-
TRES	JON GILL	JS	ERIK REINHOLT
SEC	AARON ZAHN	MAR	MITCH AMAN
C-AP	CARLOS COBOS*	TYLER	CODY CHRISTIANSON

*PRO-TEM

Worshipful Master Cobos opened a Stated Meeting of Master Masons and greeted the Brethren in attendance. First order of business was to approve the minutes from the previous meeting of Sept 5, 2024. They were posted on Grand View in the File Vault prior to the meeting for review. James Byers made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Anthony seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE. Short Talk Bulletins and Emessay Notes have been received and posted on your Grand View portal for viewing.

PETITIONS. We have received Petitions for Kirk William Callies and Matthew Orstad. Petitions read and an Investigation Committee will be appointed by the WM.

The petition for Matthew Orstad was received on September 11 which was after our September Stated Meeting and prior to our MM Degree on Sept 19. The Secretary did admit error in forgetting to read the petition for Matthew Orstad during the MM Degree as the evening was long.

The Investigation Committee found the petition for Shawn Kudingo unfavorable and did not recommend his petition for consideration.

The Investigation Committee has not been able to contact Tristen Erickson. Continued contact will happen.

We do have the option ask for dispensation from the Grand Master to ballot on Matthew Orstad and Tristen Erickson the night of our Oct 17 EA Degree to include him in the same class. Motion made by Jon Woods to ask GM Dane Bloch for Special Dispensation to ballot on candidates at a Special Meeting. Seconded by Brian Pulling. No discussion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

	Balance per Bank	Deposits in Trans	Transfers	O/S Checks	Dedicated Funds	Funds Available
CHECKING ACCOUNTS						
LODGE CHECKING xxx7563	\$3,278.28		\$3,943.00	(\$996.55)		\$6,224.73
GOOD WORKS AND OUTREACH XXX1154	\$3,124.74		\$120.00			\$3,244.74
TOTAL	\$6,403.02	\$0.00	\$4,063.00	(\$996.55)	\$0.00	\$9,469.47
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS						
ELMER C. ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP XXX7779	\$6,052.11		(\$1,688.00)			\$4,364.11
LODGE SAVINGS (150th Fund) XXX1004	\$4,476.97		(\$2,375.00)			\$2,101.97
GWMNM XXX7824	\$5.00					\$5.00
MASONIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION XXX7808	\$5.00					\$5.00
MMSAT (Save a Child Program) XXX7816	\$5.00					\$5.00
SD CHIP DONATIONS XXX7787	\$5.00					\$5.00
SD MASONIC CHARITY FOUNDATION XXX7795	\$5.00					\$5.00
TOTAL	\$10,554.08	\$0.00	(\$4,063.00)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,491.08
INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS						
FIRST INTERSTATE MONEY MARKET XXX9038	\$9,157.08					\$9,157.08
SD GRAND LODGE INVESTMENT FUND	\$10,461.96					\$10,461.96
MINNEHAHA LODGE SCHOLARSHIP	\$9,427.88					\$9,427.88
ELMER C. ANDERSON CD - 1ST NAT'L Matures 12/11/24 @ 4.4% Interest	\$10,000.00					\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$39,046.92	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$39,046.92



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- Proposal by Brian Pulling to use from the Lodge Refresh project funds for the Lodge to purchase Wardens Columns and Officer Gavels. Brian described the Wardens Columns as ornate with miniature representation of globes on tops of the columns. Very similar to the ones he has in his collection and were used in the first Festival in Sioux Falls a few years ago. The gavels desired are the vertical tear drop shape. Brian found both items from a vendor on Facebook Markeplace for \$400. Motion by Thor to accept Brian's proposal. Seconded by James Byers. No discussion. Motion carried.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Update from Matt Gage on the Meal Committee. Matt has asked for volunteers for people to signup for a month to bring the meal. No one has signed up for the committee. Matt has stated that the meal selection will be getting simpler because of the lack of support to the team.
- After recently raising two Master Masons we have Aprons, Bibles, and Pins to present. Brother Dean Buchman was present to receive his Bible by JW James Byers, Apron by PGM Aaron, and Square and Compass Pin by PGM Virgil. Welcome again Brother Dean to Minnehaha Lodge.
- A By-Law Proposal submitted at our previous Stated Communication, September 5, for the adoption of a new Lodge Seal is eligible for vote as per our By-Laws. It was presented in due form, communicated to the entire lodge via email three times, and as such eligible for vote. The process requires a 2/3 vote for the by-law to be adopted. The voting process shall be to vote as a Mason votes. The Senior Deacon and Junior Steward will tally the votes. The Senior Deacon reported reported 33 eligible voters in the room. The By-Law Proposal to adopt a new Lodge Seal includes a refreshed version of the lodge seal to include additional detail and to allow an electronic version of the seal for digital documents. Brian Pulling made the motion to adopt the new Lodge Seal. Seconded by Jeff Bruce. No discussion. Call for vote. Votes casts by the sign of a Mason. Senior Deacon reported 33 yes, 0 no. Motion carried. Proposal adopted.
- A By-Law Proposal submitted at our previous Stated Communication, September 5, for the increase of Lodge Dues is eligible for vote as per our By-Laws. It was presented in due form, communicated to the entire lodge via email three times, and as such eligible for vote. The process requires a 2/3 vote for the by-law to be adopted. The voting process shall be to vote as a Mason votes. The By-Law Proposal is to increase the lodge dues to \$180 with the detailed breakdown that was presented to dedicate from the amount of the \$15 per month \$11 to Lodge Operations, \$1 to the Junior Warden's Fund for Meals, \$1 to Good Works and Outreach, and \$1 to into the General Fund. Additionally the proposal included increases of incrementally each year to reach \$240 per year in 2030. **Much more detail in the Proposal**
 - An amendment was presented by Virgil that the lodge dues would be changed to increase to \$150 in 2025. Rationale included utilizing the Grand Lodge Widows and Orphans funds in lieu of additional money needed for Good Works and Outreach. The meal costs do not belong in dues structure. The scholarship funding seems to be pretty good as long as we manage it the way we are.
 - Additional comments by Quentin unrelated to the amendment.
 - WM Carlos commented that in the past five years we've had a small handful of members bring the meal, we've had a small amount of people contribute to the scholarship fund directly other than tips from the meal. The extra \$6.60 towards the general fund is to support the things





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*PRO-TEM

we've done recently like new aprons and gavels which was only able to happen by the blessing of six Brothers. To summarize a very small few of the Brother shouldering the financial responsibility of the lodge should be spread amongst the dues of the lodge

- Motion seconded by Question. Additional discussion.
- Discussion included clarifying that the original proposal brought to light that we are looking to establish and utilize lodge funds to care for our widows in a way that lets them know we appreciate them and to let them know we are thinking of them. This is much different than the Grand Lodge Assistance Fund in which a Widow or an Orphan may receive Assistance if they require it. The original proposal included thoughts to send regular thoughts, gifts, flowers, etc to our widows when appropriate.
- Discussion included comments on studies that show the more someone pays for something the more likely they are engaged in that thing. Example the cheap gym they don't go to but the more expensive gym they will regularly attend because they are paying more for that membership.
- Discussion included a visit by Thor to a lodge out of state. He talked with the history of that lodge and the dues at that time. "What did their dues look like 150 years ago? The reason why I'm telling you this is, this is commentary, as we determine if we would like to go the route that brother Virgil proposed to us, or reject that proposal, and then consider the original. The dues that they were paying were usually around one month's worth of salary. So, when we talk about what's aggressive or potentially losing people. We're not even close to one month's worth of salary most like for almost anyone in this room, either one of these proposals that we have going on. When you look at what they did with the money back then, they didn't just build buildings. They were out in their communities. They were doing things like feeding people when they were hungry. They were using the money to be able to find supplies, so that way people didn't have to suffer throughout the seasons. That's what they did. You know, we're doing a scholarship so that way kids can go to college. Or, you know, we're doing things like the widows fund, but you want to talk about keeping people that are engaged. Yes, we need more money, but the biggest thing that we need to do to be able to keep people from leading the organization is we need to have something to show for it. So instead of this, there's an argument here to potentially be made that we're not being aggressive enough, because if we had more money in those funds, to be able to say, yep, we do more than what a gas station is doing with scholarships. We do more than just a relief fund for our widows. We're able to say, hey, we all banded together, did more than just sit down and leave. We actually helped some people. We helped shape our country while we're only talking about a \$6 increase, there might be another discussion someday about another \$6.07 maybe another 25 what kind of organization do you want people 150 years from now to be looking upon? Because that's what you're voting on with this. So think about that. Think about the people that are before us. Seriously consider these proposals. Thank You"
- Discussion on how Masons many years ago rode trains and stayed in a hotel room, attended a lodge meeting and then went home the next day. Speaking on behalf of young families Jim mentioned that families may have extra expenses now for extra curricular activities that they may not have had before.



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NEW BUSINESS

- Masonic Education. As the lodge education officer as well as chairman of the State Education Committee for the Grand Lodge, kind of adopted a mission this year for myself, and it's not to try and outdo everybody who's done a whole lot more research than I have, and a lot more conversations on the ancient history and points and parts of remains or any but I talking with the virtual master and other brothers. My mission is more about trying to get us focused on becoming better men make good men better. So, keep that in mind this evening. But the title of my talk tonight is by the aid of the three lesser, now discovered by the aid of the three lesser. You've all heard these words, but have you given time to ponder the meaning on this I've offered this evening's talk. I'm sitting in my backyard as the sun rose up that morning and lit up the morning sky with viral hues that are so often inspiring, I found myself reflecting on the different inspiring roles within the lodge. Firstly, the Worshipful Master how important it is that he likes the passion for masonry in every member of his lodge by his example and guidance, every man in the lodge should be inspired to perform his parts with such excellence and effort that all brothers could not be but motivated to emulate the effort in his own past. He sits in the east. Every Master must strive every meeting, to not only rule and govern the lives, but also brighten the room with a light of wisdom thrown through the matters and headed Master Mason, the three lesser lights I speak of. As the sun is in the west at the close of the day. Well, I doubt very much that I can explain the glory of a good sunset, whether over the mountains, the oceans or the plains. I do, however, feel that the job of the senior Warden is not often seen in this manner. It should be senior warden has the dubious honor of paying to craft their wages. Should anybody? Should any he do? It could be simply complimenting a brother or brothers on a job well done or an action well executed. This is no small thing that role takes on every night. It reminds us, and all of us brethren of the wages of a job well done Master Mason. And then it allows the craft to complement one another and thus be in harmony as one body of Mason. Second of the three lesser lights I reference. The third lesser light, and no, I don't make the longest speech, because that's my chair, but the third lesser light winds the south and is seated to the board and reminds us of when we should rest, when we must return to our usual advocations. I of course, relate the moon to this time we as craftsmen are at rest and refreshment. And thus stands the junior Warden, reminding us to always govern ourselves as upright men and masons when we are in our leisure time. We are always masons, my brothers, just when we're in the lodge, but we're when we are abroad in the world. It's referenced by the virtual brothers and presentation this evening. We need to remember the all-seeing eye is upon us. We are judged by our actions. We always represent our fraternity. Be careful, my brothers, not to convert the means of refreshment to intemperance or excess. That refreshment is not drink. It is simple actions and behavior. We need to make sure that we do not through our actions cause our beloved fraternity to be judged poorly. There are so many other lessons that I could give regarding the three lesser lights, but I offer these simple thoughts to you in hopes that you will begin to see how the teachings of masonry always carry with us we take just a small amount of time to reflect on them. In some way, you might be able to bring more of the world around us to the level we should always expect of ourselves. Worshipful Master, Brothers, I Appreciate your time. Thank You. **A hearty round of applause!**
- Erik Reinholt has reached one year of membership as a Mason and a member of Minnehaha Lodge. He was present in lodge to receive his certificate of appreciation from the Grand Lodge along with all accolades and honors. Congratulations and Thank You for being an active member Brother Erik!





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- Brother Mitch updated on the Foster Network. The Christmas program is changing and details will be coming out soon. The Annual Fundraising Gala has expanded based on the successful event we hosted at the Masonic Center. The event has outgrown the Masonic Center. Mitch helped look for new space to continue the event and found space across the street at the El Riad Shrine that has larger capacity for the event. Using our Brotherly connections Mitch worked a discount and rented the facility for a discounted rate of \$1,000 for the Gala to be held on March 25, 2025. At this Gala last year the Foster Network was able to raise \$50,000. Mitch would like to see Minnehaha Lodge help sponsor the rental portion of the Gala. Aaron made the motion that since we were able to raise some money during the Hot Classics Night fundraiser that Minnehaha Lodge sponsor the facility rental of the Gala for \$1,000. Seconded by James Byers. Discussion included potentially the lodge purchasing a table to be present at the event. Discussion included advertising included with our sponsorship. Motion carried.
- MBA Report. Matt Gage. The MBA hosted a second Town Hall for 2024 last night (October 2). We expected more attendance as it was open to all members of the building. The goal of the Town Hall was to continue the transparency of the MBA Board. All Board Members were present to answer any questions. The meeting included a presentation outlining the timeline of the past year and the significant improvements that have been made in the time span. During the meeting all reports of the committees were given and the full budget was presented including line by line income and expenditures of the building on an annual basis. Many questions come up throughout the year as to the cost of things and why is this the way it is and that meeting along with the full budget was an excellent opportunity to receive the full transparent view of the operations of the volunteers operating the Masonic Center.
- A motion was made by Jon Woods to Thank the members of Worthing Lodge for their generous donation of the door lock system for the Masonic Center. Seconded by Brian. No discussion. Motion carried.
(Brother Secretary would like to officially and formally Thank Jon Woods for the additional correspondence in both sending and receiving such correspondence)
- Emails were sent for the ability to purchase Ritual Monitors, Lodge Engagement Passports,
- We will have an EA Degree on October 17.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

- WB Brian will have skin cancer surgery in two weeks. His mother in law will have heart surgery in a couple of weeks. Also PM Tim Schendel went in for a Prostate biopsy. That came back negative. During this visit it was discovered he was diagnosed with breast cancer. He found out he has a family history of it with his father and sisters with breast cancer. It can happen to us men and this is a reminder to us to it can happen. It is a fairly aggressive form and he is looking at surgery as an option. Please keep WB Tim in your thoughts and his treatment draws near let us remember our obligation to be true to our Brother and be there for him during this time.

MEAL

- \$230 collected from the meal. Matt did not take any for expenses.



Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Zahn
SECRETARY

