



MINNEHAHA LODGE #5

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

520 S. 1st Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

sec@minnehaha5.com

(605) 351-5756

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Opened in Due Form	7:00p.m.
Closed in Due Form	8:02p.m.
Attendance	27
Visitors	2

STATED MEETING ~ ENTERED APPRENTICE			
WM	JAMES BYERS	SD	ANTHONY NEURTOTH
SW	ADDISON STUBBE	JD	ERIK REINHOLT
JW	CODY CHRISTIANSON	SS	KURT SWENDSON
TRES	CARLOS COBOS	JS	-
SEC	MARK KEISER*	MAR	GREG WESCOTT
CHAP	RYAN HARRISON	TYLER	JERRY GROUZIS

*PRO-TEM

Worshipful Master James Byers opened a Stated Meeting in the Entered Apprentice Degree at 7:00 pm and greeted the Brethren in attendance. The first order of business was to approve the minutes from the Stated Meeting Minutes from August. They were previously emailed out and posted on Grand View in the File Vault prior to the meeting for review. Hearing no additions or corrections, they stood approved as communicated.

The Treasurer's Report was received for filing prior to the Stated Meeting, distributed through our Monthly Newsletter, and placed in the File Vault on Grand View. It was received for filing.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

PETITIONS

Reinstatement petition: Tovia Forstein

- ❖ The Secretary presented a petition from Tovia Forstein, who had been raised in 2015 and was seeking reinstatement at Minnehaha No. 5.
- ❖ The petition stated that he lives in Sioux Falls and would pay dues if reinstated. It included recommendations from the Most Worshipful Grand Master and a Past Master.
- ❖ The Worshipful Master said reinstatement could not be granted based solely on those recommendations because the petitioner was in arrears and the petition had to be investigated.
- ❖ Next step: The Senior Warden was asked to arrange the investigation.

Affiliation petition: Bradley A. Wilkins

- ❖ The Secretary presented Bradley A. Wilkins's petition to join Minnehaha No. 5 as a plural member. He was described as a Master Mason in good standing at Huron Lodge No. 26.
- ❖ The Worshipful Master said he knew Brother Wilkins and had presented him with his 50-year pin. He described Wilkins as having relocated and now seeking affiliation.
- ❖ The Worshipful Master explained that the petition required a ballot. A prior exception allowing a hand vote was no longer applicable, so the lodge returned to the regular balloting process.
- ❖ Members were told that white balls elect and black balls reject. The Master asked them to consider their votes carefully and to vote for the good of Masonry, not merely for the lodge's convenience.
- ❖ The ballot was reported clear in the South, West, and East. The lodge elected Brother Wilkins for affiliation!

NEW BUSINESS

Opportunity to state a grievance. Worshipful Master James Byers

- ❖ The Worshipful Master said he had been informed that one member felt aggrieved by another brother.
- ❖ Referring to lodge rules and South Dakota Masonic Code, and saying he was acting at the Grand Master's direction, he formally invited the aggrieved member to rise and state the concern.
- ❖ No one came forward. The Master then said the opportunity had been provided and that he considered the matter addressed; he would not address it further during his term.



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What it means to be a Master Mason. Worshipful Master James Byers

- ❖ The Master asked the brethren to describe what being a Master Mason meant to them. One response was “**overseer of the work.**”
- ❖ He explained that he deliberately stepped down from the East to speak among the brethren. He described them as some of the most important men in his life and spoke personally about the loss of his biological brother and the importance of his Masonic brothers.
- ❖ He distinguished between becoming a good man and becoming a Mason: in his view, Masonry calls for an additional, continuing commitment to self-discipline and improvement.
- ❖ Using the images of **iron sharpening iron** and the rough ashlar being worked toward the perfect ashlar, he emphasized that improvement takes time and effort. The unfinished corner of the ashlar, he said, is a reminder that a Mason is never finished.
- ❖ He thanked brethren who had taken the time to have difficult conversations, offer good counsel, or tell him what he himself needed to hear. He connected this restraint and mutual correction to the compasses and the obligation to do good, especially to a brother.
- ❖ He read or paraphrased a reflection on how Masonry can change with experience: what feels new in a Mason’s first year may deepen in meaning as familiar ritual and symbols meet the circumstances of later life.
- ❖ He encouraged members to keep studying, seek worthwhile conversations, and sit with difficult questions instead of letting Masonry become routine.
- ❖ He also said that a man who reaches a point where he cannot continue with the demands of Masonry is not thereby a bad man. He presented Masonry as demanding work and urged honesty about one’s limits.
- ❖ He closed this portion by encouraging the brethren to keep shaping and supporting one another.

Welcome to Right Worshipful Brother John Woods

- ❖ The Senior Deacon escorted **Right Worshipful Brother John Woods**, identified as Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of South Dakota, to the West.
- ❖ Woods thanked the lodge for trusting him to represent Minnehaha around the state. He said many of the practices he discusses with lodges are already being done at Minnehaha and that he was proud to belong to the lodge.
- ❖ He invited the Grand Lodge officers present to introduce themselves. The group included several state officers, the District 2 representative, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master.

Nomination of Woods for Senior Grand Warden

- ❖ The Worshipful Master explained that because he was now sitting in the East, he could not make the nomination himself.
- ❖ A brother moved that **RW Brother John Woods** be nominated as Minnehaha No. 5’s candidate for **Senior Grand Warden**. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of support.
- ❖ The Master congratulated Woods and reminded the lodge that members should support the brother they had chosen to nominate.

Master Ritualist recognition

- ❖ The Master called **Brother John Woods** to the floor and presented pins recognizing completion of the requirements for **Ritualist**, **Senior Ritualist**, and **Master Ritualist**.
- ❖ He congratulated Wood and connected the achievement to the importance of keeping the lodge’s ritual work sharp.



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Quarterly Business Review

- ❖ The Senior Warden reported that he had created a business-meeting event in Grand View, but learned it did not automatically notify members. Attendance was low.
- ❖ He proposed replacing the irregular approach with **quarterly business reviews (QBRs)**:
 - Set dates in advance.
 - Publish an agenda and communicate the meetings to members.
 - Hold ad hoc meetings if urgent business comes up between quarterly reviews.
- ❖ No specific QBR dates were set in the discussion. The Worshipful Master thanked the Senior Warden for working on the proposal and described the new approach as a work in progress.



Masonic Building Association and Building Plans

- ❖ **Potential sale and replacement property**
 - An MBA representative reported that the MBA had voted to proceed with selling the current building. A purchase offer was discussed as \$1.6 million, with net proceeds estimated at just over \$1.5 million.
 - The representative stressed that the transaction and relocation plans were not final.
 - A possible replacement property was described as roughly 11,000 square feet, with a veterinarian-supply business occupying about 2,500 square feet as an income-generating tenant.
 - The representative said moving there would require coordination and compromise among the Masonic bodies that use the current facility.
 - The site was said to have 92 parking spaces. Shared parking with a nearby building might be possible, but permission would be needed.
 - The MBA representative discussed possibly putting the prospective property under option while investigating it. That was presented as an option to consider, not as a completed purchase.
 - The buyer's due-diligence proposal was described as six months, with extensions also discussed; the exact extension wording is unclear in the transcript. Possible rent during an extended period and the MBA's continuing costs for the current building were also mentioned.
 - The representative said the MBA was in better financial shape than in the past, with a surplus and improved investments.
 - A former MBA president described the current building's aging systems, particularly a boiler estimated to be about 65 years old. He said major replacement work could cost at least \$500,000, before other building needs, and noted that past maintenance had often involved temporary fixes rather than adequate depreciation planning.
- ❖ **Worshipful Master's response**
 - The Master reminded members that the MBA representatives had volunteered to serve and had been selected by the lodge.
 - He encouraged anyone with concerns to speak directly with the MBA representatives or attend MBA meetings to listen, rather than relying on hallway conversations.
 - Drawing on his experience of another lodge building closing, he said that although such a change can be painful, the lodge can continue meeting, practicing Masonry, and enjoying fellowship in a different space.
 - He asked members to support the MBA's work and continue the Craft regardless of where the lodge ultimately meets.



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Announcements and Support for Other Masonic Bodies

• Area C meeting

- RW Brother Woods announced an Area C meeting at the Sioux Falls Masonic Center for the following Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
- He planned to lead the meeting and provide lunch.
- He encouraged attendance as a chance to meet brethren from other lodges and districts and exchange ideas about what is working.

• Daughters of the Nile and Widows Sons

- An ambassador said he and Brother Kurt were coordinating to share information about Daughters of the Nile meetings and events.
- An arts and crafts fair was announced for October 4 at the Shrine across the street. Members were invited to attend and possibly help with setup or cleanup.
- The Widows Sons were described as welcoming motorcycle enthusiasts interested in rides and fellowship. The speaker said they generally meet the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at the Alliance.
- The speaker mentioned a motorcycle endorsement, insurance, and current registration as requirements for riding.

• Job's Daughters dinner fundraiser

- Brother Sam reported that Job's Daughters had been losing money on some fundraisers and was looking for new ways to raise funds.
- He proposed that they prepare dinners before lodge meetings, with the proceeds going to Job's Daughters rather than the lodge. The first dinner was proposed for **October 3**.
- The Master encouraged members to RSVP and pay through Grand View so the girls could plan the meal.
- He also proposed placing a donation bucket by the food area and having the lodge give Job's Daughters the meal proceeds and additional donations that evening.
- Brother Sam noted that Job's Daughters could also help the lodge with activities such as parades and Halloween events.
- The Master said he hoped the lodge would make the dinner a strong show of support and previewed a story about Job's Daughters to share at the event.



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HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Brother Gerald Johnson

- A member reported that Past Grand Master Gerald Johnson, described as about 95 years old, was in the Mary House care facility with serious health issues.
- The brethren were asked to keep him in their thoughts.



Brother Kenny Anderson

- A member reported that Anderson had completed physical therapy following a serious knee injury and had lost about 103 pounds.



Darrold "Disco" Ball and his wife

- The Most Worshipful Grand Master reported that the cancer affecting the wife of Darrold "Disco" Ball, who cleans the building, had returned and spread into her jaw and toward her ears.
- He asked members to keep the couple in their thoughts.



Connor Pulling

- Connor's father reported that Connor had started college, joined several campus organizations—including choir—and affiliated with Evergreen Lodge in Madison.
- He said Connor had missed a Minnehaha meeting but was enjoying college and his new activities.



Respectfully Submitted,

AARON ZAHN—SECRETARY



Thank You to Assistant Secretary /
Secretary Pro-Tem Mark Keiser for
taking excellent notes, documentation,
and the post-meeting celebratory photo!