



## MINNEHAHA LODGE #5

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

520 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

[sec@minnehaha5.com](mailto:sec@minnehaha5.com)

(605) 351-5756

# SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Opened in Due Form 6:00p.m.

Closed in Due Form 6:55p.m.

Attendance 13

Visitors 0

| STATED MEETING ~ ENTERED APPRENTICE |                   |       |                  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| WM                                  | JAMES BYERS       | SD    | ANTHONY NEURTOTH |
| SW                                  | ADDISON STUBBE    | JD    | KURT SWENDSON*   |
| JW                                  | CODY CHRISTIANSON | SS    | -                |
| TRES                                | CARLOS COBOS      | JS    | -                |
| SEC                                 | AARON ZAHN        | MAR   | ALEX GREER*      |
| CHAP                                | JAMES BYERS*      | TYLER | JERRY GROUZIS    |

\*PRO-TEM

Worshipful Master James Byers opened a Stated Meeting in the Entered Apprentice Degree at 6:00 pm and greeted the Brethren in attendance. James Byers reiterated that the bylaws call for two stated communications, regardless of what business is on the agenda. He encouraged members to remind others of that commitment and to attend even when no degree work is scheduled.

## CORRESPONDENCE



No Correspondence

## PETITIONS



### Reinstatement petition: Tovia Forstein

- ❖ Aaron Zahn presented Tovia Forstein's petition to return to good standing after an indefinite suspension in 2015 for non-payment of dues.
- ❖ The investigation committee reported favorably, including on Forstein's ability to fulfill his obligations.
- ❖ The lodge balloted and approved the reinstatement, welcoming him back!
- ❖ Byers also clarified that the Master—not the Senior Deacon—is responsible for destroying the ballot.

## NEW BUSINESS



### "Bears and Blankets" for Sanford Children's Hospital

- ❖ Byers proposed providing teddy bears, blankets, bags, and handwritten cards to children staying at Sanford Children's Hospital around Christmas.
- ❖ The hospital would not allow lodge members onto the ward because some children are immunocompromised but may be able to arrange for one or two children to receive the gifts.
- ❖ Byers said he would personally purchase the blankets. He asked the lodge for permission to use discretionary funds for bears and bags, as well as for volunteers to help.
- ❖ The estimated group size was about 25 children, but Byers planned to confirm the number with the hospital.
- ❖ Cards would be brought to a lodge meal so volunteers could write personal, handwritten messages.
- ❖ The proposal was referred to the business committee; funding and final arrangements were still pending.



### Parade of Lights

- ❖ The lodge confirmed it would participate in the Parade of Lights on the Friday after Thanksgiving.
- ❖ A motion passed for members to march in full regalia.
- ❖ Byers asked Aaron to arrange a volunteer sign-up for the float and encouraged members to help with planning and preparation.
- ❖ The lodge also planned to invite Job's Daughters to march with them.



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### Building sale, relocation, and lodge property

- ❖ Members were told that an offer had been accepted for the sale of the current buildings and that a six-month due-diligence period was underway.
- ❖ A three-person executive team was authorized to negotiate for a potential new building on 53rd Street, with authority to offer up to \$1.2 million.
- ❖ The possible new space was described as one level, about 10,000 square feet, with roughly 120 parking spaces, central air, and relatively low expected maintenance.
- ❖ Members were asked to review lodge property stored in the lockers, downstairs vault, Secretary's lounge, and a cabinet behind the small lodge room. A possible Masonic garage sale was discussed, but items would be handled respectfully and distributed or disposed of appropriately.
- ❖ Byers said he and another brother would begin reviewing the lodge's books and would notify members about excess books that might be donated or made available for a small contribution.
- ❖ Members were encouraged to bring concerns about the building process directly to the representatives they elected.



### Upcoming lodge programs and events

- ❖ Job's Daughters were expected to host a walking-taco dinner at the next meeting; Aaron was to send out the announcement and details.
- ❖ Addison Stubbe was scheduled to present the education program at an upcoming meeting.
- ❖ The Daughters of the Nile craft fair was announced for October 4, with setup expected around 10 a.m. and the fair running approximately 11 a.m.–3 or 4 p.m.; timing was still being confirmed.
- ❖ The third annual Widows Sons Midwest Rally was announced for July 8–10 in the Black Hills.



### Other reports and recognition

- ❖ Byers described the recent Area C meeting as productive and noted that attendance and communication about such meetings may need improvement.
- ❖ David Cole mentioned that his father had received a 70-year recognition letter but had not yet been able to bring it to the lodge. Byers invited him to bring his father and the required materials when he is ready so the lodge can recognize him.
- ❖ The meeting closed with no further business reported from the West, South, or body of the lodge.

Respectfully Submitted,

AARON ZAHN—SECRETARY

